Youth Sourcebook on Sustainable Development

IISD
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African Youth Coordination on Development and Environment
Canadian Youth Foundation
International Institute for Sustainable Development
Youth 92
International Union of Students
Asia Students Association
Earth Council
International Association of Students in Economics and Management
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Lastly, I would like to dedicate this work to the spirit of youth, particularly the spirit of young women, who have been at the heart of youth and student activism in an effort to change our direction towards a more equitable, just and sustainable future.

Zonny Woods
IISD Youth Officer

NOTE: The Youth Sourcebook for Sustainable Development was a project initiated by the IISD in support of the Youth movement at the Earth Summit in Rio in June 1992. International Youth organizations have written in the Sourcebook about their beliefs and concerns for a more sustainable world. Many of the authors published in this Sourcebook wrote in their second or third language: where possible, this Sourcebook has left their words unedited so that you may hear their voices clearly. The pages in the Sourcebook reflect the opinions of Youth who participated in this project and do not necessarily reflect the views of all Youth or of the publisher. IISD believes that Youth have an independent voice which should be heard at the tables of decision-makers around the world.
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**INTRODUCTION**

**SOME HISTORY**

The Youth Sourcebook on Sustainable Development came about as a result of the experiences of the young people who organized and worked together during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992. Perhaps one of the major legacies of UNCED is the opportunity it provided for people to come together, and to work towards a common goal: the survival of the planet and its present and future inhabitants.

For youth – the common goal was to ensure that UNCED addressed issues that affected them as young people, such as poverty and over-consumption, but overall, youth wanted to have a voice as decisions were being made about their future. Coming together as the youth sector was not easy. One of the most rewarding yet difficult lessons from this experience was learning how to work together. The youth who participated at UNCED came from all kinds of organizations, large and small, from all regions of the world and diverse social, economic and political backgrounds.

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and written, compiled and edited by young people, the Youth Sourcebook on Sustainable Development was developed to reach out to youth globally in order to continue the process of involving youth in sustainable development issues.

The Youth Sourcebook is an experiment in partnership. The basis of this partnership is to answer to a need: the need for resource material, developed by young people for young people on sustainable development issues. Youths from the North and the South have contributed to the process of creating a sourcebook that will be sensitive to the needs of youth from different regions and backgrounds. The Sourcebook is based on this collective effort.

**AIMS OF THE YOUTH SOURCEBOOK**

Through the Sourcebook, we hope that global youth cooperation and networks will be strengthened. The idea was to provide useful information that would assist youth in their work. Youth are important participants in the sustainable development process and must be given the tools to get involved. Because of this, we have presented here some information, some youth perspectives, and further sources of information and networking. Most importantly, rather than answering questions we want to encourage youth to ask questions.

In Section One we present issues that are related to sustainable development from a youth perspective. We would like to encourage youth to research more on the particular issues and form their own opinions and perspectives, which in the end may be similar or different than the ones presented here. Section Two is called Youth Working and Organizing for Action, in it we present youth organizing strategies, how to use e-mail, youth in global decision making, case studies and a section on information resources. The last section, Section Three, is the directory, we have included both youth and non-youth organizations working in the areas of sustainable development.

The Youth Sourcebook should be used as a tool, a source of information and ideas that will help youth in their work towards creating a more just, equitable and sustainable future. Most importantly, we encourage you to share with others the material and ideas presented here.
ISSUES FROM A YOUTH PERSPECTIVE
The idea of Section One is to present issues related to sustainable development from a youth perspective as well as presenting information derived from different sources on the issues addressed in this section.

There are four chapters in this section: Sustainable Development, Women, Human Rights and Natural Resources. These do not represent an exhaustive list of the issues that can be discussed as parts of sustainable development, and as you will find, all four chapters are closely interrelated and difficult to separate.

Chapter One, is called Sustainable Development. Rather than trying to define what sustainable development is, a general introduction to the term sustainable development is provided. There are many concepts and definitions of the words sustainable development, yet it was the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) that through Agenda 21 tried to define some of the things that needed to be done in order to achieve it. Non Governmental Organizations also during the UNCED process tried to bring the world closer to defining what sustainable development needs to include through the NGO Treaties, documents that were drafted as a civil society response to Agenda 21. In this Chapter, the Youth Treaty and the Youth Earth Charter are included. (The Agenda 21 Youth Chapter is included in Appendix 1.) It is important that youth organizing around sustainable development issues use these documents that governments and organizations have signed on to, particularly on the issues of youth involvement at all levels of decision making. Although all of these documents are far from perfect, they represent a base from which youth can work from. Chapter One also includes a piece on education, peace and sustainable development; and an article called Embrace the World.

The relationship between human rights and sustainable development is presented in Chapter Two. In a similar fashion as in the previous chapter, key international documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are outlined. This section includes a diversity of youth perspectives on human rights, such as articles on Human Rights and Youth in Latin America; Human Rights in Asia; Environment and Disability; the Disappeared; Environmental Justice; Women's Rights as Human Rights; and Apartheid and its Environmental Legacy.

Chapter Three, Women, is one that tries to outline the situation of women worldwide through an article on Women and Sustainable Development which touches upon education, the workforce, consumerism, population and health, and violence. A table "worth a thousand words" presents the situation of women in leadership worldwide, it presents a picture of how under-represented women are in the world's governments. This is something that has repercussions in decisions that are often made with little consideration as to how women will be affected.
Women at the World Environment and Development Organization developed the Women's Healthy Planet Report Cards, a useful tool that groups or individuals can use to measure the health of their communities, these cards are presented in this chapter. Women played a major role in the UNCED process, particularly through the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet, and some of the positions that women took regarding Environment and Development issues are outlined. Similarly to the previous chapters, United Nations documents such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women and the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women are summarized. The last part of this section deals with the effects of structural adjustment policies on women.

Natural Resources is the last chapter in this section. There are two main articles in this section, one on Tropical Deforestation which examines: deforesting for the hamburger habit, genetic resources, and Indigenous Peoples. The second chapter titled Biodiversity, Biotechnology and Indigenous Peoples tries to explain biodiversity; modern technology; loss of forests; indigenous peoples; northern and southern views of biodiversity; political transformation and debt and environment.

Section One is aimed at inspiring youth to ask questions about the issues presented here. We present a canvas with many different strokes, by many artists using all colors, but it is by no means a complete painting. This painting may be completed by you, the reader, as you think about what we present and learn more about issues related to sustainable development. Sustainable development is a picture that must be painted by many different artists. It is up to you to paint a few strokes.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development- the new catchword of environment work and development- what does it mean?

The purpose of this chapter is not to provide an answer, but to get you to think about what the answer to this question might be. Youth working on social justice issues believe that sustainable development should be about the fair distribution of resources, where in a world of plenty for some and where others go hungry, there is a move to a more just and equitable society.

Many of the current inequities between north and south can be traced back to colonization. The colonial expansion of European countries established the still existing relationship between Northern and Southern countries, a relationship based on the fueling of the northern economies through the exploitation of the peoples and resources in the South. The ex-colonies continue to provide cheap labour and materials for the northern markets. Colonization brought hunger, violence, disease and genocide to people in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Caribbean and Oceania. Indigenous people lived on the land, sharing its resources, yet with colonization communal land became owned by colonizers, resulting in landlessness among the poor majorities of the South. Cash cropping replaced communal farming, and it also allocated roles to the colonies in the world market: Cuba became a sugar producer, Malaysia produced rubber and Sri Lanka produced tea. (Buenor, p. 69)

The majority of people in the North and a minority in the South enjoy the benefits of growing economies, fed by the exploitation of world resources, while the majority of people in the South survive without having access to resources or benefits. With one-sixth of the world's population, the North controls most of the wealth in the world. Western Europe, North America, Australasia and Japan account for 65% of the world's income while Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific account for 25%. This gross inequality continues to grow. (Litvinoff, p. 32) The economic models designed in the north for the rapid industrialization of the South have failed and in many instances exacerbated the problems. So where do we go from here, and can sustainable development get us there?

Moving away from our current situation to a more sustainable future needs to occur in both the North and the South. Moreover, sustainability cannot be imposed in the South when it is the North that is responsible for most of the environmental degradation and over consumption of resources in the North.

What is clear is that we cannot continue with our current development practices, change has got to happen, and there is an obvious need for social and economic restructuring. How will youth play a role in all of this?

All over the world, young people are working on environment, development and social justice issues; youth have already demonstrated that they play an important role in building sustainability. Sustainable development involves new ways of thinking, new ways of doing things. The potential lies in young people to generate these changes. The responsibility...
for the path we take in the future lies in the hands of today's youth, whether we continue the current rates of destruction, or create a more equitable and peaceful society. What role as a young person will you play?

WHERE DOES THE TERM SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COME FROM?

Since the Conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, the words “sustainable development” have been at the center of the environment and development debate. The term has become best known as one that links the ideas of environment and development, the social and economic. But what does it really mean? The best known definition is one which was presented by the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, known as the Brundtland Report, and published as “Our Common Future”.

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Although this is a widely accepted definition, there is no agreement as to what it may mean in practical or even theoretical terms. But the concept of “sustainable development” has stimulated people to take a close look at the links between the development, economic, social and environmental crisis. And as people make a connection, they began to search for solutions.

All of the following issues are interconnected prerequisites for sustainable development.

• peace
• democracy
• human rights
• equality
• efficient use of energy sources
• local community involvement
• fair distribution of wealth
• participation of all sectors in decision making

All of these are equally important, and can be seen as pieces of a puzzle, and there are pieces that are not listed here. If there is a piece missing the picture is not complete.

Sustainable development can be a positive process where the search for solutions leads to finding common ground with others. This process can provide the direction as to what not only governments, but individuals and communities can do in order to achieve sustainability. Sustainable development involves looking at local issues and trying to understand their global and future implications.

WHAT IS UNCED?

In June, 1992, what has been referred to as the largest most complex United Nations Conference took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Also known as the Rio Summit, the Earth Summit or just Rio, UNCED
brought together 118 heads of state and over 100,000 individuals to discuss the future of the planet. Women, youth, indigenous people, labour, business, and many other groups organized to ensure that they had a voice in the process. Some participated in the official UN conference, others at the NGO Global Forum, where non-governmental organizations gathered to provide alternatives to the official process.

WHAT WERE THE RESULTS OF UNCED?

Agenda 21 was the major document to come out of the Earth Summit. It outlines recommendations and actions at all levels to move the Earth towards sustainable and equitable development. Youth are mentioned throughout the document as well as in Chapter 25 titled “Strengthening the Role of Children and Youth in Sustainable Development”. See Youth Chapter of Agenda 21 in Appendix 1.

Besides Agenda 21 there were five other major outcomes of UNCED: The United Nations Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Forest Principles, the Rio Declaration and the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change sets out broad principles requiring countries to reduce emissions of climate altering greenhouse gases but it is not legally binding. The treaty establishes the principle that nations must take into account the consequences of their economic and technological decisions on the global environment.

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity calls for the development of national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. This was signed by all the nations present with the exception of the United States, and similarly to the Climate Change Convention it sets no deadlines or legal obligations.

The Forest Principles were drafted as the first steps towards a treaty to preserve the world’s forest. This document caused much debate at UNCED since it brought out many issues of North/South relations, particularly around sovereignty.

The Rio Declaration is a 27 point statement committing countries to strive for sustainable development and work to eradicate poverty.

In addition to the agreements, the Commission on Sustainable Development was set up as an official UN mechanism to follow up and report on progress and implementation of Agenda 21.

WHAT ARE THE NGO TREATIES?

The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) produced many documents during UNCED, such as declarations and statements from the different sectors including Women and Youth. One of these efforts resulted in the NGOs Treaties, 39 alternative treaties challenging the existing models and practices of development.
Although some treaties are sector specific, each treaty reflects views from the North and South as well as all sectors of civil society. Some of the issues covered in the treaties are: over-consumption, population, ecological refugees, the debt burden and militarism - all issues that were avoided in the official UNCED process or addressed superficially.

The NGO treaties are documents which were drafted during the Global Forum in Rio as an alternative to the agreements being drafted by the governments. They are a reflection of what civil society wants as a response to the issues being debated at UNCED. The treaties went much further by addressing issues that were not even mentioned in Agenda 21. They were coordinated and drafted by people from different sectors, North/South, representing many different organizations. Each treaty presents a specific environmental or socio-economic issue, followed by principles, a plan of action, and commitments that people can adapt in their search for solutions. People chose those treaties that they wanted to support and “signed” onto them.

The treaties are open documents, you can still sign on and participate! They are documents aimed at strengthening cooperation among groups. If there is an issue that you are interested in working on, a relevant treaty can serve as a tool to organize support and action.

The treaties are based on ideas that stress the importance of respect for others, that challenge the present development model, and that recognize the need for changing values, and empowering people.

The following is the Youth Treaty that was drafted in Rio by youth from around the world and many different organizations:

YOUTH TREATY

Preamble

We, as the undersigned youth (NGOs, social and political movements) gathered in Rio de Janeiro so as to participate in the International Forum of NGOs and Social Movements, the Global Forum, and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), assert our position in protest of the festival of the powerful in RIO 92, which was not interested in offering concrete responses to global problems. We also confirm that youth are indeed the present and future of the planet. We recognize the explicit need to collaborate among ourselves so as to realize our visionary work and to participate within our societies to foment global, social, and environmental change. Uniting our creative and intellectual resources and consolidating the principles elaborated in preparatory process documents, we commit ourselves to the following principles and actions:

Commitments

1. We consider that as youth of the world, we are a strong force that can be channeled through unity in diversity. This implies economic and social justice, equal participation in decision making, peace and collective security, equal rights and education.

We commit ourselves through this unity to ensure for all people a lifestyle directed toward development which is responsible to future generations.
2. The inequitable relations between North and South (and between power elite and peoples) is a result of the politics of domination and discrimination, applied through the policy of the great powers, which affect the quality of life of the other countries, along with the enormous burden of the external debt.

It is necessary to alleviate the vast extremes of wealth and poverty, and to eliminate all prejudices, be they racial, nationalist, cultural, religious, gender-based or class-based, as these are causes of social violence.

We commit ourselves to the sincere respect of each person as an integrated part of humanity. We adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

3. The economy can no longer be a discipline independent of ecology. We reject the current economic system based on the free market, the maximization of profits, and over-consumption, which are the principal roots of human and environmental degradation. We also consider it necessary to satisfy the basic human necessities. To this end, we accept the responsibility of supporting local sustainable development alternatives in all nations, taking into account respect for the environment and the needs of a culturally diverse society.

4. We recognize that grassroots organizations are fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development at local, regional, and global levels. In order to enhance the power of grassroots organizations, we encourage international support groups and networks. We commit ourselves to assuring free and democratic access to information, sharing with those groups that have more difficult access. We accept the responsibility to influence and cooperate with governmental institutions so long as the actions are approved in a democratic manner by the community.

5. We recognize education as an inherent right of each human being. We defend the principle of free and public education so as to guarantee the accessibility of education to all in order to impede the privatization of knowledge, which is amply defended by neo-liberal ideas.

We commit ourselves to promoting an integrated education - scientific, cultural, and spiritual - with a non-competitive aspect as the basis of a change in consciousness that would manifest itself in action. We accept traditional cultures that have lived in a sustainable manner throughout history.

6. We condemn the open and covert destabilization of national sovereignty and self-determination, including all violations of the most elementary norms of international law, such as blockades, invasions, and any kind of aggression, whether it be military, economic or through the media.

**ACTION**

These are some actions based on the previous commitments. The process of creating actions is open to more future proposals.

1. Education and Diffusion:

   a) Distribute through the different media of communications, meetings, and debates, the experience of the events in Rio 92: the UNCED process and the Youth Treaty.

   b) Work to raise environmental and social consciousness and environmental education, for example through:
- courses in capacity-building and youth leadership;
- regional seminars to research methods for maintaining unity and participation in organizations;
- exchanges between members of NGOs, social organizations, and political movements;
- grants for North-South exchanges;
- contests for creative ideas and concrete solutions for environmental problems;
- the elaboration of environmental education programs to be implemented by governments, etc.

2. Consumption Patterns: We commit ourselves to:

   a) consciously reduce our personal consumption of products that invade the market and/or harm the environment, as well as adopt strategies to save energy;

   b) favor campaigns that promote moderate consumption which is environmentally sustainable and supports regional economies, for example, international boycotts of large polluting enterprises.

3. Campaigns

We commit ourselves to jointly promote international campaigns related to the issues that were not addressed adequately at UNCED, for example:

- the rejection of the domination of the global economy by an elite based on the external debt of developing countries, transnational enterprises and their institutional accomplices, the World Bank, IMF, GATT, etc.

- against militarism, demanding that military spending be redirected towards social and environmental ends.

- against the use of nuclear power and the abuse of fossil fuels.

- against hunger and unchecked over-consumption

- against the unnecessary use of pesticides

- against nuclear testing and in favor of the dismantlement of nuclear plants

- to demand the democratization of the organizations of the United Nations

**Mechanisms**

1. Working in networks: Open a conference through an already existing electronic mail network - e.g., APC (Associated Progressive Communications) - and continue and extend an existing network, such as A SEED, for information exchange, cooperation in solidarity and the coordination of action.
2. Create regional information centers which are involved in the e-mail network that will:

   a) produce a rejuvenation of existing regional youth NGOs;
   
   b) create a directory which will include different activities, needs, and resources of every organization;
   
   c) coordinate a network through fax for periodical communications;
   
   d) elaborate a newsletter including participation of all NGOs in the region;
   
   e) coordinate realization of various joint campaigns at regional levels.

3. Resources: Exchange information through the Network about different sources and mechanisms of funding. Transfer resources between NGOs from the North and South, and from governments and private institutions to regional networks for youth environmental activities.

This treaty was consolidated on the basis of the following documents:

Declaration of the Third World and the Human Environment, June 1972.
Declaration of Japanese Youth on the Environment and Development.

A YOUTH EARTH CHARTER

Preamble

Whereas the extraction of natural resources, exploitation of the elements or use of flora and fauna by human beings must not compromise the meeting of basic needs of this generation or the ones to come,

Whereas the preservation of the environment, social justice, cultural survival, and the meeting of basic needs of all living beings of the planet is of utmost importance, and that all species have equal importance in all decision making,

Whereas the effects of colonialism must be recognized, and the need for re-empowerment through self-government and self-determination of the Indigenous Peoples throughout the world is fundamental to all decision-making on environment and development issues,

Therefore, we proclaim that:

1. Every person, group, community, society, and country:

   Has a responsibility to protect the environment for the benefit of future generations and must be made accountable for her/his/its actions;

   Has a right to live in a healthy and clean environment;
Has a right to information and education on environment and development and has the responsibility to assist others in this pursuit;

Has the right to take part in any decision-making concerning projects and policies that may affect her/him/it and has the responsibility to make informed choices;

Has the right to subsist from the land upon which she/he/it lives, and the responsibility to return to the land that which the earth requires.

2. With every right comes a responsibility.

PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The idea of peace is seldom addressed when talking about sustainable development. Throughout the Earth Summit demilitarization and peace issues were strongly brought up by youth, women's groups and Indigenous People, yet Agenda 21 is a document void of any mention of the role of militarism in environmental degradation. The results of 12 years of war have left El Salvador, a country once rich in diversity and with fertile soil, as the most ecologically devastated country in Latin America. We have yet to find out the environmental impact of the Gulf War in 1991. Young people see peace as an essential pre-requisite to environmental sustainability and development.

Peace is more than the absence of war. Peace is people in harmony with themselves and with nature. Peace means respect for the land, other species and people. Everyday a war is waged against the forests in Canada and Brazil, through forestry practices which allow clear cutting and burning. A war is waged against species whose habitat and lives are not respected as humans exploit the environment, through the building of dams and highways, and through industrial pollution. We continue to wage wars among people, and violence against women is increasing in some parts of the world.

The World Youth Statement for UNCED states that: “Peace means tolerance..., the satisfaction of basic needs and human rights, and it also includes responsibility to all generations. There can be no peace where there is injustice, exploitation, over-consumption and hegemony; nor without freedom of expression, thought, religion, information and association”. When we begin to see peace in this way, we will begin putting together the building blocks for sustainable development. There can not be one without the other.

EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Education is a process that we experience throughout our lives. We learn from our experiences in the home, different institutions, from others around us and in the community. Education is key to the social and economic development of a country or community, yet over the last decade, education is in a state of crisis throughout the world.

Access to education is a basic step towards achieving the general well being of people. People need education to care for their health, to find employment, and to be able to care and provide for themselves and their families. Millions of children, and the majority of girl children, will never have access
to basic education. The victims of this crisis are not only the children and youth who may not have access to education or the same quality of education. Society as a whole loses when the education of the population is neglected.

In both Northern and Southern countries, social spending directed towards education has been drastically cut back. As governments undergo the restructuring of their economies they no longer see education as a spending priority, and thus they direct government spending elsewhere, yet military spending has been maintained at the same levels. Structural adjustment policies, which limit the levels of social spending, have also targeted education as an area where spending should be cut.

In many developing countries, children living in poverty are forced to work to support themselves and their families. This also creates the situation where girl children are often deprived of education later resulting in illiteracy rates among women being disproportionately higher than that of men.

Article 26 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to education, and that it should be free at least at the elementary levels. Education is becoming a commodity, it is becoming privatized, available only to those who can afford it. The marginalized - poor youth, youth from different races, youth who have a disability, or girl children are losing access to education. The right to be educated is being determined by social groups.

Conditions in schools are deplorable. Lack of materials, oversized classrooms, and with few teachers make learning difficult. In industrialized countries, communities where immigrants, blacks and Hispanics live, have even fewer resources for education available to them.

Education is key to sustainable development. It can be a force that stimulates participation in political life, brings awareness of new ideas, assists in the process of analysis, and it eventually shapes society. We should see education as more than learning how to read and write. It should foster peace, development, respect for the environment, human rights, and cooperation, it should help us achieve sustainability. There needs to be a broad approach to education, one that includes a shift to issues that give youth the tools to build a sustainable future.

Youth organizations not only have a role in advocating for accessible education but also have a role in promoting education. Young people can work in literacy, peer education, education that will be sensitive to the needs of minorities, women and Indigenous People.

If education is truly going to contribute to the socio-economic development of communities, it is important that it is available to everyone, regardless of gender, race, and socio-economic status. Education needs to address the needs of all members of society and insure that it brings about change toward a sustainable future.

**EMBRACE THE WORLD**

*By Martin Prieto, Uruguay*

I was born, without choosing to, into a Third World country during an era of great conflicts. I never believed in the structures of the system and its dominant values, which were being questioned broadly, particularly by the social movements searching for alternatives. Those structures and values caused direct damage to me...
During my childhood, which passed amidst violent repression. The dictatorships in Latin America have greatly influenced the young generations, and in my case have caused my experience of the contradictions of exile in a First World country. In the course of colonial and post-colonial history one can discern a repetition of mechanisms of domination.

Making use of the vocabulary and metaphors associated with the environment, the governments and elite as well as international bodies like the World Bank seek to preserve an unjust order. The governors of the planet have been incapable of reaching an agreement, and finding solutions to the imbalances in both the ecological and the social systems. We should not forget that if we want our local communities and the people to have decision making power on their living conditions, through a true participatory democracy, those bureaucrats and professional politicians will be unemployed. Confronted with this enormous threat, the governors see themselves obliged to propose open processes for other sectors of the world population. At the same time they try to spread the responsibility for the imbalances for which only they are responsible, to everybody, and particularly to the poor in the Third World. In reality the poor suffer day after day, and are being kept marginalized. Their tactic is to treat the topics in a global way, sacrificing the parts, against numerous regions and their populations, particularly in the South.

It is time to give another direction to our lives. Young people are a fundamental factor for change. But realize that this change is a task of few old and many young people, against many old and few young ones. We have to choose and choose responsibly; our future and that of the planet coincide. Each one of us starting with ourselves, and together strengthening each other, create a common base, and increase the width of our conscience. We have to withdraw from the systems and the values that have contaminated us, and of which we are part by reason of being born in their womb. And this is only possible through a permanent search for alternatives. We must jointly confront the communication problems, overcome the differences in concepts and symbols that divide us and prevent us from dialogue and cooperation.

Gradually we will be able to define new values, for which we need to create appropriate instrumental, organizational and communication technologies. Break frontiers and cooperate directly among ourselves and with the most threatened sectors of humanity. The follow-up we have to give to our action has to cover different levels that are both fundamental and complimentary. We must clearly define our objectives and adjust our methods, with a profound critique of the current situation and available resources. We need joint action, showing coordination and solidarity and covering the fundamental aspects of the crisis:

1) Denounce the problems, but always with alternative proposals. Practice the principles of self-governance, cooperation, solidarity and social ecology, in works such as recycling, improving our consumption, use of public transport.

2) Produce and elaborate material to maintain a permanent discussion and exchange. Sustain our critical capacity.
3) Initiate alternative solutions and experiences in all aspects of social life and in all bioregional dimensions. Create and support networks that facilitate the communication and spread of our successes and difficulties.

Although it may still be premature, we have to focus on the realization of a planetary network of local groups of ecological action, which coordinate at the regional and continental levels, respecting cultural diversity and moving towards unity in diversity.

*We have to embrace the world, taking each other by the hand.*

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

**HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

There is an inseparable relationship between sustainable development and human rights. This relationship can be seen in many different ways, yet just as the environment and development are closely bound to each other, they are also bound to human rights. The respect for human rights has been recognized as a prerequisite for development. If people's fundamental human rights are threatened, if people lack the basic human rights of food, health, education, shelter, freedom of expression and the right to political participation, their ability to participate in sustainable development is hindered. This chapter is a collection of youth voices and perspectives on human rights, from the "disappeared" in Latin America to the effects of apartheid on the environment and the people of South Africa.

To address basic social and economic issues, as well as issues related to the environment, public mobilization is needed, yet it is when public mobilization happens that human rights are likely to be violated. Environmental degradation that is a result of irresponsible practices by governments, industry, and transnational corporations fundamentally infringe on the right of all people to a healthy environment, yet when these powers are challenged, there is a risk involved for those who dare to challenge them. In many countries, such as Argentina, there is a history of silencing, a history which prevents popular participation in building a social movement which addresses sustainability and challenges the existing development models. Freedom of expression enables people to challenge unsustainable practices, to demand their rightful place in developing alternatives for sustainability and changing social and economic structures which negatively affect their communities.

Where there are people who are willing to cry out and protect their land, community, environment or their human rights, there are people willing to put their lives at risk. In the case of indigenous people who are protecting their traditional culture and land, they face marginalization, persecution and are even threatened by further genocide, in Guatemala, Malaysia, India, Canada, the United States and other countries. Protecting livelihoods and the environment is a dangerous business: note the killing of rubber tappers in Brazil including their well known leader, Chico Mendes. A person willing to speak out and take action on behalf of humanity and the Earth, anywhere on the planet, regardless of the type of government existing, a person willing to put themselves at risk, from losing employment, facing incarceration, to losing their life.
Because of racism, the rights of communities of people of colour to a healthy environment have been violated. People of colour have been disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. Incinerators, hazardous waste dumps, uranium mining, often take place in communities of people of colour, people who have traditionally lacked the political power to oppose such projects.

Discrimination against social groups jeopardizes their right to shelter, health, food, education and other fundamental human rights. The recognition of the rights of half of humanity, women, as human rights is also the base upon which a sustainable future will be built.

Disabled peoples are often forgotten from the environmental debate, yet, environmentally destructive practices such as war and nuclear testing, are responsible for the disability of many. When looking at human rights and the environment, disabled peoples cannot be omitted from the debate.

Young people, as a group that often lacks political power, are often the ones willing to take risks in order to speak out against injustices and for the protection of rights. In some countries, whole generations, generations which sought social change, were wiped out through repression. Everyday, adults and children die from hunger, and one in three children in the world suffer from malnutrition. This is one of the greatest violation of human rights, where in a world of plenty, people die from hunger, a world were the distribution of resources, rather than scarcity, is the problem.

As this generation of youth continues the struggle for a social and economic development that respects the environment, cultures and peoples, the respect for human rights must be kept also at the center of the debate. Without respect for human rights, the ability of people to move to a sustainable future will be hindered.

WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS?

Human rights have been defined as rights and fundamental freedoms that are the birthright of all human beings. Human rights recognize that people have a right to determine their political status and pursue their economic, social and cultural development and all of these are interdependent.

"Each country should combat human rights abuses against young people, particularly young women and girls, and should consider providing all youth with legal protection, skills, opportunities and the support necessary for them to fulfill their personal, economic and social aspirations and potential"

Chapter 25.5 Agenda 21
Much of the work around human rights has been based on the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, and in June of 1993 the World Conference on Human Rights developed the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. The following is a summary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights:

**THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, drafted in 1948, establishes the civil, social, political, economic, and cultural rights of all people regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. This means that:

**Among economic, social and cultural human rights...**

- You have the right to food
- You have the right to housing
- You have the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of health
- You have the right to receive education, free at least at elementary levels
- You have the right to a standard of living that ensures the well being and health of you and your family. Social services should be provided in order to ensure the security of individuals in case of unemployment, sickness, disability, old age or other circumstances which threaten your livelihood.

**Among civil and political rights....**

- You have the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This includes the right to hold opinions, and receive and impart information through any media
- You have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
- You have the right to take part in the government of your country.
- You have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- If arrested you are entitled to a fair public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal

*Source: Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations Office of Public Information*
The concept of Human Rights has traditionally been the subject of a political and ideological dispute. Many people have tried to maintain the traditional approach which fails to recognize civil and political rights as human rights and that these are equally important as economic, social and cultural rights, and that all these rights are fundamentally based on issues of equity. It is necessary to avoid these contradictions since human rights are interdependent.

If we look at recent Latin American history we see that the violation of human rights happened in two ways: first, the establishment of regimes that led to the torture and deaths of students, workers, politicians and intellectuals and forced hundreds of thousands of people into exile; second, the implementation of state policies that adversely affected numerous important economic and social measures achieved through public pressure. The overcoming of dictatorships in the region has not meant the abandonment of certain terror policies, nor has it reversed the increasing economical marginalization of the majority of the Latin American population.

**With the “proceso de redemocratizacion”, have Human Rights become an issue of the past?**

Last night I dreamt
with the hungry and the mad
with those who left, with those who are imprisoned
Today I woke up, singing this song
that was written long ago
and it is necessary to sing it once again

“Eventually [environmentalists] have to ask the questions: Who made this mess and why? It is in trying to answer those questions that you get in trouble. Because those messing up the environment are powerful.”

- Wangari Matthai

Most of the human rights groups in Latin America were created during times of dictatorship to denounce the atrocities committed by the Armed Forces in the name of peace, or against the “communists”. After the fall of military governments have human rights violations disappeared? Does this mean that these organizations do not have a reason to exist in future decades?

Although many people around the world were informed about what had happened in Latin America during the military regimes, many consider that with our new democracies we should close these sad chapters of our history and see the electoral regimes and all the liberties that have been won since then with new eyes.

**Democratization of the Political System with the Permanence of the Military Power.**

The transition from military to civilian electoral regimes is called the “redemocratization process”. These political shifts were not accompanied by a strong decrease of power or status for institutions like the secret police, the armed forces, intelligence agencies, etc. For instance, Pinochet in Chile, past president and responsible for human rights abuses during his time as president, retains his position as head of the Army, and the elected president lacks the authority to remove him or any other top military commander from their posts.
In Argentina, some of the newly elected officials tried to bring the military to trial for crimes against the civilian population such as killings, kidnapings and torture. But they did not get very far. After a historic trial where seven different members of the military junta were condemned to prison in December 1986, the President introduced a law which limited the prosecution of military officers. This law was followed by yet another one, a law which absolves all those under the rank of colonel from crimes against civilians, because they were only following what they believed to be lawful orders. This measure pardoned most of those responsible for the thousands of deaths between 1976 and 1983 in Argentina. In 1990 the new President, Carlos Menem, decided to pardon the remaining military condemned to life imprisonment by Argentina Supreme Court. In conclusion, the regimes and laws can change, but the power still remains in the hands of those that took it by force.

The young democracies in Latin America continue repressive practices for which the majority of victims are young people. Murders of street children in Brazil are an everyday occurrence, young people are often killed in Argentinean jails, arbitrary detainments take place in Mexico, there are violent reactions to peaceful demonstrations in Chile. These are all usual occurrences in Latin America and an example of the low value placed on human life. Along with this we find censorship and control of freedom of expression of students and activists. Any criticism of the dominant social-economic system is seen as threatening to the new democracies.

The social memory of our societies in Latin America is plagued with fear and lack of trust of human relationships, both of which prevent young people from participating in collective organizing. The years of dictatorship continue to show its lasting psychological and social effects.

Youth, Human Rights and Participation

Youth growing up in the eighties and nineties spent their childhood under dictatorships in Central and South America. Many have grown in exile facing the challenge of a different language, culture and a loss of their roots and sense of belonging.

There are not homogenous concepts and values among Latin American youth, nor is there a unified youth movement. The young generation that preceded me, began to participate in policy making in the seventies, and was oppressed, tortured and forced into both internal and external exile. The current history is being affected by the fear in people to speak up and organize to confront the different social and economic issues. The memories of the generations before us still exist in the minds of people, particularly because the issues around which youth organizes are still the same. For example in Brazil students organized against the privatization policies of education and political corruption.

By the end of the century 50% of Latin American and Caribbean population will be under 15 years old. Two thirds will be under 30. The majority do not have a participatory space and or play a leadership role in political parties and there is not a common ground between the state and the young people. Youth lack real opportunities to design their own fate and the development model being used will result in the further marginalization and double the rate of hunger and mortality among youth. On this issue, the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL), states that economic crisis will lead to social-political crisis, resulting in conflicts. If young people are the most affected it would be in that generation that conflict will come about.
If we continue with the current development model the region will be divided into two sectors: one comprised of those who have the economic resources to buy food, health services, education and secure a livelihood, and the other, which will be the majority, who will not have access to the means of subsistence and lack the political representation to effect change. In order to avoid reality, people build walls around them thinking that what they cannot see does not exist. It is necessary to create awareness at national, regional and international levels about the problems to promote action from young people in response to this crisis and to begin looking for solutions, but this can only take place if human rights are respected. Our hope is in the ability of youth to build a society based on solidarity, that will allow us to take hold: the future.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION

The Asian Students Association (ASA), which is a regional organization based in Hong Kong whose membership is comprised of National Unions of Students in the region, summarized well the human rights issues facing the region through its human rights program.

ASA's Human Rights and Education Program states the following:

Asia and the Pacific is the richest region in the world both in human and natural resources. But untold millions wallow in hunger, despair, pain and misery.

While most governments in the region are signatories of covenants and declarations affirming human rights, the most brutal, systematic and pervasive transgression of human rights prevails.

For every breath we take, a child in Asia-Pacific stops breathing due to hunger and disease-related causes. And for those who are fortunate enough to survive, they face life growing up in bondage, working under slave conditions - exploited by adults.

While ethnic strife rips apart the fabric of Asian societies, indigenous peoples of Asia-Pacific are struggling against the encroachment and occupation of their land by people who espouse an alien and destructive culture. Theirs is a struggle against the decimation of their livelihood, environment, culture and race.

Women in many parts of the region are still regarded as nothing more than chattels. They are being discriminated against in every facet of our patriarchal society. Thousands are sold into prostitution in countries where sex tourism is widespread.

For the youth and students who protest against such stark injustices and oppression, they become targets of repression themselves. Many are arrested, detained, tortured or murdered for their actions in support of the poor and the exploited.

This inhuman situation is neither pre-destined, inevitable or irreparable.

Human rights is not a passive concept nor a mere enumeration of the different rights and liberties of individuals and peoples. But rather, it is the active practice of collective human equalities that realizes the full human dignity and freedom to develop their potentialities to the fullest, and their power to change any societal structure, both internal and external.....

Asian Students Association
ENVIRONMENT AND DISABILITY

Did you know that roughly one in ten people in the world are disabled, about 500 million? About 300 million of disabled people live in developing countries, and about 160 million of them are women. Poverty, malnutrition, lack of access to medical facilities, and war are among the chief causes of disability. Once a person is disabled, they still face enormous barriers in their communities and outright violation of their rights. Few countries have anti-discrimination laws protecting the rights of disabled peoples, and although there is an international United Nations Human Rights Declaration on Disability which was developed in 1975, it has not ensured the protection of the rights of disabled people.

Disabled people have been actively concerned with issues of sustainable development, and for the Earth Summit developed a Declaration on Environment and Disability.

EXCERPTS FROM THE DECLARATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ENVIRONMENT AND DISABILITY

People with disabilities around the world, sharing equal rights and responsibilities with their fellow citizens, demand to participate in discussion and plans regarding the environment at local, national and international levels.

"... people with disabilities [have to] be included in the plan for "sustainable development", which is deemed essential for the survival of our planet."

While many environment and development experts disassociate the abuse of the earth with that of its inhabitants, people with disabilities are keenly observant of the disabling causes to nature and humans alike: Air and water pollution and the disposal of toxic waste; poverty and malnutrition; militarization and war; lack of regulation over workplace safety in transnational corporations; human genetic engineering and the intolerance of biodiversity; climate change that contributes to disabling environments, such as deserts and flood.

All of these contribute to both environmental destruction as well as human disability. In this regard, we firmly support the necessity to radically change our current concept of development to include the full participation of all persons in the constitution of a just society.

We, people with disabilities, wish to assume our social, political and economic responsibilities in fulfilling our duties and benefiting from our equal rights with our fellow citizens.

Each human has a right to a life with dignity, independence and quality. A just and democratic social order must ensure the right to full access to communication and information, to education and cultural programs, as well as to advanced environmentally compatible technologies that will ensure the independence of people with disabilities.

Health must be regarded as a biomedical and social issue that addresses the causes of disability, early detection and rehabilitation, with the aim of developing the full potential of all individuals.

People with disabilities are conscious of their citizenship on Mother Earth, and wish to exercise it fully.

Source: Disabled Peoples International
Latin America is plagued with the legacy of more than two decades of state terrorism led by military regimes imposed through violence. Although the different countries in the continent that have survived (or are surviving) military dictatorships differ in national specificity regarding the dictatorships, they hold this in common: State terrorism was justified through a doctrine of national security.

From the beginning of the seventies through the present, military regimes have declared wars on the peoples of Latin America, backed by the doctrine of national security. This doctrine was adopted in order to fight the so-called communist threat and allowed for the extermination of complete generations in order to prevent “foreign ideologies” from taking over the countries.

Detentions, torture and summary executions are common practices of state terrorism everywhere. Yet in Latin America a new phenomenon began as a mechanism of spreading terror throughout society: the “disappearances”. “Disappearances” emerged as a strategy to reach “subversives” by making them fear the worst (the unknown), but they also served to maintain the families in constant anguish and terror; the hoped result was to destroy all activity (political as well as social) in society.

A “disappearance” consists of two actions: The first is the kidnapping of an individual, or a whole family, and taking them to a clandestine detention center (or concentration camp) to be interrogated, tortured, and eventually and most likely killed. The second action is denying that the person or family were ever taken, when family members begin searching for them and asking questions. The reign of terror falls on the now “disappeared”, but also on the people that look for them. A situation of shame and threats is created, whereby the family members that search for the disappeared are advised not to go looking for them, because if they were taken (although it was denied that they were) “por algo sera”(there must be a reason).

The practice of “disappearing” people was effective during the military dictatorships throughout the Southern Cone in South America as well as in Central America. In response to these practices, many groups were formed with the objective of finding the “disappeared”, such as the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo in Argentina and the Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners, Disappeared and Assassinated Persons of El Salvador. The majority of these organizations were formed by women who had never been involved in politics and simply demanded the whereabouts of their missing relatives. Many of them were repressed and suffered their own “disappearances” as a result of their work; others continue long after the military regimes left their place in power.

Although it is important to discuss the “disappearances” during the military regime in terms of what the military and the victims went through, it is interesting to now focus on how the “disappeared” were symbolized by society then as well as after the return of democracy. The phenomenon of
the “disappeared” leaves a space that’s impossible to fill. It is presumed that they were killed by their captors and torturers, but as long as there was no body and no official recognition of their deaths, they cannot die. This is seen in the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo movement, in 1993, ten years after the transition to a democratic government.

With the first elections in 1983, there was a boom of information about the gross human rights violations that had taken place during the last military dictatorship (1976-1983). The Mothers continued their silent marches and outlines of bodies were drawn on walls as the image of the “disappeared”. The plea was still the same “apparition with life”. For the Mothers, the “disappeared” were taken alive and had to be returned alive. This did not last long as the attention span of the population at large on the topic was short and it was all soon buried.

There is no symbolism for the “disappeared”. They were taken away without a trace. That was part of the terror tactic: the permanent anguish it caused the family. It is described like living with a ghost; they are not dead, but they are not alive either. The idea that some day they might return (although highly unlikely) does not allow for them to be dead. Keeping them alive and constantly present in mind does not allow for the survivors (the family) to continue living. One cannot mourn for a person who might possibly still be alive; how to move forward while maintaining the memory alive? Unlike the victims of the Holocaust, there are no monuments, no symbol (like the yellow star, the pink triangle); the “disappeared” have no meaning. They are referred to by their state of being, by a verb that was never active until now (someone is “disappeared” by someone else).

In Argentina, ten years after the fall of the last military regime, the “disappeared” still live among the living. Thirty thousand people — a whole generation — were “disappeared” in seven years of military rule. Even after the finding of mass graves and the identification of several “disappeared”, they are rarely called “dead”. The official policy of “el olvido” or pacification has placed it all behind without coming to terms with it. And yet by forcing society to forget, the system is creating a space to remember. When they say “you must forgive and forget”, we remember what it is we are supposed to forget. And yet we do not know how to remember, what to remember; and the terror continues. Fear of the empty space that has no name, no symbol; fear of the limits of what is possible. How to recall the torture scenes without horror? How to recall the senseless deaths without fear? How to recall the dead if they did not die? Someone once wrote that “those who die for life cannot be called dead”, but then how do we call them?

THE STRUGGLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN NEW YORK
by Ludovic Blain (New York Public Research Interest)

*Environmental racism:* a term used to describe the connection between racism and the environmental degradation that exists in communities of people of colour.
Youth need to organize for the right of people to have a healthy environment and a healthy life. With higher levels of pollution, access to a clean environment has become a commodity. Drinking water, for example, in many communities is limited to those who can afford to purchase it. The struggle for environmental justice encompasses the right of people to protect their communities from environmental degradation by outside industries. Environmental justice is about pointing out the discrimination involved in the placing of polluting industries in communities of people of colour making it a human rights issue.

In New York, Harlem, and its surrounding areas, is a cultural center that encompasses the Apollo Theater, City College, Columbia University, and Striver Row. Within that area also lies a crematorium, a truck to barge garbage transfer station, a six lane highway, most of Manhattan’s municipal bus stations, an exposed high speed rail line, and a defective sewage treatment plant through which roughly half of Manhattan’s sewage flows. The City of New York has begun expanding a street to a high speed drive by downsizing an adjacent park. To compensate for the sewage treatment plant, New York state offered a plan: the creation of a park. The site chosen, however, was atop the sewage treatment plant, an area where, since the facility was placed on line in 1986, the community residents have been complaining of unbearable odors, headaches, asthma, and other respiratory problems. Just south of Harlem is Manhattan’s mostly white, middle to upper class Upper West side, which was the first proposed site for the sewage treatment plant, formally known as the North River Water Pollution Control Plant. The neighborhood was able to use its abundant resources and leverage on its politicians to oppose and reject the facility out of the neighborhood. This is a clear-cut example of racism, specifically environmental racism, which is exemplified in the concentration of environmentally destructive facilities in communities of color.

Environmental racism has a long, disturbing history in the United States. Take, for example, the following story as reported by Emerge Magazine: in West Virginia in the 1930s, a subsidiary of Union Carbide hired hundreds of black mineworkers. When these workers attempted to leave the mines because they were feeling ill from dust, they were beaten back into the mines by company overseers. Within two years, almost 500 workers died and 1,500 were injured by a disease similar to black lung. In subsequent congressional hearings the contractor admitted: “I knew I was going to kill these niggers, but I did not know it was going to be so soon”. Many such incidents have been uncovered by community activists and there are plenty more examples today that indicate the need for an environmental justice movement. An example is a community called Greenpoint-Williamsburg, a Latino and Hasidic community, that has a combined hazardous and nuclear storage facility, a huge underground oil spill, the largest sewage treatment plant on the East Coast, twice as many toxic storage sites as any other community board district, and that now faces the prospect of an incinerator.

A report by the United Church of Christ Commission on Racial Justice, Toxic Wastes and Race in the United Stares found that nationally, three out of five
blacks and Latinos, and approximately half of the Pacific/Asian Islanders and Native Americans live in communities with uncontrolled waste sites.

The manifestations of environmental racism in New York State do not stop at sewage treatment plants, incinerators, or toxic dumps. Consider two other environmental health issues that severely impact people of colour: lead exposure and tobacco addiction. For children, lead poisoning is the number one environmental threat. Fully 75 percent of New York State’s young people are at risk of lead poisoning—from paint to the house (either eaten or breathed in), nearby incinerators (the largest stationary sources of lead), and even drinking water contaminated by lead pipes. Children who are exposed to lead on a regular basis may suffer irreparable intellectual and physiological damage. Due to the concentration in communities of colour of dilapidated housing with lead-based paint, an extremely high number of New York State’s black and Latino children are at risk of lead poisoning.

Tobacco addiction is another killer in communities of colour. Blacks suffer high rates of tobacco addiction and cancers related to smoking in the United States. Mentholated cigarettes (which pose a greater health risk than others) are smoked by 75 percent of blacks who smoke, but only 23 of whites who smoke.

Across New York, people are fighting back, demanding environmental justice. The traditionally divided communities of Latinos and Hasidic Jews in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, are working together to stop the proposed Brooklyn Navy Yard Incinerator. Continuous, unified work of community voices on the environment also bodes well for future activities that would ameliorate the ethnic and racial tensions prevalent in the community.

In the past, environmental and civil rights organizations rarely formed alliances due to lack of diversity of perspectives and goals within the environmental movement and lack of interest within the civil rights movement. However, the separate movements have been converging. In Albany, New York City, Buffalo, Long Island, Genesee County, and throughout New York State, environmental problems cut across those lines as well. This year, legislation was introduced, not only in New York State and other states, but also in Congress, that would begin to address environmental justice. These bills are a first step to affording protection to all US residents that until now has been withheld to all but a few.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

Since the time of colonization, indigenous peoples throughout the world have suffered oppression from their colonizers. Many of the indigenous nations have faced intensive persecution and genocide that continues to this day as is the case in East Timor and Guatemalan indigenous people.

Although indigenous people’s cultures and languages are rich and diverse, there is a commonality that crosses all indigenous peoples’ nations: their relationship with the land, mother earth, pacha mama. Indigenous people have a great deal to contribute to the value system that needs to be developed in order to achieve sustainable development. They have depended on their environment for survival for thousands of years, and as a result, they have come to develop an understanding and respect for all living things around them that does not exist in the dominant cultures.

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**Reasons for Environmental Movement:**

- Approximately 60% of African-Americans and Hispanic Americans live in communities near uncontrolled toxic waste sites.
- More than eight million Hispanic citizens live in neighborhoods with at least one toxic waste site.
- Nearly half of all Asian/Pacific and Native Americans live close to such sites.

Overall, communities with the most hazardous waste facilities had the highest composition of racial and ethnic populations.

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**United Church of Christ, 1987**
The human rights of indigenous nations, particularly around self determination, need to be recognized and respected. Indigenous people have the right to their culture, their land and their traditional way of life. The following is an excerpt of the Kari-oca declaration that asserts those rights:

**THE KARI-OCA DECLARATION**

- We, the indigenous peoples, walk to the future in the footprints of our ancestors.
- From the smallest to the largest living being, from the four directions, from the air, the land and the mountains, the creator has placed us, the indigenous peoples upon our mother the earth.
- The footprints of our ancestors are permanently etched upon the lands of our peoples.
- We, the indigenous peoples, maintain our inherent rights to self-determinations. We have always had the right to decide our own forms of government, to use our own laws, to raise and educate our children, to our own cultural identity without interference.
- We continue to maintain our rights as peoples despite centuries of deprivation, assimilation and genocide.
- We maintain our inalienable rights to our lands and territories, to all our resources - above and below - and to our waters. We assert our ongoing responsibility to pass these onto the future generations.
- We cannot be removed from our lands. We, the indigenous peoples, are connected by the circle of life to our lands and environments.
- We, the indigenous peoples, walk to the future in the footprints of our ancestors.

**COMING HOME**

by Graciela Melitsko

**Indigenous Refugees in Mexico Go Back To Their Homeland**

They are coming home. After ten long years of exile they are finally coming back to their homeland, with a bit of Mexico in their hearts. Mexico, the land that witnessed so many good-byes and welcomed so many Latin American exiles, the land Guatemala looks up to.

“What shall we do after so many years?”, Isabel rhetorically asks herself. And I repeat to myself the first lines of a beautiful poem by Pablo Neruda: “Nosotros los de entonces ya no somos los mismos [...]” (We, the ones from before, are no longer the same.)

I met Isabel one morning at the Coyoacan market and we became very close friends, like sisters. I was enthralled by the wrinkles on her face, which bore testimony to her serene, long, exhausting journeys. And of course, as a woman I could not help but say something about her clothes. When she answered, her words came out in a very soft-accented Spanish, somewhat difficult to understand for someone from the Southern part of the continent: “And what do you write so much for?”

“I go around dressed in words,” I said. Isabel laughed, then said: “Maybe you can write about what's going on in my country.”

I told her that I wasn’t sure I would be able to convey that message. Isabel looked at me, sort of puzzled. I thought to myself that she did not need all my words. All was very well written on her face, her eyes, her dresses. Since Isabel already speaks Spanish, what I should do is lay the emphasis on rhetorical questions, on soliloquies, on all the repetitions and hyperboles that may be helpful in shedding light on her world, without ever betraying
its true nature. And once again in this journey, I came to understand why languages are not just tools of communication, but rather a vision of the world, a way of understanding and transforming life experiences. On January 20, the first 2400 Guatemalan refugees arrived from the Mexican state of Chiapas, en route to the town of La Mesilla. International organizations such as the Red Cross and Medecins Sans Frontieres, and the Mexican Commission for Refugees accompanied them on their way back home. On the other side of the border, Nobel Peace Prize Rigoberta Menchú was waiting for them. The aborigines had to wait for a week before they crossed the border because the government wanted them to return on a little-used road, half-hidden in the forest.

“Many of them are afraid of coming back...” Isabel says. All her family, except for one child, has died. She learned to speak, read and write Spanish in Mexico with a women’s group. They formed a small cooperative of artisans, and now they have to face the loss of friends in exile, of landscapes, and traditions that she had adopted during this long period. I ask her about the precarious conditions in refugee camps in Mexico, but I get no answer. Then she speaks about loneliness and the word *nostalgia* comes to mind, because it means “homesickness.”

**LATIN AMERICA, 500 YEARS AFTER: NEW FORMS OF EXTERMINATION AND DOMINATION**

It should be noted that the consequences of repression are evident not only at the individual level, but also at the societal level. After long years of repression and violence, everything related to things collective are tinted with fear and ambivalence in people’s minds. If physical violence stops, it is because either the popular organizations no longer pose a threat to those in power, or because certain foreign cultural-economic patterns now seem to be inbred, and thus the use of force is no longer necessary. This is why all collective efforts towards reconstruction must be supported and disseminated. Coming back home in an isolated, fearsome way is quite different from returning in an organized, collective way, upholding the value of social organizations. In the cult of fear there is no future, there are no projects, because tomorrow is completely uncertain and you talk about the past only in the darkness of the backyard, for fear someone might overhear.

In the years to come, the challenge for Latin America is creating new institutions, new social movements, and giving a new meaning to the concept of participation, as well as recovering the language, always used as a weapon by those in power. But above all, it is necessary to work on the processes rather than on the projects, which run the risk of being fragmented and losing their original, alternative role in our usually fragmented societies. This fragmentation that prevails in our societies is the result of mechanistic, linear logic in tackling our problems. Wars, ethnic strife, military repression and serious environmental problems cannot be dissociated, even if on the international agenda these problems are split up into two different categories: environment on the one hand, and human rights on the other. The way these problems are visualized and dealt with is important, and helps bring forward possible solutions.

On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the conquest there have been many debates on indigenous peoples’ issues in the mass media. The analyses are simplistic in most cases and far from being re-evaluations of the concept of respect for cultural diversity. Culture becomes exchange always on

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**Indigenous Peoples Around the World**

“There are 250 million indigenous peoples worldwide (4% of the world population) living in over 70 countries.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Distribution of Indigenous Peoples in the Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aotearoa</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>66.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenland</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>50.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR (former)</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“There are some 5,000 distinct indigenous peoples in the world — groups that can be distinguished by linguistic and cultural differences, and geographical separation.”

an unequal footing — and above all it is the accumulation of information and objects leading to homogenous thinking, in line with the times in which we have to live.

**WOMEN, YOUNG WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS: NO DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT JUSTICE!**
*By Zonny Woods, Canada*

**Development, human rights and women**

Development should be about people having access to food, shelter, health care, social security, political and religious freedom, education and civil liberties. These are also human rights, rights which should be enjoyed by every inhabitant of this planet, regardless of race, class, gender, political or religious belief, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, yet the majority of the world's population is denied these rights. Included in this majority are women. Women, who constitute half of the world's population, suffer from human rights violations every day. These violations take different forms but have one thing in common. They are consistently overlooked and seldom condemned by our social and political system.

Violations against the rights of women are seen as the part of the norm, a norm which young women and future generations stand to inherit unless great strides are made to achieve justice for women. Women have the right to education, health, equality, employment and freedom, among many other rights. The rights of women are human rights, and unless equal rights are given to women we will never achieve social and economic sustainable development.

**Everything is interrelated**

The perspective of young women, one that is fresh and evolving, provides an opportunity for change in the traditional approach to human rights, women's rights and development. Young women are in the unique position to bring the force and energy needed to struggle against the things which have held back women for too long. In order to understand and take actions which will support women, we need to consider social and economic issues from a holistic and open approach that listens to the voices and struggles of all women. The realization that there is an inter-relationship between all aspects of social and economic development must be the basis upon which we as youth must look at and work on development issues. Before the term sustainable development was used, the terms environment and development were used and seen as two separate issues, not as two aspects of life which are intimately interrelated. That has also been the case for recognizing that freedom and human rights are a precondition for development. The fact that freedom and human rights are a pre-condition for development is now accepted by the United Nations, and presumably its member nations. There is a general acceptance, at least in theoretical terms, that development which benefits all the individuals of a community or country can only take place where human rights are respected.

It is unfortunate that this debate did not proceed to examine the rights of women in the same light. This changed with the United Nations Human Rights conference in Vienna in 1993, where women's groups organized in order to insure that women's rights are included as human rights. The rights of women have also for too long been looked at in isolation, when at all. Ambassador Merwat Tallawy, Chair of the UN Commission on the Status of Women stated recently that: "Just as the environment was a catalyst for
development issues, human rights should be a catalyst to promote equality among all groups of the population*. The youth chapter of Agenda 21, clearly states the importance of combating human rights abuses as a prerequisite for sustainable development.

**Recognizing women’s rights**

Over the last two decades it has been recognized that development cannot succeed without the acknowledgment of women. Their full integration and participation in the development process has been recognized as a fundamental basis for development. There are some key documents formulated and ratified by the United Nations that clearly state the need for this to take place. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, developed in 1979 and ratified by 120 countries is still disregarded. Women continue to suffer from being treated as second class citizens. During the UN decade for women in 1985, the Forward Looking Strategies were developed, as a plan for the advancement of women towards the year 2000.

The United Nations places freedom high on a list of conditions necessary for human development, and freedom is something few women know. Women lack freedom from fear of violence because of their gender, freedom to choose over their fertility, freedom from social stereotypes that limit their abilities to self determination, and they lack freedom on the basis of their gender. Discrimination against girls begins with early life, sometimes before birth as female infanticide is practiced. In many areas, social and cultural factors deny girls and women the same nutrition, health care and other support males receive. There are still many cultures which place greater importance on male children over the female child. This is particularly obvious when a priority is placed in providing healthcare and education to males over females.

**Violence against women: a human rights violation**

Until recently, one of the biggest human rights abuses was accepted and kept quiet: violence against women. Violence against women cuts across class, culture and regional differences. Violence against women not only takes a direct physical form, but it is also psychological and includes the deprivation of basic needs. We live in a society where all these forms of violence against women are accepted as the norm: domestic violence, rape, incest, pornography, forced prostitution, sex tourism, the feminization of poverty are all manifestations of the same problem.

The sexual exploitation of women, and even rape are still not considered a human rights violation. Women are battered or abused by their partners as an everyday occurrence in “developed” countries. What does this say for the rights of women? How are their rights being protected? Can we say that a country is a developed country with this type of human rights violations existing? When women need to survive and insure the survival of others in their family, they will use the only thing which is available to them as a source of income: the selling of their bodies. The majority of women who are forced into prostitution are young women, who have little formal schooling and who have been sent to the cities from the rural areas to earn a livelihood for the family. Sex tourism has emerged as a development alternative for countries, a situation which is tolerated, if not encouraged by the local governments since it brings in foreign currency. The sexual exploitation of women remains one of the most tolerated human rights abuses.

The Charter of Human Rights also deals with the right of freedom of opinion and expression. It is necessary to really examine what this may imply for women who are continuously being silenced through cultural and societal
pressure. One needs not to throw someone in jail to take their freedom away. It is enough to create a situation where there are many forces limiting that freedom. Young women are being taught the limits of what they can do and say from the day they are born, strictly because of their gender, and when these young women step out of these set parameters they are shut out by their peers and communities. How do we create a society where freedom of expression means the same thing for men as it does for women? The right of freedom of opinion and expression, for women, and for other marginalized groups is also about the conditions existing which will allow for this to happen.

Another right outlined in the Charter is the right to take part in the government of your country. For women, this means nothing unless there is an effort made to assist women in overcoming all the roadblocks which have been placed before them. They are often excluded from community and political decisions. When illiteracy rates in most countries are higher for women than men, when women own one hundredth of the world's property, the right to form part of government has a different meaning in the context of the realities women face. Governments seldom represent the concerns and issues of women, yet women face immense barriers when becoming politically involved because of their gender. Women while being the majority of the population in some countries, are a minority in the global political leadership.

Sustainable development is about the improvement of the quality of life for people, of which the right to social services is a cornerstone, and an area where women are also at a disadvantage. Women perform most of the work in the world, yet they neither benefit from their labor socially or economically. Poor women throughout the world, particularly those who head households, struggle from day to day for food, housing, education and health services. All of these things are recognized as fundamental human rights.

The right to health is another human right, and women are still not getting appropriate access to basic health care. Worldwide, there are women who have no access to quality family planning and thus have little control over their fertility. Without the ability to control their bodies, women, particularly young women are limited in all aspects of their lives, education, employment, or participation in public life. Each year, millions of women die from pregnancy related causes. Health services for women, like food and shelter, should be not seen as a privilege, but a right, and a right for which governments are responsible for providing.

**Moving Forward**

In building sustainable development, particularly as the new generation, we cannot afford to continue to have a hierarchy of rights, where some rights or types of oppression are more important than others. We all lose as long as one group of society is oppressed, whether it be racism, homophobia or sexism. The social rights of people within the development process are a matter of fundamental justice. The rights of women should not and cannot continue to be marginalized in human rights and sustainable development debates. Women's rights are central to democracy and development. Because of this, it is important that youth play an important role in putting women in the political agenda, and most importantly, in the agenda of their own work within youth organizations. We need to improve the lives of women everywhere, regardless of class, race or age. Development with justice means placing women at the centre of the development agenda.
South Africa is a prime example of the stark and unsettling connections that exist among race, gender, poverty, and the environment. Among the many inequalities which exist is an ailing environment which provides meager employment and playgrounds for the black population of South Africa. The environmental crisis originates in apartheid through the combination of poor land, forced overcrowding, and poverty. As the years go by, more and more dumping sites will be uncovered and environmental disasters that have been concealed under apartheid will come to light. The new government will have to implement responsible legislation and regulations to protect the environment and control corporate behavior in the most industrialized country on the continent.

South Africa is sitting on a toxic time/bomb. The new government has inherited a poisoned country of rivers, valleys, gorges, and mine dumps. We need to inject the environmental justice agenda into the revised thinking on development and growth. We should certainly not allow a program of development and growth which poisons those who have most suffered from the inhumane apartheid system.

As one of the world’s biggest mineral suppliers on the planet, little attention has been paid to the fact that for every ton of metal that leaves a mine mill, about one hundred tons of wastes are left in a heap topside, where it can be blown away by the winds, runoff into rivers, or leach into ground water. South African gold mines also extract large quantities of uranium as a secondary product. To add to the hazardous situation, black communities living nearby may be exposed to the cancer-causing radium and radon that commonly leak from uranium mine wastes. Furthermore, the importation of hazardous wastes, the dumping of mercury in the rivers, the strip mining of coal and uranium, the outdated methods of producing synthetic fuels, combined with the rampant poverty, lack of sewage facilities and deliberate structuring of the notorious ‘homelands’ present South Africa with serious environmental concerns.

The scope of the problems is wide and spans the entire community. How can we start assisting a community in Merebank, Natal which is surrounded by two oil refineries, a paper processing plant, a water treatment plant, an airport, and a large percentage of Natal’s industry? Or, what about the Mozambican refugees who occupy a decrepit and abandoned paint manufacturing plant, outside of Johannesburg, which has hundreds of barrels of old paint lying around? What about Mafefe, an asbestos mining area since 1929 where children play in open asbestos dumps?

Black South Africans have a strong history of resisting apartheid and their struggles provide valuable insights and lessons for the environmental movement. Black South Africans, specifically women, have developed methods of sustainable economies through the informal sector. South Africa has one of the most democratic trade union movements in the world, and has developed a strong alliance with civics. The civics are community structures which have opposed high rents, unrest, detention without trial, and lack of sewage facilities among other issues.

Black South Africans have borne the brunt of apartheid and should not continue to bear the brunt of policies which may no longer kill them with bullets and torture, but instead with asbestosis, chronic diseases, and mercury-contaminated water.
Upon examination, there are three over-arching links which draw the connections between the situations in South Africa and the US, for example. The first and most obvious link is around issues of race, class, gender, health and environment. The United Church of Christ 1987 Report cited that most of the toxic dump sites in the US are located in people of color and poor communities. In South Africa, apartheid policies structured around notions of race, class and gender, have created a situation which allows massive dumping and poisoning of black communities throughout the country. The second is the astounding similarity between the ‘bantustans’ in South Africa and Native American lands in the US. ‘Bantustans’ are pockets of land which have been used for the ‘surplus people’ and act as a cheap source of labor for the industry. There are, thus, striking similarities of land use, underdevelopment, and toxic dumping between the ‘bantustans’ and the Native lands. The third crucial link is around the legacy, like the US, of toxic contamination. Weapons testing, the use of military arsenal on black communities, and the arms industry ARMSKOR have had detrimental effects on the people and on the environment.

As the nature of the trade becomes more global and exploitative, so must our efforts be more international in dimension and scope if we are to truly confront and challenge the poisoning of communities. As multinational corporations seize investment opportunities, there should be some basic standard and procedure which monitors labor and environmental practices. In order to address the issues at stake, we need to draw the global links, and forge tighter solidarity networks. We also need to inject the environmental justice agenda into the larger discussions taking place around economies, land, trade and development.

WOMEN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By Erin Hannah, Canada

If sustainability is to be for all people, young and old, living in the North and South, can it leave out half of the world’s population? Can youth groups really work towards sustainability without ensuring that the rights of women are protected and respected?

There are many horror stories about women and development - from population programmes that provide women with unsafe contraceptives to community planning that ignores their contributions and interests. There are also many success stories, often brought about by women themselves. In communities around the world, women are organizing and are often leading the change towards more sustainable ways of life. The projects women are organizing range from tree planting in Kenya to housing projects in El Salvador to campaigns against the chlorine bleaching of paper products in Canada.

Women are put in a position that makes them one of the most vulnerable sectors of society. Statistics show that women, along with children, are the most impoverished sector of society. They are often the first stricken by disease and the last to receive treatment. Many movies and advertisements portray women as helpless sex objects.
Young women are constantly being reminded of their limits and restrictions, yet some are overcoming these barriers by becoming doctors, mothers, teachers, labourers, wives and farmers. Women of all ages are important contributors to society and they are struggling to realize their dreams in areas where they have been excluded.

Why Women?
Part of the transition toward a more sustainable way of life involves the redistribution of resources. However, the continuing flow of resources away from women and towards men only maintains the imbalance in the distribution of resources. From the beginning of their lives, female children are deprived of food, education, and attention while the available resources are used on their brothers. For example, the mortality rate for female children (age 2-5 years) in Pakistan is 54.4 per year per thousand. The rate for male children (age 2-5 years) in the same country is 36.9 per year per thousand (The World's Women 1970-1990, United Nations). The lives of female children are seen as less valuable than those of their male counterparts and sets a pattern that many women live by for their entire lives.

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Education
The education that young women get has an effect on the access women have to decision making. Young women are often limited to domestic training while men study in the areas of math and science. This perpetuates gender roles and stereotypes rather than allowing young people to explore new opportunities.

The education that is available to women does not take into consideration the experience and perspectives of women. This can mean that the curriculum is irrelevant and often isolating to female students. Similarly, the experience and traditional knowledge of women is largely unrecognized in formal institutions like schools.

In many countries, female children do not have the same access to schools that men have. Two out of every three illiterate people in the world are women (Poverty's Women, World Vision Canada). This is aggravated by the social restrictions and expectations placed on women. Female children are often taken out of school at an early age to look after younger siblings, to help at home or to marry.

Women play an important role as educators. Teaching is usually one of the main areas of employment open to women. However, the higher the level of study, the fewer female teachers. In secondary schools in all areas but Latin America and the Caribbean, male teachers outnumber female teachers (The World's Women 1970-1990, United Nations). In most places, the responsibility for child care still belongs to women. It is women who spend time with children in their first few years. This is just one of the expectations of women, whether they are educated or not.

"Women around the world bear the brunt of the ecological and economic crisis hitting us today. As women, our struggle for economic and social justice is our common struggle."

The Workforce

Most women work a double day, both in their place of employment and at home. Yet, they are seldom recognized for the work that they do outside of the home and virtually none are paid for the work they do maintaining their homes and families. The economic measurements that are used to calculate the wealth and the income of nation states do not include the unpaid work that is done by women in households. A great deal of the work is done by women in agriculture. Many assume that because the work is unpaid it is of little value. Considering that 90 percent of the agriculture in Africa is done by women, not for profit but to feed their families, this assumption is not very credible (Women’s Action Agenda for a Healthy Planet). In fact, women work two-thirds of the world’s working hours and receive one-tenth of the world’s income (Asian and Pacific Women’s Network Resource and Action Series - Health).

These are not the only economic contributions made by women. In some countries, women are used as commodities. Women are often exported to work in the sex trade, or as domestic workers and mail-order brides. For example, many women come to Japan each year to meet the demands of the sex industry (“Sex, Violence and Militarism”, ASA NEWS, March/June 1992, Yayori Matsui). Such trade puts women’s sexuality up for sale and often places them in life-threatening situations.

Women are often discriminated against by banks and other financial institutions. In some societies, women are not allowed to hold land and are considered the property of their father or their husband. At present, women own only one percent of the world’s land (Women’s Action Agenda for a Healthy Planet). As a result, they are often unable to get loans or open bank accounts. This lack of financial opportunity limits the independence of women and keeps them in a position of dependence that is viewed as inferior to that of men.

Similarly, there are limited opportunities for women to receive the foreign aid that is provided to their countries. It is often directed through governments and agencies which do not understand or refuse to recognize the work done by women. The distribution of aid is often reflective of the cultural and sexist norms of the donating country. Therefore, it is often directed to men without considering the perspectives or work of women. This is beginning to change through the work of development agencies and programmes targeted specifically toward women.

More than ever before, women are entering the workforce outside of the home. This creates a number of issues. Female children are usually brought up differently than male children. Therefore, women may have different ways of doing things and have different value systems. Rather than using these differences as assets, employers often perceive women as unqualified. Even where women hold paying jobs outside of the home, the responsibilities of child care and household tasks are still assumed to be theirs. For some employers, the time away from work that is involved in having and raising children makes women undesirable employees.

Jobs held by women are lower paid than those held by men. Women receive 45 to 60 percent of the wage men earn for the same work. Women also make up about three quarters of the informal economy where there is little to ensure that their rights are respected (An Urban Problematigue, Richard Stran).

“We should ask ourselves why it is that in more than a quarter of the countries of the world women are not represented in the highest level of governments. This despite the fact that women have long been leaders in various capacities at the local level and have effectively led movements for environmental protection.”

— Maurice Strong, at the World Women’s Congress for a Healthy Planet
Consumerism
One role where women are not underestimated is in their role as consumers. The responsibility of shopping for a family is usually the woman’s. In the consumer societies of the more wealthy countries, there are markets such as beauty that are specifically directed to women. This means that a lot of advertising is created to influence women. Rather than helping women to feel better about themselves, this advertising is directed at creating a market for the product. This is done by convincing women that they are not feminine or not worthwhile unless they own a particular product. At present, the role of woman as consumer is probably one of her most powerful roles. By using their economic strength as consumers, groups of women have been able to demand changes from very large and powerful corporations.

Population and Health
The role of women as mothers is even more widely acknowledged and powerful than the role of women as consumers, yet they do not always have control over the size of their families and the spacing of their children. When women are not given the opportunity to plan their families, they are limited in the choices that they can make in their lives.

Population programmes are not always respectful of women’s reproductive rights. Rather than providing women with the information they need to make an informed choice about birth control, population programmes often require that women make decisions about birth control before they have been able to understand the benefits and dangers of the various methods.

Women, as mothers, have very specific health care needs. These are not always understood by doctors and researchers who have little information on women's health. Social norms can prevent women from getting full information about health concerns and give doctors and husbands the power to make decisions about women's health.

Violence
One of the greatest threats to women is violence. There are many types of violence against women. These include incest, rape, sexual harassment, murder, battering, kidnapping, psychological torture, female infanticide, dowry deaths and suttee (the burning of the widow on the husband's funeral pyre) (Asian and Pacific Women's Resource and Action Series - Health). Such violence indicates the unequal power relationship between men and women. Violence continues to be directed at women because many societies view women as acceptable targets.

More and more incidents of violence against women are being reported. Still, it is estimated that for every rape that is reported, 10 go unreported out of fear for the consequences (Asian and Pacific Women's Network Resource and Action Series - Health). Similarly, much domestic violence goes unreported. It is often viewed as a private matter that need not be addressed outside of the home. Rather than opposing this violence, many share the view that women are the property of men and may be disciplined as such. Many of the messages in the media reinforce this belief. Laws are only beginning to recognize the right of women to live safely with freedom from violence. Violence against women stands in the way of their equal participation in all parts of society.

Statistics on women remain largely unchanged. Violence is increasing. Wages continue to be less than those of men. Illiteracy is still very high. Access to contraception is still limited in many parts of the world. The media and many cultures continue to view women in terms of unfair stereotypes.
and outdated expectations. Women themselves continue to play dual, if not triple or quadruple, roles as mothers, educators, providers and consumers.

These roles need to be recognized and valued. Opportunities for women need to keep increasing in areas where they have previously been excluded. These and other “rights” must be protected and respected. Anything else, could hardly be considered sustainable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where Women make up less than 4% of parliamentary representation</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEVELOPED REGIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan (1.4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malta (2.9)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| AFRICA |
| Comoros, Djibouti, Morocco (0.0) | Seychelles (24) | Tanzania (16) |
| Sudan (0.7) | Mozambique (16) | Senegal (13) |
| Madagascar (1.5) | | Burkina Faso (12) |
| Kenya (1.7) | | Burundi (10) |
| Swaziland (2.0) | | |
| Algeria (2.4) | | |
| Zambia (2.9) | | |
| Equatorial Guinea (3.3) | | |
| South Africa, Zaire (3.5) | | |
| Mali (3.7) | | |
| Egypt (3.9) | | |

| LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN |
| Antigua and Barbuda, Uruguay (0.0) | Cuba (34) | Dominica (22) |
| Ecuador (1.4) | Trinidad & Tobago (17) | Uruguay (13) |
| Paraguay (1.7) | | Guatemala (12) |
| El Salvador (3.3) | | |
| Belize (3.6) | | |
| Barbados (3.7) | | |
| Bolivia (3.8) | | |
| Venezuela (3.9) | | |

| ASIA AND PACIFIC |
| Jordan, Lebanon, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu, Yemen (0.0) | Mongolia (25) | Bhutan (25) |
| Bhutan (1.3) | China, Korea (21) | Philippines (11) |
| Iran (1.5) | Viet Nam (18) | |
| Cyprus (1.8) | | |
| Korea (2.5) | | |
| Turkey (3.0) | | |
| Thailand (3.5) | | |
| Singapore (3.8) | | |

WOMEN'S HEALTHY PLANET REPORT CARDS
From: World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet, Miami, 1991

HOW TO USE THESE CARDS:

(1) YOU AND YOUR GROUP DECIDE what areas of concern you will look at in your community, e.g.:

#1 - Natural Environment Card:
- storage of nuclear and/or toxic chemical waste;
- use of hazardous agricultural pesticides;
- air quality; conservation of natural resources.

#2 - Political Systems Card:
- percent of public offices held by women, ethnic minorities, etc.;
- multiparty system; freedom of speech, press and assembly;
- degree to which community life is free of sexism and racism.

#3 - Social Priorities Card:
- percent of the community living at or near the poverty level;
- percent of population without adequate housing;
- access to equal opportunity employment, job-training and child-care services;
- access to full range of education and support services.

#4 - Human Development Card:
- percent of children that are malnourished;
- percent of children that have not been adequately immunized;
- adequacy of reproductive health services;
- access to comprehensive health care.

(2) YOU AND YOUR GROUP JUDGE how your community is doing with regard to looking after the area of concern, and you decide on a score, using the grading scale given, where:

A = System is healthy, efforts being made to maintain it.
B = System in good condition, however unrecognized threats.
C = System has serious problems, but efforts being made to improve it.
D = System is deteriorating, but plans being made for improvement.
F = System not working, no efforts being made to improve it.

(3) When you have graded each area of concern, please send copies of your final report cards to the Women's Environment and Development Organization, to use in our global women's campaign to restore Mother Earth to health.

Contact:
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
845 Third Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10022, USA
Tel: +1-212-759-7982 Fax: +1-212-759-8647

If women comprised half our leaders, human centered, sustainable development and an improved global quality of life with an underpinning of ethical considerations would be realistic goal.

Rosina Wiltshire
**WOMEN’S HEALTHY PLANET REPORT CARDS**

### The Natural Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS OF CONCERN</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Definition:** The condition of the water, air, soil, forest, animal life, local agriculture and adequacy of environmental protection.

### Political Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS OF CONCERN</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Definition:** Full and democratic participation of women and men in the policies, regulations and laws governing the community, nation and world.

### Social Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS OF CONCERN</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Definition:** Use of the community’s resources to meet the basic human needs - physical, social and cultural - of all people.

### Human Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS OF CONCERN</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Definition:** Ability of the system to support full development of human potential.

### The World Women’s Congress for a Healthy Planet

In November 1991, women from around the world came together to discuss issues of environment and development in Miami, Florida. For five days, 1500 women from 83 countries and all walks of life came together to voice their concerns for the planet and the future of its people. The following are excerpts of what they had to say:

**Global Equity**

The global environment is the necessary condition of life. As such, it cannot be the exclusive preserve of any individual. The principle of equity should guide states individually and collectively in determining who has access to and use of basic resources. The first priority should be given to meeting the basic human rights and needs of all people, especially the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. (Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 17)
Natural Resources
We will no longer tolerate the enormous role played by military establish-
ments and industries in making the 20th century the bloodiest and most vio-
lent in all of human history. Militarism is impoverishment and maiming
both the Earth and humanity. It is urgent that resources currently consumed
by the military be redirected to meet the needs of people and our planet.

Sustainable Development
We believe that a healthy and sustainable environment is contingent upon
world peace, respect for human rights, participatory democracy, the self-
determination of peoples, respect for indigenous people and their lands,
cultures, and traditions, and the protection of all species.

Human Rights
We believe that basic human rights include access to clean air and water,
food, shelter, health, education, personal liberty, and freedom of informa-
tion.

Women
Everywhere, women are catalysts and initiators of environmental activism.
Yet policy-makers continue to ignore the centrality of women’s roles and
needs as they make Fate of the Earth decisions.

Source: Official Report, World Women’s Congress for a Healthy Planet, 8-12 November 1991,
Miami, Florida, USA

International Documents Dealing with the Rights of Women
There are many documents that have been developed internationally,
regionally and nationally establishing the rights of women. Two of the most
important documents are the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination Against Women and the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies
for the Advancement of Women. Both documents are summarized below.

CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

The United Nations adopted in 1979 the Convention on the
Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
Two years later, in 1981, CEDAW became an international treaty. The
purpose of CEDAW is to establish a “bill of rights” for women and set out a
series of actions to be undertaken by countries in order to guarantee those
rights to women. Governments committed to:

• ensuring that women can exercise their rights and freedoms
• affirmative action for women until gender parity is achieved
• securing women’s right to vote, stand for election and hold public
  or political office.
• ensuring girls’ and women’s equal access to education
• ensuring equal employment opportunities, equal pay for work
  of equal value.
• the provision of health services, including family planning
• ensuring access to financial credit
• special attention to women living in rural areas
• equal rights to choose a spouse, name or occupation; marry and divorce; own, buy, sell and administer property.
• recognize the extent and value of women's work in the informal sector

**Health services and family planning**

• equal access to health services
• adequate health facilities for mothers and children
• every woman's right to decide on the number and spacing of her children, and access to family planning for every woman
• discouragement of child-bearing at too early an age

**Better educational opportunities**

• equal access to educational and training
• efforts to have more girls study subjects usually selected by boys, and vice versa, in order to desegregate curricula
• efforts to ensure that girls don’t drop out of school
• the provision of adult education for women

**Promotion of peace**

• the involvement of women, in promoting peace and disarmament

**Minimum targets for the year 2000**

• enforcement of laws guaranteeing implementation of women's equality
• an increase in the life expectancy of women to at least 65 years in all countries
• the reduction of maternal mortality
• the elimination of women's illiteracy
• the expansion of employment opportunities

**NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women were adopted by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievement of the United Nations decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held in Nairobi, Kenya, 15-26 July 1985 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/108 on 13 December 1985. They call for:

**Sexual equality**

• the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women
• equal rights under the law
• equal rights to marriage and divorce
• the establishment, in every country, of a high-level governmental body to monitor and implement progress towards equality
**Women's autonomy and power**

- the right of all women - irrespective of marital status - to buy, sell, own and administer property and other resources independently
- the protection of women's rights to land, credit, training, investment and income as an integral part of all agrarian reform and agricultural development
- the equal involvement of women, at every stage and level of development
- the promotion of women to positions of power at every level within all political and legislative bodies in order to achieve parity with men
- measures to promote equal distribution of productive resources and reduce mass poverty among women, particularly in times of economic recession

---

**MANY COUNTRIES ARE NOW RECOGNIZING THAT THERE IS SIGNIFICANT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE FAMILY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region/Country</th>
<th>Type of Violence Against Women Reported</th>
<th>Immediate Protective Measure Taken to Assist Abused Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>domestic violence</td>
<td>incest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed Regions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and Pacific</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recognition of women's unpaid work
- recognition of the extent and value of women's unpaid work, inside and outside the home
- inclusion of women's paid and unpaid work in national accounts and economic statistics
- the sharing of domestic responsibilities
- the development of services, to reduce women's child-care and domestic workload, including introduction of incentives to encourage employers to provide child-care facilities for working parents
- the establishment of flexible working hours to encourage the sharing of child-care and domestic work between parents

Advances in women's paid work
- equal employment opportunities
- equal pay for work of equal value

IMF AND WORLD BANK STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS AND THEIR EFFECTS ON WOMEN
by Zonny Woods

Since the early 1980's, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) or the World Bank, have implemented economic policies known as Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs). Designed to assist developing countries to emerge from the debt crisis, SAPs were established as a conditionality for the re-scheduling of existing loans as well as granting further loans to Third World countries. This conditionality is a set of targets or obligations undertaken by developing countries in order to obtain aid or loans. There are two types of policies established as prerequisites for access to loans: stabilization and structural adjustment.

Stabilization involves short term measures to restore balance of payments, while structural adjustment measures are implemented on a longer term basis, to "restructure the economy and generate economic growth". These policies are closely linked and usually involve devaluation of currency, cuts in public spending, elimination of subsidies, cuts in the civil service, privatization of state owned industries, opening of local economies to foreign investment and an emphasis on export promotion in order to earn foreign currency to apply to debt servicing.

As a direct result of these policies, women have suffered in three areas: health and welfare, employment and education. The effects of these policies have been felt even more intensively as social services are cut, particularly with rising poverty among women.

With respect to the debt crisis, the goal of the IMF and the World Bank Structural Adjustment programs has been to ensure that indebted countries will maintain their balance of payments. Developing countries had no choice but to turn to them since without IMF intervention and approval, there were few resources for them to access in order to keep their economies afloat. As a condition for their lending, the IMF and the World Bank called for drastic restructuring of their economies.

There are some differences between IMF and World Bank adjustment policies in terms of the process but not the content. IMF programs are targeted at the short term, working to stabilize economies in order to address balance of payments problems. World Bank deals with the long term restruc-
turing of an economy, by changing institutions and economies in the medium term. All of this affects the standard of living of people, particularly the poor. Credit is cut for local manufacturing, resulting in loss of local industry and jobs, particularly for women, yet transnational companies have access to cheap credit in their home countries and cheap labor in developing countries. Government deficits are seen as part of the problem, and as a result social services are cut.

As a result of all these policies, SAPs cause:

- Unemployment, where women are the ones to lose jobs first
- Cuts in wages, where women earn less than men
- Increase in food prices, which women are responsible to provide
- Decrease in subsistence agriculture, where women are traders and growers, while men control all the cash crops
- Reduction in social spending, where the responsibility for health, welfare and education becomes the women's

Both the IMF and the World Bank claim that SAPs will ensure that countries grow out of their debt, yet with decades of adjustment, there is not one case which proves this point. The "logic" behind SAP's is: the IMF and the World Bank grant developing countries loans, to pay interest on outstanding loans which they cannot pay because they are bankrupt.

The IMF and the World Bank establish conditions on lending based on adjustment packages regardless of particularities of the countries, with no respect for the cultural composition of a country, least of all gender issues. Alleviating poverty, ensuring food security, reducing population growth, improving the quality of a country's future labor force, and properly using the natural resource base all depend substantially on women, yet all of these are under attack through the Bank's adjustment programs.

The results of structural adjustment programs have been far from beneficial to the social welfare and economic condition of developing countries and their people, as had been predicted by the World Bank and the IMF. Incomes have been reduced as a result of rising unemployment. The removal of subsidies on food prices have skyrocketed making basic food inaccessible to the poor, and government resources have shifted from social spending to debt servicing. Rather than alleviate poverty in the recipient countries which implemented adjustment policies, SAPs have contributed to further sinking them into economic crisis.

A major problem with SAPs is that they have been developed as "one size fits all". Everyone receives the same prescription regardless of particular experiences. In a similar fashion as those development policies that have failed in the past, SAPs were off the shelf, drafted in the north for those in the south, without taking into account social and cultural context, least of all the impact on different sectors of the population. Little thought was given to how children, disabled people, rural dwellers, urban poor, the elderly, children and women, would be affected by SAPs.

The poor majorities living in the developing countries that have followed and implemented World Bank and IMF programs have found themselves with few options for survival. Women have been disproportionately socially and economically damaged by these policies. Worldwide, women are half of the world's population, head one-third of all households, are responsible for half of the world food production, receive 1/10 of total income and own 1/100 of the world's property. Women, who constitute the poorest of the
poor, have had a disproportionate burden placed on them as a result of structural adjustment policies, which has further contributed to the feminization of poverty.

Economic policies such as structural adjustment programs are one more part of the vicious cycle of economic hardship for women. This added hardship may be invisible at the economic level, yet they become visible once one begins examining the declining health standards, rising unemployment among women, and even high fertility rate since there is a direct correlation between education and population growth. Women, from the starting point of their unequal social and economic status, earn less, own less and control less, and thus are in a fragile and unequal situation. When SAPs are implemented, particularly the suppression of social services, a major component of SAPs affects the most vulnerable members of society first.

Separation between the different roles women play within and outside the home is difficult, since for the most part the two overlap. The role women play in all areas of the economy and in social reproduction are closely interlinked, any shift in one affects the other. It is in this context that the effects of SAPs must be examined. When looking at the effects of SAPs on women, their role in agriculture, food production, marketing and processing of agricultural products needs to be looked at. Since women are traditionally the care givers and health providers, both within and outside the formal monetarized sectors, cuts in public services will invariably affect poor women.

When looking at the effects of structural adjustment, all of these aspects of women’s lives must be considered. In the area of health, women have lost jobs when health services are cut since they comprise the majority of lower paid workers in health services. They are expected to care for the sick and the elderly when hospitals become too expensive and privatized. Because they have children, women need health services more often, and are left with few options when these disappear. In developing countries, reduction in health spending ranges from cuts in employees, to closure of hospitals and clinics, particularly in the rural areas, leaving rural women with no access to badly needed healthcare and medicines. The cuts in health have meant that women have been forced to assume greater responsibility, for the family and even the community.

Throughout the developing world, particularly in Africa, women provide a large percentage of the agriculture labor force. As well as performing a great deal of the agricultural labor in the rural areas, women must also do most of the unpaid work in the household. When women farm, they not only farm for subsistence or family consumption but often farm crops which they can also market however small scale this may be, as this provides extra income for rural families. Rural women have also the responsibility for the storage of agricultural products and the seeds for each year’s crop. With all the responsibilities that they carry in the rural areas, women seldom own their own land and sometimes there are institutional barriers which prevent them from holding title to land. They may sometimes be able to hold land through inheritance and direct purchase although women seldom are able to access credit.

Structural Adjustment requires the increase and promotion of products for exports. These are often labor intensive jobs such as the garment and electronics industry, both of which employ a majority of women at low wages. As a practice, the manufacturing industry prefers to hire women at a young age, and discards of their services quickly and easily once they become pregnant or lose function of a part of their body, such as eyesight in the electronic sector. Many companies will not hire pregnant women. An argu-
ment made for the hiring of women over men in the manufacturing sector is that women have higher productivity in labor intensive jobs because of the skills learned at home that are taught to women. Women are pushed into the labor market into these jobs, but little or no provisions for child care or education for their children are made, yet both are crucial for social development needs. Since the responsibility for child care remains with the mother, they will often suffer when governments cut these types of services as a direct adjustment measure.

Although women may be earning an income outside the home, it is a far step from equality for women. The double or triple workload of women as they join the formal and informal sector intensifies the exploitation of their labor. Women's labor is seen as elastic, forever being stretched and added to, but there are limits to this conceived "elasticity" and in the end, something needs to give.

The debt crisis has forced the majority of the developing world's population to continually live in a status of financial instability. The poor majorities of third world countries have been forced to suffer the results of debts incurred by their governments, debts from which they never benefited. The standard of living decreases in countries as a direct result of funds being channeled for debt repayment. Banks that lent money to Third World countries have been overcompensated for the debts incurred by their governments. Despite the fact that the debt has been repaid many times over, countries continue to pay for the debt.

When conducting assessments of the effects of SAPs on women, it becomes obvious that the needs of women have been overlooked. Proponents of economic policies and those in power, at all levels, forget the important role women play in the economy and all other aspects of society. The market, is not just about profit, it encompasses the totality of the human condition, including the interrelationship between races, cultures and gender. It's ridiculous to think that the market has no effect on women, or that when there are major shifts in the market these have the potential to affect men and women differently.

The inequality of the position of women has benefited the market and the capitalist system greatly. Women not only represent a cheap labor force, but they also contribute to the survival of economic systems through their unpaid labor. The market is not neutral, rather it benefits from the inequality of those who contribute to it and yet are powerless within the system.

Rather than breaking down these barriers to women's access to secure employment, equal pay for equal work, access to credit, services and education, SAPs have tended to exacerbate existing cultural and economic biases about the role women play in the economy.

As a result of this there have been some impacts which could be generalized. First of all stabilisation, aimed at slowing down the economic system can represent a considerable loss of employment for women. The degree to which they are affected will depend on the degree to which women are involved in the informal sector, the length of the recession triggered by stabilization, and the kinds of fallback mechanisms available to women. It is possible that the latter would affect urban women the most since they may not have the community or support of the social network and land for subsistence farming that women in the rural areas may have.

"Underlying these policies (SAPs) is a set of assumptions about women's work: that women are housewives, do not work and therefore, that women can fill the gap created by cuts in social services. Of course, (the policy) is labeled privatization. The governments must not spend money on health, education, and human infrastructure, this must be left to the private sector or the household, meaning to women. The foundation is that women's time and labour can be exploited."

- Peggy Antrobus, DAWN
In many countries it is women who comprise the majority of people working in the informal economy. If jobs in the service sector are cut, particularly those where women are highly employed, decisions about the situation of a group or sector of women are being made. The informal sector is affected as jobs in the formal sector are cut. There is less need for women working as domestics, for example. As jobs are lost in the formal sector, the number of people working in the informal sector increases.

Although there has been a growing awareness of the disproportionately negative effect that SAPs have on women, there has not been a shift in these policies. It is often claimed by the banks that it is too early to tell, that there are some hardships for the poor for a while but in the long run they will benefit. The results we have seen in terms of women’s experience tell us that we do not need a few decades of steady decrease in the standard of living of women for it to be considered valid evidence.

Structural adjustment has intensified the struggle of women for survival. Generally, the economic crisis has resulted in less food at higher prices. Devaluation of currency has also resulted in higher prices for food. There have been cuts to social services, and food subsidies have been reduced. The current socio-economic condition of women can be described as one where there are low levels of education, literacy rates and incomes. Women have few occupational skills, high unemployment, and limited access to credit and land. Women become the poorest of the poor for a variety of reasons. Among these is the marginalization of women from decision making, the power over the structures of production, trade and finance. There is an alarming increase of women and children living in poverty both in the North and the South. Increasing numbers of these women are homeless, refugees and slum dwellers.

Poverty alleviation should be the first priority of any economic policy. If there are any worthwhile forms of restructuring the economy, these must be the ones which will ultimately lead to social and economic equity, across gender and class. Policies need to look at gender barriers. Those people with economic power need to ensure that resources are channeled to women and that at the same time they are not implementing economic policies which will continue to affect women negatively. We have seen that when men benefit, benefits do not trickle down to women, and often contribute to a widening economic gap between men and women if issues of equity are not addressed.

Economic growth does not translate into social and economic equity. This has been the experience in industrialized countries. When commodity prices for exports from the south are low, no combination of adjustment, austerity and efficiency can make export promotion the engine of successful economic growth and social development.

There is a need to gather and analyze data that will ensure that women’s economic activities are emphasized. Unless there is an understanding of how women’s lives are affected by economic policies, these policies will continue to hinder rather than promote development and poverty alleviation.

We need to begin creating alternative ways in which economics are examined, to develop a model which empowers all sectors of society, regardless of race, gender, class. Sensitization to the effects of economic policies on women needs to happen among economic policy makers.

People at the grassroots level need to undergo a process that sees the need to educate the grassroots on economics as an integral step to change these
policies. If economic literacy happens, poor women will be able to be mobil-
zized more effectively. They alone are the ones who will articulate and assist
in the development of policies which will be more responsive to their needs.
In order to develop alternative policies, people must understand the eco-
nomic policies which affect their everyday lives and chances for survival. The
most important change that needs to happen is for women to have an equal
voice in redefining development priorities.

**Natural Resources**

There are many topics that could be covered in this section, all exten-
sive and numerous. For the purpose of the Youth Sourcebook, we
chose to focus on deforestation and biodiversity.

Forests are one of the planets most vital resources, and one upon which
many other resources such as water and soil depend. The current rates of
deforestation have left communities and countries vulnerable to desertifi-
cation, soil erosion, and flooding. Our atmosphere and our river systems
depend on forests since they serve as natural controls. Biodiversity and the
livelihoods of people, particularly those of forest dwellers are threatened by
the loss of forests. So much depends on them, but rates of deforestation
remain high.

Deforestation is a complex issue, and
one that involves social, economic and
environmental issues. Most importantly,
it is an issue that we can do something
about, provided some action is taken
before it is too late. There are personal
choices, community and national based
action that we can take to combat the
root causes and the effects of deforesta-
tion, from using recycled paper to
opposing mega projects such as dams
that destroy forests and their resources
and their peoples.

**Forests**

Trees currently cover more than a third
of the earth's land surface (Litvinoff,
p.149) and more than half of the earth's
tropical rainforests are found in Latin
America. The following table describes
some of the rates of deforestation
throughout the world:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Extent of Forest and Woodlands (103 ha)</th>
<th>Deforestation (% per year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>684,402</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>53,600</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zaire</td>
<td>177,590</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>802,285</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>48,350</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>295,989b</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>858,125</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>514,480</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>70,640</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>491,565</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>64,200c</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>116,895</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>158,892</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>23,225</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>27,842</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR (former)</td>
<td>928,600</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>157,669</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>105,743</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>38,175</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORLD</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,081,538</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: "UNEP Environmental Data Report."

* This definition of North America includes the Caribbean and Central American countries.

TROPICAL DEFORESTATION

When looking at deforestation and trying to find solutions to the existing crisis, it is important to examine the factors contributing to deforestation such as logging, large scale agriculture schemes, mining, the building of dams, and government colonization schemes as a response to landlessness. The effects of such policies are ecological imbalance, loss of biodiversity, and climate change as well as further genocide of indigenous people.

Deforestation of tropical forests is directly tied to North/South economic issues such as overconsumption, debt and economic adjustment policies being imposed on the debtor countries by the international financial institutions.

The most prevalent reason for tropical deforestation is economic. Whether it is for a landless peasant, a transnational company or a private landowner, economics dictates their actions when it comes to the exploitation of this rapidly disappearing natural resource. For a long time, deforestation was presented as a result of population growth and poor people destroying the rainforests. Colonization schemes, as is the case with Brazil, have been the scapegoat for governments who refuse to address issues of land redistribution. In a desperate attempt to industrialize, countries do not hesitate to cash in on their natural resources, and demand for their timber exists in Northern markets, providing them with much needed foreign exchange to repay their debts.

Western development schemes are responsible for the destruction of life support systems in developing countries which are threatening us all. These projects include dams, roads, and power stations, all funded by the West through international financial institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank. Even when we know well the consequences of these projects, aid agencies continue to lend money to finance projects which countries cannot afford financially, socially and ecologically. Some environmental groups feel that the answer lies in the “greening” of development projects and the policies of aid agencies such as the World Bank and the IMF. In response to pressure, the World Bank has established an environment department to review the environmental impact of projects it proposes to fund. Rather than a ban on tropical timber, the World Bank proposes “forest management” or “sustainable forestry”, harvesting timber without the forest being destroyed. Companies are being encouraged to harvest and renew forests gradually, therefore treating forests as long term investments.

The deforestation of Brazilian rainforests is being carried out as a means to develop the country. This is based on the concept or model of fast industrialization, where cash crop agriculture and monocultures are created to feed industry and export markets.

PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

We recognize that the environment is the pillar of development, and observe that it is the resource basis that provides the elements for subsistence. It constitutes the material basis for wealth and prosperity of all people.

We express our deepest preoccupation for the actual state of destruction of the planet - disappearance of forests, loss of biodiversity, global warming and ozone layer thinning. If we do not act immediately, this situation could result in an irreversible catastrophe of unforeseen consequences.

We recognize that the actual development model is based not only on the exploitation of natural resources, but also on social injustice, and condemns a large percentage of the population to extreme poverty.

The majority of the population in the South fail to have control over their natural resources. Part of this lack of control is caused by multinational corporations’ exploitation of raw materials from the South - which provides cheap labour - to be processed in the North. The final products are then exported back to the South at exorbitant prices.

All of these activities have contributed to the over-exploitation of natural resources in the South, and the resulting environmental crisis that we face today.

Youth 92: The World Youth Statement and Plan of Action on Environment and Development
Gigantic projects undertaken by Brazilian and multinational corporations are contributing to the large scale devastation of the rainforest. The projects are cattle ranches, paper mills, cash crop plantations, timber mills and mining. Often, these operations are financed with state subsidies such as tax rebates. In the case of cattle ranching, production is very low, but, because of low operating costs, these operations continue to run. The cattle not only produce little beef, they produce no milk, while, had the forests been left standing, a Brazil nut tree alone could produce hundreds of kilos of food.

Mega projects in the Amazon provide few people with employment, about one worker per 3000 hectares on a cattle ranch, where the forest provided for the livelihood of a few hundred people on the same area of land.

The social devastation created by mega projects in the Amazon is a serious problem, not only for the indigenous communities, but for the local communities who do not benefit from the profits being made by the large corporations. In order to prevent agrarian reform, the government of Brazil has developed settlement schemes for landless peasants who clear forests of everything to cultivate subsistence crops. These settlement schemes are also socially disruptive, displacing and coming into conflict with populations that live traditionally in the area. The colonization schemes displace the indigenous populations and the rubber tappers alike, both of whom have lifestyles that are compatible with the rainforest.

Forests offer more resources than timber. Typically, rainforests fruits and latex represent approximately 90% economic potential and timbers, approximately 10%. This is what the idea of “extractive reserves” is based on. The idea of extractive reserves may provide the greatest hope for the Amazon. It offers commercial development of the rainforest while offering long term economic choices for the forest dwellers and the forests themselves.

**DEFORESTING FOR THE HAMBURGER HABIT**

Consumers do not associate their fast food consumption with deforestation in Central America, yet this is where cheap beef is imported from to the United States. Of all the areas being threatened by deforestation, Central America represents the most severe loss of biological diversity. It is also a case that demonstrates the role of the United States consumer in the deforestation of tropical rainforests.

Two thirds of Central American rainforest have been cleared since 1950, and it is estimated that within 20 years the remaining forest will disappear. Although peasants and Indigenous populations are blamed for tropical deforestation, deforestation happens as a result of multiple causes, and it takes place in stages. This begins with logging companies who go into forests to extract woods, destroying everything else in the process, either directly or indirectly by extracting species upon which others depend on. Loggers construct roads, opening the forests to landless peasants who “clear” the forests through slash and burn in order to plant subsistence crops.

Rather than blaming the colonists, it is important to examine why they have been driven to the rainforest. Inequitable land distribution (in Latin America, 7% of landowners control 93% of arable land) and population growth are the two main reasons. Governments allow colonization since it takes the pressure off them to deal with questions of land redistribution such as land reform. After colonization, land cleared by landless peasants is
taken over by companies or large landowners to produce export crops and more commonly to raise cattle for beef. The poverty of the soil and poor yields force peasants to sell their land for pasture land to individual owners or companies. Raising cattle on poor pasture land is inefficient and yields little. Beef production does not benefit local people, it destroys their natural habitat yet it is expanding. For Central American countries, allowing the destruction of rainforests for beef export is a poor use of their natural resources. Consumers need to be aware that when they consume a hamburger, they may be consuming the resources of the rainforest with it.

**GENETIC RESOURCES**

It is estimated that humans share the planet with approximately 5 to 10 million species, some estimates claim that there are around 30 million species of insects in tropical forests alone. The genetic resources that different species provide, in particular those living in tropical forests, provide materials for agriculture, medicine, industry, energy and other components of our economy. Species in the tropics, about 2/3 of all species, provide us with a greater genetic diversity than elsewhere in the planet, which results in the majority of genetic diversity being concentrated in 7% of the earth’s surface. Species rich zones such as coral reefs and wetlands suffer the most severe depletion of genetic resources.

There are many species that are not directly endangered, but their races or populations are. An example of this is corn where their gene pool has been reduced resulting in the current strains of corn being only a fraction of the original genetic diversity. The extinction of dinosaurs took millions of years, yet many species will completely disappear in a few centuries. Unlike environmental damage, such as pollution and social degradation, both of which can be reversed, the disappearance of species cannot. The loss of species is an irreversible process.

**FORESTS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**

Historically, indigenous people have been considered with a paternalistic attitude as individuals who lack the knowledge to care for themselves.

The exploitation of Indian lands throughout the world has depended on the stereotypes placed on indigenous people. Their leaders have seldom been heard and the regions where they live, such as the Amazon, have been presented as inhabited while it is the home of disappearing indigenous groups. And with the disappearance of indigenous people, extensive knowledge of the rainforest and its environment disappears.

Because of their relationship with the land, indigenous people often have great knowledge of soil fertility, as well as an understanding of how to naturally restore degraded forest ecosystems. Many indigenous people living off the land study plant and animal species, anatomy, and develop a sophisticated method of pest control by using other insects as predators in their crops. They come to understand the different uses of medicinal plants, something which has contributed greatly to the pharmaceutical industry. Indigenous people have offered methods of agriculture, medicine and resource management that are sustainable and do not destroy the rainforest. Indigenous knowledge, if recognized and respected, would make a valu-

"The North, with somewhere between 20 and 25% of the world’s population consumes between 75 and 80% of the world’s resources... it is the industrialized countries’ use of fossil fuels which has contributed most significantly to global warming; northern nation’s reliance on chloroflourocarbons which is primarily to blame for ozone depletion; and discharges from northern industries which have polluted oceans waters. As importantly, the industrialized countries are largely responsible for the poverty of the Third World.”

From Who’s to blame editorial
Multinational Monitor
July/August 1992
able contribution to research and development. Rainforests are at a crisis, and this crisis extends to the social, economic and cultural levels, particularly as it impacts on indigenous peoples. The poor and population growth are often blamed for the stress on the environment and deforestation, yet it is really a series of issues, as outlined, that are to blame for the current loss of the world's forests.

MAINTAINING BIODIVERSITY

In a relatively short period of time, the human species has been responsible for the loss and extinction of both animal and plant species. We are destroying the wealth of the earth, at alarming rates with little knowledge as to how the loss of species and habitats will eventually affect us. Although protected areas may not be the answer to maintaining diversity, there are efforts throughout the world to protect areas at a national and regional bases.

<table>
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<th>Nationally Protected Areas number</th>
<th>(% of total land area)</th>
<th>World Heritage Areas numbers</th>
<th>Biosphere Reserves number</th>
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* This definition of North America includes the Caribbean and Central American countries.

Some estimates claim that around four hundred bird and animal species have become extinct since the seventeenth century, and that one animal or plant species disappears every few hours (Litvinoff, p.243). Hundreds of species are in danger of extinction, particularly as their habitats are being destroyed. Fisher folk in coastal communities and river systems are faced with depleted fish stocks. Turtles hunted for food and the beauty of their shells are endangered. The habitat of birds living tropical forests is being destroyed. Whales, although protected through international law, continue to be endangered, and gorillas may be close to extinction.
The following table not only indicates the existing diversity in some countries but the number of species at risk:

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*This definition of North America includes the Caribbean and Central American countries.*

**Biodiversity, Biotechnology, and Indigenous Peoples**
by Ann Doherty, USA

**What is biodiversity?**
The term biodiversity refers to the interdependent genes, plants, animals, and ecosystems which constitute life on this planet. The human race has always relied on biodiversity for such basic necessities as food, medicine, energy, and building materials. There are an estimated 50 million plant and animal species on earth, although less than 1.5 million of these are catalogued. Approximately 17,000 species are being destroyed each year. Tropical rain forests, which are the most genetically diverse areas on earth, are also being wiped out at an accelerated pace. To date, over 40% of the world's tropical forests have been destroyed, and the diversity of life on earth is seriously threatened.
Can't modern technology fix this mess?
The "technological fix" that industrialized countries traditionally rely upon is actually contributing to the global decline of biological diversity. Biotechnology has contributed in many ways to human society - from beer-making to antibiotics - but modern genetic engineering raises many ethical questions. Biogenetic breeders have developed techniques to select desirable characteristics, such as resistance to disease or rapid growth, to "create" plants. Through this type of gene manipulation, hardier, pest-resistant crops can be created. The substitution of genetically-uniform "monocultures" for biodiversity is dangerous when practiced exclusively, as has been the case in many poor countries. Diversity allows species to adapt to changes in the environment, and when only a few species exist, an alien virus or pest can wipe out entire crops. Diverse agricultural and forestry systems are on the whole more productive and sustainable than monocultures.

What causes this loss of forests and their biodiversity?
A common Northern misunderstanding is that deforestation and the resulting loss of biodiversity are caused by explosive population growth and unsustainable development in Southern countries. In fact, industrialized governments, multilateral development banks, and transnational corporations cause tropical forest devastation by supporting destructive energy, forestry and agriculture projects. The World Bank is famous for its unsustainable projects in development countries, such as the Trans-Amazon Highway that opened up the Brazilian rain forest for exploitation. Another important factor in biodiversity erosion is the northern countries' preference for genetic uniformity over diversity. For example, the World Bank's Tropical Forestry Action Plan was theoretically implemented to "save" the forests. However, the TFAP's massive planting of endless rows of not very diverse, economically-valuable eucalyptus trees in Asia, Africa, and Latin America benefits industry far more than it does biodiversity and the people who rely on the forests.

Will the loss of forests and biodiversity affect mainly indigenous peoples?
There is great cultural diversity found in indigenous tropical forest communities. The accelerating loss of biological diversity, upon which tropical forest dwellers depend for their livelihood, is mirrored by the extinction of these people and their predominantly oral cultures. The Native American population of the New World has plummeted from 72 million five hundred years ago to only 4 million today, in human history's greatest genocide. Forest natives have long been exploited by industrialized countries for their knowledge of the medicinal purpose of plants. As their cultures disappear, so does the invaluable resource of this ages-old wisdom. In addition to the immediate crises and displacements suffered by native peoples as their habitats are destroyed, the loss to humankind of this biological and cultural diversity would be tragic.

How do the northern and southern views of biodiversity differ?
Industrialized countries view the world as a giant market. In order to satiate their demand for hardwood furniture and paper goods, they encourage Third World countries to strive for increased financial gain from crops by planting high-yield, fast-growing varieties instead of the natural diversity of species. Indigenous communities, on the other hand, have traditionally lived harmoniously within their ecosystems, using the biodiversity of the forests sustainably, and allowing developed countries free access to forest resources.
Northern countries, always seeking economic gain, are trying to legally monopolize gene patents over plants, animals, and genes in the most recent round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the set of trade rules that governs the economic activities of most of the world. If they succeed, multinational agrochemical corporations would be allowed to patent and “own” valuable life forms, often found with the assistance of indigenous people in their own forests, not only denying them financial compensation, but forcing them to pay royalties on products derived from these resources!

This unjust Northern monopolization of developing country crops, and potentially the global food supply, must be stopped. Developing countries, and particularly indigenous forest people, should be compensated both for preserving biodiversity and for the resources they provide to the first world. Industrialized countries must assist in this preservation both by transferring finances and biotechnology to the south and by reducing their consumption of material goods.

POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION

The technology used should be appropriate and simple. Production should be mainly from local materials and for local use, not for exports to rich consumers; it should provide a community which is in harmony with nature and which is self-sufficient.

Such no-growth economics cannot be achieved without revolutionary political transformation involving the demise of power groups with vested interest in maintaining the status quo. Today, the lives of millions of people are being controlled, deformed and destroyed by decisions made by their governments, by transnational corporations, by agencies such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and by big power summits like GATT.

The alternative can only be made possible if there is grassroots democracy, economic decentralization and regional and local self-sufficiency.

Democracy originally meant the empowerment of the people. However, to many people it has taken on a facade of “legitimate government” which disguises state terror and repression to serve the interests of the rich and powerful. For indigenous peoples and other minorities, democracy has become the ideology of “tyranny of the majority”. Democracy must deliver justice to the global majority, the oppressed people of the world.

Governments cannot be relied upon to rescue us from the mess they have put us in.

It is the transborder political actions of people, resisting the power of global capitalism, and rejecting the lunacy of unlimited growth economics, that will produce the necessary changes.

DEBT AND ENVIRONMENT

In the 1950s and 60s, after the war was over and Europe could rebuild itself, when many countries in Africa and Asia finally gained independence and could start thinking about autonomous development, optimism ruled the world. Optimism and the United States of America.
The country that had survived the war with the least damage needed trading partners to let its economy boom, and therefore implemented the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe. At the same time, it put pressure on the colonial powers of the old continent to move out of their colonies to let those nations develop into independent, mature partners. For this purpose, a number of 'specialized' agencies were created in the United Nations system, most importantly: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, also known as the World Bank. Within a few decades, the world would all be like America.

The newly independent countries started ambitious so-called 'development' programmes, encouraged by 'soft' loans and gifts from Northern governments and such institutions as the FAO and the World Bank. The latter two were particularly interested in 'modernizing' agriculture in the Third World by introducing fertilizers, pesticides, 'miracle seeds', irrigation schemes, tractors and other machines... Industrialization projects were usually directed at substituting imports of manufactured goods for locally-made products. A third important sector was of course infra-structural works: roads, harbours, electrical facilities, and the like.

All of this drastically changed lifestyles in those Southern countries, particularly of the urban well-to-do. It involved them more and more in the global economy, made them increasingly dependent on importations, and hence on exports.

In the beginning, natural resources were the only export product of most countries. Until the 1970s, a number of countries had succeeded in diversifying their exports by concentrating on export-oriented, labour-intensive industries like textiles, toys and microelectronics. The success of such a strategy depended on many different factors. A strong state, which often meant an authoritarian state, was crucial.

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"Why this conspiracy of silence? Why is it that the military degradation of the environment cannot be given equal place with the civilian impact on the environment?... It is up to the environmental movement to articulate the damage the military inflicts on a fragile ecosystem."

- Rosalie Bertell, President, International Institute of Concern for Public Health

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**STATISTICS ILLUSTRATING SOME OF THE GLOBAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF A DETERIORATING ENVIRONMENT**

**Contaminated water results in:**
- 400 million cases of gastroenteritis annually
- 200 million cases of schistosomiasis annually
- 500 million cases of river blindness annually

**Contaminated foods result in:**
- The death of almost 4 million children under the age of 5 annually

**Rising levels of air pollution result in:**
- 26.5% of the urban population of Latin America breathing air that is unsafe
- 625 million people around the world exposed to unhealthy levels of sulfur dioxide
- 1 billion people exposed to excessive levels of suspended particles

**Ozone Depletion is increasing the global incidence of skin cancer and cataracts.**

"The maintenance and improvement of health should be at the centre of concern about the environment and development. Yet they rarely receive high priority in environmental policies and development plans. They rarely figure as important items in environmental or development programs despite the fact that the quality of the environment and the nature of development are major determinants of health."

Yet the world market for such products is limited. The majority of Third World countries remained very much dependent on their traditional exports. Even today, of the exports of Latin American countries 70% consist of unprocessed natural resources. For Africa this number is still close to 100%. The participation fee for entrance into the world economy is literally paid ‘in natura’. Moreover, as the prices of commodities decrease relative to the prices of Third World countries imports, the entrance fee increases.

In the 1970s, people were still generally optimistic about the possibilities for countries to diversify their exports. In the years after the oil crisis, it was very easy to borrow money against low interest rates on the international capital market, as the OPEC countries were suddenly earning a lot of money and did not know what to do with it. More than ever, the Third World countries were encouraged to take loans for their ‘economic development’. Many Third World countries, or rather the elites of those countries, could not resist the temptation. By borrowing large sums of money, they took up more and more financial obligations, often without investing the money productively. A lot was used for prestige projects, for expensive nuclear reactors, for private consumption, to bribe government officials...

In August 1982, economic collapse began. Because the United States had also started to borrow a lot of money, the interest rate skyrocketed to 20%. And many countries needed to borrow new money to be able to repay old loans, or even the interest on those loans. Mexico was the first country that had to apologize: it simply did not have the cash to meet its immediate obligations.

For a moment, the financial world panicked. But it did not take them long to negotiate a new repayment schedule with the Mexican government. The International Monetary Fund (the world’s financial policeman and most important institutional lender) and the commercial banks realized that they had overestimated the capacities of most Third World economies to generate foreign exchange, and that they had to change their policies drastically. From then on, new loans were only granted as part of a restructuring of debris.

One country after another developed similar financial problems to Mexico’s and had to negotiate a rescheduling of their debts. This rescheduling was made contingent upon the willingness of governments to submit their countries to IMF-designed Structural Adjustment Programmes. Instead of making those countries more independent and more self-reliant, SAPs involve them even more in world economy.

As a result, in many indebted countries the exploitation of nature has increased. New exploitation-exportation sectors are even being developed. In Tanzania, for example, while the government is promoting LPG instead of charcoal for household use, at the same time it is producing charcoal for export.

On the island of Negros in the Philippines, 25,000 gallons of potable water per minute are pumped into prawn ponds. The prawns do generate some foreign exchange, but at high social and ecological costs: farmers and fisher people living in the area see their fresh water wells drying up and their soils salinizing.

In many Sahel countries, where people are starving, the best land is used to grow peanuts, vegetables and other products for Western markets.

In 1988, of Africa’s total of 573 million inhabitants, 100 million lacked food security and still do. Thirty million face direct starvation. Desertification increases at an average rate of 70 km per annum. Exploitation of timber and livestock products for export has been causing extensive deforestation and the depletion of wildlife. Ethiopia, which 50 years ago was over 60% forested, is less than 3% presently. This could indicate a correlation with the fact that Ethiopia is a perpetual land of hunger.

The voice of women is often ignored in national policies for land use and development. African women are responsible for 50% of the planting in the entire agricultural sector and 90% of food production, not to mention their responsibility for child care, animal care, water and firewood supply. Although African women represent a valuable resource of knowledge and experience, they are often totally ignored by those who design and implement good and environment policies.

Ruth Engo-Tjega, Cameroon
Secretariat for UN Program of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development; Founding Member, Advocates for African Food Security
It is obvious that such countries lack the resources to develop environmental policies. It is also clear that they cannot be considered sovereign and autonomous countries as long as institutions like the IMF have so much influence on their policies.

An absolutely necessary step on the road to sustainable development is therefore debt relief.

Male leaders so far have been sowing massive death and disaster instead of developing technologies to serve life. In Third World countries, the industrialization process has led to the ruthless exploitation of natural resources, has contributed to ecological damage and ethnocide and has marginalized the poor from social progress.

- Magda Renner, Brazil
  Executive President, Acao Democratica Feminina Gaughca - Amigos da Terra
Youth Working and Organizing for Action
YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

INTRODUCTION

The inspiration for this chapter comes from the energetic participation of young people all over the world around the UNCED process (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development). From the second Preparatory Committee Meeting in 1991 to the actual conference in Rio in June 1992, youths were actively organizing and consolidating their ideas around Environment and Development issues. Numerous preparatory processes were organized, leading to an unprecedented awareness among young people of these issues and an eagerness to influence a process which could be crucial in shaping the planet for the next generation.

The questions that were raised by youth after the UNCED process finished, lead to the bigger questions of youth strategies in the nineties, in particular youth involved in Environment and Development issues. In other words, what strategy should youth adopt in order to be a social force creating the world of the next generation?

This chapter tries to shed light on some of these issues. We start off with a look at youth and our characteristics. Second, we look at one perspective on global politics. The third part of the chapter is an analysis of youth participation at UNCED, in the Post-UNCED era. Finally, we present you with tools to become involved in global action: organizing strategies, case studies on activism, electronic networking and resource materials.

YOUTH - WHAT ARE WE?

by Premesh Chandran, Malaysia

There has always been something special about young people. We seem to feel more when we are young and slowly change into “products” of society as we grow older. Yet, while being special, young people are a changing generation. Today, sports and games are being replaced by drugs, gangsterism and fascism; working at home for the family is being replaced with child labour or youth labour, slaving away at a factory or selling their young bodies; and the alertness of a young mind is being replaced by the numbness of malnutrition and starvation.

Where culture, community and family used to form the basis of an upbringing, today materialism and poverty dominate. Both cause a perversion of traditional culture, beliefs and values leading to a de-sensitized generation which creates its own signboards when and where necessary. In a world which is changing overnight, perhaps this is the only means of survival.

Within this spectrum, having been extracted from their traditional culture and adopting another (internalizing an artificial culture and philosophy), some seek to imitate the icons of society. Others find it impossible to reconcile what they find as alien and absurd to the “reality” of life preached by the elders. They choose to rebel against the present or create a new future. Imitate, create, rebel and survive - the Youth of today.

“...the answers are founded in the capacity to develop a critical consciousness and in the popular organizations, the answer is in summing up different efforts (…), in the joint action to promote the defense of life, in provoking changes and generating alternatives, assuming the challenge that the current situation of humankind is putting in front of us today. Is in this way that we can recuperate the golondrinas, the flowers with perfume, more just relationship between the South and the North, the East and the West and the South and the South. The utopias have to been lived to make them true, we need a doses of practical idealism and the spiritual force to confront, to share and transform a world that is, individualistic competitive and more complex everyday; to get to the point where the solidarity will be opening the door of hope to those in love with life”.

Adolfo Prez Esquivel
Nobel Peace Prize, 1980
Hence the essence of youth today is diversity. Unlike women, indigenous peoples, workers, peasants, gay and lesbians and other oppressed “sectors” of society, youth do not have a single dominator and cannot be placed in a single political framework against such a repressor.

Within their diversity, youth identify with or against different aspects of society, including those aspects which oppress other sectors. It becomes a political choice to identify with or against these oppressive forces, and it is here that the commonality bridges the diversity, hence forming a youth movement towards change.

Young people are also well positioned to push for change. Most are significantly less dependent on the economic system, which allows them room to protest. Their protests are more readily accepted as sincere and unselfishly motivated as compared to those coming from other sectors of society. As products of education and social engineering and as the inheritors of the planet, they have a right to be heard. Being linked together by educational institutions, ideas easily flourish and take root. Yet as the youth identity is transient in nature, ideologies within the youth movement tend to be dynamic rather than dogmatic.

With their energy, enthusiasm, open minds and strong wills, young people have been at the heart of many social movements in the past and present. In Asia, from the fight for independence against colonial rulers, to current democratic struggles in the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, Nepal, Burma, East Timor and China, students and youth have fought alongside workers and peasants in the continuous struggle for justice. As in Asia, all over the world, young people are forging links with other oppressed sectors to challenge an unjust world order.

GLOBAL POLITICS
Colonization and Imperialism

While global politics today is a result of the historical existence of many diverse civilizations all over the world, much of this influence was subjugated and nullified by European colonialism and imperialism over the last 500 years. Their invasion reached all corners of the globe, with such voracity and violence that civilizations and communities were systematically destroyed before being understood or given a chance to contribute to the world today.

These societies - boundless with indigenous knowledge, practising their own lifestyles and culture, with their own social systems within their geographical setting - were seen through tainted glasses as barbaric, far behind the “modern” philosophy, science and religion of the Europeans. The hydraulic engineering of the Incas in the Andes, the University of Timbuktu in Mali and majestic architecture of the Angkor Wat offer testimony to the splendor which preceded colonial barbarity.

It was their duty to liberate the natives from the clutches of their evil culture and ways, to enlighten them with more profound manners and methods of living, so the Europeans “shared” their superior beliefs, values, customs and religion.

Colonization and imperialism was indeed vicious and barbaric. On each and every continent, human beings were treated like animals, as prey to feed the needs, the ego, the stomachs and the desires of the colonizers.
The subordination effectively threatened and destroyed in some cases existing systems of life, along with the culture, local knowledge and the diversity of beliefs and values which grew from that social system. It was the start of a 500 year process of "harmonization", with European culture and thought as the central theme. Practically, no social sphere, economics, culture, or politics were left unscarred. Yet in spite of this adversity, there have been 500 years of resistance to the elimination of these cultures and there remain vast cultural differences among people throughout the world.

Though there were systems which remained intact, many which could have been valuable alternatives to the global system we see today were systematically destroyed. They were replaced with economic and political systems which forced the colonies to produce resources to their "mother countries" - with the "civilizing" of themselves as a reward. The relation between colony and colonial master was nothing short of political and economic slavery.

Textbook history notes that colonization ended after the Second World War, as colonies fought for and were granted independence. While the physical absences of the colonial powers may have symbolized "independence", it did not however reverse many of the policies of the colonial rulers. In many cases, political power was merely transferred from foreign control to the hands of local elites, who did nothing to discontinue the colonial relationship between administration and society.

Decolonization?
The Development Dictionary sets the "age of development" as beginning on 20 January 1949, when President Truman in his inauguration speech declared the Southern Hemisphere as "underdeveloped". In doing so, he continued the eurocentric perspective that any form of society other than that which mirrored the West, was somehow "backward" in nature and not worthy of anything in itself. These societies were merely raw material, to be transformed into something useful. In the Development Dictionary, Gustavo Esteva comments,

"On that day, two billion people became underdeveloped. In a real sense, from that time on, they ceased being what they were, in all their diversity, and were transformed into an inverted mirror of others' reality: a mirror that belittles them and sends them off to the end of the queue, a mirror that defines their identity, which is really that of a heterogeneous and diverse majority, simply in terms of a homogenizing and narrow minority."

"Underdevelopment" converted history merely into a necessary and inevitable program. A society starting at its "backward" stage would evolve "naturally" to the stage of industrial society. The West presupposed that the entire diverse world had to follow the Western path though the industrial mode of production was no more than one among many forms of social life. Thus history was reformulated in Western terms.

Development not only allowed the West to continue their domination, but it also appealed to the leaders of the new countries. These leaders had previously gained their power by uniting the people in the struggle against the colonial powers. Now that the battle was won, they had to find new cause to keep the people united and dependent on the nationalistic leaders.

"National development" became the central goal of the newly independent states. The population, now free from the colonial chains, were asked
to sacrifice, to build a nation whose glorious future would be enjoyed by their children. Coming from their heroic leaders, this plea could hardly be resisted. "Development" destroyed indigenous systems, continuing where colonization left off. This time, Western economic, social and political models were imposed. Thus began a native version of the civilizing mission, as governments pushed modernization on to an even larger segment of their population in order to fulfill the pre-conception of a singular history leading to the ideal of a "developed" nation. Society would never be the same!

Hence the process of decolonization generally institutionalized the scars of colonialism. Global politics turned from physical control of the colonial rulers over the colonies to the more subtle, manipulative and diplomatic domination of "North" over "South".

The Cold War
Subsequent to the Second World War, the "North" was dominated by the United States. Europe suffering from the destruction of war, struggled to get back on its feet and in no way posed a threat to US global designs. On the other hand, the Soviet Union stood ideologically opposite to the US and had no necessity to appease them, thus they were the ones who were in way of US domination.

For the Third World, the Cold War represented the imperialist ambitions for both the US and the Soviet Union. Not wanting to attach themselves to either bloc, a host of Third World nations formed the Non Aligned Movement (NAM) which was launched in Bandung in 1955. The principle objectives were to accelerate decolonization, respect for self-determination and the prevention of the use of force to settle international conflicts.

By the seventies, with only a few colonies left on the map, NAM began to concentrate more on economic issues, especially the growing gap between the First World and the Third World. In Algeria in 1973, they called for a New International Economic Order and formed associations of producers of raw materials, which they hoped would give them a stronger hand in dealing with the First World.

However in the 1980's the Third World lost much of what it had gained in the preceding 30 years. Foreign debt caused massive socio-economic deterioration in Latin America and later in Africa, where country after country was forced to adopt International Monetary Fund (IMF) administered Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs). The SAPs called for a cut in social services and a restructuring of the economy in favour of increased exports. This caused severe internal problems which led to political, economic and social chaos. Today we refer to the eighties as the "Lost decade of development".

SAPs called for privatization and economic liberalization, opening the doors up even wider for Transnational Companies (TNCs) to enter national economies. Now they monopolize large sectors of the global economy and have a strong political influence on most governments.

Politics at UNCED
UNCED was not merely a conference on Environment and Development but also served as the first major gathering of countries after the ending of the Cold War. It marked a departure from the Cold War politics and the arrival of alignments based on new political and economical opportunities. These new alliances were built around the "North" basically comprising the G7 countries and the "South" which consisted of the G77 and China. Both used the conference to blame the other for the ecological damage and both used the call for "global" action to avoid acting at the local and national level.
Both the North and the South are convenient constructs. The countries of the North are only united in maintaining their domination over the South, yet fight each other for that privilege. However the picture of the starving South is used to justify further arms expansion as a means to protect themselves from the hungry masses of the South.

Countries in the South are too economically tied to the North to be united in their struggle. The Southern voice is heard much louder in some countries rather than others, particularly countries which use it to serve domestic political needs. They use the picture of the country challenging the colonial North to construct nationalism and unity. They even use the new enemy as the reason for domestic problems and dissent.

For example, Malaysia constantly blames the North for internal problems such as workers demanding their rights. The government insists that such struggles are instigated by the North in order to destabilize the country, and to curtail economic success of the country.

**TNCs and the Global Governance**

UNCED also holds a broader significance. The environment issue was set up as a global issue in need for global action. There were demands to strengthen international law, which could make nations toe the line. Non governmental organizations (NGOs) had been forming global networks and were working on global campaigns.

These efforts at the global level directly contributed to building a sense of global identity, or global citizenship which would be the first step towards global governance. Such global governance would further distance power from the people while giving unlimited access to governments and multinationals.

TNCs also played a role in the UNCED process. Maurice Strong, the Secretary-General of UNCED is an industrialist himself. Much of the conference was funded by Ecofund, a fund set up for the conference and receiving contributions from some of the biggest corporations in the world like Swatch, ICI (a major producer of ozone depleting chemicals), ARCO (labeled by Multinational Monitor as the corporation with the worst environment record in 1990) and Coca Cola. The corporate sponsorship of UNCED paid off with none of the documents or conventions forcing TNCs to be held accountable for their environmental destruction.

Not only did TNCs succeed in being exempted from any controlling measures, they even managed to make themselves be seen as part of the solution rather than part of the problem. Agenda 21, the principle declaration of the conference, sees the answer to environmental problems in terms of the need to increase economic growth in order to pay for environmental protection and regeneration. Additionally, new “green” technologies would have to be developed in order to decrease the environmental impact of development. Another cause of environmental degradation was said to be poverty, and that too was to be eradicated by aid and development.

Overall, “Sustainable Development”, the catch phrase of the conference, was more about sustaining development as a source of power and income for corporations than saving the environment or addressing the great inequalities which exist today.

Lastly, perhaps most importantly, UNCED brought together all advocacy and grassroots organizations under the banner of “Non-Governmental Organizations”. Business and Industry lobby groups were placed alongside
those fighting against them. All these groups were given access to the UNCED process, though only in terms of observing and the occasional speech.

There were great efforts taken to create “inter-sectoral dialogue” which would encourage NGOs to work with business interests instead of against them, following the “Our Common Future” agenda to create “partnership between industry and environmentalists.”

Fundamentally, given the nature of the industry, such partnerships can only lead to a decrease in the rate of destruction of the environment, but nowhere close to the power redistribution which is needed to address the complex contradictions in society.

It is quite obvious that for some the strategy for UNCED was to dilute the impact of the NGOs, while creating a role for industry. Patrick McCully, in his conclusion on the role of NGOs in UNCED comments,

“NGOs were brought on board because they posed a challenge and co-option was the best way to defuse it. If NGO strategies in the future continue to be dominated by groups such as the Centre for Our Corporate Future the NGOs will continue to be manipulated to support the projects of those in power.”

The co-option of NGOs also plays a role in global governance. In order to appear democratic, the illusion of a strong opposition allowed to voice its grievances is essential. By selecting and allowing a certain opposition to function, all other opposition is easily painted as radical and extremists.

**Conclusion**

Global Politics today is characterized by the race in the South to develop and the Northern power struggle against each other to dominate the South. Within the North, newer technologies and power structures are being invented to further indoctrinate, divide, dehumanize and dominate people. Within countries in the South, the push towards modernization continues to attack local systems, eroding even the remnants of traditional culture. Development continues to be the process of internalization of another’s culture and history. The push towards globalization and global government is in motion.

These trends, scary indeed, have to be faced and tackled. There is no running away from the realities of today’s world.

**YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE UNCED PROCESS**

*by Lydia Alpizar, Costa Rica*

**Background:**

The basis of the United Nations Conference for Environment and Development (UNCED), was developed in the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm, Sweden, in June 1972. This conference set some precedents in terms of the emerging concerns about the state of the Earth’s environment and its impact on human development. Since this conference, a large majority of countries introduced environmental issues in their agendas. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was founded after the Stockholm
Conference and many governmental and non-governmental environmental organizations were created.

Some years later, the World Commission on Environment and Development (known as the “Brundtland Commission”) was created and in 1987 it presented a special report to the UN called “Our Common Future”. This report “initiated the concept for the 1992 Earth Summit”. The Brundtland Commission “recommended that the world convene again for a global conference, but this time to focus on environment and development.”

After the report was presented, the UN decided to call for another world conference, in December 1989. Since then, different countries and peoples around the world began to be involved in one of the most important processes of the end of the century.

In these processes conference objectives and aims were shaped. UNCED was meant to “elaborate strategies and measures to halt and reverse the effects of environmental degradation in the context of strengthened national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries.”

A Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) was established by the General Assembly to carry on the preparatory process leading up to the conference. In this process the documents that were going to be presented and agreed upon by governments at the Summit, were negotiated and discussed, taking into consideration input from the UN system, governments and NGOs.

The process held four preparatory meetings over a two year time frame. One of the most important characteristics of the process was the opportunity won by NGOs to participate in the preparatory process and in UNCED itself. After long discussions and opposition statements, NGOs were allowed to be accredited to participate in the process, to make statements and submit written texts (in some very special cases).

With the opening of the official process to NGO participation, organizations and social movements started to organize themselves in order to analyze the issues discussed in the UNCED debate, and to prepare their proposals and statements to be presented in the PrepComs and in the Earth Summit itself. The PrepCom process was, as someone described once, “a difficult and often controversial process of analysis, synthesis, report-writing, meetings, negotiations, more meetings, submitting proposals, rejecting proposals and more meetings”.

There were preparatory processes carried out by different sectors including scientists, women, environmentalists, farmers and indigenous peoples, among others. Youth as a major sector of civil society, also played a major role in this process.

Different public forums were organized throughout the preparatory process and an International NGO Facilitating Committee was set up, leading up to the largest NGO preparatory conference, held in Paris, France, in December 1991.

It was in this context that youth, as one of the sectors of society concerned with the importance of the issues discussed in UNCED, started developing an organizing strategy towards the Earth Summit.

The first relevant youth participation in the process occurred in the “SEED Popular Forum” in Bergen, Norway, in 1990. “Looking at the slow proceedings, many activist of various NGOs could not believe their eyes: Even
though the important topic of our future was to be discussed, only irrelevant political statements were exchanged." Youth along with other organizations tried to present their concerns for what was going on.

As a result of this forum, youth realized the importance that the youth sector could have in the UNCED process. The youth could serve as a voice to denounce those characteristics of the process that were questionable, present young people's concerns and proposals on the issues, taking advantage of the political autonomy that the sector has. Youth realized that they could be a child telling the emperor he had no clothes on.

Since Bergen more people from different regions became informed about the UNCED process and some coordination initiatives were started. Some of the most important initiatives were: the launching of an international youth campaign called A SEED (Action for Solidarity, Equity, Environment and Development), and the launching of an international joint coordination process for a World Youth Preparatory Forum for UNCED, called YOUTH '92. At the same time, some other initiatives were carried out by different international and regional youth organizations such as ISMUN (International Student Movement for the United Nations), AIESEC International and Youth for Development and Cooperation (YDC), among others. These initiatives are described and analyzed below.

The official UNCED Preparatory Process:
The official process is defined as one developed by governments and UN System agencies. The more concrete spaces for participation of youth in the official process, were the Preparatory Committee Meetings (not all of them), and in some cases the national report writing that each country was supposed to develop in consultation with the society.

Young people had a more consistent participation in the official process since PrepCom III in Geneva, August 1991. Before that, some youth participated in the process, but the efforts were not well coordinated and youth participation was definitely not very large. In PrepCom III, there was larger youth representation from different activities of youth organizations which were going on around the world. Youth participants at PrepCom III lobbied strongly with governments that showed some interest in the issue of youth. The lobby was very successful: a Youth Chapter was to be incorporated into Agenda 21.

By PrepCom IV, youth participants had learned how the negotiating process at the UN functions; how to work and relate to other NGO sectors; how to have the best impact in the process; and how to lobby official government delegations. As one young activist from Asia explained:

"For the youth who were involved in pressuring governments out of their lethargy during the various negotiation sessions leading up to the Earth Summit, we learnt to grow up very quickly". (ASA News, March/June, 1992)

A very important new characteristic of PrepCom IV was that national youth organizations put pressure on their governments to include youth representatives as part of the official delegation. In some cases, these efforts were successful and delegations such as the Canadian, the Costa Rican, the Dutch, and some Nordic countries, among others, actually had a youth representative. This situation allowed the youth present at PrepCom IV to introduce changes to the Youth Chapter (the text developed by the UNCED Secretariat with no real consultation with the youth sector, was very far from fulfilling youth expectations).
Youth participation in the official delegations was in many cases window dressing. The "youth delegates" faced different problems with their delegations. Some of them were even asked to consult with their National Ambassador to the UN before trying to present any position or proposal to the negotiating groups. This situation was odd, because on many occasions, in the middle of a "hot" discussion of the negotiating process, this procedure was almost impossible or unachievable. Some of the delegates were limited to a "recommendation role" and sometimes when they tried to offer suggestions or assume a more participatory role, their were given a stern warning. Having young people in the official delegation was definitely not an insurance that youth was really being taken seriously in the process; but it was a step forward that set an important precedent for youth involvement in some official delegations, in Rio.

It is important to point out that youth arrived in New York, as did many other NGO sectors, with not much hope for the results that the process was generating. A lot of their concerns were related to the very high level of participation and influence obtained by transnational corporations (TNCs) in the process of blocking any type of code of conduct for TNCs. Also, at that point, some governments from very "powerful" nations, such as the US Government, were trying to block and erase some very important statements and regulations from the different documents that were being discussed. (e.g. the Climate Change Convention and the Biodiversity Convention). In general, the process did not look very good, in terms of the lack of commitment from governments to address the most important issues, such as debt, structural adjustment processes, militarism, TNCs regulation and financial commitments for the follow-up process to the Earth Summit.

Due to this, youth participation in PrepCom IV focused not only on the content of the Youth Chapter, but on denouncing all the situations that weakened the final agreements and results. Many protest actions were taken by US activists and young people from other regions of the world who were present in PrepCom IV. In a way, youth wanted to let the world know that the process was not good and that the Earth Summit, instead of being a step towards the solution of the world environment and development crisis, was going to be a step backwards.

At the same time as PrepCom IV, the YOUTH '92 Conference, was taking place in San Jose, Costa Rica. The youth conference produced a statement and proposals for the Earth Summit. Some of the delegates to the conference had the opportunity to go to New York, to present the Youth Statement on Environment and Development from Youth '92 to governments in PrepCom IV. A special event was organized with this objective, but the activity was a complete failure. Only two governments showed up and the Secretary General of UNCED, Maurice F. Strong, stayed for just a few minutes, not long enough to hear the whole presentation of the youth statement.

THE NGO PARALLEL PROCESS:

Youth '92, Global Youth Preparatory Forum for UNCED

The World Youth Preparatory Forum for UNCED, YOUTH '92, was held from March 22 - 29, 1992. Gathered together were more than 300 young people from 97 countries.
The conference objectives were:

- To provide an opportunity for discussion, exchange of experiences and the establishment of networks among youth organizations that were involved or currently active in the areas of environment and/or development.

- To prepare the world youth platform for UNCED.

- To coordinate the participation of the international youth delegation to UNCED and the parallel NGO Forum.

- To identify youth NGO follow-up strategies, after UNCED.

The YOUTH '92 Conference had a two year preparatory process. During this time, the conference acquired the characteristics that made it a very special and unique event.

YOUTH '92 was developed as a partnership project between young people from Costa Rica and Canada. The process was coordinated by the Costa Rican Preparatory Commission (a collective of 12 national and local organizations) and the Canadian Youth '92 Secretariat. These two Secretariats worked closely with the Brazilian Youth Committee, a collective of Brazilian youth organizations that was responsible to organize youth participation in Rio.

The direction taken by the YOUTH '92 process was defined by an International Youth Committee (IYC). This body was formed by representatives of key youth organizations around the world who served as contact points for their regions. The IYC met four times during the preparatory process. It oversaw the preparation of working documents and the programming for the Forum and also coordinated the regional participants selection processes.

The IYC defined the general criteria for the participant selection process. The criteria decided was as follows:

- Balance in North-South participation: 75% of the delegates were from southern nations.

- Gender balance: to ensure that gender balance was respected, the IYC recommended that each country identify one male and one female delegate for each official seat. (45% participants in the conference were women)

- Diversity of political, religious, cultural, ethnic and national backgrounds.

- Balance between grassroots organizations and organizations at the national level.

- The age of the participants was between 15 and 30 years.

Indigenous Peoples participated in their status as independent nations, to set a precedent of solidarity with their struggle for autonomy. (10% participants of the conference were indigenous people)

The selection process, as mentioned before, was coordinated by the IYC, who set up regional selection committees. These committees were responsible for establishing contact with the organizations from their regions, distributing information, coordinating regional preparatory events for YOUTH '92, and to fundraise for this regional processes.
The YOUTH '92 preparatory process encouraged the realization of different seminars, conferences and events around the world. The Canadian Secretariat had the responsibility to facilitate the process (along with the IYC members) in North America, Asia, Africa and oversee the process in Europe. The Costa Rican Commission was responsible for facilitating the process in Latin American and the Caribbean.

The decision to promote these preparatory activities to the Forum was made with the intention to get as many young people involved and informed about what was going on with the Earth Summit process. However its primary intention was to take advantage of the UNCED momentum, to encourage young people to sit down together, discuss their reality, discover and analyze the importance of having an international perspective on the environment and development issues. It also sought to realize that as a major sector, youth could and should play a very important role in the process to alleviate the environment and development crisis that our world is facing today, in the struggle for social justice and equity, along with the preservation and rational use of the Earth's natural resources.

Some of the most important preparatory activities of the YOUTH '92 process were:

**Latin America**

The Latin American and the Caribbean Preparatory Process: the Costa Rican Commission supported by the Latin American and Caribbean members in the IYC, set up contact points in almost all of the countries of the region. The idea they promoted was to encourage the realization of national consultation processes among youth organizations of each country to set up the national positions of the countries to YOUTH '92, to provide a space to develop their own national strategies of work and to select, through a participative process, their national delegation to the World Forum. In this manner national conferences and some other preparatory events were organized in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Bolivia, Venezuela, Chile, Paraguay, Belize, Brazil and Jamaica. The regional preparatory process finished with the realization of the Latin American and Caribbean Consultation for YOUTH '92, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, in March 1992.

**Africa**

African Preparatory Process: In this region some national-regional preparatory events were held by different organizations. Activities were developed in Cameroon, South Africa, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Liberia, Zambia and Uganda, among others. The African process finished also with an African Youth Conference on Development and Environment, held in Kenya, from February 17-20, 1992. "The conference was organized by a steering committee of 9 youth from Kenya and Ivorian youth groups. It brought together about 150 African youth to determine, how together, they could save the continent from the looming environmental disaster and be effective in the remaining UNCED Process." ("Working around the clock", YOUTH '92 Informative Bulletin, February 1992) At the conference, the participants prepared their YOUTH '92 and UNCED contributions, and discussed future networking and follow-up. The African delegation for YOUTH '92 was selected in this conference.

**Asia**

Asian Preparatory Process: in Asia some events were organized as part of their regional preparatory process to UNCED. In this way, the Asian Students Association (ASA) prepared a document to present in YOUTH '92 on behalf of the organization. The Indian Committee of Youth
Organizations organized a seminar on "Youth and Environment in South-East Asia, in Goa, on Oct 6-7, 1991, with 23 participants from 7 countries (Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Thailand, Maldives and India).

**Europe**

European Preparatory Process: the Europeans had a process coordinated mainly by EYFA (European Youth Forest Action) and CENYC (Council of European National Youth Councils).

**North America**

North American Preparatory Process: Canada and the United States had separate processes. The Canadians coordinated a national preparatory process, led by the Canadian Youth Working Group on Environment and Development (a collective of Canadian youth organizations), which included regional workshops that led to the Canadian Youth '92 National Conference, where a document was produced for the global conference. The process in the US was coordinated by Student Environmental Coalition (SEAC-US). They had several events around the country to analyze the issues discussed at UNCED and to select their delegation. They also organized a series of teach-ins in February on different university campuses throughout the US about the Earth Summit process.

**A SEED INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMPAIGN**

The A SEED initiative started, as described before, after the Bergen Public Forum. A SEED was started by the European Youth Forest Action (EYFA), an umbrella organization of about 300 European environmental youth groups. "Later, action-networks from all continents joined. The Asian Students Association (ASA), the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) of the United States of America, the African Youth Coordination on Development and Environment (AYCODE), Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA) from Australia." (SEEDlinks Special Issue, 1992)

A SEED was established by young people in 1991 to provide an alternative analysis to the UNCED proceedings and to forge strong alliances among young people committed to a socially just and ecologically livable world. A SEED operates as a "decentralized network which serves to strengthen and support local, national and regional youth movements."

A SEED was formed by "activists of various groups and movements". It defined itself as a "global youth initiative on environment and development...an international action network challenging the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development."

The aims of the network were:

- to offer people the possibility of linking activities concerning UNCED and our common future
- to give those people, who are normally not heard, an opportunity to voice their concerns.
- to offer people the means to inform and discuss issues of environment and development, locally and globally, during actions, festivals, by telefax and email.

A SEED also defined itself as a "political demand", it tried to "bring together the different views and perspectives of the people who participated by forming a common platform."
A SEED had the chance to give a very close follow-up monitoring to the Earth Summit process. It had the opportunity to participate in most of the PrepComs and in the Earth Summit itself.

This international action network launched a global campaign that started with various conferences called March Meetings and with actions during PrepCom IV in New York. Then, a two month action period (before the Earth Summit) began and at the same time that the Earth Summit was happening, there were different youth gatherings such as the UNSAID Festival, in Freiburg, Germany.

A SEED was one of the most important international youth campaigns around the UNCED process. It had consistent presence in the process, trying to coordinate actions to denounce some situations that were not positive. It also tried to illustrate the great deal of manipulation of the UNCED process by some northern governments and transnational corporations. As it was expressed in the Third World Resurgence Magazine, Aug/Sep 1992:

“As in the preparatory meetings running up to the Summit, the youth groups provided a lot of the fire and spirit at Rio. Uniting under the A SEED umbrella, many youth from several countries carried out activities demanding that UNCED tackle the underlying roots of the environment-development crisis.”

A SEED published a periodical bulletin called SEEDlinks, which contained important information related to the preparatory process of UNCED, analysis of issues, denunciations of irregular situations in the process, and networking information for youth organizations. It served as an organizing tool in its process of coordination towards the Earth Summit. The bulletin was produced (and is still being produced) by young activists from different regions of the world. Southern participation has been very important in this process and the positions expressed in the bulletin are frequently in the vanguard thinking of the process. It had, nevertheless, quite a strong northern approach to the issues, due to the fact that the leading role in the network was played mainly by the Europeans and people from the United States.

The March Meetings were able to network through email and faxes, allowing people from different regions and backgrounds to discuss issues related to environment, development and youth participation.

A SEED set up the basis for the creation of an international youth network on environment and development. After the Earth Summit the network had to continue to be active and it has grown in members and contacts. It held a training and strategy session in January 1993, in Penang, Malaysia, where it defined the basis for the work that the network will continue to implement in this post-UNCED era.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONSULTATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT:

The Geneva informal Meeting of International Youth Non-Governmental Organizations (GIM), organized this activity with the belief that “youth organizations are urgently needed to push that preparatory process (of UNCED) forward ... we can influence national positions and intergovernmental negotiations as well as setting our own agendas and acting accordingly” (Report from the International Youth Consultation on Environment and Development, ISMUN, Geneva, 1991).
The event was realized in Geneva, Switzerland, 10-11 August, 1991. About 50 representatives of national, regional and international youth organizations and networks came together to discuss and strategize an active and independent road to Rio.

This event occurred at the same time that PrepCom III was happening. Some of the issues discussed during the meeting were: UNCED progress related mainly to PrepCom III negotiations; Women in Sustainable Development; NGOs and UNCED and; Environment, Development and Disarmament.

**Youth Participation in the Earth Summit:**
The young people that arrived at Rio had two very clear characteristics: they were very diverse in terms of the different processes, places and backgrounds they were coming from and; they were eager to be active and innovative both in Global Forum ‘92 and in Rio Centro, where the official conference took place.

The youth sector had a tent in the Global Forum ‘92, called the Youth Open House. All the preparations for the coordination of youth participation in this space was carried out by the Brazilian Youth Committee. Hundreds of youth arrived in Rio for the Earth Summit. Some of them came to participate in specific events, some others were part of youth delegations, and most came in their personal capacities out of personal interest.

**The Earth Summit, Rio Centro:**
Rio Centro is the name of the Convention Center where the UNCED was held. It was strategically located about one hour away from the location of the Global Forum ‘92. The access to Rio Centro was extremely difficult. For youth, there were four ways to gain access: being a part of a government delegation, being accredited as press, having accreditation as a youth NGO to UNCED, or having an special day pass given out by the Youth Liaison Officer of the UNCED Secretariat.

It is important to point out that most of the documents to be discussed and negotiated at the Earth Summit were practically ready. The Youth Chapter of Agenda 21 was no exception. Only a few sections of the documents were in “brackets”, indicating that there was not consensus on that specific topic. The brackets were used mainly around the financial commitments for the implementation of Agenda 21 and the other Rio Agreements. That meant that the potential impact and influence of youth was negligible. Most of the youth that were in Rio Centro gathered to protest issues that were left out of the negotiating process and to present the youth sector position. Many youth were lobbying for the inclusion of a document titled “Ten points to save the Earth Summit”, a document prepared and presented by Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the Third World Network. This document listed a number of issues, that in the view of these organizations, were necessary to be included in the UNCED results for the Summit to be successful.

Some of the issues presented in this document were: militarism, external debt, transnational corporations regulation, and targets for the Climate Change Convention.

The participation of youth in government delegations was important in terms of the access to the official process that it provided. Youth was included in the delegations of Sweden, Netherlands, Estonia, Costa Rica, Canada and the United States, among others.

Some youth participated in UNCED Special Events, activities organized during the Summit, mainly panels of discussion about different relevant issues;
and they attended some of the parallel NGO meetings that were happening there. Some others kept in touch with their government delegations to try to lobby for different positions and proposals.

The youth in Rio were aware that the eyes in the world were on UNCED. The Media was watching the heads of state from around the world. Youth wanted to generate an impact at UNCED, that would show the rest of the world (through the media) what was really going on inside Rio Centro: a negotiation that was far from creating a qualitative positive impact on the life styles of the present and future generations.

As an NGO sector, youth were given the right to address the conference plenary session. As it had happened before in the PrepComs, youth were allowed to speak 7 minutes. The youth present at Rio Centro and at the Youth Open House decided that Wagaki Mwangi, a young woman from Kenya who had been quite active in the UNCED process, should be the person that would voice youth concerns, opinions and positions to the Plenary.

Wagaki consulted many youth about what they wanted her to say in her speech. With all this feedback, she prepared the following speech to be presented to the Plenary.

"The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development deserves commendation for being able to gather over 100 heads of state, not for a state funeral, but for the resolution of a world crisis. But the question is, will this event mark the death and burial of several injustices and practices which are the fundamental causes of environmental degradation and underdevelopment?"

"UNCED has been recognized as the most democratic process of the United Nations. Democratic because it has attempted to involve otherwise powerless people of society in the process. But by observing the process we now know how undemocratic and untransparent the UN system is. As youth our vision of a sustainable future is one that empowers people through genuine popular participation, which is ostensibly one of UNCED's recommendations for sustainable development."

"Given how little has been achieved since Stockholm, it is evident that the system will not even solve the ecological crisis without itself conforming to popular participation and democracy."

"There are those who have said UNCED has failed. As youth we beg to differ. UNCED has been a success - for the all-time wielders of power. Transnational corporations, the United States, Japan, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have gotten away with what they always wanted - carving out a better and more comfortable future for themselves. The business community under the guise of the Business Council for Sustainable Development has succeeded in institutionalizing itself as a non-governmental organization."

"I have just been informed that I have been cut off from the rest of the delegates at the Earth Summit. You are now the only ones listening, and I will continue."

"This is not how the success of UNCED should be measured. It must be assessed from what UNCED set out to do. UNCED's primary objective was to redress the current inequitable power structures that have led to environmental degradation. However, UNCED has
ensured increased domination by those who already have power. Worse still, it has robbed the poor of the little power they had. It has made the poor predators of a market economy that has thus far threatened our planet..."

"We are concerned that amidst elaborate cocktails, travelling and partying, few negotiators realize how critical their decisions are to our generation."

"By failing to address fundamental issues such as militarism, regulation of transnational corporations, democratization of the international aid agencies and inequitable terms of trade, my generation has been damned...

"Most youth (at the Earth Summit) laid aside their studies to participate in the UNCED process. Most of them have paid their own way and sometimes even sacrificed their comfort. As I speak there are youth seated in the main hall of the conference center fasting. They have fasted for two days and spent a night in Rio Centro to demonstrate their commitment to our common cause, and they will continue to do so."

"And in solidarity, youth in the U.S., Japan and Germany have joined them. This morning, we received news that youth will be protesting in Fiji, Australia, Malaysia and Hong Kong. And their numbers are growing."

"The UNCED process has been jeopardized by experts who would make us believe that they are carving out a sustainable future for all humanity, while in truth they act in their own self-interest. Is it not arrogant and hypocritical not to hear what we have to say about our own futures? We do not want an unjust world as prescribed by the UNCED process and which we are being socialized into. What we want is an equitable future, and that is the least we expected from UNCED."

When Wagaki began her speech, the internal television system mysteriously "broke down" and no-one besides the people inside the plenary room were able to hear her. This situation disappointed youth once again about the UNCED process – a process unwilling to hear and give equal participation to all the constituencies involved.

Youth then organized a press conference immediately after Wagaki's speech, with the objective to denounce the irregular situation that had just happened and to let people know, as it read in one of the banners they held at the press conference that "UNCED is a farce". Adam Rogers, in his book UNCED: A planet reckoning describes the situation as follows:

"...While a South American youth delivered a Spanish translation of Dorcey's speech (US youth official delegate), a group of UN Security personnel and Brazilian police began moving in on the crowd. The silhouette of one large policeman moved behind the banner; his arm could be seen coming up around the side of the person holding the plastic sheet. His hand appeared next to the young man's neck as the fingers gripped his UN pass, ripping it off in a single jerk. This action effectively expelled the youth as "persona non grata" from the conference. One by one the passes were ripped off the youth as they sat to protest of what they called a farce, a misuse of power by the grown-ups of the world. More security personnel quickly moved in, wedging a line in between the protesters
and the journalists, trying to establish some kind of order to a scene that was quickly getting chaotic."

"This is a press conference!" shouted the youth. "This is a press conference!" Most of the reporters and photographers, totally abandoning protocol, joined in. "This is a press conference! Freedom of speech! Freedom of speech!" (...) The security finished ripping off the passes and started grabbing the signs and ripping them up. The guards hauled the youth away, a policeman at each protester's head, another at his feet, carrying each of them like a sack of potatoes. The youth attempted to slow the guards down by linking arms. One girl, her arms stretched over her head as she was dragged along the grass, commented nonchalantly to a television camera: "This is typical of what is happening to youth at UNCED."

This situation was also described in ASA News, March/June 1992, by one of the youth activists present that day in Rio Centro:

"All over the world people saw the images of young people being dragged out of Rio Centro for attempting to criticize the Earth Summit. At last, we were successful in sowing a seed of a doubt in the minds of the international community that not all was well with the Earth Summit."

After the day of Wagaki's speech, youth participation in Rio Centro decreased. Many of the passes that had been taken away by the UN security personnel, were not given back to their holders. That coincided with the dates that the heads of state were arriving at Rio Centro. So, the role of youth in Rio Centro, was reduced to following the process of the negotiation to voice peoples' concerns, and to denounce all the irregular situations that had happened and continued to happen during the Earth Summit.

The NGOs Parallel Event, the Global Forum '92:
The Global Forum '92 was supposed to be the place where NGOs from different regions and backgrounds were going to hold activities related to UNCED. It was located in the Parque do Flamengo, where dozens of tents were placed to serve as gathering centers for different NGO sectors. Indigenous peoples, environmental educators, women, urban movements, youth and many other sectors had their own tents at the Global Forum. The place was like a circus, with thousands of people, publicity booths, exhibits, and hundreds of different events going on at the same time. If there is something close to a general chaos, the Global Forum would qualify. As described by a young person from Asia:

"Organized with the help of the UNCED Secretariat and funded by multinationals like Coca-Cola, the Global Forum was part soap-opera, part new-age carnival, part human zoo. Instead of protesting against the Earth Summit, most NGOs were there having a celebration. Each day, over the 12 days of Earth Summit, there were concerts, fora, exhibitions and so on at the Global Forum, to keep the 20,000 NGOs people fully occupied and contented." (ASA News, March/June, 1992)"

Youth participation in the Global Forum, through the Youth Open House was very diverse. One of the factors that most affected youth participation was the different backgrounds of the youth at Rio. Some of them came from the preparatory processes carried out for the Youth '92 Conference, others were activists from the A SEED international campaign; also, there were national youth delegations that were sponsored to go to the Forum
without coming really from a preparatory process; others came just to see what was going to happen; in the end, all of the youth there demanded an equal standing in the decision-making process that had to happen in the Youth Tent, at the same time that they had different levels of knowledge, expectations and experience in the whole process. This situation made the coordination of activities among the youth, and with other sectors very difficult.

One of the most important NGO activities in Global Forum '92, was the International NGO Forum, which coordinated the initiative of the alternative NGO treaty making process. All the NGO sectors were invited to write a treaty related to its sector or to a specific relevant issues. The treaties were supposed to be documents containing actions that people would commit themselves to implement. Some people thought that the treaty writing process was very important, although it kept NGOs busy and distracted from what was going on in the Earth Summit, at Rio Centro.

Youth also participated in the treaty process. The writing of the Youth Treaty was quite complex. To be honest, the Treaty produced at the end, was not really a document of consensus among the youth in Global Forum, but it represented a process where people really tried hard to be representative and include most of people’s concerns and proposals. (The full text of the treaty is included in Section One, Chapter One of this Sourcebook.)

The most important youth actions coordinated in Global Forum '92, led mainly by the Brazilian Youth Committee were: a protest march against militarism, as it was not included in theUNCED agenda (youth marched backwards, imitating military uniforms with paper, from Global Forum to a military barracks 1 km away); a demonstration against the presence of the World Bank in the Global Forum (youth marched inside Global Forum that ended at the World Bank booth where the leaflets and display materials were burnt, “World Bank” sign was changed to “People's Bank”); support for the “Echo of the Oppressed” protest march (organized by different oppressed sectors of Rio de Janeiro society), and a symbolic boycott of Coca Cola that was present all over Global Forum. Also young people had good contact with the media, and produced different press releases through the 12 days of the conference.

Some proposals for follow up were informally discussed by some of the youth in Rio. Some of them included the creation of a de-centralized world database of youth and student organizations done by youth; the continuation of the A SEED campaign; the need to support capacity building for southern organizations; the need to distribute the information generated through the UNCED process to other youth organizations at different levels; and mainly, the need to keep the UNCED momentum going.

The Post-UNCED Era: Where do we go from here?

UNCED provided a focal point for youths working on Environment and Development issues. In the preparatory processes and during the conference young people achieved a degree of cooperation never before seen. In terms of sharing information, combined actions, and common platforms, youth came together to have a voice at Rio. While the conference itself failed, youth took a step towards building a global network of young people concerned with the state of the world today.

The road from Rio, however, offered as many challenges as did the road to Rio. The question was then, how do we convert the energy, enthusiasm and cooperation around UNCED to long term cooperation and effective strategies? Several activities were organized by youth after the Earth Summit. Most of
them have tried to keep up the momentum brought to the youth movement by UNCED process. Some of the most relevant follow-up activities are as follows:

- UNOY International Conference, “Our Environment, Our Responsibility”, Minsk, Belorus, August 1992. This event gathered together youth from different regions of the world. The themes of discussion were very much related with those discussed in the UNCED and the parallel NGO process. Also, the conference was very important for the strengthening of UNOY International Network.

- SEAC - A SEED US Strategy Meeting, September 1992, Michigan, USA. Young activists from several regions of the US and also young people from different regions of the world who were very active during the UNCED process, participated in this meeting. It served to exchange information among the participants about what was going on with different youth initiatives after the Earth Summit. Also, some informal discussions happened there, related to how youth could keep in touch and generate some kind of coordination and cooperation among themselves.

- December Meetings (DMs), these activities were coordinated by A SEED UK, in December 1992. As in the March Meetings, young people from around the globe had the chance to connect with each other through email or faxes and to discuss and analyze issues related to free trade, GATT, economic globalization, etc. A booklet was produced with the outputs of the DM’s, where some of the discussions and documents exchanged were systematized.

- Strategy Workshop, Latin American Youth Network for Sustainable Development, Cuernavaca, Mexico, January 1993. This was the first strategy workshop of this network, formed after the Earth Summit, where the basis for its installation and general principles were drafted, and the program of work for the first year was defined.

- A SEED Training and Strategy Workshop, sponsored and co-organized by Third World Network and A SEED, held in Penang, Malaysia, January 1993. In this workshop, it was decided that A SEED would function as a loose network based on regular communication between regional hubs and information exchange via its two publications: SEEDlinks, a quarterly magazine on news and analysis, and Fertilizer, a regular update on the workings of the network, individuals within the network and other youth initiatives. Using the network, young people involved in Rio have been able to keep in touch, offer solidarity support, work on common projects and continue to build a more long term strategy. Personal relationships have developed across the oceans, allowing people to relate as friends and not just colleagues. The prime objective of A SEED at the moment is to strengthen the regional hubs and other focal points in order facilitate wider communication and campaigns. This goes on while individuals and organizations within the network go on with their campaigns and grassroots organizing.

- Seminar “Life After Rio: Redefining International Youth Movements”, Strasbourg, France, March-April 1993. This seminar was mainly a regional event to discuss and analyze different global environment and development issues, with a special emphasis on the European region. The activity counted with the participation of young activists from all over Europe (including Nordic and Eastern European countries) and also young people from Asia, Latin America, North America and Africa.
Participation of young people from different regions (mainly from the North) in the First Substantive Meeting of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development, June 1993. The CSD is a UN body established by the UNCED Plenary responsible to monitor the implementation of the Rio Agreements, mainly Agenda 21. Youth were poorly represented at the CSD because little funding was made available for youth participation. The youth present in New York tried unsuccessfully to lobby for the incorporation of youth representatives in the different levels of decision-making that the CSD was going to set up and in the writing of the National Reports that each country would have to submit to the CSD every year.

In spite of the fact that youth have organized and participated in these activities, not everyone has enjoyed the benefits of the networking created by the whole process. Those involved in working on the ground and those without the luxury of electronic mail or fax machines have been left out to a large degree.

However, building a youth movement for change goes far beyond networking and exchanging information. A youth movement is based on organizers constantly raising awareness, educating, empowering, sensitizing, mobilizing and humanizing other young people. This work is combined with campaigning on issues and publicity to reach out even further to the public and to other young people. Together, as social force, the movement pushes for concrete changes.

A global youth movement is based on local movements. Not only are different levels integrated but also cooperation of movements from different places. It is essential that issues such as the World Bank, IMF and economic liberalization be tackled at the global level while at the same time be used to raise awareness among young people in grassroots campaigns. GATT and the UN have to be demystified and understood as holding major power over our lives and taken up as local campaigns where relevant.

Attempting to influence documents at global conferences will not win any battles. These conferences like other global issues should be used to raise awareness and to build local movements. Many may feel that it is important to attend upcoming international conferences like the UN Conference on Population and Development 1994, the UN Summit on Social Development in 1995, and the UN Conference on Women also in 1995. Position papers tabled at these conferences can be used as sources of education and empowerment and movement building—but they can also serve as a distraction and a drain of both financial and human resources.

Campaigning at the global level does create a number of opportunities for youth. Often, as in the case of Rio, the doors of governments and organizations are opened to allow the demands that youth be heard. These spaces offer youth access to information, infrastructure and financial resources, as well as a platform to be heard.

The question was (and still is) to what extent does taking up these spaces legitimize the organizations and limit our ability to criticize them? Do the “practical” benefits which come with representation at these organizations somehow make up for any loss due to being involved with them? Are youth ready for such positions, or is it wise to set up more concrete channels of communications which would hold the individuals accountable to the sector they represent?

While some young people have chosen to stay completely away from such sources, others argue that youth should accept handouts as long as there
are no strings attached. It is essential that we understand the agenda of the sponsors and not exempt them from criticism, and if necessary expose their hidden agendas.

Many say that there is always a need for people to be working at different levels - from the grassroots empowerment programs to influencing policy changes. This strategy can work as long as those working at different levels are integrated and held accountable to each other. The closer one gets to power, the easier it is to lose sight of the objectives of the struggle. Hence, it is wise for those “above” to keep in touch with people on the ground. This helps in understanding the issues from the perspective of those affected by them as well as checking one’s own philosophies and actions. Lack of accountability is the reason why government leaders get away with their actions and it is imperative for young people not to follow that path.

Most importantly, we must remember the characteristics of a youth movement. Being diverse, a reflection of the global society, we must learn how to work with diversity and use it to our advantage. We must remember that the youth identity is transient, hence we should create processes for smooth transfers of knowledge and decision-making.

As young people, often not from oppressed backgrounds, we have to learn from the people who are directly affected by oppression. We have to constantly understand new developments and construct actions based on them. We have to be conscious of our own sometimes luxurious lifestyles against the values to which we aspire.

Lastly, it is said that if the world is to really change, then the inspiration for that change cannot come from the modern society based on Western economic, social and political ideology. The inspiration has to come from those who see the world and its people in its holistic beauty and not from people who have internalized the material, individualistic and violent values that society has acquired through history. As youth, it is our struggle to free ourselves from the indoctrination of modern society and to invent together something more beautiful, more peaceful and more just.

ON INTERNATIONAL ACTIVISM
by Analia Penchasazdeh

The nineties have brought a recession that extends beyond the economic sphere. As youth movements shrink and disintegrate, the few initiatives based on building a project through solidarity find themselves shorthanded in both leadership and numbers. Many youth organizations around the world benefited from the process preparatory to the Earth Summit because it allowed for strengthening the local work while creating important international links. At the same time a difficult contradiction arose between the local, grassroots activities and international organizing; often the grassroots suffered as its leadership focused on the larger picture. With the end of the Earth Summit, several youth organizations found themselves caught in the international sphere without the original base, having neglected the importance of local building.

Social transformation can only take place at a grassroots level, providing for the participation of all the sectors. International organizing is a tool for more effective grassroots work. Through the UNCED process, the need for international links and exchanges was seen: for social transformation to happen it needs to happen everywhere with coordinated initiatives throughout the world.
In the aftermath of Rio, however, the dangers of international organizing have surfaced within youth organizations and networks. These need to be dealt with if we are to be effective in organizing for social change. The concentration of leadership in international meetings can leave a gap in local organizing. A balance needs to be found between the international and the local work. It also needs to be kept in mind that international work is only real when there is a grassroots backing to the words and the agreements.

Another danger in international activism is the emerging elitism in youth leadership. Much information is handled at an international level, and it is not always returned to the many other youth activists involved but not present internationally. At times international meetings seduce activists and manage nothing else than to perpetuate old structures (that allowed for the meeting to take place) instead of creating new decentralized and smaller scale work.

In spite of the many dangers of international organizing, it has been proven effective and necessary in the creation of a new youth movement that looks at social transformation within the context of global change at a local scale. International meetings and networks are essential for an exchange of important experiences in youth organizing and mobilizing. The UNCED experience has shown that youth organizations around the world have many things in common, and that they profit from learning about each other's work.

In a world where information and knowledge is the most valued commodity, the sharing of information through networks is invaluable. Access to information is key in the creation of proposals and actions for change; international organizing has an important role (when effective) in making information available at a wider scale.

International organizing reaffirms the need for social transformation at all levels. Through meetings, networks, and exchanges, a context is set in which local grassroots actions take place. Ideas are validated by experiences elsewhere, and significant links are made among activists throughout the world. These links become essential in organizing joint actions and in building solidarity. International organizing is a key element in social change so long as it does not replace local work; young activists need to be careful not to leave the grassroots behind.

**Organizing Strategies**

By Bernard Woods, Canada

A sustainable future, one that is based on social and economic equity, is within our reach. It is the only possibility that we as young people can strive for unless we are willing to accept the continuation of the destruction of the planet and its people. This future is not going to happen unless we, as youth, make it happen. It will take a lot of time, effort, and commitment, but, faced with the current world situation, this is our only option. Commitment to creating a sustainable future is something that cannot be stressed enough, and this commitment can only be demonstrated through action. We must be willing to go to great lengths to protect the people, the planet we live on, and all its species. We must be willing to deal with fundamental issues of equity among nations, peoples, sectors of soci-
ety, and gender. This chapter is about how you can put ideas into action! The commitment to act is the first step to creating a sustainable future. However, we will still need to build skills and abilities to make our ideals into concrete realities. The purpose of this section is to be a guide to a number of ways of bringing about the future you want. It is neither exhaustive nor complete, yet it should provide you with ideas of how you can begin organizing around issues that are important to you. The ideas presented here should also inspire you to further research into areas that interest you.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

Capacity building is about creating the basis for action on sustainable development. Young people will need skills and experience to help change our current unsustainable reality into a sustainable future. Nobody starts from zero. Right now, as you read this, you have talents and abilities that will help bring about change. However, there is always the need to learn more, to build upon one's own experience, and to share our organizing experiences with others. You must learn as you go along, you cannot wait until you have learnt a specific amount before you start acting. Everyone has something to contribute, every voice counts when building a sustainable future. You must start now; even if you make mistakes, you will learn as you go.

**RESOURCES**

You will need resources in your organizing activities. These can be divided into two general areas: human resources and material resources.

**Human Resources** - People bring their experiences in from other areas of their lives; their work, other volunteer experiences, formal educational settings, etc. As a result of these life experiences they bring a variety of skills. It is important that within a group or organization, people carry out variety of tasks so that everybody learns how to do everything that is needed to run the organization. People will have expertise in certain areas, putting the groups’ newsletter together for example, but everybody should at least be familiar with all aspects of whatever you are involved in. When the skills needed are not found in the group, use outside human resources as a last resort, but you must ensure that those skills are learned by people in the group.

An active and committed membership is the key to any group. You must always work to bring in new members: this is crucial to the building of a movement, new members bring in new energy and ideas. All too often, people struggling for social justice find themselves “burning out” because they are attempting to do too much. Membership can help to spread the work around, and new members can inject energy and enthusiasm into any group. As youth, we must also ensure that we pass on the skills and give opportunities to those younger than ourselves; this is important for the continuity of the work of youth and student organizations.

**Material Resources** - Material resources are those physical things you will need to reach your goals. You can obtain these by any means you consider ethical; your family, place of employment, garbage, other organizations working in the same general area. Be creative. Reduce the need for resources, re-use, reclaim, and recycle resources. Learn how to operate on a low budget. Use resources for more than one purpose and share them between other groups working towards same goals.
Sometimes you will require financial resources to carry out activities. This will inevitably involve fundraising of some sort. While there are many different ways to raise money, here are some things you should keep in mind. Make sure you really need money. If there are other ways to get the things you need, use them.

Fundraising can take precious time and effort that could be spent on your main goals. Make sure that the amount of time you are going to put in is worth the amount of money you expect to get. Sometimes it is easier to have group members contribute a little money than to embark on a time-consuming fundraising exercise. Another factor to consider is who you are getting the money from. This applies more to grants and funding for projects from governments or the private sector. Will there be “strings attached”; something expected in return? Will these “strings” prevent you from doing what you really want to do? Are you designing a project to fit the funding criteria and not your own? Will you be lending credibility to an organization that is acting in unsustainable ways but wishes to improve their public image? These are questions you must consider as a group before even applying for this sort of funding. If you are going to undertake fundraising activities, is there any way you can make them peripheral to the activities of the group? If an organization working against racism, for example, organizes a benefit dance, called “Rock against Racism”, they may use the opportunity not only to raise funds, but to raise consciousness of the issue at the same time. Be sure to prevent fundraising from becoming the main activity of the group instead of a way to provide a means to an end. Many groups find themselves compromised once they have got some money and have to rely on more money to continue functioning. Try not to get hooked on money so that all your time is not spent figuring out how to get more. Relying on volunteer labor and reused material will help to eliminate this problem.

RESEARCH

In order to act, we as youth, individuals, groups, and citizens must have a clear vision, a good idea of what the problems are, and a knowledge of the best way to deal with problems and reach sustainable solutions. You must inform yourself.

Get information from a variety of sources. Everybody has a different viewpoint and every problem can be viewed from many angles. Keep in mind what the biases of the viewpoint are, what are the motives behind the people providing the information. People very rarely state their motives so you must “read between the lines”. Always be critical of information no matter who is providing it. If you are critical you can’t go wrong.

You need to inform yourself about the issues. If you are interested in deforestation, for example, find out what different groups of forestry workers have to say, citizens groups, environmental groups, industry groups, the government and indigenous groups. Weigh up their arguments against your vision of a sustainable future. Are industries who are concerned with making money today likely to care about sustainability? How about workers who want a job for the next 25 years? The government which wants to be re-elected in 3 years? Citizens who want a clean environment for their future grandchildren? Critically examine the information, think of the motives, make your own decisions.

Remember that we have to act locally and think globally. What are the issues in your community that are important for achieving a sustainable
future? How can you best get involved to help? You will need to find out what different groups are doing in your communities.

Organizational Structures, Techniques, and Tools
To achieve a sustainable future we must work together. Typically this will mean coming together in groups, with people who share common concerns and ideals. Working together in groups can be both rewarding and difficult. Your group will have a structure and you will need different techniques and tools to keep it operating.

The structure of your group will determine how people interact and how you reach your goals. We are beginning to learn that an essential component to achieving sustainable societies is the inclusion of everyone's voice in decision making processes. In this spirit people working towards sustainability should adopt organizational structures, within their cultural contexts, that place a premium on equal participation of all those involved.

Non-hierarchical structures - A group would have no head, president, chief, or boss. All participants would be equal and everybody's opinion should carry equal weight and no one person should overrule another.

Rotating chair or moderator - You may find the need to organize discussion when your group or organization meets. Having a different person do this each meeting insures that everybody's skills are built and no one person or sub-group dominates the process. The chair should facilitate discussion and make sure that the issue at hand is addressed. Sometimes this is just a matter of letting people speak out when they want, other times the discussion will need to be structured with a tool such as a speaking list or talking stick. (A talking stick is a symbolic object that is passed around. The person holding it is the only one allowed to speak at that time.)

Working sub-groups - Often times there are tasks that need to be carried out that a smaller number of people want to work on. These sub-groups can take some direction from the group, go off and work on the task and then come back and report back. There should be enough two-way trust that the sub-group will act in the set out direction from the main group, and that the main group trusts that the work is done with best intentions.

Running a group and group dynamics are the subjects of many books. The following are only a few of the many tools and techniques for groups to use.

Brainstorming - This is a technique for generating ideas for any number of purposes. The emphasis is on creativity and it should be an informal and fun process. You will need some sort of surface to write ideas down where everybody can see it. You should set a time limit for the generation of ideas and then start. People say their ideas and they are written down. Nobody comments on the ideas or starts talking about them, the purpose is to get as many different and diverse ideas out in the open as possible. After the time limit the group should examine and possibly order the ideas, (taking care to separate the person from the idea.)?

Running a Meeting - Start by selecting a chair or moderator and decide upon an agenda. Also select someone to keep notes of the important parts of the meeting. These notes can be a good reference in the future. They can also ensure that good ideas are not forgotten. Again like the chair, rotate the duties of note taker so that not everyone shares the responsibility. Reviewing the notes from the last meeting could be the first item on the agenda.
Stick to the agenda, time is precious and should not be wasted. A good chair will steer the direction back to the discussion but, other members can help to keep things on track. If something is really important it can be added to the agenda. If you keep the discussion focused and the meeting running along smoothly it can be an empowering process. Nothing "turns people off" like long and frustrating meetings where nothing is accomplished. Remember meetings are only part of the process: you should be spending your time acting, not just discussing.

**Communications** - Group members should be in contact with each other informally/socially and formally through meetings. However you should put in place a system of communications where all group members can be contacted quickly if the situation requires it. Your local situation will probably determine the best way to do this but a good method is to use a "phone tree". A phone tree is basically a structure where people (and their phone numbers) are in a “tree” structure. There should be a head of the tree, or two heads depending on the size of your group. Each person is then responsible for contacting two other people, who then are responsible for contacting two others, etc. If a meeting needs to be called or some situation requires an emergency turn out, the heads are contacted to start the chain. Everybody phones the people below them, and if they cannot contact them they phone the next people below that person, to ensure that the chain continues. This is a quick and easy way to mobilize your whole group.

**WORKING TOGETHER**
Sustainable Development will not be achieved if issues are worked on in isolation, without recognizing the linkages among issues. No one issue is the most important, no area is more important than another. Whether this in the area of the environment, human rights, politics, or the eradication of poverty; a combined focus is the only way for us to reach sustainability.

This means that while you may be working on a local issue of the government planning a highway through an area of important biodiversity, your work is linked to a group working to end violence against women. Both are important and essential. Making the links between these diverse and different activities can be difficult, but it is essential.

**Networking**
Networking is all about making the links, the connections between yourself, your group, and other groups and individuals. Networking can take place within an issue or area and between issues and areas. Examples would be groups engaged in fighting against toxic waste dumps in two different cities exchanging information, or groups working against clear cutting talking with aboriginal groups fighting for land rights in the same area. If you are trying to get people involved from other groups, try sending them a copy of your meeting agenda so they know what you are working on. Find a sympathetic person in the group and invite them to one of your meetings.

Every time you meet people there is an opportunity for networking. Keep track of different people you meet, their interests and the projects they are working on. You may not see an immediate connection but their experience may be valuable to you in the future. You can network through other media such as electronic networks or through publications.

**Partnerships** - Sometimes groups of individuals will enter into partnerships to realize a common goal. You must be clear about some things before you do this. Is the relationship a relationship between equals that will benefit all the partners? What are the other organizations’ goals and objectives and how do they fit with yours? How will disagreements be resolved? It is
better to consider these questions in advance and formalize the decisions. If necessary you can draw up a "contract" which just means writing down the rules which will govern how the partners can work together. Partnerships are useful because they often lead to outcomes that neither group could achieve on their own. They strengthen the capacity of people from different organizations to work together, cooperatively, towards a common goal. They also help to make links between different types of activities.

Coalition Building - Building a coalition is a difficult process that involves a lot of time and effort. A coalition is an organization of many different groups and individuals that come together for a common purpose. The idea is that the coalition will become more than the sum of its parts.

Coalitions usually function a little differently than partnerships. Due to the fact that many different groups are present there is a need to focus on what is common between the groups. Problems often occur when groups bring too much of their own agendas to the coalition or when the differences between groups on other issues is dwelt upon, instead of the similarities.

Coalitions can be run in a non-hierarchical manner where each group, or combinations of groups are represented in some sort of decision making body. Often times individuals will have a mandate from their own group to commit the group to participate in a certain manner.

Coalitions are useful for showing broad based support and concern on issues of sustainability. They provide a diverse range of perspectives and this is one of their strengths.

CAMPAIGNING

A campaign is a series of coordinated events, designed to achieve a certain goal. Most campaigns are composed of three important components: planning, implementation, and evaluation. Each stage is as important as the next. Implementation depends upon a solid planning base, and a thorough evaluation ensures that the exercise is a learning process.

Planning - There are many keys to good planning. It is important to start with the objectives of the campaign. Exactly what is it that you want to achieve? How you answer your question will determine the nature of your campaign or if in fact a campaign is necessary or desirable. It cannot be stressed enough that the objectives should be kept realistic. Your goal may be striving for a sustainable society, but like most goals, this probably will not be reached in your life time. Ideal goals are useful because you can never sit back and assume your work is finished, there is always more to be done. No one can ever tell you that we have reached sustainability and you can stop being active.

If you keep your objectives realistic there is a good chance you will be able to achieve them. Nothing is more empowering than reaching an objective. For example if you organized a protest during the Gulf War there would have been a very small likelihood that it would have stopped the war. If stopping the war had been your objective you might have gone home from the protest depressed even if many people showed up. On the other hand if your objective was to create a visible show of opposition to government policy and to spread your opinions to many people, the same protest could be considered a success. This does not mean to say you should think small, just be realistic.
Also to keep in mind besides realistic goals, is a realistic pace of activities. If you want to organize a whole series of activities, but everybody in your group has many other responsibilities, the campaign may fail because you tried to do too much with the resources you had available. Take stock of the human and material resources at your disposal, and those you are likely to need for your activities. If there is a disparity how will you make it up?

Another thing to incorporate into your planning is flexibility. Planning is sort of like predicting the future, it never works out exactly as you thought. If you plan with flexibility you can be prepared for a number of outcomes. Develop contingency plans, walk through the steps of the activities you are planning, asking at every point what could go wrong here. Think what you would do in the situation if that thing did go wrong. How would you deal with it so that your activities would still be successful? Often fate can throw unexpected surprises into the best made plans, sometimes these surprises are good, but you must be prepared for the ones that are bad. Even if something happens that you had not thought of, the fact that you have been considering what could go wrong, will help you to think on your feet and come up with a solution.

A useful tool to use in your planning is a time line. On a large sheet of paper draw a horizontal line with one end representing today, and the other the end of your activities. Brainstorm all of the tasks that should be done in order for the activities to be successful. Then decide where to place them on the time line. Sometimes it is useful to work backwards from the activities. If you are holding an event on a specific day for example, decide when you need the location confirmed by, in order to start advertising it. Always give yourself a little more time than you think. If you get ahead of schedule that’s fine, but many things take longer than you think. The time line can be useful because as things get underway you can tell if you are on target for your activities or if you need to pay more attention to specific tasks.

Another useful thing is to do simulation exercises or “dress rehearsals” of planned activities. Have people act out the parts they have planned to undertake. You will find that potential problems immediately rise to the surface. It is easier to deal with them in a rehearsal than if they come up during implementation. Remember, practice makes perfect!

Implementation - This is the fun part when you are actually doing things instead of discussing them, meeting about them, planning them, and evaluating them. With good planning implementation should go smoothly but always expect the unexpected. Be ready to react to situations if anything goes wrong. You will have to think “on your feet” when things are going wrong or right, so keep a cool head. As organizers of the activities you must distance yourselves from what is going on in order to be able to critically assess the situation. Remember what works and what doesn’t; these will be useful later on for evaluation. Don’t get too overjoyed if things are working really well or too upset if things are going badly. It is more important to evaluate your work afterwards. During implementation you should be dealing with the situation at hand.

Evaluation - This is a very important component of any campaign, but one that is often overlooked or given too little attention. Like all of life’s experiences, one should learn from the whole campaign activity. This is the purpose of evaluating things, learning from the things that went well, or went badly, or went in an unexpected direction.

There are many different methods you can use to evaluate activities. The first thing you should consider regardless of the method you use is the ques-
tion of whether your activities achieved your objectives or not. You should examine what things worked well and what things did not. If you were going to do a similar activity again, what parts would you keep and what would you change. Keep in mind that this has been a learning experience. Sometimes you can learn the most when things don’t go as planned. Remember that the purpose of the evaluation is not to blame anyone for the outcome or praise them for it. It should be a group learning experience or success.

Campaign Checklist
Before starting on any campaign you should make quite sure that you know exactly what you are campaigning for, and why you are campaigning for it. The following is a list of some things you may want to keep in mind when organizing a campaign:

Aims & Objectives of Campaigning
- What is the aim of your campaign? Keep the aim of your campaign as simple as possible.
- What are your objectives within this aim? Your objectives should be quite specific and should determine the structure that your campaign will have.

Targeting
Are your objectives clear on:
- Who is it that you are trying to influence? What is the position of those people?
- What are you trying to change, their point of view or do you want to force them to change their policies?
- How do you think they may respond to your tactics?

Planning and Running a Campaign
- What is your timeline?
- What are the particular tasks? i.e. Publicity, information meeting, research, volunteer training etc.
- You should set all these in a time scale so that you can easily follow the progress of your campaign.
- What are the different phases of your campaign?

Resources
- What resources are available?
- What resources do you need to find?
- How is your membership involved? How will you involve those outside your membership? Do you need facilities? Research? Speakers? Information sheets? Publicity?
- What resources are coming from within the community? How is the community involved?
- Who will affect by your campaign and who might sympathize with your campaign?
- How are you using the expertise of other local groups in what you are doing?

Involvement
You will face two challenges, getting people involved and keeping them involved.
- How are decisions made?
- Do people feel they really do have a role in the success of the campaign or not?
• Are you balancing the work and social needs of your membership?
• Are you celebrating your victories?

Delegation
• Are tasks being delegated?
• How are you using people's experience?
• Is there collective responsibility for the campaign?

Remember: it is important that no one person controls or is solely responsible for the campaign!

Campaign Tactics
There are many campaign tactics that can be used by a group. However, tactics that are used in certain regions without much difficulty (such as leafleting) will meet with great repression in others. Remember, you must think through all the possible effects of your actions, and how you will deal with each one. Using the media can be your best and worst ally in a campaign. Regardless, all of your membership should receive some media training, being able to respond and deal with the media as necessary.

Letter Writing
Letter writing can be an effective way of influencing others. Groups like Amnesty International have been successful in using letter writing as a way influencing governments when it comes to human rights abuses. If people answer letters you can learn about the arguments they make to justify their actions or policies. If they don't, you can publicize the fact that they do not bother to address your concerns at all. Use your newsletters, or even meetings to get your membership to write letters. Make sure that everyone has copies of the name and address of the person that you are writing to. Try to supply people with the equipment needed to compose the letters. Before people leave a meeting, get each one to write a letter, collect them and send them!

COMMUNICATING TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD

Communicating with members of society about your goals and activities is a really important part of striving towards a sustainable future. In order for our societies to reach this future we must have a discussion and interchange of ideas and beliefs. So how you put forward your beliefs, the content of them, and the style in which you do so is critical.

Creating Your Own Media - You cannot rely upon anyone else to articulate and present your views. Therefore you must come up with ways to get your messages across. To start with you must decide exactly who it is that you want to communicate to, and what you want to say. This will determine how you are going to say it. There are probably as many different ways of communicating as there are species on the earth. The following list is a very small one and you should use it only to generate your own ideas and alternatives.

Word of Mouth - This is probably one of the oldest and most useful ways to get your message across. Talking to people one-on-one or in a group setting simply has no substitute. People will be better able to relate to you if you speak to them directly in person. Some of your commitment and enthusiasm is bound to rub off on them. Sometimes the best way to get other people excited and involved is by human contact. Don't expect that people will always share your views, but be sincere and honest and you will find some successes. People usually have informal information networks, where
information is passed through social circles, workplaces, or academic environments. Tap into these, sometimes they can get the word out faster than other techniques.

**Information Tables** - This is a variation of the above method except that you are situated in one place, a table. Make sure you have a big sign, banner, or poster, that clearly states the name of your group or your purpose for being there. This is an ideal opportunity to distribute written material so make sure you have lots of copies on hand. Draw up a staffing schedule for members of your group so that everybody takes a turn. Tables are also ideal for having petitions or selling fundraising items.

**Canvassing** - This means going out and approaching people to give them information. Make sure you have written information to pass out. People may not have time to stop and talk to you but they may take written information and read it later. This also holds true if you are canvassing people's homes. Always introduce yourself and explain to them why you have approached them. In the case of homes, canvassing would work well for an issue that is directly situated in that community. It may not work so well for something that may not concern them.

**Posters, Banners, and Placards** - These media should present a clear written message. They should catch the eye so that everybody who sees them reads them. Make sure the lettering is large and clear. It is better to have one big clear simple statement on a banner or placard that people can read and absorb in a glance, than have a paragraph that only those who take the time to stop and read it will get your message. This is especially true if there is any mainstream media coverage of the banners and placards. If they do make it into television, for example, an obscure message will be lost, while a clear one can be read in 2-3 seconds. Graphic images are also good if they are clear and colourful. Remember, "a picture is worth a thousand words", especially for television, which conveys images far better than text or words.

Make sure posters are clear and can be seen from a distance. They should be put in places where people will see them as they are normally walking along. This may sound obvious but many posters end up being placed too high, or too low, or at an angle that makes them hard to read. The first line should be bigger than the rest and should reach out and grab them. Then as they walk closer they will start to read the smaller print. Make sure they can get all the essential information without having to stop. If possible put your posters in a row so that people can start reading one and then continue on the next. If you are advertising an event make sure you have the place, date, and time. Try to make your poster as clear and attractive as possible. The way it looks will convey an image about what you are trying to achieve and your capabilities as a group or individual.

**Leaflets and Pamphlets** - These two media are designed to be read and given more careful consideration than posters. Both should be done as professionally as possible and should contain no errors. Have several people read them for spelling mistakes and factual errors. A leaflet is usually shorter than a pamphlet, but both can be used for canvassing or information tables. Again make sure they are readable.

**Newsletters** - A newsletter is an expanded form of a pamphlet. It can contain more information but should follow the same guidelines of readability. Newsletters are probably better than pamphlets for mass distribution. However because they contain a lot of information and may involve several issues, make sure you have sufficient resources to put one out. If your group is more interested in action think twice about starting a newsletter; it can quickly take up all your time and effort to do it well. On the other
hand if you see your role as providing information and alternative views, a newsletter maybe just the thing for you.

**Popular Theatre** - Popular theatre or “guerrilla theatre” is again the subject of many books. Basically it consists of portraying your message in a theatrical visual fashion. You do not have to be a professional actor to do this and probably should not be. Popular theatre is useful because it can convey images and emotions that speeches or written material cannot. It is useful for breaking up speeches at rallies or protests. Or it can be a “stand alone” activity that can bring your message to the general public.

To do a popular theatre piece you should start by considering exactly the message you want to get across. Then think of images, characters, actions, dialogues, etc. that will convey your message. You could write a short script that could contain words, actions, or a combination of both. Then practice your piece very well before taking it to the streets. Popular theatre works well with television, because again that medium conveys images.

**The News Media** - The news media consists of radio, television, and newspapers. Mainstream media is often the method a lot of groups chose to communicate. However you should approach this area with caution. Again, think of what you want to say and who your audience is. Remember that the mainstream media exists to make money. Therefore they are not unbiased but have a vested interest in what is communicated through them. You can be sure that they will almost never articulate your views the way you want them to be articulated. The coverage you may receive, if any, will not represent your group exactly as you are, in fact it may represent you as you are not, to your detriment.

You should also think about the weight your message carries to people, when it is conveyed in between an advertisement for soap and a story about a bus accident. Will the few seconds of coverage really bring your message across? Too many groups spend too much of their time doing “media activities” that may or may not achieve much. If all you want to do is bring a particular issue into the public eye for a short while, then the mainstream media might be the way to do it. If you want to accomplish more then think twice.

**Lobbying** - Lobbying basically entails convincing people in positions of power about your point of view. Usually these are politicians but they could be community leaders, members of the private sector, school or university teachers, or even your parents. The keys to lobbying are presenting your message in a fashion that is non-threatening and reasonable. Dress is often important as you have to portray an image of professionalism and confidence. Like it or not people have biases, and if you want to convince them about your point of view you should fit in with their positive biases not their negative ones.

Before you speak directly to the person or people make sure you are well prepared. Go over your material many times. Do simulation exercises with others, and have them try to twist your arguments around. Be prepared for tough questions and unexpected statements. Bring some written material with you in a well organized fashion. Nothing is worse than saying that you have some information on a subject, then going through piles of paper and not finding it. If you know you don’t have supporting information, make sure to let whoever it is know that you will send it to them immediately. Always be polite as the situation dictates. Remember lobbying is about convincing
people that you have something worthwhile to say, and that there is resis-
tance or concern about their policies from the public, and that you are willing
to assist in creating "options" to their practices or policies.

POPULAR EDUCATION

The roots of popular education are in Brazil. In the ‘60s, Paulo Freire
introduced a literacy training program based on this concept. Freire
taught people to read and write by discussing with them the basic
problems that they were experiencing, their social and economic issues,
poverty, access to resources, etc. The students not only discussed the prob-
lems but began analyzing the causes and possible actions that they could
take to change their situation. Freire was not only teaching how to read,
but he was embarking his students on a process of consciousness raising.

“Consciousness raising” became a natural outcome of learning to read.
Much of the popular movement in Latin America has used popular educa-
tion as a tool for social change. In a region where social problems are criti-
cal and affect the poor majorities, popular education has become an impor-
tant component of all community development initiatives. Popular educa-
tion is a source of empowerment for people, it enables them to analyze
their situation and devise possible solutions at the same time. As a result,
the students begin to address their problems and to formulate actions
which can change their situation.

The educational system has traditionally failed the majority of the poor as it
teaches values often foreign to them brought over during colonial times.
Popular education is education designed to help people, particularly those
who have not traditionally have access to education or lack political power, to
develop the skills needed to organize and take control over their own lives.

Popular education is a method that can prove useful to youth groups and
other organizations. It is a way of learning from one’s own experience and
analysis, rather than having an “expert teach”. Some characteristics of
Popular Education are:

• It is a collective process: everyone teaches; everyone learns.
• It is based on respect for those who are learning
• The learning begins with the experience of the learner.
• People are actively involved in the learning process
• Leads to action for change.
• Stresses the creation and importance of new knowledge.
• Allows people to gain experience and to organize themselves.
• Links personal, local experiences to historical and global processes.

Popular Education can be a valuable tool for groups and communities work-
ing towards sustainability!

There is a great deal of material written on Popular Education. For more
information, see the resources section.
CONSENSUS

There always seems to be a great deal of confusion as to what consensus is about, yet people seem to favor this process as one that is a more democratic process in decision making. Women's groups, indigenous people, have used this form of decision making for a long time. The following is a simple explanation of consensus processes that may help you understand what it is all about.

Consensus Processes

Using them:

Consensus processes enjoy some inherent advantages over other decision making processes in addressing the challenges of a sustainable future.

Consensus processes are designed to:

- ensure that all significant interests are represented and respected
- enable participants to deal with each other directly
- give an effective voice to all participants
- allow the parties involved to design a process appropriate to their special circumstances and needs
- provide a forum that forges new partnerships and fosters cooperative problem solving in the search for innovative solutions that maximize all interests and promote sustainability

In terms of results, consensus processes can:

- improve the working relationships between all interests participating in the process,
- help build respect for and a better understanding of different viewpoints among the participants
- lead to better informed, more creative, balanced and enduring decisions because of the shared commitment to and responsibility for the process, results, and implementation
- can often be used to complement other decision making processes

Even if all matters are not resolved through consensus, the process can crystallize the discussion, clarify the underlying issues, identify the options for dealing with outstanding disagreements, and build respect and understanding among the parties affected.

Guiding Principles of Consensus Processes

Consensus processes are participant determined and driven - that is their very essence. No single approach will work for each situation - because of the issues involved, the respective interests and the surrounding circumstances. Experience points to certain characteristics which are fundamental to consensus - these are referred to as the guiding principles.

Principle #1 - Purpose Driven: People need a reason to participate in the process.

Principle #2 - Inclusive not exclusive: All parties with a significant interest in the issue should be involved in the consensus process.

Principle #3 - Voluntary Participation: The parties who are affected or interested participate voluntarily.

Principle #4 - Self Design: The parties design the consensus process.

Principle #5 - Flexibility: Flexibility should be designed into the process.

Principle #6 - Equal Opportunity: All parties must have equal access to relevant information and the opportunity to participate effectively throughout the process.

Principle #7 - Respect for Diverse Interests: Acceptance of the diverse values, interests, and knowledge of the parties involved in the consensus process is essential.

Principle #8 - Accountability: The parties are accountable both to their constituencies, and to the process that they have agreed to establish.

Principle #9 - Time Limits: Realistic deadlines are necessary throughout the process.

Principle #10 - Implementation: Commitment to implementation and effective monitoring are essential parts of any agreement.

There are thousands of examples of young people contributing to sustainable development. We selected a few that would provide a picture of youth action. These case studies are, as Erin Hannah, a member of our working group said, “a celebration of what youth are doing”.

**MIXE COMMUNITY INSTITUTE**

The Mixe Community Institute “Kong Oy”, in Oaxaca, Mexico, is an educational, research and service center born out of a community necessity for an institution which would truly serve educational needs of the Mixe people. The Institute provides the support and framework needed for solving other types of problems now facing not only this community but the whole region; in particular, the emigration of indigenous young. This is caused by the lack of opportunities for development, along with the gradual loss of cultural values by the assimilation of other ways of life.

This institute is an educational family, it is based on the direct participation of the community, thereby forming a project discussed and accepted by all members of the community. The institute benefits from professional people who participate in educational “tequios” or community volunteer service, filling out a faculty of 12 teachers specializing in different areas. The administration of the school is divided into three areas: the director general, with a sub-director; the academic director; and the administrative director. A board of trustees, with representatives in the city of Oaxaca and of Mexico, promotes support for the institution. The parents of the students contribute a monthly quota of one day of “tequio” or service for each student and are organized in a parents’ committee.

These studies are recognized completely by the federal secretariat of public education (SEP) through the system of open senior high schools, though it is actually based in the community school. The curriculum consists of 10 subjects per semester: six from the open school system of the SEP and four community subjects (co-curricular); these last give special emphasis on providing for the cultural and educational requirements of the people from an indigenous point of view, with subject matter such as: reading and writing the Mixe language; music; community law; human development; Mixe history; and productive handicraft shops.

Being a community alternative to a senior high school level, this Mixe community has had to initiate its activities without economic support from any institution, which requires the whole town of Tontontepec to contribute actively to get this project started, while recognizing nevertheless, that the needs for continuation of this community scheme are very large and that there is a dire need for solidarity with institutions, organizing and many people to enable it to continue on.

Mixe people have established the Mixe Community Institute as a way to preserve their culture, customs and language, taking the education of Mixe youth in their own hands!
ENJEU and a Network of Francophone Youth Environment and Development Organizations

In January 1993, Environment JEUnesse (ENJEU, or Environment-Youth), Quebec's youth environmentalist network, took the initiative to create the Francophone Network of youth organizations for environment and development. The project is composed of two major facets:

- conferences for youth in environment and development to discuss and lay out the opinions of Francophone youth on issues of environment and development;
- the formation of a network enabling the realization of projects based on common ground, exchange of information, experiences, teaching and learning tools amongst groups of young Francophones.

This project came out of Youth '92, a process which united several hundred youth in San José, Costa Rica, in March of 1992, in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Francophones present at this conference felt the need to get together and form a network. The youth of the Commonwealth already have such a structure, and it is important that Francophone youth also have a voice, so that they might make their voices heard in Francophone institutions.

The essential aspect of ENJEU's action plan is to mobilize and to encourage youth to come together regionally, in each major pocket of the Francophone world (Antillies, North America, Europe, North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, the Indian Ocean and Asia).

Circulation of information amongst Francophone groups, as well as the development of partnership projects, the strengthening of solidarity among youth from the North and South, will be facilitated by this network for youth working in environment and development. Furthermore, such a network will better enable world youth to participate in their countries' decisions on Francophone issues. Better North-North, South-South and South-North communication will almost inevitably be a result of the creation of such a network.

The creation of this exchange network will help youth to enrich themselves with new experiences, and therefore become more skilled in caring for the environment on a local level. The youth involved in this new network would be prepared to raise consciousness, to inform, and to inspire peers, communities, and decision-makers alike.

AIESEC's Participation in the Earth Summit and Sustainable Development Initiatives

In January 1988, inspired by the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, AIESEC launched the AIESEC Global Seminar Series which sought to address matters relating to sustainable development within the AIESEC network. The program ran for two years form 1988 - 1990 and spearheaded AIESEC's involvement in the larger world debate and action-oriented approach to demonstrating a more viable way of living for all peoples today and tomorrow. As such AIESEC participated in the preparatory forums for the Earth summit, both nationally in various countries and internationally.

As one of the largest student organizations in the world committed to demonstrating leadership with other youth, AIESEC responded to the World Commission on Environment and Development by creating a world wide debate and actions on sustainable development that would be globally relevant and locally appropriate. In consort with many partners and organiza-
tions, over 35 projects addressing some aspect of sustainable development were convened in AIESEC member countries to raise awareness of the issues, to distinguish the definitional points and overall to encourage positive action in this field. The Youth Action Guide was a result of this AIESEC campaign, an account by youth of sustainable development according to their own insight and perspective.

Clearly it is not possible for any organization to address every aspect of the debate on sustainable development. AIESEC undertook to do the following:

▼ **Educate:** In 1988 environment and development and all it implied was both new and difficult to conceptualize especially for the youth. Being fortunate enough to have the advantage of a network present in 70 countries, AIESEC mobilized to provide information on aspects of sustainable development that would be significant to business leaders and to populations in the future. By so doing, the organization would fulfill its mandate of contributing to the development of its member countries with an overriding commitment to international understanding.

▼ **Create Awareness:** Through projects, AIESEC sought to involve as many people as possible in environment and development initiatives and to influence attitudes and policies through new ideas and views. Most of the events concerned were open and saw the participation of academia, youth and students, government officials, non-governmental bodies, the media and community groups. Such a balanced and representative group was necessary to provide a true reflection of sustainable development in the country concerned.

▼ **Demonstrate a role for youth to play in sustainable development through concrete projects:** The AIESEC process sought to empower youth to raise their voices and show their own potential, AIESECers everywhere did their utmost to demonstrate a sincere commitment to sustainable development.

**ASA: Organizing in the Asia-Pacific Region**

The Asian Students Association (ASA) is an independent and non-aligned regional body of 40 national youth and student organizations from 25 countries in Asia-Pacific. Formed in 1969, ASA aims at promoting students solidarity in the struggle for democracy, self-determination, peace, justice, environment, development and Third World liberation.

ASA draws its philosophy from the oppressed people of Asia, developed in the process of their struggles for social change. In ASA, there is a shared commitment by its members to transcend all barriers, and express solidarity with one another towards the promotion of an Asia-Pacific identity and a Third World consciousness. ASA is against the exploitation of both humans and the environment.

This philosophy considers the multitude of problems Asia faces today in a holistic manner. For instance, in regard to the question of development, ASA considers that development is not simply a case of material development but a process in which the oppressed people struggle for socio-economic, political, moral-spiritual and cultural power to create and decide their own future in an ecologically balanced manner.

ASA organized workshops whereby Asian student activists came together to discuss and develop joint action on various issues of importance to the Asian youth and student movement. To facilitate further the work of ASA on issues of environment and development, Action for Solidarity, Equality,
Environment and Development - ASEED Asia, based in Nepal, was set up. An ASA Media Center, based in Malaysia, will improve the dissemination of alternative information to youth and student activists. The Activists Training Center will focus on ASA training needs, especially in training women activists.

It is not surprising that an organization which encompasses such a wide youth and student body over a region which covers almost half of the world, does encounter numerous problems.

One of the major problems is the lack of an Asia-Pacific identity. Unlike other continents, Asia has a multitude of languages, cultures, religions and political systems which originate from different historical and colonial experiences. To overcome this problem, ASA works extensively at the sub-regional level where shared commonalities amongst the various countries in the sub-region are deeper.

Nevertheless, ASA seeks to bring about Asian solidarity at the Asian level. This is done in a number of ways. One is the gathering together of youth and student activists at the regional level to discuss issues of common interests and to plan joint actions. Monthly news-sheets called Movement News help to facilitate communication amongst its members. In addition, a quarterly ASA News magazine provides youth and student activists in Asia a forum to discuss, debate and exchange ideas on burning issues affecting the region and the world.

The language barrier is a perennial problem in ASA. English is the language most commonly used at ASA meetings and gatherings since it is the language which many Asian share - thanks to British colonialism. Thus, many youth and student activists who cannot speak English find their ability to participate in discussion is greatly hampered.

Another way used to overcome this communication barrier is by the emphasis on popular communication methods during its meetings - the use of theater, songs, posters and a variety of cultural based actions to express one's ideas. Thus, in most ASA functions, participants often contribute through non-verbal means, songs and dances. These methods also help greatly in breaking the cultural barrier.

Finally, the overriding problem which ASA has yet to find a satisfactory solution to, is the problem of funding. A lot of the programs which ASA have proposed, have often had to be either canceled or scaled down due to the lack of funding. Having no independent means of raising funds due to the fact that the majority of ASA members come from very poor countries, it is likely that funding problems will continue to plague ASA for the years to come. As for now, ASA makes do with what it can raise, and tries to use its resources in the most effective manner.

The major reason that ASA is an active and consistent regional youth and student organization is due to the fact that it is made up of a strong and dynamic body of members. Without active members which work hard in struggling for social change at the local and national level, ASA at the regional level will quickly become a bureaucracy.

These struggles are seen by ASA and its members, not as separate, but part and parcel of a general struggle of Asian youth and students towards building a better world and a brighter future for all of us.

In addition, the formula for success is based on a common vision and platform which has evolved from the many activities organized over the years.
This common understanding helps form the basis for action. Without this, ASA would be completely useless.

**We Create Our Future: Youth Camps in South Africa**

We create our future youth camps provide an opportunity for young people from around the world to come together to share and live. This helps create a vision of hope for the future. There are students from USA, Germany, Rwanda, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Johannesburg, Durban and many grassroots groups around Cape Town including Khayelitsha Environment Action Group, CAP, Vuka Africa, Happenings, Ons Plek and several other cultural groups.

The students are encouraged to teach each other and through this they learn that everyone has something special to offer. After one of the camps, local students came together in Nyanga to write down their vision of an ideal education to send to the Department of Education and to former President De Klerk.

The group learns about environment issues in the broadest sense of the word and in discussion groups they deal with issues that concern them and our future. Throughout the camp they work on a music dance and drama production, where they look at solutions to the problems that face us and search for steps that we can take to reach our ideas.

Singing is an important component of the camps, one recent group jointly made up a song called “We want a living education” for a performance. During the camp, youth are also taught to build their own musical instruments, such as the Mozambican Valimba music instrument with traditional tuning and calabash sound boxes.

Students learn yoga, massage, agriculture, horse riding, and even learn to build fences. They work on the mud and cow dung walls of the camp kitchen and learn crafts such as pottery, panpipes and paper making. During the camp, everyone cooperates together to cook meals and create a rural youth center for others to enjoy. In the evenings, everyone teaches each other their languages, dances, songs, drum rhythms and try to understand cultural differences and similarities.

At the end of each camp, each group performs in the community and in Cape town, providing a powerful experience for the group as well as the audiences.

“Yesterday’s practices will not provide the solutions we need for tomorrow. We need to start now, and start with today’s students to equip them with a leadership typified by a deeper commitment to values, a broader awareness of world issues, and finally the skills and the will to put it all into action. With these type of leaders, there is hope to accomplish sustainable development.”

*Source: AIESEC Youth Action Guide on SD*

**International Traineeship Exchange Programme**

It was with the objectives of fostering international understanding and cooperation, providing international transfer of management skills, and giving students the opportunity to interact with students from other countries, that the International Traineeship Exchange programme (ITEP) was started. When 83 students went on traineeships in 1948 it was with these objectives in mind.
Today AIESEC offers several thousands of students and companies this experience of internationalism. Although our activities are now much broader the objectives have not changed. One of the most relevant aspects of the AIESEC experience is the opportunity students have to learn about cultures other than their own. Together with the development of personal skills AIESEC and the exchange programme offer students the unique opportunity to prepare themselves to be skilled, responsible and aware managers and leaders of tomorrow. Students who have the opportunity to work in a foreign country have a head start when it comes to thinking beyond their national boundaries.

The exchange programme itself has developed over the years and as the environment around us has changed we have strived to keep abreast so as to remain relevant. Since our beginning in 1948 where students were exchanged manually we have developed our exchange programme to a point where we now make use of a computer system which matches students to companies based on criteria set out by each. This method ensures quality in the programme by matching only those students and companies that are best suited for each other. As we move forward we continuously examine our exchange programme in order to not only give as many students as possible the opportunity to experience foreign traineeship but also to strive to have the highest possible level of quality for each traineeship. There are also other opportunities whereby students can go abroad and gain valuable experience. Right now we are looking into cooperation with other exchange organizations so that we can maximize our impact. The interaction of students of different nations is the primary goal and we see it as our duty to find all possible ways in which we can achieve this goal.

The benefits which students gain from being involved in the exchange programme are extensive. Benefits are also plentiful for companies taking part in the programme. They are given the opportunity to receive skilled and motivated individuals, who can provide valuable perspectives to their business and eventually become a permanent employee.

With so many issues facing individuals in this fast changing world of ours, the exchange of ideas and interaction between the youth is a key to better understanding between the leaders of tomorrow. Our nations are going to need people who appreciate the importance of cooperation on a global level. AIESEC prepares the youth for these challenging roles in the future and through the exchange programme students can get the practical benefits that will stand them in good stead now and in the future.
ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Communicating electronically through computers has become an important method of networking for organizations. The sharing of information and communicating among organizations and individuals is a key component of working for sustainable development. Electronic mail or E-mail is a fairly inexpensive way to communicate at a local, national, regional and international level. The biggest stumbling block is that the equipment needed can represent a large financial investment for youth organizations: you need at least a computer, a modem, communications software and a telephone connection. One of the advantages is that E-mail is perhaps the most uncontrolled method of communication, and information is able to pass more freely and quickly than through regular mail channels. Using electronic mail, can sound complicated and intimidating, but the fact is that computers are becoming more “user friendly”. Once you begin using e-mail you will discover how much easier and effective communicating with others becomes.

E-mail provides NGO’s with the opportunity to obtain up to date information on environmental, peace, international development, women, news on particular countries and issues, and a variety of other social justice issues. A group in Costa Rica, for example, can call for international support and the organization of a campaign on an issue affecting their country, within minutes, people in Germany, Japan, Kenya, can receive the information and respond. It can be a tool for youth around the world to support each other’s work and the building of solidarity around particular issues.

The International Women’s Tribune Centre in New York, (see Directories) produced a great information package on computer networking. The following information is based on excerpts from that package.

How to get started: THE COMPUTER!

What are the components of a computer?

- **CPU** - (pronounced as separate letters) or central processing unit: this is the brain of the computer which performs the computer’s calculations.

- **floppy disk** - a round disk with a coating like that of a cassette for recording music on which computer information is stored. The disk is inside a square plastic case. Disks are inserted into a slot (called the disk drive) in the CPU where the computer can read the information.

- **hardware** - the physical components of a computer system, such as the monitor, CPU, printer or keyboard.

- **keyboard** - like a typewriter with some extra keys, this is how you communicate with the computer-tell it what to type or compute.

- **monitor** - (sometimes called the screen): The screen where the computer displays what you’re typing.

- **printer** - prints documents from the computer onto paper. There are several types of printers, including daisy wheel, dot matrix, ink jet and laser printers. Each uses a different process.

- **mouse** - a small box attached to the computer with a cord that is used to move items on the screen or to draw.
Programme, application or software - instructions relating to certain functions like typing or financial management that tell the computer what to do. Some common types of programs are word processing programs (like Word Perfect or Word Star), spreadsheets (like Lotus or Excel), databases (like Dbase or Q&A), or page layout (like Pagemaker or QuarkXpress). Programs are often stored on floppy disks.

With this basic equipment you can do a lot of things! You can: write reports and letters, create and maintain a mailing list for a newsletter or members of your group, create budgets and keep track of finances, produce a newsletter or bulletin, organize a Resource Centre and store information about books, periodicals, etc., initiate contact with groups or individuals and reply to letters using personalized form letters.

Networking through e-mail
Electronic Mail or “E-mail” for short

There are a lot of organizations which have begun using electronic mail as a basic means of communication, particularly NGO's. Using E-mail opens up many opportunities to contact youth halfway across world who are working on the same things you are working on.

E-mail or Electronic mail is messages sent from computer to computer over phone lines. The messages can be anything that can be written in words and numbers (even graphics can be sent). You can use electronic communication to link computers between one place and another, in the same town or on the other side of the world. The link is made by connecting a computer with a modem to a direct dial telephone. The modem calls another computer, allowing the computers to exchange information. You can reach any computer anywhere as long as it is attached to a phone line and has a modem.

Sending E-mail is fairly simple, and the more you do it, the easier it gets! There are many different E-mail systems, but the basic process is the same.

1. Create the message
You type your message or document on your computer using a normal work processing program. You save the message into simple text (usually ASCII or “text” format).

2. Log on:
You load the communications software. You indicate to the computer the number of the computer or network you want to reach and the software tells the modem which number to dial. The process is just like dialing a telephone, only instead of you dialing numbers, the computer gives the number to the modem which dials for you. You can either dial direct to another computer or you might dial an electronic communication network.

3. Post your message:
When your modem has successfully reached the computer you're calling, you give instructions to the computer to send or “upload” the message that you typed to the computer. If you are using an electronic communication network, you type in the electronic address of the person to whom you want to send the message. Once this is done, you can leave the system.

4. Receiving the message:
The message you sent is now waiting in the “mailbox” of the recipient's
computer to be read at their convenience. The recipient can transfer or "download" the message for reading, printing or editing. She or he could also write a reply and send it back to you using the same steps.

Why e-mail?
To send messages electronically, you need a telephone line and a modem. A fax is more expensive than a modem but doesn't require a computer, so why use e-mail?

E-mail is usually faster.
When you send information electronically, it travels at much faster rates. A one-page fax might take several minutes because it needs to convert the information from paper to an electronic form while the same text sent via e-mail (already in electronic form) takes under a minute.

E-mail is often cheaper.
Because the information travels faster, you spend less time on the line and you can usually link into international networks with a local call rather than using long distance.

E-mail is more personal.
Because you are sending messages directly to someone, rather than actually printing out a letter, the exchange tends to be more personal, more like a personal note than a letter.

E-mail encourages collaboration.
When you send a message via e-mail, it is in electronic form. That means that the person who receives the message can edit or make comments or changes directly on their computer and then send it back.

Some of the terms you will need to know when using e-mail are:

communications software - an application or program that tells the computer how to communicate with other computers. Some common programs include ProComm, Microphone and Red Ryder.

conference - sometimes called electronic notice boards, a conference is a collection of messages related to a particular topic, e.g. women or peace, and is where people post and reply to messages about that topic.

download - to retrieve a file from a distant computer and store it on your own.

logging on - connecting to a computer network.

modem - (MOE-dem) a device that lets computers talk to each other over phone lines (you also need communications software). The name is short for modulator-demodulator.

network - two or more computers connected to share information.

on-line - on or actively connected to a computer or computer network.

off-line - not actively connected to a computer or computer network. For example, you might work on a file off-line and log (go on-line) onto an electronic mail system to send it.

upload - to send a file to a distant computer from your own computer.
MAKING CONTACT WITH NETWORKS
Although you can dial directly from one computer to another to send and receive electronic messages, it is often more feasible to use an electronic communication network. These networks are more like post offices and bulletin boards than telephones and can put you in touch with all other people who are members of the network. Often network members work in similar areas, like peace or environment or may be the same types of organization, e.g. research institutions or universities. The networks offer services to their members, including e-mail, bulletin boards, conferences and access to data bases and are all interconnected. There are a number of commercial and non commercial networks that operate worldwide. Those that are not commercial offer low rates and are used widely by NGOs and individuals.

Some global networks are...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Association for Progressive Communications (APC)</th>
<th>Internet</th>
<th>CGNET Services International</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APC is a partnership of member networks dedicated to providing low cost services for individuals and organizations working for the environment, peace, development, health and the public interest. Approximately 14,000 subscribers in over 90 countries.</td>
<td>Internet began as a network of university and research institutions. It now has an estimated 20 million members worldwide, including governments, business, and the public</td>
<td>This network connects over 200 international agricultural research institutions in over 60 countries. Provides technical services, products and support services to research centers in developing countries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How to get started with e-mail...
Besides a computer, a modem and a communications software, you will need an account that will be your subscription to a network. Everyone that uses e-mail has an account name which serves as an ID to be able to access your e-mail account. It would be a good idea that you contact others who use e-mail in your community. Talk to others and ask whether they are using computers and e-mail. You might be able to share a computer with a group that already has a computer and modem. You might also contact...

the country office of an international organization like the Ford Foundation or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These organizations often use e-mail to contact their offices in other countries.

the local phone company. Often someone there knows a lot about networks because in some places the phone company has to approve the modems that are in use.

the APC electronic communication network closest to you.

your national university. Many university librarians are involved in electronic communications and might be able to give you some ideas. The computer science department may host an Internet connection which you can use.

NGOs that have computers in your country or region.
CONTACTS & RESOURCES...

APC
Association for Progressive Communications: network nodes & addresses

Australia
Pegasus Networks
P. O. Box 424
The Epicentre
Border Str.
Byron Bay 2481
NSW Australia
Tel: 61-66-8-56789,
Fax: 61-66-8-56962
e-mail: support@peg.apc.org

Brazil
**APC Secretariat**
Altemex
c/o IBASE
Rua Vicente de Souza, 29
22251 Rio de Janeiro
Brazil
Tel: 55-21-286-0348,
Fax: 55-21-286-0541
e-mail: suporte@ax.apc.org

Canada
The Web
Nirv Centre
401 Richmond Street, Suite 104
Toronto, Ontario
MSV 3A8
Canada
Tel: 416-592-0212,
Fax: 416-974-9189
e-mail: support@web.apc.org

Nicaragua
Nicarao
Apartado 3516
CRIES
Iglesia Carmen
1 cuadra al lago
Managua, Nicaragua
Tel: 505-2-26-228,
Fax: 505-2-26-180
e-mail:support@ni.apc.org

Sweden
NordNet
Huvudskardsvaegen 13 nb.
S-121 54 Johannesshow
Sweden
Tel: 46-8-600-0331,
Fax: 46-8-600-0443
e-mail:support@pns.apc.org

UK
GreenNet
23 Bevenden Street
London N1 6BH
UK
Tel: 44-71-608-3040,
Fax: 44-71-253-0801
e-mail:support@gn.apc.org

USA
Institute for Global Communications
PeaceNet/EcoNet/ConflictNet
18 de Boom Street
San Francisco, CA
94107 USA
Tel: 415-442-0220,
Fax: 415-546-1794
e-mail:support@igc.apc.org

A good idea before beginning to use E-mail is to familiarize yourself with it by reading books such as:

Burkhard Luber. Jon Carpenter Publishing, P. O. Box 129, Oxford OX1 4PH, UK.£7.99 plus postage £1.00 in UK, £1.50 overseas.

Written in simple jargon-free language, this book gives practical and useful information on using e-mail including useful addresses and publications as well as simple advice on how to use networks, how to send and receive electronic mail and participate in 'conferences'.


Considered by many to be the "primer" on Internet: an invaluable book for beginners and experts.

WHAT YOU CAN FIND ON THE INTERNET...

The Internet can give you access to a wide range of information resources: databases, mailing lists, interactive discussion areas, important documents. Your Internet services provider (usually, the computer services department at your university, or a commercial service) can help you access the following resources oriented to youth issues and sustainable development action.

SEAC-L
This is a "listserv": a regular bulletin of information e-mailed regularly to your own e-mail address. This list is for members of local chapters of the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) in the United States, and for
students interested in forming chapters of SEAC on their campuses. Topics include action as taken by local chapters, coordination of national efforts, and bulletins of scientific interest on environmental topics. To receive a list- serv, send an e-mail message to the address: LISTSERV@UGA.BITNET. Leave the subject line blank and write 'subscribe seac-1 [Your Name]' (without quotes or square brackets) in your message.

nlns.news; unep.nyu.youth; dev.youth
These three resources are computer conferences, accessible on Econet, the US node of the APC electronic network. Internet users can access Econet through the IGC “gopher”: gopher://gopher.igc.apc.org.

nlns.news: The New Liberation News Service (NLNS) is an independent, youth-oriented, progressive newswire serving over 200 community media outlets in 40 states in the USA, four Canadian provinces and a variety of international locales.

unep.nyu.youth: This is a forum for youth and educators to participate in discussions of the world’s environmental future.

devo.youth: Discussions about the youth program Beyond UNCED.

Campus Earth Summit Home Page
"Home Pages" (or World Wide Web, or W3) are sites on the Internet which provide access to information using “hypertext”: a way of organizing documents in a very user friendly manner, combined with graphics, and links to other resources.

This Home Page posts the information about the first Campus Earth Summit, held at Yale University during February 18-20, 1994 which gathered students, faculty and administrators from campuses in 50 states and 20 countries to draft a Campus Blueprint for a Sustainable Future. You will find in this Home Page: Campus Blueprint for a Sustainable Future (the outcome document of the Summit); speakers at the Summit; the “Brown is Green” Program on the campus of Brown University; Environmental Studies mailing list hosted by Brown University; Recycle mailing list hosted by University of Maryland; and Internet Environmental Resources. Provider: Brown University (RI, USA). Access: http://netspace.students.brown.edu/environ/earthnet/earthsum.html

Campus EarthNet World Wide Web Server
Campus EarthNet promotes sound environmental practices and education on college and university campuses across the world. EarthNet began as a follow-up effort to the Campus Earth Summit. EarthNet is a joint project of the Center for Environmental Citizenship and the “Brown is Green” Program at Brown University, and is sponsored by the Heinz Family Foundation. As of February 1995, EarthNet is in an early pilot phase. Provider: Brown University (RI, U.S.A.). Access: http://netspace.students.brown.edu/environ/earthnet

UN Voices of Youth
The UN Voices of Youth Web Site was established for youth from around the world to voice their opinions on the World Summit for Social Development. Sponsored by UNICEF and supported by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, this World Wide Web site gave an opportunity for young people worldwide to send their views to the world leaders who attended the March 1995 World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. At this site you will find information on the Social Summit;
how young people have become involved; you can read messages from youth around the world sent to world leaders, and view the responses of the leaders.

IISDnet
The International Institute for Sustainable Development has created a “hub” for sustainable development information on the Internet, using the World Wide Web. Through this hub, IISD is delivering the principles and practices of sustainability which should underlay our daily lives. On IISDnet you will find information on what’s new in sustainable development; Linkages — global negotiations on environment and development, which includes the Earth Negotiations Bulletin; the Sourcebase on Sustainable Development — a database of key information resources to use in sustainable development research, planning, and action; reports and summaries of IISD’s work and the work of its partners; and connections to the best sustainable development sites on the information highway.
Access: http://iisd1.iisd.ca

RESOURCE MATERIALS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

Blueprint for a Green Economy: I, II, III and IV
Written by David Pearce, et al.
Published by Earthscan Publications, 120 Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JN, UK.

- These highly readable publications examine alternatives to the current capitalist concept of development, from an economist's perspective.

The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power
Compiled by Wolfgang Sachs, Published in 1992 by Zed Books

- This series of articles by a number of writers is one of the best introductions to different development perspectives. It discusses concepts such as the Nation-state, Technology, Poverty, Science, etc.

Dictionary of Environment and Development - People, Places, Ideas and Organizations
Written by Andy Crump
Published in 1991 by Earthscan Publications Ltd.,
120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN, UK

- This unique resource is a dictionary of many terms and names associated with sustainable development. It serves as a guide to acronyms, organizations, treaties, events, physical phenomena and the people involved in the subject; and also to many of the ideas that lie behind environment and development.

The GAIA Atlas of Cities: New Directions for Sustainable Urban Living
Written by Herbert Girardot
Published in 1993 by First Anchor Books, New York, NY, USA

- This graphic and fast-paced atlas offers ideas of international scope on sustainable urban living for everyone from policy-makers to individual citizens.
Global Development and Environment: Has Humankind a Future?
Compiled and published in 1988 by the Asian-Pacific Peoples Environment Network/Sahabat Alam (Friends of the Earth), 43 Salween Road, 10050 Penang, Malaysia

- This volume is a compilation of essays by authors from the North and South. It raises the concerns of the South on development, environment, and survival.

Our Common Future
Prepared by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), Palais Wilson, 52 rue des Paquis, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland
Published in 1987 by the Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP, UK

- This is the Report presented by the WCED, headed by Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway, to the United Nations. Its task was to re-examine the critical environment and development problems on the planet and to formulate realistic proposals to solve them, and to ensure that human progress would be sustained through development without bankrupting the resources of future generations.

Our Own Agenda
Compiled by the UNDP Latin American and Caribbean Commission on Development and Environment
Published in 1990 by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), New York

- This report summarizes the most important topics in terms of environment and development in the region.

Rescue Mission Planet Earth: a children’s edition of Agenda 21
Compiled by Children’s Task Force on Agenda 21 and Peace Child International

- Includes contributions from about 10,000 kids in 100 countries. The book deals with problems and solutions, and the role of young people.

State of the World Series (1989 to date)
Compiled by the Worldwatch Institute
Published by W.W.Norton & Co., New York

- The State of the World Series produced by the Worldwatch Institute includes extensive research on the implications of and possible solutions to a range of environmental issues globally. Each year the theme of the series varies and presents a collection of informative and highly readable articles from a number of perspectives and opinions.

Whose Common Future? Reclaiming the Commons
By The Ecologist magazine, Jul/Aug 1992
Available from MIT Press Journals, 55 Hayward Street, Cambridge, MA 02142, USA. Published in 1993 by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0, Canada

- This special issue of The Ecologist magazine provides an explanation of the world’s accelerating environmental crisis. It is an examination of the current environmental crisis from the dismantling of the commons, resources shared and regulated by the communities that depend on them.

ECO-ACTIVISM:

Dictionary of the Environment
Written by Michael Allaby

- This publication provides definitions for thousands of terms, names, phenomena, concepts and philosophies related to the environment. “New entries in this dictionary cover legislation, institutions, radiation protection, environmental incidents, and recently recognized problems such as acid rain.” (Dictionary of the Environment, Michael Allaby)
Ecofeminism
Written by Marias Mies and Vandana Shiva
Published in 1992 by Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, UK

- A collaboration between a woman from the North and a woman from the South which provides an introductory look at the philosophy and practice of ecofeminism, ecology from a feminist perspective.

Ecology for Beginners
Written by Stephen Croall and William Rankin
Published in 1982 by Pantheon

- This is an easy-to-read, cartoon style introduction to ecology that talks about the roots of environmental problems.

Eco-Warriors: Understanding the Radical Environmental Movement
Written by Rik Scarce
Published in 1990 by The Noble Press, Inc., 213 W. Institute Place, Suite 508, Chicago, IL 60610, USA

- "Eco-Warriors is an in-depth and movingly eloquent look at the people, the actions, the history and the philosophies behind those groups and the "radical" environmental movement. It goes behind the media stereotypes and establishment fabrications to humanize a movement fighting for the future of us all." (Eco-Warriors, Rik Scarce)

The Violence of the Green Revolution
Written by Vandana Shiva
Published in 1991 by the Third World Network, 87 Cantonment Road, 10250 Penang, Malaysia

- This book examines the impact of the first Green Revolution on the breadbasket of India. It documents the destruction of genetic diversity and soil fertility that resulted and shows how the Green Revolution also contributed to the acute social and political conflicts now tearing this region of India, as an example of the effects in other parts of the Third World.

Toward A Green Central America — Integrating Conservation and Development
Edited by Valerie Barzetti, Yanina Rovinski, The Panos Institute
Published in 1992 by Kumarian Press, Inc., 630 Oakwood Avenue, Suite 119, West Hartford, CT 06110-1529, USA

- "Barzetti and Rovinski put hard-hitting facts about Central America's growing environmental movement into a form useful to professionals, yet interesting to ordinary citizens." (Kumarian Press)

Toxic Struggles — The Theory and Practice of Environmental Justice
Edited by Richard Hofrichter
Published in 1993 by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0, Canada

- Toxic Struggles documents the fast-growing environmental justice movement led by the very people — the rural poor and city slum and barrio dweller — who suffer most from corporate pollution and government neglect.

Unless and Until: A Baha'i Focus on the Environment
Written by Arthur Lyon Dahl
Published in 1990 by the Baha'i Publishing Trust, London, UK

- This publication proposes an integrated, global approach to seeking solutions to the environmental problems facing humanity today — an approach that draws heavily on the teachings of the Baha'i faith. The author explores how the principles of the Baha'i faith shed light on the environmental crisis, drawing on both scientific principles and spiritual values in his analyses.
HUMAN RIGHTS:

Amnesty International - Yearly Reports and Monthly Bulletins
Compiled and published by Amnesty International
Available from Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton, London WC1X Gate DJ, UK

- Amnesty International's publications contain the latest reports on the human rights abuses dealt with under their mandate (refugees, political prisoners, prisoners of conscience, capital punishment, unjust trial, state violence, war crimes).

Human Rights Fact Sheets
Series published by the Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

- These fact sheets are produced by the UN in order to assist people around the world to gain a better understanding of basic human rights. They also outline what the UN is doing to promote and protect human rights.

I, Rigoberta Menchú—An Indian Woman in Guatemala
Edited by Elisabeth Burgos Debray
Published in 1983 by Verso and NLB, 6 Meard Street, London W1, UK


Ours by Right: Women's Rights as Human Rights
Edited by Joanna Kerr
Published in 1993 by Zed Books and North South Institute

- This book presents views of women on women's oppression and their battles to change their lives. It explores the approaches to advancing the rights of women as human rights and outlines the tasks ahead.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:

Strangers Devour the Land
Written by Boyce Richardson
Published in 1991 by Douglas and McIntyre Ltd., 1615 Venables Street, Vancouver, BC V5L 2H1, Canada

- Written from a native people's perspective this book documents the resistance of the Cree nation to James Bay II hydroelectric energy generation project.

Written by Julian Berger
Published by Penguin Books, 1990

- This book draws on the connections between the position of indigenous people and environmental and ecological issues: indigenous peoples are on the front-line of the ecological crisis - they are the first victims, yet they may also be humanity's hope for the future. The book provides a directory of indigenous peoples and organizations, resources and recommended reading.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

15 Development Games
Manual of games available from the World Scout Bureau, PO Box 241, 1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland

- These are resource sheets containing games aimed at creating an understanding of development. These are intended for young people from different educational and cultural backgrounds. Available in English, French and Spanish.
21st Century Africa: Towards a New Vision of Self-Sustainable Development
Edited by Ann Seidman and Frederick Anang
Published in 1992 by Africa World Press, PO Box 1892, Trenton, NJ 08607, USA

- This publication from the Africa World Press seeks to stimulate classroom and study group discussions, debates, and further research in seven key areas of African development.

Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling
Written by John Taylor Gatto
Published in 1993 by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC VOR 1X0, Canada

- Taylor Gatto investigates the way in which compulsory government schooling does little to foster true learning, imagination, creativity, and curiosity while at the same time teaching young people to follow orders instead of questioning the status quo.

Educating for a Change
Compiled by Rick Arnold, Bev Burke, Carl James, D’Arcy Martin, Barb Thomas
Co-Published in 1990 by Between the Lines, 394 Euclid Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6G 2S9, Canada and The Doris Marshall Institute for Education and Action, 818 College Street, No.3, Toronto, Ontario M6G 1C8

- "A book for educators — and anyone else interested in how education works — who agree that the time for fuzzy platitudes and top-down practices is over." (Educating for a Change, Arnold et al.)

Pedagogy of the Oppressed
Written by Paulo Freire
Published in 1970 by Continuum

- Freire, the famous Brazilian popular educator, looks at popular education as a tool for empowerment, developing a whole new basis of working with people and social analysis.

Técnicas Participativas para la Educación Popular (Participatory Techniques for Popular Education)
Written by Laura Vargas and Graciela Bustillos de Núñez
Published in 1984 by Centro de Estudios y Publicaciones, ALFORJA, Apartado 369, San Jose, Costa Rica

- This book is an incredible resource for people involved or interested in popular education. It contributes many ideas and techniques for popular education.

With Practice
Training materials available from Commonwealth Secretariat Publications, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5HX, Great Britain

- These training materials for youth cover: the learning process, learning in groups, planning training, training methods and techniques, and evaluation of training.

Workshop Manual
Compiled and published in 1990 by the Popular Education Working Group of the African National Congress and the Doris Marshall Institute for Education and Action

Youth Needs & Leads
Available from Commonwealth Secretariat Publications, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, UK.

- This publication provides a range of training materials that seek to improve people's skills and knowledge in understanding the needs of young people and appropriate ways of working with them.

MEDIA:

Media and the Environment
Edited by Craig LaMay and Everette Dennis
Published in 1992 by Island Press, Washington, DC, USA

- As a book which explores media coverage of environmental news, Media and the Environment asks questions such as: Is the environment a story in need of a new king of reporting? How can the media accurately present the international, national and local dimensions of environmental issues? Is there an inherent contradiction between media reliance on advertising and its objectivity in reporting environmental news? What role can environmental reporting play in the larger contexts of philosophy, economics, politics and culture?

Necessary Illusions: Thought Control in Democratic Societies
Written by Noam Chomsky
Published in 1989 by South End Press

- A radical approach to understanding the role of the media in creating consent on government policy.

Compiled and published by the Asian Forum of Environmental Journalists and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

- The objective of this book is to acquaint journalists with key concepts of environmental issues and environmental journalism and help them cover issues in as simple and effective a manner as possible with a view to creating environmental awareness on a broad scale.

PEACE AND DISARMAMENT:

Call to Action: A Handbook for Ecology, Peace and Justice
Edited by Brad Erikson
Published in 1990 in the USA by Sierra Club Books, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, USA

- This book offers a wide variety of information on issues including militarism, environmentalism, and other social justice issues.

