

working parties on major issues before UNCED shows one way of tackling this problem.

Existing interagency bodies such as the DOEM and CIDIE set up by international organizations for purposes of co-ordinating and strengthening their own policies, programs and procedures are capable of keeping pace with Prepcom needs, though even here, the budgetary implications of frequent meetings and preparation of new material strain existing resources. Regional intergovernmental organizations inside and outside the UN system that are located in developing country regions - like the OAU in Addis, or the Asian Development Bank in Manila - and non-governmental organizations in these regions are obviously handicapped.

While a certain level of early, face-to-face meetings is necessary if joint planning, rather than sterile coordination, is the goal, much more could be done to encourage the use throughout the UN system of "electronic conferencing" between cooperating organizations - especially during the UNCED preparatory process - as a means of reducing delays and expenses for travel.

A particular group of international, non-governmental organizations whose contributions are self-evident but who lack sufficient means to take part except on an ad-hoc basis, is the international scientific community, especially those disciplines coming together under ICSU, and various committees such as SCOPE, its Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment. The value of these contributions in terms of their scientific content is well known, but less known is the fact that SCOPE organized and convened a meeting of scientists from developing countries in Canberra in 1971 that was cited by the General Assembly for its usefulness in reflecting concerns of developing countries.<sup>77</sup> ICSU and SCOPE's work before and since the Stockholm Conference has been funded by outside sources, including UNESCO and UNEP, but these are diminishing and, like many other international NGOs, these groups have no "core" budgets to draw on, and are therefore hampered when asked to tap the resources of their constituent unions to assist a fast-moving process such as required for the 1992 conference.

IUCN is another organization facing similar problems along with many other NGOs and FVOs at the international level, as well as the national and "grass roots" levels whose active participation at the national level could contribute to the actions governments will consider in 1992, as well as their implementation thereafter in "Agenda 21". The concept of sustainable develop-