

Significant progress is being made in the compilation and presentation to governments of critical information for system-wide co-ordination and policy guidance. Ever since "restructuring" in 1977, UNDP's resident representatives have been given responsibility to coordinate UN system activities at the country level where various "round table" and "consultative groups" are formed to bring all outside sources, including bilateral, into a more cohesive pattern. Since the "resrep" also represents both UNEP and UNCED, the Prepcom will have a basis on which to judge how well coordination of international inputs works at the national level.

At the international level there has been a gradual evolution under the original ECB of "joint planning." While the formal ECB mechanism was incorporated in the ACC some years ago - now supported under ACC by the "DOEM" - Designated Officials for Environmental Matters - the 1972 requirements of co-ordination fostered the evolution from what began as joint, bilateral planning discussions between UNEP and individual specialized Agencies and programs of the UN system, into periodic rounds of collective planning on particular themes - like marine pollution, or conservation of natural resources. Gradually, international organizations outside the UN system - notably the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) - were drawn into these thematic consultations to contribute to longer-term planning exercises, as in the "ECG" - the Ecological Coordination Group - where IUCN joined UNEP and the two principal UN agencies dealing with natural resources: FAO and UNESCO. Joint planning gave way to "thematic" joint planning, and the initial focus shifted from projects to programmatic consultations.

The current result of these efforts is the (2nd) System-Wide Medium Term Environment Programme (SWMTEP-II) for 1990-1995, a document submitted for approval by governments in UNEP's Governing Council and in the UN General Assembly, and as such the principle basis for harmonizing and coordinating environmental activities throughout the UN system. In its published form it presents governments with unique information on relevant work underway and planned, and is designed to assist governments to choose rational allocations of scarce resources in the many different governing bodies involved.

As presented to governments by UNEP's Executive Director, SWMTEP is intended to: