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Commentary on

AGENDA 21

and on the other

UNCED

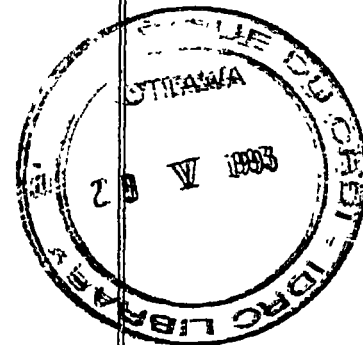
Documents

Prepared for IDRC's  
Research Utilisation Program

by

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**An Overview**  
**of**  
**AGENDA 21**  
**and its implications**  
**for the**  
**Research Utilisation**  
**Program**

**Commentary on Agenda 21  
and on other related UNCED Documents**

**The UNCED Documents**

- ▶ **AGENDA 21;**
- ▶ **The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**
- ▶ **The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**
- ▶ **The Convention on Biological Diversity**
- ▶ **A "Non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests"**

## IDRC's Philosophy and the Main UNCED Documents

IDRC should be pleased with the overall thrust of the documentation emerging from the UNCED process, since those papers reflect the main elements of the philosophy and practice maintained by the Centre throughout its existence.

In particular, the Centre should seek to identify itself with the "Rio Declaration" (previously designed to be called *The Earth Charter*) since both the Declaration and the Centre focus on

- ▶ The problems of Poverty;
- ▶ The need for equity;
- ▶ The imperatives of sustainability;
- ▶ The need to promote actively the participation of traditionally disadvantaged groups and to empower those groups to act to bring about sustainable forms of development;
- ▶ The need for developing countries to develop their own scientific and technological capacities in order to control their own development.

### **Agenda 21 in Numbers**

- ☐ Five Broad Sets of Issues;
- ☐ Forty Chapters of Negotiated Agreements;
- ☐ One Hundred and Ten Programme Areas;
- ☐ Two added, formal, Conventions;
- ☐ About Eight Hundred Pages of Text.

## THE MACRO-STRUCTURE OF "AGENDA 21"

	Socio-Economic Issues	Chapters
<i>Includes</i>	<i>Poverty; Consumption Patterns; Population; Human Health.</i>	2 to 8
	<b>Resource Management</b>	
<i>Covers</i>	<i>The Atmosphere: The Land: Oceans; Fresh Water;</i>	9 to 18
	<b>Waste Management</b>	
<i>Includes</i>	<i>Toxic Chemicals; Solid Waste: Hazardous Waste; Radioactive Wastes;</i>	19 to 22
	<b>Roles of "Major Groups"</b>	
<i>Includes</i>	<i>Women; Indigenous Peoples: NGO's; Workers and Unions; Private Enterprises.</i>	23 to 32
	<b>The "Cross-cutting" Issues</b>	
<i>Includes</i>	<i>Financing; Transfer of Technology: Information for decision-making;</i>	33 to 40

# THE MICRO-STRUCTURE OF "AGENDA 21"

## Chapter

### Programme Area

- ▶ Basis for Action;
- ▶ Objectives;
- ▶ Activities:
  - *Management*
  - *Data and Information*
- ▶ Means of Implementation;
  - *Financing and Cost Evaluation*
  - *Scientific and Technological Means*
  - *Human Resource Development*
  - *Capacity Building*

### The Macro-Structure of Agenda 21

#### Socio-Economic Issues

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <i>1 Preamble</i>   | <i>2 International Cooperation to Accelerate Sustainable Development in Developing Countries, and Related Domestic Policies.</i> | <i>3 Combating Poverty</i>   |
| <i>4 Changing Consumption Patterns</i>                      | <i>5 Demographic Dynamics and Sustainability</i>   | <i>6 Protection and Promotion of Human Health</i>                    |
| <i>7 Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development</i> |  | <i>8 Integrating Environment and Development in Decision Making.</i> |



## The Macro-Structure of Agenda 21

### Resource Management

*9 Protection of the Atmosphere*

*10 Integrated Approach to the Planning and Management of Land Resources*

*11 Combating Deforestation*

*12 Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Combating Desertification and Drought.*

*13 Managing Fragile Ecosystems: Sustainable Mountain Development*

*14 Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development*

*15 Conservation of Biological Diversity.*

*16 Environmentally Sound Management of Biotechnology*

*17 Protection of Oceans, All Kinds of Seas, Including Enclosed and Semi-Enclosed Seas, Coastal Areas and the Protection, Rational Use and Development of Their Living Resources*

*18 Protection of the Quality and Supply of Freshwater Resources: Application of Integrated Approaches to the Development, Management and Use of Water Resources.*

**The Macro-Structure of Agenda 21**

**Waste Management**

*19 Environmentally Sound Management of Toxic Chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products*

*20 Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes, including prevention of illegal international traffic in hazardous waste.*

*21 Environmentally Sound Management of Solid Wastes and Sewage-Related Issues.*

*22 Safe and Environmentally Sound Management of Radioactive Wastes.*

### The Macro-Structure of Agenda 21

#### Roles of "Major Groups"

*23 Strengthening the Role of Major Groups.*

*24 Global Action of Women towards Sustainable and Equitable development.*

*25 Children and Youth in Sustainable Development.*

*26 Recognising and Strengthening the Role of Indigenous People and their Communities.*

*27 Strengthening the Role of Non-Governmental Organisations: Partners for Sustainable Development.*

*28 Local Authorities Initiatives in Support of Agenda 21.*

*29 Strengthening the Role of Workers and Their Trade Unions.*

*30 Strengthening the Role of Business and Industry.*

*31 Scientific and Technological Community.*

*32. Strengthening the Role of Farmers.*

### The Macro-Structure of Agenda 21

#### The "Cross-cutting" Issues

*33 Financial Resources  
and Mechanisms*

*34 Transfer of  
Environmentally Sound  
Technology,  
Cooperation and  
Capacity Building.*

*35 Science for  
Sustainable  
Development.*

*36 Promoting  
Education, Public  
Awareness and  
Training*

*37 National  
Mechanisms and  
International  
Cooperation for  
Capacity-Building.*

*38 International  
Institutional  
Arrangements.*

*39 International Legal  
Instruments and  
Mechanisms*

*40 Information for  
Decision-Making.*

## Agenda 21 and IDRC Program choices

As the detailed commentary on the individual chapters of Agenda 21 which follows shows, the scope of Agenda 21 and its allied conventions are so extensive that it includes, and goes well beyond, the range of sectoral interests which make up both the present and the pre-1991 Program of Work of the Centre. This is underlined by the recent "IDRC - An Agenda 21 Organization; a backgrounder on current activities" produced by the Centre.

In particular, Agenda 21 pays considerable attention to the issue areas which define IDRC's Research Utilisation Program. This attention is most evident in the Section on "Cross-cutting" Issues with its Chapters dealing with *Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology, Cooperation and Capacity Building* (#34), with *Promoting Education, Public Awareness and Training* (#36), with *National Mechanisms and International Cooperation for Capacity-Building* (#37) and with *Information for Decision-Making* (#40), but the attention is by no means limited to those chapters. The section of these notes which comments in greater detail on the contents of Agenda 21 contains a variety of references to Programmes, Objectives and Activities which will present both opportunities and challenges to the RUP. Of particular importance is the Programme on "*Promoting responsible entrepreneurship*" in Chapter 30.

### The Research Utilisation Program

- ▶ Management of R&D;
- ▶ R&D Utilisation:
- ▶ Policy for Science, Technology and Innovation;
- ▶ Management of Technology and Innovation;
- ▶ Institutional Capacity Development;
- ▶ Public Understanding of Science and Technology.

The problems which have been set for IDRC by Government's decision to use the Centre as a main vehicle for Canada's response relate much more to questions of Program Priority setting and Resource Allocation than they do to simply correlating the Projects of the Centre with elements of the text of Agenda 21.

In what follows will be discussed the negotiating goals of Canada and of the developing countries, then Canada's obligations under Agenda 21 will be set out in very broad terms, and finally a series of questions will be posed relating to the future basis of program choice in IDRC.

### Canada's Negotiating Goals at UNCED

- *The Primary Objective was to secure agreement on action on Global Environmental Concerns; while Canada accepted the linkage of Environment with Development without reservation, it did not see UNCED as being primarily a development conference.*
- *From a domestic viewpoint, Canada placed highest sectoral priority on Forestry (where Canada is still seeking international support for a Forestry Convention) and on Protection of "Straddling-Stocks" of Fish on the High Seas.*
- *From an implementation point of view, Canada wished to place primary responsibility on National Governments, and to see each Government produce relevant policies and plans for the implementation of Agenda 21.*
- *From a participatory point of view, Canada was active in its support of previously disadvantaged groups ( eg women, indigenous peoples)*
- *With respect to the transfer of environmentally-sound technologies, Canada wanted this to remain firmly as a private sector activity.*
- *Canada wished to avoid (and succeeded in avoiding) having to make any specific commitment of new or additional funds for UNCED-related activities.*

### Developing Countries' Principal Negotiating Goals at UNCED

- *Primary emphasis on the problems of Third World Development;*
- *Emphasising Industrialised countries' responsibilities for many "Global" environmental problems;*
- *Seeking access to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies [on favourable, non-commercial terms] from the countries of the North;*
- *Preserving recognition of the "sovereign right" to development;*
- *Securing access to substantial, new and additional financial resources to finance Agenda 21 activities;*
- *Emphasis on acquisition and use of technologies to promote economic growth and employment in sustainable ways.*
- *Important emphasis on the role of the United Nations System in assisting developing countries;*
- *Emphasis on capacity-building;*

## Canada's Obligations under AGENDA 21

Obligation	Responsibility
▶ Domestic implementation of Agenda 21 (eg Chapter 4 on " <i>Changing Consumption Patterns</i> ")	Environment Canada and other domestic Departments of all levels of Government.
▶ Participation of Canada's Scientific Community in Global Environmental Programs ( eg under the " <i>Framework Convention on Climate Change</i> ")	Environment Canada, the Granting Councils and other Science-based Departments and Agencies.
▶ Canada's obligations to support developing countries in their implementation of Agenda 21	Primary responsibility to IDRC (but important subsidiary roles for CIDA? IISD?)



### Some Key Questions for IDRC

- To what extent can the present Program Priorities and Resource Allocation of the Centre be portrayed as a coherent response by Canada to her obligations to developing countries under Agenda 21?

*If it is agreed that some adjustments  
will be necessary, then -*

- What weight should IDRC give to the negotiating goals of Canada, or of the developing countries, as it makes future program choices?
- In particular, what freedom does the Centre have with respect to Canada's obligations under the Conventions on Climate and on Biodiversity? and how should the Centre react to the continuing Canadian goal of negotiating a Convention on Forestry?
- What response will the Centre make to Canada's obligations to facilitate the transfer, to developing countries, of existing environmentally sound technologies?

*There is a need for favourable access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular to developing countries, through supportive measures that promote technology cooperation and that should enable transfer of necessary technological know-how as well as building up of economic, technical, and managerial capabilities for the efficient use and further development of transferred technology. Technology cooperation involves joint efforts by enterprises and Governments, both suppliers of technology and its recipients. Therefore, such cooperation entails an iterative process involving government, the private sector, and research and development facilities to ensure the best possible results from transfer of technology. Successful long-term partnerships in technology cooperation necessarily require continuing systematic training and capacity-building at all levels over an extended period of time.*

(Agenda 21, Chapter 34, Paragraph 4)

***Should the Research Utilisation Program  
seek to negotiate  
A Cooperative Arrangement with CIDA  
to give effect to this commitment?***

- ▶ *Link long-term partnerships with Technology Transfer;*
- ▶ *Link Technology Transfer with Training; and*
- ▶ *Link Training with Innovation.*

(Source: Hugh Wynne-Edwards, "*Technology Cooperation*"  
A paper for the Business Council on Sustainable Development,  
October 1991)

**Commentary on  
the Contents of  
AGENDA 21**

# THE CONTENTS OF "AGENDA 21"

#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
1	PREAMBLE	One of Canada's primary concerns was to ensure that implementation of Agenda 21 would not be driven by international organisations or the UN system, but by national governments.
2	SECTION I. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS  INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES  A. Promoting sustainable development through trade B. Making trade and environment mutually supportive C. Providing adequate financial resources to developing countries D. Encouraging Economic Policies conducive to sustainable development	Of clear relevance to Social Sciences Division, and particularly to the Economic Policy Program.
3	COMBATING POVERTY  A. Enabling the poor to achieve sustainable livelihoods	This is entirely in line with IDRC's traditional focus on Poverty, and emphasises the concept of "Empowering Communities".
4	CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS  A. Focusing on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption; B. Developing national policies and strategies to encourage changes in unsustainable consumption patterns.	While calling on developed countries to take the lead, this chapter is relevant to all countries, and should influence patterns of commercialisation of technology.

#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
5	<p>DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY</p> <p>A. <i>Developing and disseminating knowledge concerning the links between demographic trends and factors and sustainable development;</i></p> <p>B. <i>Formulating integrated national policies for environment and development, taking into account demographic trends and factors;</i></p> <p>C. <i>Implementing integrated, environment and development programmes at the local level, taking into account demographic trends and factors.</i></p>	Deals with some of the interests of IDRC's former Population Program.
6	<p>PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN HEALTH</p> <p>A. <i>Meeting primary health care needs, particularly in rural areas;</i></p> <p>B. <i>Control of communicable diseases;</i></p> <p>C. <i>Protecting vulnerable groups;</i></p> <p>D. <i>Meeting the urban health challenge;</i></p> <p>E. <i>Reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards.</i></p>	The text is consonant with H S Division's philosophy. It sets some specific targets for disease reduction by the year 2000 which should pose challenges to any Utilisation Program.
7	<p>PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>A. <i>Providing adequate shelter for all;</i></p> <p>B. <i>Improving human settlement management;</i></p> <p>C. <i>Promoting sustainable land-use planning and management;</i></p> <p>D. <i>Promoting the integrated provision of environmental infrastructure: water, sanitation, drainage and solid-waste management;</i></p> <p>E. <i>Promoting sustainable energy and transport systems in human settlements;</i></p> <p>F. <i>Promoting human settlement planning and management in disaster-prone areas;</i></p> <p>G. <i>Promoting sustainable construction industry activities;</i></p> <p>H. <i>Promoting human resource development and capacity-building for human settlement development.</i></p>	This Chapter makes the case that there is a dramatic, international underfinancing of activities relating to Human Settlements. (cf IDRC's abandonment of a specific Urban Program)

#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
8	<p>INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING</p> <p><i>A. Integrating environment and development at the policy, planning and management levels;</i></p> <p><i>B. Providing an effective legal and regulatory framework;</i></p> <p><i>C. Making effective use of economic instruments and market and other incentives;</i></p> <p><i>D. Establishing systems for integrated environmental and economic accounting.</i></p>	Policy related, this Chapter stresses that decisions should be made by the level of government closest to the problem. Local decision-making is supported.
9	<p>PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE</p> <p><i>A. Addressing the Uncertainties: improving the scientific basis for decision-making.</i></p> <p><i>B. Promoting sustainable development.</i></p> <p><i>1. Energy development, efficiency and consumption;</i></p> <p><i>2. Transportation,</i></p> <p><i>3. Industrial Development;</i></p> <p><i>4. Terrestrial and marine resource development and land use;</i></p> <p><i>C. Preventing stratospheric ozone depletion.</i></p> <p><i>D. Transboundary Atmospheric Pollution.</i></p>	Limited <u>current</u> interest to IDRC; however, see notes, later, on Climate Convention. The activities in industrial development would have related to the former TLEP Program.
10	<p>LAND RESOURCES: SOIL LOSS</p> <p>INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES</p> <p><i>A. Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources.</i></p>	Important to the policy-development activities of ERN Division.

#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
11	LAND RESOURCES: DEFORESTATION	Would have been a central concern for the former Forestry Program;
	PREAMBLE	
	<i>Principles/elements</i>	Note the high Priority accorded by the Government of Canada to laying the ground for a future Forestry Convention. See later comments on the "Authoritative Statement on Forestry".
	COMBATING DEFORESTATION	
	<p><i>A. Sustaining the multiple roles and functions of all types of forests, forest lands, and woodlands</i></p> <p><i>B. Enhancement of the protection, sustainable management and conservation of all forests, and the greening of degraded areas, through rehabilitation, afforestation, reforestation and other rehabilitative means.</i></p> <p><i>C. Promoting efficient utilisation and assessment to recover the full valuation of the goods and services provided by forests, forest lands and woodlands.</i></p> <p><i>D. Establish and/or strengthen capacities for the planning, assessment and periodical evaluations of forests and related programmes, progress, activities, including commercial trade and processes.</i></p>	



#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
12	<p>LAND RESOURCES: DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT</p> <p><i>A. Strengthening the knowledge base and developing information and monitoring systems for regions prone to desertification and drought, including the economic and social aspects of these ecosystems;</i></p> <p><i>B. Combating land degradation through; <u>inter alia</u>, intensified soil conservation, afforestation and reforestation activities;</i></p> <p><i>C. Developing and strengthening integrated development programs for the eradication of poverty and promotion of alternative livelihood systems in areas prone to desertification;</i></p> <p><i>D. Developing comprehensive anti-desertification programmes and integrating them into national development plans and national environmental planning;</i></p> <p><i>E. Developing comprehensive drought preparedness and drought relief schemes, including self-help arrangements, for drought-prone areas and designing programs to cope with environmental refugees;</i></p> <p><i>F. Encouraging and promoting popular participation and environmental education, focusing on desertification control and the management of the effects of drought.</i></p>	<p>Clearly central to the concerns of the three African Offices.</p> <p>Note that African Governments wish to negotiate a Convention on Desertification and that Canada has given some support to the idea as a trade-off for African support of a (related) Forestry Convention.</p>

#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
13	<p>LAND RESOURCES: SOIL LOSS</p> <p>MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT</p> <p><i>A. Generating and strengthening knowledge about the ecology and sustainable development of mountain ecosystems;</i></p> <p><i>B. Promoting integrated watershed development and alternative livelihood opportunities.</i></p>	<p>Relevant to the activities of ENR Division.</p>
14	<p>LAND RESOURCES: SOIL LOSS</p> <p>PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p><i>A. Agricultural policy review, planning and integrated programming in light of the multifunctional aspect of agriculture, particularly with regard to food security and sustainable development;</i></p> <p><i>B. Ensuring people's participation and promoting human resources development for sustainable agriculture;</i></p> <p><i>C. Improving farm production and farming systems through diversification of farm and non-farm employment and infrastructure development;</i></p> <p><i>D. Land resources planning information for agriculture;</i></p> <p><i>E. Land conservation and rehabilitation;</i></p> <p><i>F. Water for sustainable food production and sustainable rural development;</i></p> <p><i>G. Conservation and sustainable utilisation of plant genetic resources for sustainable agriculture;</i></p> <p><i>H. Conservation and sustainable utilisation of animal genetic resources for sustainable agriculture.</i></p> <p><i>I. Integrated pest management and control in agriculture;</i></p> <p><i>J. Sustainable plant nutrition to increase food production;</i></p> <p><i>K. Rural energy transition to enhance productivity;</i></p> <p><i>L. Evaluation of the effects of ultraviolet radiation, on plants and animals, caused by the depletion of stratospheric ozone.</i></p>	<p>For the most part, this reads like a description of the past AFNS program.</p>

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#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
15	CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY <i>A. Conservation of biological diversity</i>	Supports implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, agreed to at Rio and which Canada is committed to ratifying by the end of 1992. There are important transfer of technology implications.
16	ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY <i>A. Increasing the availability of food, feed and renewable raw materials; B. Improving human health; C. Enhancing protection of the environment; D. Enhancing safety and developing international mechanisms for cooperation; E. Establishing enabling mechanisms for the development and the environmentally sound application of biotechnology</i>	Envisages a substantial program of biotechnological research applied to agriculture, fisheries, forestry, human health, pollution control and industrial applications, as well as safety and policy studies.

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#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
17	<p>PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES</p> <p><i>A. Integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas, including exclusive economic zones;</i>  <i>B. Marine environmental protection;</i>  <i>C. Sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources of the high seas;</i>  <i>D. Sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources under national jurisdiction;</i>  <i>E. Addressing critical uncertainties for the management of the marine environment and climate change;</i>  <i>F. Strengthening international, including regional, cooperation and coordination;</i>  <i>G. Sustainable development of small islands.</i></p>	<p>Canada placed a very high domestic priority on negotiation of this Chapter, and particularly of Programme C on <i>"sustainable use and conservation of the marine living resources of the high seas"</i> and saw the text as a victory in its long-standing dispute with the EEC over management of the "straddling" stocks of Northern Cod on the Grand Banks.</p> <p>Paragraph 17.46(g) calls for states to "<i>Promote scientific research with respect to the marine living resources in the high seas</i>"; will IDRC play a role in this area - or will developing countries be referred to CIDA which has assumed the responsibilities of ICOD? Note that the resources of the high seas were never a priority to IDRC in the past.</p> <p>Given the high profile Canadian association with the issues of this Chapter, IDRC should at least ensure that Government is comfortable with the relative priority that high seas questions will receive in the Centre's work program.</p>
18	<p>PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES</p> <p><i>A. Integrated water resources development and management;</i>  <i>B. Water resources assessment;</i>  <i>C. Protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems;</i>  <i>D. Drinking-water supply and sanitation;</i>  <i>E. Water and sustainable urban development;</i>  <i>F. Water for sustainable food production and rural development;</i>  <i>G. Impacts of climate change on water resources.</i></p>	<p>This Chapter covers work previously supported by EES, HS and AFNS. Given its importance to developing countries, the Centre should think through the implications of its response to these concerns. The recent initiative with respect to the Middle East is encouraging.</p>

#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
19	<p>ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS</p> <p><i>A. Expanding and accelerating international assessment of chemical risks;</i></p> <p><i>B. Harmonization of classification and labelling of chemicals;</i></p> <p><i>C. Information exchange on toxic chemicals and chemical risks;</i></p> <p><i>D. Establishment of risk reduction programmes;</i></p> <p><i>E. Strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for management of chemicals;</i></p> <p><i>F. Prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products.</i></p>	<p>The Centre has done some work in this area in the past, both with respect to human poisons (IS,HS) and pesticides(AFNS)</p> <p>Two paragraphs, in particular, should be reviewed carefully by the Centre. In Programme A, paragraph 19,20 suggests that</p> <p><i>"Major research efforts should be launched in order to improve methods for assessment of chemicals as work towards a common framework for risk assessment and to improve procedures for using toxicological and epidemiological data to predict the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment, so as to enable decision makers to adopt adequate policies and measures to reduce risks posed by chemicals"</i></p> <p>and, in Programme D, paragraph 19.54 proposes that</p> <p><i>"Governments, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and programmes, should:</i></p> <p>....</p> <p><i>b) Carry out national reviews, as appropriate, of previously accepted pesticides whose acceptance was based on criteria now recognized as insufficient or outdated and of their possible replacement with other pest control methods, particularly in the case of pesticides that are toxic, persistent and/or bio-accumulative."</i></p>

#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
20	ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN HAZARDOUS WASTES	
	<i>A. Promoting the prevention and minimization of hazardous waste;</i>	Of particular interest to the Research Utilisation Program is the comment, in Programme B, paragraph 20.26(c), that
	<i>B. Promoting and strengthening institutional capacities in hazardous waste management;</i>	
	<i>C. Promoting and strengthening international cooperation in the management of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes;</i>	<i>"Governments should conduct research aimed at the needs of small- and medium-sized industries;"</i>
	<i>D. Preventing illegal international traffic in hazardous wastes;</i>	Projects like the Waste Exchange in the Phillipines would answer this call.
21	ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTES AND SEWAGE-RELATED ISSUES	
	<i>A. Minimizing wastes;</i>	The philosophy of this chapter is shared by IDRC. The text makes frequent reference to the need for research, technology transfer and the application of technology. Again, the extent to which the Centre will become or stay involved is a matter of Program choice.
	<i>B. Maximizing environmentally sound waste reuse and recycling;</i>	
	<i>C. Promoting environmentally sound waste disposal and treatment;</i>	
	<i>D. Extending waste service coverage.</i>	
22	SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES	
	<i>A. Promoting the safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes</i>	Canada has an active program in this area, but is unlikely to be important for IDRC.

#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
23	PREAMBLE TO SECTION III  SECTION III. STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS	One of the major achievements of Agenda 21 lies in the recognition it gives to the roles of "Major Groups" - women, indigenous peoples and NGO's and the Private Sector. Each is accorded a separate Chapter as well as being frequently referred to throughout the text. This corresponds well with IDRC's concern for public participation and creates the need for effective communications between Governments and International bodies on the one hand and the "major groups" on the other.
24	GLOBAL ACTION FOR WOMEN TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT	The text proposes a series of ten broad areas of activity where action by Governments could empower women and integrate them fully in the implementation of Agenda 21.
25	CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  <i>A. Advancing the role of youth and actively involving them in the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and social development;</i> <i>B. Children in sustainable development;</i>	The Chapter proposes actions on literacy, education, employment and empowerment of youths and children, but makes no reference to research.

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#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
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26	<p>RECOGNISING AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES</p> <p>Among the Activities proposed is one, in paragraph 26.5, designed to</p> <p><i>C. Strengthen research and education programmes aimed at:</i></p> <p>(i) <i>Achieving a better understanding of indigenous people's knowledge and management experience related to the environment, and applying this to contemporary development challenges;</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>Increasing the efficiency of indigenous people's resource management systems, for example, by promoting the adaptation and dissemination of suitable technological innovations;</i></p>	<p>The Centre has, in the past, given limited support to the efforts of indigenous peoples - including Canada's own. Clearly, there should be some increased attention to the area.</p>
27	<p>STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS: PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>The Centre has long been active with NGO's and the Chapter offers little that is new for IDRC. The role of NGO's is still sensitive in some developing countries, which may account for why the only activities discussed are those of the United Nations System.</p>

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#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
28	LOCAL AUTHORITIES' INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA 21	Encourages Municipalities, Cities, and other local authorities to become involved. Not controversial from IDRC's viewpoint.
29	STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WORKERS AND THEIR TRADE UNIONS  The Preamble to the Objectives section of this Chapter states that <i>"The overall objective is poverty alleviation and full and sustainable employment, which contribute to safe, clean and healthy environments - the working environment, the community and the physical environment. Workers should be full participants in the implementation and evaluation of activities related to Agenda 21"</i>	IDRC has worked in the past with Trade Unions and should continue to do so in future. The Research Utilisation Program, as it deals with the commercialisation of technology, should also be interested in the participation of workers, whether organised or not.
30	STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  A. Promoting cleaner production; B. Promoting responsible entrepreneurship.	In the eyes of the Industrialised countries, one of the successes of UNCED was the increased recognition given, in a United Nations Document, to the positive contributions of the private sector (even including the Multinationals!)  The text of Agenda 21 as a whole, especially as it deals with transfer of technology, pays considerable attention to the Private Sector and to questions of ownership of technology.  The Research Utilisation Program should integrate key parts of the text of Programme B <i>"Promoting responsible entrepreneurship"</i> into its own Programme Statement - the proposals are consistent with what IDRC has done, on a modest scale, in the past and are reproduced on the following page.

## **B. Promoting responsible entrepreneurship.**

(Text from Agenda 21, Chapter 30)

30.19. *Governments should encourage the establishment and operations of sustainably managed enterprises. The mix would include regulatory measures, economic incentives and streamlining of administrative procedures to assure maximum efficiency in dealing with applications for approval in order to facilitate investment decisions, advice and assistance with information, infrastructural support and stewardship responsibilities.*

30.20. *Governments should encourage, in cooperation with the private sector, the establishment of venture capital funds for sustainable development projects and programmes.*

30.21. *In collaboration with business, industry, academia and international organizations, Governments should support training in the environmental aspects of enterprise management. Attention should also be directed towards apprenticeship schemes for youth.*

30.22. *Business and industry, including transnational corporations, should be encouraged to establish world-wide corporate policies on sustainable development, arrange for environmentally sound technologies to be available to affiliates owned substantially by their parent company in developing countries without extra external charges, encourage overseas affiliates to modify procedures in order to reflect local ecological conditions and share experiences with local authorities, Governments and international organizations.*

30.23. *Large business and industry, including transnational corporations, should consider establishing partnership schemes with small and medium-sized enterprises to help facilitate the exchange of experience in managerial skills, market development and technological know-how, where appropriate, with the assistance of international organizations*

30.24. *Business and industry should establish national councils for sustainable development and help promote entrepreneurship in the formal and informal sectors. The inclusion of women entrepreneurs should be facilitated.*

30.25. *Business and industry, including transnational corporations, should increase research and development of environmentally sound technologies and environmental management systems, in collaboration with academia and the scientific/engineering establishments, drawing upon indigenous knowledge, where appropriate.*

30.26. *Business and industry, including transnational corporations, should ensure responsible and ethical management of products and processes from the point of view of health, safety and environmental aspects. Towards this end, business and industry should increase self-regulation, guided by appropriate codes, charters and initiatives integrated into all elements of business planning and decision-making, and fostering openness and dialogue with employees and the public.*

30.27. *Multilateral and bilateral financial aid institutions should continue to encourage and support small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs engaged in sustainable development activities.*

30.28. *United Nations organizations and agencies should improve mechanisms for business and industry inputs, policy and strategy formulation processes, to ensure that environmental aspects are strengthened in foreign investment.*

30.29. *International organizations should increase support for research and development on improving the technological and managerial requirements for sustainable development, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries.*

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#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
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31 -	SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY	
	<i>A. Improving communication and cooperation among the scientific and technological community and decision makers and the public;</i>	Programme A supports activities relating to improving communications from the scientific community both to decision-makers and to the public; as such it supports activities already well established in the Centre.
	<i>B. Promoting codes of practice and guidelines related to science and technology.</i>	Programme B raises the possibility of developing "codes of practice" for scientists and technologists, and touches briefly on questions of ethics. Ethical review of all projects in IDRC - whether developed by Ottawa staff or in the Regional Offices, will still be important.
32	STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FARMERS	The Chapter is consistent with the approach that AFNS took to farming systems development; it emphasises the role of farmers in decision-making and pays specific attention to women as farmers.

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While the previous 32 Chapters of Agenda 21 each deal with a "sectorial" issue, the final 8 chapters (viz 33 to 40) are the so-called "cross-cutting" chapters, each of whose contents have relevance to almost all of the preceding sectorial ones. The set of eight chapters contained some of the most difficult issues and some, like that on Financial Resources, fell far short of meeting the hopes of developing countries.

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#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
33	FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS  (the primary goal of developing countries in this chapter was to seek to ensure the "Provision of new and additional financial resources [which] should be both adequate and predictable")	Canada reversed recent policy and again accepted the ODA target of 0.7% of GNP, but with no target date; a "floor level" for IDRC's Budget seems more assured by the PM's announcement at Rio.

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#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
34	<p>TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING</p> <p>(Of key importance to IDRC's Research Utilisation Program are Sections 34.19 and 34.20 which read -</p> <p><i>(c) Improvement of the capacity to develop and manage environmentally sound technologies</i></p> <p><i>34.19. Frameworks at subregional, regional and international levels should be established and/or strengthened for the development, transfer and application of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding technical know-how with a special focus on developing countries' needs, by adding such functions to already existing bodies. Such frameworks would facilitate initiatives from both developing and developed countries to stimulate the research, development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, often through partnerships within and among countries and between the scientific and technological community, industry and Governments.</i></p> <p><i>34.20. National capacities to assess, develop, manage and apply new technologies should be developed. This will require strengthening existing institutions, training of personnel at all levels, and education of the end-user of the technology.</i></p>	<p>This has been one of the most contentious issues at UNCED; "improved" conditions for the transfer of technology have been sought by developing countries since the early Seventies. IDRC has published a useful approach to the issues in <i>Technology and the International Environmental Agenda: Lessons for UNCED and Beyond</i> by A. Rath and B Herbert-Copley, Feb 1992.</p> <p>The Government of Canada's position if that transfer of technology is, and should be, primarily a private sector activity; while development assistance agencies might finance some of the activities, Canada would not expect those organisations to alter the basic commercial terms of the transactions involved.</p> <p>Given the breadth of the wording of the PM's statement at Rio, the Centre needs to clarify whether or not it is expected to play any significant role in the provision of access, for developing countries, to existing Canadian technologies which meet the definition of environmental soundness</p> <p>Paragraph 34.20 could be a restatement, in succinct form, of the Mandate of the Research Utilisation Program. It is, however, important to note that at no place in Agenda 21 is there adequate, specific attention paid to the complexities of "utilisation". The formulation of the RUP is out ahead of the UNCED negotiators in terms of coming to grips with the many issues involved. This said, it is clear that developing countries would consider the activities of the RUP as being implicit in the text of Agenda 21.</p>

#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
35	<b>SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>  <i>A. Strengthening the scientific basis for sustainable management;</i> <i>B. Enhancing scientific understanding;</i> <i>C. Improving long-term scientific assessment;</i> <i>D. Building up scientific capacity and capability.</i>	<p>This chapter is primarily concerned with relatively basic research and with long-term baseline studies - activities which are of undoubted importance but which have not, in the past, been supported by IDRC, which has preferred to allocate its resources to more applied activities. Given that Canada will remain active in the IGBP activities, using non-ODA funds, the pressure on IDRC to become active in the fields specified by this chapter are not likely to be large.</p>
36	<b>PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING</b>  <i>A. Reorienting education towards sustainable development;</i> <i>B. Increasing public awareness;</i> <i>C. Promoting training.</i>	<p>Given that this is one of the "cross-cutting" chapters, and that the topics discussed in Chapter 36 reappear in almost every sectoral chapter, IDRC should reflect on the adequacy of its present arrangements for the support of Education and Training.</p>

#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
37	<p>NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING</p> <p>The main Activities specified by this Chapter are designed to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Build a national consensus and formulate capacity-building strategies for implementing Agenda 21;</li> <li>▶ Identify national sources and present requests for technical cooperation, including that related to technology transfer and know-how in the framework of sector strategies;</li> <li>▶ Establish a review mechanism of technical cooperation in and related to technology transfer and know-how;</li> <li>▶ Enhance the expertise and collective contribution of the United Nations system for capacity- and capability-building initiatives;</li> <li>▶ Harmonize the delivery of assistance at the regional level.</li> </ul> <p>There is one reporting requirement stated in this Chapter which may have to be fulfilled by IDRC on behalf of the Government of Canada. It is specified in paragraph 37.4(b) as follows:</p> <p><i>"By 1997, the Secretary-General of the United Nations should submit to the General Assembly a report on achievement of improved policies, coordination systems and procedures for strengthening the implementation of technical cooperation programmes for sustainable development, as well as on additional measures required to strengthen such cooperation. That report should be prepared on the basis of information provided by countries, international organizations, environment and development institutions, donor agencies and non-governmental partners".</i></p>	<p>One problem within this chapter is the implicit leadership role which developing countries like to accord to Agencies of the United Nations System, and particularly to the UNDP and its Resident representatives.</p> <p>The Centre has long prided itself on the sophistication of its strategies of capacity-building; now that it has dispensed with FAD which was the part of the Centre which thought about new approaches to Capacity-building, the Centre must address the issue of how it will keep in the forefront of this area. A role for RUP?</p> <p>The Centre should clarify, with Government, the role that it will be expected to play in preparing this report. For such Reports, laying an early basis for data accumulation is half of the battle.</p>

#	Title and Program Areas	Comments
38	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	This Chapter deals with the revision of the structures of the United Nations System for the implementation of Agenda 21 and, therefore, is not immediately important to IDRC. If the UN and some of its specialised agencies were to improve their performance, then there might be some future basis for cooperation with the Centre.
39	INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS  This Chapter deals with " <i>The further development of international law on sustainable development, giving special attention to the delicate balance between environmental and developmental concerns</i> " ;(para 39.1 a)) and proposes activities related to  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Review, assessment and fields of action in international law for sustainable development;</li> <li>▶ Implementation mechanisms [for international agreements];</li> <li>▶ Effective participation in international law-making;</li> <li>▶ Disputes in the field of sustainable development.</li> </ul>	Since the Centre is no longer active in development law, and chose not to become involved in Governance, this activity will fall by the wayside as far as Canada is concerned.
40	INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING  A. Bridging the data gap, B. Improving Information Availability.	While Programme B is clearly one for IS Division to pursue, Programme A, which lays heavy emphasis on the development of indicators of Sustainable Development, will be of interest to any S&T Policy Group, including the RUP.



**Commentary on  
the "other papers" of  
UNCED**

## **The "Other" UNCED Documents**

In addition to Agenda 21, there were negotiated or signed four additional documents implying various levels of obligations on parties (two of them are full Conventions).

The documents are:

- ▶ **The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**
- ▶ **The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**
- ▶ **The Convention on Biological Diversity**
- ▶ **A "Non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests"**

In what follows are presented some preliminary comments on the relationship of the contents of these documents to IDRC Programming, particularly within the Research Utilisation Program.

## The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

Key Text	Commentary
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Principle 1</u></p> <p>Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.</p>	<p><i>The Rio Declaration is highly supportive of the principles and philosophy which IDRC has attempted to implement since its creation.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Principle 3</u></p> <p>The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.</p>	<p><i>Given this coincidence of interests, the Centre should be able to make good use of the Declaration in future descriptions of its activities. Being a set of quite clearly defined principles, it will be easier to use and explain than the often-convoluted texts negotiated as the contents of Agenda 21.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Principle 4</u></p> <p>In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.</p>	<p><i>Creative Services in IDRC should look at how best to utilise this document.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Principle 5</u></p> <p>All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.</p>	<p><i>The principles selected here are the ones which are most directly relevant to the main activities of the Centre.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Principle 6</u></p> <p>The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority. International actions in the field of environment and development should also address the interests and needs of all countries.</p>	

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The Rio Declaration (Continued)

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Key Text

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Commentary

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Principle 9

States should cooperate to strengthen endogenous capacity-building for sustainable development by improving scientific understanding through exchanges of scientific and technological knowledge, and by enhancing the development, adaptation, diffusion and transfer of technologies, including new and innovative technologies

Principle 10

Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

*Principles 10, 20, 21,22  
acknowledge key target  
groups who traditionally  
have been the focus of  
IDRC's attention.*

Principle 20

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.

Principle 21

The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all.

Principle 22

Indigenous people and their communities, and other local communities, have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development.

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## UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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### Key Text

### Commentary

#### ARTICLE 4 COMMITMENTS

1 All Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, shall:

- (a) Develop, periodically update, publish and make available to the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with Article 12, national inventories of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, using comparable methodologies to be agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties;
- (e) Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change; develop and elaborate appropriate and integrated plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture, and for the protection and rehabilitation of areas, particularly in Africa, affected by drought and desertification, as well as floods;
- (g) Promote and cooperate in scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and other research, systematic observation and development of data archives related to the climate system and intended to further the understanding and to reduce or eliminate the remaining uncertainties regarding the causes, effects, magnitude and timing of climate change and the economic and social consequences of various response strategies;
- (h) Promote and cooperate in the full, open and prompt exchange of relevant scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and legal information related to the climate system and climate change, and to the economic and social consequences of various response strategies,

*Canada has announced that it will ratify its adherence to this convention by the end of 1992.*

*That the substance of this Convention is considered to be an integral part of Agenda 21 can be inferred from Paragraph 2 of Chapter 9 (Protection of the Atmosphere) of Agenda 21 which reads*

*"It is recognized that many of the issues discussed in this chapter are also addressed in such international agreements as the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer as amended, the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change, and other international, including regional, instruments. In the case of activities covered by such agreements, it is understood that the recommendations contained in this chapter do not oblige any government to take measures which exceed the provisions of these legal instruments. However, within the framework of this chapter, governments are free to carry out additional measures which are consistent with those legal instruments".*

*The commitments made under paragraph 4.1(g) are expanded by the text of Article 5.*

## Convention on Climate Change (continued)

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Key Text	Commentary
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## ARTICLE 4 COMMITMENTS

5. The developed country Parties and other developed Parties included in annex II shall take all practicable steps to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies and know-how to other Parties, particularly developing country Parties, to enable them to implement the provisions of the Convention. In this process, the developed country Parties shall support the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities and technologies of developing country Parties. Other Parties and organizations in a position to do so may also assist in facilitating the transfer of such technologies.

## ARTICLE 5 RESEARCH AND SYSTEMATIC OBSERVATION

In carrying out their commitments under Article 4, paragraph 1(g), the Parties shall:

- (a) Support and further develop, as appropriate, international and intergovernmental programmes and networks or organizations aimed at defining, conducting, assessing and financing research, data collection and systematic observation, taking into account the need to minimize duplication of effort;
- (b) Support international and intergovernmental efforts to strengthen systematic observation and national scientific and technical research capacities and capabilities, particularly in developing countries, and to promote access to, and the exchange of, data and analyses thereof obtained from areas beyond national jurisdiction; and
- (c) Take into account the particular concerns and needs of developing countries and cooperate in improving their endogenous capacities and capabilities to participate in the efforts referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above.

*The dilemma facing IDRC is that of what priority to allocate to activities relating to Climate Control, which have not, in the past, been central to the Centre's work. However,*

- 1. Canada has agreed to be legally bound by the terms of the Climate Convention;
- 2. Agenda 21 fully incorporates the content of the Convention; and
- 3. At least as far as its commitments to developing countries under Agenda 21, Canada has assigned its implementation responsibilities to IRDC.

*The Centre should (and perhaps is) look(ing) into the particular obligations which it has to fulfil with respect to this Convention and the one on Biological Diversity.*

## Convention on Climate Change (continued)

Key Text	Commentary
<b>ARTICLE 6 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS</b>	
In carrying out their commitments under Article 4, paragraph 1(i), the Parties shall:	
(a) Promote and facilitate at the national and, as appropriate, subregional and regional levels, and in accordance with national laws and regulations, and within their respective capacities:	<i>These clauses seem to place obligations on various elements of Corporate Affairs Division, if IDRC is to be responsible for Canada's responsibilities (with respect to developing countries) under the Climate Convention.</i>
(i) the development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects;	
(ii) public access to information on climate change and its effects;	
(iii) public participation in addressing climate change and its effects and developing adequate responses; and	
(iv) training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel.	
(b) Cooperate in and promote, at the international level, and, where appropriate, using existing bodies:	
(i) the development and exchange of educational and public awareness material on climate change and its effects; and	
(ii) the development and implementation of education and training programmes, including the strengthening of national institutions and the exchange or secondment of personnel to train experts in this field, in particular for developing countries.	

## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Key Text	Commentary
<i>Article 10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity</i>	
Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate:	<i>Canada has announced that it will ratify its adherence to this convention by the end of 1992.</i>
(a) Integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making;	<i>The opening paragraph of Agenda 21's Chapter 15 (The conservation of Biological Diversity) states that</i>
(b) Adopt measures relating to the use of biological resources to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity;	<i>" The objectives and activities in this chapter of Agenda 21 are intended to improve the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of biological resources, as well as to support the Convention on Biological Diversity".</i>
(c) Protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements;	<i>This statement could entail the same programming dilemma as that stated in relation to the Climate Convention, viz</i>
(d) Support local populations to develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced; and	<i>1. Canada has agreed to be legally bound by the terms of the Climate Convention;</i>
(e) Encourage cooperation between its governmental authorities and its private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources.	<i>2. Agenda 21 fully incorporates the content of the Convention; and</i> <i>3. At least as far as its commitments to developing countries under Agenda 21, Canada has assigned its implementation responsibilities to IRDC.</i>
	<i>Article 10, at least, poses no problem for the Centre which has consistently acted along the lines proposed.</i>



Convention on Biological Diversity (continued)

Key Text	Commentary
<i>Article 12. Research and Training</i>	<i>Articles 12 and 13 create similar obligations, in the area of the conservation of biological diversity, as did the comparable Articles of the Climate Convention in its domain of application</i>
<p>The Contracting Parties, taking into account the special needs of developing countries, shall:</p>	
(a) Establish and maintain programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components and provide support for such education and training for the specific needs of developing countries;	
(b) Promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries, <i>inter alia</i> , in accordance with decisions of the Conference of the Parties taken in consequence of recommendations of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice; and	
(c) In keeping with the provisions of Articles 16, 18 and 20, promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.	
<i>Article 13. Public Education and Awareness</i>	
The Contracting Parties shall:	
(a) Promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biological diversity, as well as its propagation through media, and the inclusion of these topics in educational programmes; and	
(b) Cooperate, as appropriate, with other States and international organizations in developing educational and public awareness programmes, with respect to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	

Convention on Biological Diversity (continued)

Key Text	Commentary
<i>Article 16 Access to and Transfer of Technology</i>	
<p>1. Each Contracting Party, recognizing that technology includes biotechnology, and that both access to and transfer of technology among Contracting Parties are essential elements for the attainment of the objectives of this Convention, undertakes subject to the provisions of this Article to provide and/or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.</p>	<p><i>The key question here( and one which is more general, given that Agenda 21's Chapter 34 dealing with transfer of technology seeks to respond to the same goals of developing countries,) is that of the extent to which the mandate conferred on IDRC by the Government of Canada is seen by the Government as covering its obligations with respect to the transfer of existing technology. The conditions of this section, and of Chapter 34, do not contradict the Centre's policy with respect to technologies which have been generated in Centre supported activities.</i></p>
<p>2. Access to and transfer of technology referred to in paragraph 1 above to developing countries shall be provided and/or facilitated under fair and most favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms where mutually agreed, and, where necessary, in accordance with the financial mechanism established by Articles 20 and 21. In the case of technology subject to patents and other intellectual property rights, such access and transfer shall be provided on terms which recognize and are consistent with the adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights. The application of this paragraph shall be consistent with paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 below.</p>	
<p>3. Each Contracting Party shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, with the aim that Contracting Parties, in particular those that are developing countries, which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which makes use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms, including technology protected by patents and other intellectual property rights, where necessary, through the provisions of Articles 20 and 21 and in accordance with international law and consistent with paragraphs 4 and 5 below.</p>	
<p>4. Each Contracting Party shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, with the aim that the private sector facilitates access to, joint development and transfer of technology referred to in paragraph 1 above for the benefit of both governmental institutions and the private sector of developing countries and in this regard shall abide by the obligations included in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above.</p>	
<p>5. The Contracting Parties, recognizing that patents and other intellectual property rights may have an influence on the implementation of this Convention, shall cooperate in this regard subject to national legislation and international law in order to ensure that such rights are supportive of and do not run counter to its objectives.</p>	

Convention on Biological Diversity (continued)

Key Text	Commentary
<i>Article 18. Technical and Scientific Cooperation</i>	
1. The Contracting Parties shall promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, where necessary, through the appropriate international and national institutions.	
2. Each Contracting Party shall promote technical and scientific cooperation with other Contracting Parties, in particular developing countries, in implementing this Convention, <i>inter alia</i> , through the development and implementation of national policies. In promoting such cooperation, special attention should be given to the development and strengthening of national capabilities, by means of human resources development and institution building.	
3. The Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting, shall determine how to establish a clearing-house mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation.	
4. The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with national legislation and policies, encourage and develop methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention. For this purpose, the Contracting Parties shall also promote cooperation in the training of personnel and exchange of experts.	<i>In the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, much of the effort should be allocated to biological research and technology development. To the extent that IDRC remains active in this field (and see the earlier comments on the impact of the Convention on IDRC priorities), there will be much to be done by a Research Utilisation Program.</i>
5. The Contracting Parties shall, subject to mutual agreement, promote the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of this Convention.	<i>Note also that clause 5 promotes cooperative activities.</i>

# Non-legally binding authoritative statement of principles for a global consensus on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests

Key Text	Commentary
<p>9. (a) The efforts of developing countries to strengthen the management, conservation and sustainable development of their forest resources should be supported by the international community, taking into account the importance of redressing external indebtedness, particularly where aggravated by the net transfer of resources to developed countries, as well as the problem of achieving at least the replacement value of forests through improved market access for forest products, especially processed products. In this respect, special attention should also be given to the countries undergoing the process of transition to market economies.</p> <p>(b) The problems that hinder efforts to attain the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources and that stem from the lack of alternative options available to local communities, in particular the urban poor and poor rural populations who are economically and socially dependent on forests and forest resources, should be addressed by Governments and the international community.....</p> <p>10. New and additional financial resources should be provided to developing countries to enable them to sustainably manage, conserve and develop their forest resources, including through afforestation, reforestation and combating deforestation and forest and land degradation.</p> <p>12. (a) Scientific research, forest inventories and assessments carried out by national institutions which take into account, where relevant, biological, physical, social and economic variables, as well as technological development and its application in the field of sustainable forest management, conservation and development, should be strengthened through effective modalities, including international cooperation. In this context, attention should also be given to research and development of sustainably harvested non-wood products.</p> <p>(b) National and, where appropriate, regional and international institutional capabilities in education, training, science, technology, economics, anthropology and social aspects of forests and forest management are essential to the conservation and sustainable development of forests and should be strengthened. ....</p> <p>(d) Appropriate indigenous capacity and local knowledge regarding the conservation and sustainable development of forests should, through institutional and financial support, and in collaboration with the people in local communities concerned, be recognized, respected, recorded, developed and, as appropriate, introduced in the implementation of programmes. Benefits arising from the utilization of indigenous knowledge should therefore be equitably shared with such people.</p>	<p><i>The Canadian Delegation to UNCED had instructions from Government setting as one of its highest domestic priorities the negotiation of a Convention on Forests. This has been opposed by some developing countries but, as a way-station towards a possible Convention, there has been negotiated a "Non legally-binding authoritative statement of principles..". The contents are completely compatible with IDRC's former Forestry Program. The big question is what effect the Government's interest in Forestry should have on IDRC Program priorities.</i></p>