Greenwar: Environment and Conflict
Written by Nafissa Abdel Rahim, et al
Published in 1990 by Panos Publications Ltd., 9 White Lion Place, London N1 9PD, UK

- "Why does the Sahel have so many famines, so many wars? This provocative book argues that the two are closely related: that environmental degradation helps cause the social tensions which lead to violence, bloodshed and vicious civil wars." (Greenwar, Abdel Rahim et al.)
Our Future at Stake
Written by Melanie Moore and Laurie Olsen and the Citizens Policy Centre
Published in 1985 by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0, Canada
Available from the Citizens Policy Center, 401-1515 Webster Street, Oakland, CA 94609, USA

- A teenager’s guide to stopping the nuclear arms race: basic information for young people wanting to become active in peace and disarmament issues.

War Wounds: Sudanese People Report on Their War
Published in 1988 by Panos Publications Ltd., 9 White Lion Street, London N1 9DP, UK

- “For the first time, Sudanese people from different sides of the political spectrum come together to tell the world about the development costs of their conflict.” (War Wounds, A. Rahman Abu Zayd Ahmed et al.)

WOMEN:

Asian and Pacific Women’s Resource and Action Series - Health
and
Asian and Pacific Women’s Resource and Action Series - Environment
Compiled and published in 1991 by the Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Pesiaram Duta, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- This excellent, graphic series offers personal stories, factual and practical information on women’s issues globally and in the Asian and Pacific region.

Gender and Tribe: Women, Land and Forests
Written by Govind Kelkar and Dev Nathan
Published in 1991 by Kali For Women, A 36 Gulmohar Park, New Delhi 110 049, India and in the U by Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, UK

- “The authors stress the importance of women overcoming their present exclusion from participation in the management of forests and the importance of this in protecting both Adivasi society and the ecological balance in this strategic part of the Indian subcontinent.” (Gender and Tribe, Govind Kelkar and Dev Nathan)

Healing the Wounds: The Promise of Ecofeminism
Written by Judith Plant
Published by New Society Publishers, Santa Cruz, California, 1989.

- Written from a feminist and ecological perspective Healing the Wounds brings together the personal, political and the spiritual; theory, practice and reflection. The book is a collection of essays, stories and poetry of twenty-five contributors.

Male Daughters, Female Husbands
Written by Ifi Amadiume
Published in 1992 by Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, UK

- This academic publication deals with the issues of gender and sex in African society.
Negotiating for Change - Debates on Women, the Environment and Sustainable Development
Prepared for INSTRAW (International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women) by Rosi Braidotti, Eva Charkiewicz-Pluta, Sabine Hansler, Saskia Wieringa
Published in 1992 by Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, UK

- The authors of this publication review current perspectives such as ecofeminism, deep ecology, and social ecology as well as alternative frameworks for approaches to women, environment and development.

Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labour
Written by Maria Mies
Published by Zed Books Ltd., London, 1986

- The author examines the social origins of the sexual division of labour, concluding that the international division of labour is based on the exploitative sexual division. Maria Mies attempts to develop a feminist perspective of a future society which would transcend the accumulation model based on the ever-expanding growth of commodities, wealth and productive forces.

Rural Woman
Compiled and published in 1991 by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, PO Box 55-2200 Coronada, Costa Rica

- This book is a photographic and written account of the rural woman's life in the Third World, in Spanish, English and French.

Staying Alive
Written by Vandana Shiva
Published in 1988 by the Third World Network, 87 Cantonment Road, 10250 Penang, Malaysia

- In this book Vandana Shiva makes the linkages between the violation of nature and the general oppression and marginalization of women. It is a cornerstone of ecofeminist thinking.

Compiled and published in 1991 by the United Nations, 1 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA

- Provides data and analysis on topics including: economic life; population; leadership and decision-making; health and child-bearing; education.

Third World - Second Sex 1
Third World - Second Sex 2
Compiled by Miranda Davies
Published in 1992 by Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, UK

- This book offers a vivid description of Women's situations in the Third World — their work, their home life, their responsibilities, their position in society.

Women and Environment in the Third World: Alliance for the Future
Written by Irene Dankelman and Joan Davidson
Published in 1988 by Earthscan Publications Ltd., London, UK.

- This book examines the role of women in the Food Crisis; as Water Managers; Women and Forests; Women's Environment of Poverty; Training Women; and Family Planning. It includes case studies and interviews.
Women and the Environment
Written by Annabel Rodda
Published in 1992 by Zed Books, 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU, UK

- This book focuses on the importance of women in relation to their environment and to development issues. It brings together material from a variety of sources, making the links between women and their role in environmental management.

Women and the World Economic Crisis
Written by Jeannie Vickers
Published in 1991 by Zed Books

- This book looks at the consequences of the economic crisis in the South and the periodic recession in the North over the lives of millions of women. It includes case studies on Ghana, Jamaica, Mexico, the Philippines and Zambia.

HEALTH:

Action for Youth: AIDS Training Manual
Produced by the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (LRCRCS) and World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). Available from LRCRCS, PO Box 372, 1221 Geneva 19, Switzerland or WOSM, PO Box 241, 1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland.

- This manual was produced to train youth workers about HIV and AIDS. Its aim is to motivate the youth worker to continue to learn and use the ideas presented to carry out AIDS health promotion within their own groups.

Aids and the Third World
Compiled by the Panos Institute
Published in 1993 by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0, Canada

- This book “describes the incidence of the virus around the world and discusses its likely impact on the already fragile economies and health care services of developing countries.” (Fall 1993 Catalogue, New Society Publishers)

Asian and Pacific Women’s Resource and Action Series - Health
Compiled and published in 1992 by the Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Pesiarian Duta, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- This excellent, graphic handbook offers personal stories, factual and practical information on women’s health issues globally and in the Asia and Pacific region.

Close to Home - World Women Reconnect Ecology, Health, and Development
Edited by Vandana Shiva
Published in 1993 by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0, Canada

- Written by women from all over the world, this book is all about “recognizing that our health depends on the health of our environment and communities.” (Fall 1993 Catalogue, New Society Publishers)

Our Planet, Our Health: Report of the WHO Commission on Health and Environment
Compiled and published in 1992 by the World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland

- This book is an analysis of the links between the health of the earth as a whole and people’s health. “This report, produced by an independent commission appointed by the Director-General of the World Health Organization, is an attempt to give health its rightful place at the centre of the discussion about the environment and development.” (Our Planet, Our Health, World Health Organization)
Where There Is No Doctor: A Village Health-Care Handbook
Written by David Werner
Published in 1977 by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, 970 San Marcelino St., Manila, Philippines.

- Practical advice on how to stay healthy in rural communities and how to cope with common ailments. In simple language the book gives instructions on home cures that use local resources like medicinal plants. It also teaches how to deal with medical emergencies "where there is no doctor".

POPULATION:

Beyond the Limits: Confronting Global Collapse, Envisioning a Sustainable Future.
Written by Donella H. Meadows, Dennis Meadows and Jorgen Rander
Published in 1992 by McClelland & Stewart

- This book is an update of The Limits to Growth (see below), addressing key issues of population growth and sustainable development.

Population, Resources and the Environment: The Critical Challenges
Prepared by the UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
Published in 1991 by the UNFPA, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, New York 10017, USA

- "This book acknowledges that population, resource and environmental issues are linked in complex ways and at different levels of development. It is the aim of this study to identify, define, clarify and evaluate the linkages among population, resources and environment." (Population, Resources and the Environment, UNFPA)

The Limits to Growth
Written by Donella H. Meadows, Dennis L. Meadows, Jorgen Randers, William W. Behrens III
Published in 1972 by Universe Books, Publishers, USA

- This predecessor to current ideas on sustainable development is written by a team of scientists from the Michigan Institute of Technology (MIT). It details the future of our planet if human growth continues at its present rate and in its present form.

POVERTY:

Against All Odds - Breaking the Poverty Trap
Written by Multiple Authors (Project Coordinator: Donatus De Silva)
Published in 1989 by Panos Institute Publications
Available from the Panos Institute, 1409 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, USA or from Seven Locks Press, PO Box 27 Cabin John, MD 20818, USA

- "People survive and they do better than that. They struggle against despair and overcome the poverty into which they were born." (Against All Odds, Donatus De Silva)

Aid As Obstacle: Twenty Questions About Our Foreign Aid and the Hungry
Written by Frances Moore Lappe, Joseph Collins and David Kinley
Published in 1980 by Food First, Institute for Food and Development Policy, 1885 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, USA

- This book contains useful questions and answers about the USA's foreign aid policies and the hungry throughout the world.
Banking the Unbankable: Bringing Credit to the Poor
Written by Ibrahuma Bakhoum et al.
Published in 1989 by Panos Publications Ltd., 8 Alfred Place, London WC1E 7EB, UK

- "How can the poor of the Third World get ahead? Poverty forces many into the debt trap where they remain for life. Credit is vital if they are to fight back. Yet it seldom reaches the poor because they lack the collateral to raise loans... However, effective credit schemes are slowly improving the quality of people's lives and of the environment in which they live. This book analyses 11 credit schemes in Asia, Africa and Latin America." (Banking the Unbankable, Bakhoum et al.)

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: The BRAC Strategy
Written by Catherine H. Lovell
Published in 1992 by Kumarian Press, Inc., 630 Oakwood Avenue, Suite 119, West Hartford, CT 06110-1529, USA. Tel: +1-203-953-0214.

- "Lovell outlines BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee)'s management strategies, innovative approaches to income generating projects, non-formal education, and cooperation between government organizations and village groups." (Fall/Winter 1992/1993 catalogue, Kumarian Press)

Food for Beginners
Written by Susan George and Nigel Paige
Published by Writers & Readers

- An excellent easy-to-read, cartoon style introduction to the politics of food. Many answers are given to today's questions on hunger and starvation in a world of plenty.

Lords of Poverty: The Power, Prestige and Corruption of the International Aid Business
Written by Graham Hancock
Published in 1989 by Atlantic Monthly Press

- A harsh critic of official aid organizations. "A compelling expose... an engrossing litany from the seamy underside of the aid business" (Wall Street Journal)

Strengthening the Poor: What Have We Learned?
Written by John P. Lewis and Contributors
Published in 1992 by the Overseas Development Council

- The issue of poverty alleviation — of strengthening the poor — is now being brought back toward the top of the development policy agenda. This book contains chapters on development in terms of strengthening the poor.

The Hunger Machine
Written by Jon Bennett with Susan George (based on the CBC television series The Politics of Food)
Published in 1987 by CBC Enterprises, PO Box 500, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1E6, Canada

- "Charity is not the relevant virtue for fighting hunger... That virtue is justice, because charity can never be more than a stop-gap — it does not and cannot change unjust structures." (Introduction to The Hunger Machine, Susan George)

The Third World Tomorrow: A Report From the Battlefront in the War Against Poverty
and
Inside the Third World
Written by Paul Harrison
Published in 1980 and 1979, respectively, by the Penguin Group, UK

- This book is a collection of mini-essays by the author on many aspects of current issues in the Third World, from a Northern perspective.
The Trade Trap - Poverty and the Global Commodity Markets
Written by Belinda Coote
Published in 1992 in the UK and Ireland by Oxfam, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ, UK

- This book analyzes the role of global institutions and current economic trends in creating the “trade trap” which attempts to keep the Third World without the means to be self-sustaining.

World Hunger - 10 Myths
Written by Frances Moore Lappe and Joseph Collins
Published in 1979 by Food First, the Institute for Food and Development Policy, 1885 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, USA

- “There is plenty of food in the world and every country has the resources necessary to feed its people. Yet from Guatemala to Bangladesh, hundreds of millions of people go hungry.” (World Hunger - 10 Myths, Frances Moore and Joseph Collins)

NATURAL RESOURCES:

Damming The Three Gorges: What Dam-Builders Don’t Want You To Know
Edited by Grainne Ryder
Published in 1990 by Probe International, 225 Brunswick Avenue, Toronto, ON M5S 2M6, Canada

- This book is a critique of the building of the Three Gorges Dam in China.

Economics, Natural-Resource Scarcity and Development - Conventional and Alternative Views
Written by Edward B. Barbier
Published in 1989 by Earthscan Publications, UK

- This publication outlines conventional and alternative views on the scarcity and distribution of natural resources. Emphasis is placed on finding solutions to render resource distribution more environmentally sound and socially just.

Energy Update — Oil in the Late Twentieth Century
Written by Michael Tanzer and Stephen Zorn
Published in 1985 by Monthly Review Press

- “A valuable, timely analysis of the continuing worldwide conflict over the control of oil” Dr. Barry Commoner.

Genetic Resources - Our Forgotten Treasure
Written by Daniel Querol, Casilla 2715, Managua, Nicaragua
Published in 1992 by the Third World Network, 87 Cantonment Road, 10250 Penang, Malaysia

- In this book some of the basic concepts and the economic and political importance of genetic resources are described within a technical and economic framework for Third World peasants and scientists.

Global Biodiversity — Status of the Earth’s Living Resources
Compiled by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre
Published in 1992 by Chapman & Hall, 2-6 Boundary Row, London SE1 8HN, UK

- From a people-centered point of view, this large volume provides “the first systematic report on the status, distribution, management, and utilization of the planet’s biological wealth.” (Global Biodiversity, World Conservation Monitoring Centre)
Global Warming — The Greenpeace Report
Edited by Jeremy Leggett
Published in 1990 by the Oxford University Press, for Greenpeace Communications Ltd.

- This report contains chapters written by experienced and environmentally concerned scientists and energy analysts from around the world. It "outlines the urgent measures that policymakers ought to be asking our governments to adopt if we are to escape what could be the most serious threat our planet has ever faced." (Global Warming, Greenpeace Communications)

In the Rainforest — Report from a Strange, Beautiful, Imperiled World
Written by Catherine Caufield
Published in 1986 by the University of Chicago Press

- This is not just your everyday "save the forest" book; it has an insight into concepts of ecology not always seen and adds depth to arguments against "modern" development.

Return to the Good Earth - Damaging Effects of Modern Agriculture and The Case For Ecological Farming
Compiled and published in 1990 by the Third World Network, 87 Cantonment Road, 10250 Penang, Malaysia

- This is a compilation of articles analyzing and describing the effects of and alternatives to large-scale, mechanized agriculture.

The Greenhouse Trap — What We’re Doing to the Atmosphere and How We Can Slow Global Warming
Written by Francesca Lyman, with Irving Mintzer, Kathleen Courrier, and James MacKenzie
Published in 1990 by Beacon Press, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108-2800, USA, for the World Resources Institute

- This is a guide on the issues surrounding global warming and on how US citizens can help slow global warming.

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS:

BBC
British Broadcasting Corporation
BC Training Videos
Woodlands
80 Wood Lane
London W12 0TT
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-81-576-2361
Fax: +44-81-749-2867

- The BBC has produced a number of documentaries dealing with environmental issues.

CBC
Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
PO Box 500, Station A
Toronto, ON M5W 1E6
Canada
Tel: +416-975-3311

CBC produces several series and special broadcasts that deal with natural history, culture, and development.
FIRE  
Feminist International Radio Endeavor  
c/o WINGS  
PO Box 5307  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
USA  
Tel: +816-361-7161

OR

c/o Radio For Peace International  
Apartado 88  
Santa Ana, Costa Rica  
Tel: +506-49-1821  
Fax: +506-49-1929

Radio Frequency:  
1800,000 and 0600 UTC (Universal Coordinated Time)  
21.465 MHz  
13.630 MHz  
7.375 MHz  
(Note: Not all frequencies operate at all times.)

- FIRE began broadcasting May 1st 1991, one hour a day in magazine format on Radio For Peace International, an independent short-wave radio station located in Costa Rica. This Feminist radio program will give women worldwide a voice to speak out on all issues, from Sexuality to Agriculture, from Politics to Medicine, Education and Demilitarization.

PBS  
Public Broadcasting System  
1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1698  
USA

- PBS produces several series and specials on environmental issues.

Radio For Peace International  
Apartado 88  
Santa Ana, Costa Rica  
Tel: +506-49-1821  
Fax: +506-49-1929

OR

PO Box 10869-B  
Eugene, Oregon 97440  
USA  
Tel: +503-741-1794  
Fax: +503-741-1279

- Radio For Peace International is a non-profit organization that operates a worldwide short-wave radio station, broadcasting from Costa Rica to the world seven days a week. It broadcasts in English, Spanish, German, and French on topics dealing with peace and justice.

The One World Group of Broadcasters  
c/o NDR/ARD  
Gazellenkamp 57  
200 Hamburg 54  
FRG  
Tel: +40-41-56-42-30  
Fax: +40-560-45-79  
Telex: 211-489

- One World is an international group of public television organizations in 84 countries which have come together to co-produce programs on environment, development, and world peace.
- Television Trust for the Environment is an editorially independent trust co-sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme, Central Television (UK), and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF). TVE has produced over 100 television programs, distributes thousands of video cassettes and regularly updates information on the latest programs.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Palais des Nations
CH - 1211 Geneva
Switzerland

- UNDP produces videos on general development activities, environment, water and sanitation, and technical cooperation among developing countries. UNDP has co-produced various programs with TVE. Videos are distributed by UNDP Division of Information (address listed under UN Bodies).

ORGANIZING STRATEGIES:

50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth
Compiled by the EarthWorks Group
Published in 1990 by EarthWorks Press, Berkeley, California, USA

- This publication provides information on what individuals can do to combat specific environmental problems faced in urban, industrialized settings. Although the book is directed specifically to an American middle class audience, there is enough information of value for concerned urban dwellers throughout the world.

A Manual for Group Facilitators
Compiled by the Center for Conflict Resolution
Published in 1993 by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0, Canada

- This is a working manual for learning to communicate well, to plan meetings effectively, to solve problems creatively, to deal with conflict well and to move groups towards the fulfillment of their own goals.

Approaching Youth Policy
Available from Commonwealth Secretariat Publications, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, Great Britain.

- Part of a Cross Reference Series, this publication covers the main background issues to be addressed when considering youth policy development, including: access, power, class, gender, race, social structure, economy, work and education.

Compiled by the Center for Conflict Resolution
Published in 1993 by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0, Canada

- This guide to techniques and approaches is designed to help groups reach towards unity and fully participatory decision-making.

Campus Ecology
Written by April A. Smith and SEAC (Student Environmental Action Coalition)
Published in 1993 by Living Planet Press
Available from SEAC, PO Box 1168, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, USA. Tel: +919-967-4600

- A guide to assessing environmental quality and creating strategies for change on university campuses in the USA, yet it can be relevant for other countries.
**Democratizing Development: The Role of Voluntary Organizations**  
Written by John Clark  
Published in 1991 by Kumarian Press, Inc., 630 Oakwood Avenue, Suite 119, West Hartford, Connecticut 06110-1529, USA  
- “A wealth of practical guidance on how voluntary organizations can reshape local, national, global development.” (Democratizing Development, David C. Korten)

**Freedom from Debt - Peoples Movements Against the Debt: Education-Action Guide**  
Compiled and published in 1992 by Ten Days for World Development Group, 88 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1M8, Canada. Tel: +416-922-0591.  
- A brief history of several movements of people seeking to break free from the cycle of Third World debt. It also outlines steps for dealing with debt, from a grassroots perspective.

**Global Ecology Handbook**  
Written by Walter H. Corson for the Global Tomorrow Coalition, 1325 G Street NW/915, Washington, DC 20005-3014, USA  
Published in 1990 by Beacon Press, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108-2800, USA  
- This volume contains information on and suggestions for active efforts for change in many of the main areas of sustainable development. It covers everything from non-fuel resources, to militarism, to population growth, to solid waste management.

**It's Our Move Now: A Community Actions Guide to the UN Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women**  
Produced by the International Women's Tribune Centre  
Available from the UN Dept. of Public Information, DPI/DESI, Rm 5-1061, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA (English, French, Spanish, Arabic)  
- Intended to increase the understanding and awareness of the existence of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women document, to provide suggestions for using this document in an active and activist manner, to provide women with background information to help them develop campaigns to enforce the recommendations, and to be used along with the official document.

**L'Action En Marche — Guide Pratique**  
Produced and published in 1991 by UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), Switzerland  
Available from UNICEF regional offices.  
- This brief guidebook includes a comprehensive directory of hundreds of youth organizations and an overview of international issues concerning children and youth. It is available in Spanish, English, or French.

**On the Move Action Kit: Youth NGO World Initiative for Children**  
Produced by UNICEF in collaboration with youth NGOs.  
Available from UNICEF, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
- This kit and training manual is a follow-up to the Youth NGO Initiative for Children supported by UNICEF held in Geneva in September 1990. It includes information in the areas of Environment, Health, Structural Adjustment, Education, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Social Mobilization. Available in English, French, and Spanish.

**Pioneers of Change: Living Experiments For A Humane Future**  
Written by Jeremy Seabrook  
Published in 1993 by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0, Canada  
- This book “tells the stories of an amazing array of coherent, sustainable and already existing alternatives to destructive industrialism.” The stories are those of the recipients of the Right Livelihood Award — the ‘alternative Nobel Prize’.”
Relentless Persistence: Nonviolent Action in Latin America
Edited by Phillip McManus and Gerald Schlbach, foreword by Leonardo Boff
Published in 1993 by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0, Canada

"From the cement workers in Brazil who struck for 12 years for the right to organize, to
the hunger strike of four women in Bolivia which eventually brought down a government,
to peasants reclaiming their land in the Honduras, here are documented stories of ordinary
women and men using their courage and creativity on developing effective strategies of
nonviolent resistance." (Fall 1993 Catalogue, New Society Publishers)

Resource Manual For A Living Revolution
Written by Virginia Coover, Ellen Deacon, Charles Esser and Christopher Moore
Published in 1993 by New Society Publishers, PO Box 189, Gabriola Island, BC V0R 1X0, Canada

- This manual is a reference and resource book for those working for fundamental social
change from a holistic, nonviolent perspective.

Earthscan Action Handbook for People & Planet
Written by Miles Litvinoff
Published in 1990 by Earthscan Publications Ltd., 120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN, UK.

- This book deals with one of the major problems people and the planet now face: meeting
the human needs of health, education and social justice as well as the environmental needs
of our dying lakes and forests, polluted seas, threatened habitats and endangered species.
It gives details of who to contact, what to read and where to search for information.

The Greening of Aid: Sustainable Livelihoods in Practice
Edited by Czech Conroy and Miles Litvinoff
Published by Earthscan Publications
120 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JN

- This book shows the type of development that allows people to control their own
resources while improving their condition and enhancing the environment. It contains a
series of case studies from agriculture, fishing and industry.

The Recycler’s Handbook: Simple Things You Can Do
Prepared by the EarthWorks Group
Published in 1990 by EarthWorks Press, Berkeley, California, USA.

- The Recycler’s Handbook provides detailed and useful information on recycling. Although
the book is written specifically for an American audience, tips on recycling and forming recy-
cling units at the community level can be useful in a global context as well.

Towards Sustainable Development
Compiled by the Panos Institute
Published in 1987 by Russell Press, UK

- Fourteen case studies of development projects in Asia and Africa are presented in this pub-
ication to look at the problems and possible solutions that give meaning to the question of
sustainable development. These case studies combine both theory and practice, to present
a unique critique of grassroots development written by independent Third World journal-
ists. The case studies in this book were originally published as individual reports for the
Nordic Conference on Environment and Development held in Stockholm, Sweden in May
1987.

Youth Action Guide on Sustainable Development
Edited by Dean Hrabar and Ramona Ciparis (AIESEC International)
Published in 1990 by AIESEC Intl, London, UK
Available through AIESEC Intl, 40 rue Washington, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

- The Youth Action Guide was developed by AIESEC International in response to the
PERIODICALS:

**Adbusters Quarterly - Media and Environmental Strategies**
Published and Distributed by the Media Foundation, 1243 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6H 1B7, Canada

- This magazine analyses mainstream North American media and offers alternatives to it, as well as information on running media campaigns and projects.

**ASA News**
Written and published by the Asian Students Association (ASA), 353 Shanghai Street 4/F, Kowloon, Hong Kong

- ASA News deals with different issues related to human rights violations in Asia, development, environment, militarism, gender, North-South relation, among others.

**BankCheck Quarterly**
Published by the International Rivers Network, 1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703, USA.

- BankCheck Quarterly presents the views on the environmental, social and economic impacts of the policies and projects supported by World Bank and IMF lending.

**Development - Journal of the Society for International Development**
Written and published by SID, Palazzo Civiltà del Lavoro, 00144 Rome, Italy

- Development monitors the current debates in development thinking from a broad based interdisciplinary perspective. The aim of this quarterly is to explore the issues on the cutting edge of development thinking, action and future strategies.

**E & D Files**
Published by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) - see UN Organizations for address

- This is a newsletter produced by NGLS providing up to date information on United Nations events, meetings and Conferences.

**Environment Bulletin - A Newsletter of the World Bank Environment Community**
Published by the Environment Department of the World Bank, Room S-5055, 1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA.

- This quarterly newsletter contains information on different environment and development issues, and related World Bank policies.

**International Youth Press Service Bulletin**
Published by and available from WAY, Ved Bellahoj 4, 2700 Bronshoj, Copenhagen, Denmark.

- This bulletin shares information and outcomes of workshops, consultations, and reports on a variety of issues relevant to youth specifically related to health issues.

**Libertas**
Published by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, 63 rue de Brésoles, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1V7, Canada.

- This newsletter includes information about the situation of human rights and human rights violations in different places of the world. It is a bilingual publication.

**MATCH News**
Published by Match International Centre, 1102-200 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1L5, Canada.

- MATCH News is a quarterly publication that covers information related to gender issues and women organizations activities in Canada and other countries. It is sent free of charge to MATCH members and donors.
Media Studies Journal
Prepared by the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center, Columbia University, New York, USA.

- This is a quarterly forum for scholars, practitioners and people interested in media to discuss issues of importance to the mass media and the public.

Multinational Monitor
Published by Essential Information, Inc., 1530 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA.

- The Multinational Monitor deals with issues related to the multinational corporations activities in the world, their impact and social-economical-cultural-political and environmental implications.

New Internationalist
Published monthly by New Internationalist Publications Ltd., 120-126 Lavender Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3HP, UK. Tel: +081-685-0372
Available: in the UK from 120-126 Lavender Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3HP, UK. Tel: +081-685-0372.

- The New Internationalist publishes each of its monthly issues on a different topic, including many of the concerns of sustainable development, from the World Bank, to animal rights to disabled lives.

Panoscope
Published by Panos Books, 9 White Lion Street, London N1 9PD, UK.

- Panoscope is written mostly by journalists and activists in the South, although it is still edited and produced in the North. It endeavours to highlight Southern perspectives on environment and development issues, and to give its contributors an international outlet to reach policy makers, development workers, journalists, activists and other interested readers.

Seedlinks
Edited and published quarterly by A-SEED
Available from A-SEED, c/o EYFA, Postbus 566, 6130 AN Sittard, the Netherlands. Tel: +31-46-513045.

- This periodical is full of informative and alternative articles on current environment, development, and youth initiatives and concerns from all over the world.

The Ecologist magazine
Published quarterly by MIT Press Journals, 55 Hayward Street, CA 02142, USA

- This publication covers environmental issues in a way that is both accessible and accurate.

The Network
Published by The Centre for Our Common Future, Palais Wilson, 52 rue de Paquis, CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland.

- The Network is a monthly newsletter which monitors and reports on follow-up activities to the Earth Summit.

Third World Resurgence
Edited and published every two months by the Third World Network, 87 Cantonment Road, 10250 Penang, Malaysia

- This magazine is an excellent source of information on a vast array of issues from a Third World and Sustainable Development perspective.

Women's Health Journal (English)
Revista (Spanish)
Produced by the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network
Available through Isis International, Casilla 2067, Correo Central, Santiago, Chile.

- This quarterly publication presents information about activities and issues centered around the issue of women's health, organizations, and networks in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Available in English and Spanish.
DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS
Youth organizations throughout the world play an important role in addressing issues of sustainable development and international cooperation. The experience of the youth organizations that participated in the UNCED process was that networking was key to effective organization. Networking helped us see the importance of being inclusive of young people from different sectors, it helped us become more sensitized to North/South issues, and it served to provide further information on the issues we were working on.

The first step in fostering networking, the sharing of experiences, and exchange of information is knowing who is out there. This directory shows that there are youth throughout the world concerned about issues of sustainable development, who are either working on them from a sense of social responsibility, or who work on them as a means of ensuring their survival.

The youth organizations listed in this directory represent only a fraction of the youth organizations working on sustainable development issues around the world. We decided to provide a wide sample of youth organizations, from religious to student to environmental education groups. The criteria we used were simple: we would try to include organizations who had been involved in the UNCED process, youth groups that were working on environment and development, and youth organizations who served as a focal point to youth groups throughout the world. Each entry was developed in consultation with each one of the organizations listed here to provide information that is up to date and describes the organizations as they wish to be presented.

This directory lists over 140 youth organizations working at a local, national, regional and international level in over 80 countries. Due to lack of space we were unable to include all the member groups of international and regional youth organizations. We chose instead to present an entry point for the different regions and youth sectors. International and regional youth organizations provide membership lists on request, particularly from youth groups wanting to connect with others: working in their particular region, issue or sector.

There are other categories for organizations listed in this directory: non-youth international organizations; women's, indigenous, human rights groups all working at different levels; other environment and development groups; publishers; development agencies; foundations; and major United Nations agencies.

Many of the organizations listed here have some sort of publication, such as a newsletter, magazine, educational material, or campaign information. You will find this symbol: indicating those organizations that have such material available.

The directory is meant to be used as a tool for obtaining and exchanging information, among youth and across sectors. It should provide you and your organization with enough information to get in contact with others, and let them know what you are doing. We have tried to provide a wide spectrum of organizations, working at all levels throughout the world based on the belief that an effective youth movement must be broad based and inclusive. The rest, is up to you...
YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

AFRICA

AASU – All-Africa Students Union
PO Box M.274
Accra
Ghana
Tel: +233-21-663450
Fax: +233-21-664293
Telex: 2132 GH

This regional organization was established in 1972. AASU is an umbrella organization for national unions of students in Africa. It works on issues concerning students' rights, literacy, environment and development subjects.

AOYE– The Arab Office for Youth and Environment
PO Box 2 Magles El Shaab
Cairo
Egypt
Tel: +202-84-85-71
Fax: +202-36-38-534

The AOYE was established at the end of 1978 as a non-governmental organization for youth concerned with environmental problems. This NGO began with raising environmental awareness among youth in Egypt and now it has contacts in the Arab, African, Middle East and Mediterranean world. AOYE organizes conferences, training of environmental youth leaders, undertakes field activities and builds up NGO networks.

Association des Jeunes Pour le Développement et l'Éducation
Parcels Assaines Unite 10 No. 143
BP. 12 035
Dakar
Senegal
Tel: +221-350-320

This is an organization of Senegalese youth interested in helping in the development of their country in practical ways. The association is involved in projects such as reforestation, soil regeneration and the wide adaptation of more efficient energy-use methods of heating and cooking. They are committed to ensuring steady, environmentally sound national development led by the people themselves.

AYCODE – African Youth Coordination on Development and Environment
PO Box 21136
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel/Fax: +254-2-214898
E-mail: econewsafric@gn.apc.org

This organization works to educate, mobilize, and coordinate campaigns on environment and development issues from a youth perspective. There are AYCODE groups throughout the African region.

Club William Tubman de Cote d’Ivoire
Fédération Nationale des Mouvements et Associations de Jeunesse de Cote d’Ivoire
08 BP 230 Abidjan 08
Cote d'Ivoire
or
BP V 153 Abidjan
Cote d'Ivoire
Tel: +225-37-18-35
Fax: +225-37-65-00

The William Tubman Club of the Ivory Coast has organized exchanges among youth aged 15 to 35 years old from African countries since 1962.

Croix Verte de Côte d’Ivoire
Association de la Jeunesse Ivoirienne pour la Sauvegarde de l’Environnement
02 BP 699 Abidjan 02
Côte d'Ivoire
Tel/Fax: +225-41-04-50

Created in 1982 by youth in the Ivory Coast, the Croix Verte is an environmental organization whose objectives are to create and maintain public concern for the environment through information campaigns. Some of these campaigns include Earth Day events, reforestation, seminars and workshops on different topics, reclaiming, re-using and recycling projects, and eco-tourism.

ENDA-TM (Environment and Development in the Third World) Youth in Action Section
PO Box 3370
Dakar
Senegal
Tel: +221-21-60-27 / 22-42-29 / 22-21-25
Fax: +221-22-26-95
E-mail: endadak@gn.apc.org

ENDA-TM mainly works with children and youth living in difficult situations. They focus on marginalized, working children, unemployed youth in Dakar and other African cities.

Organization of Mozambique Youth
Conselho Central OJM
Rua Pereira de Lago, No.147 - 3o. Andar
PO Box 2998
Maputo
Mozambique
Tel: +258-1-490164/492541
Fax: +258-1-490161
Telex: 6-160

OJM is a national youth NGO with branches throughout the country. The main activity of this organization is to educate youth toward the peace process after the Civil War, with moral, civic, cultural and professional education.
PLUNSA/PLUNA Sierra Leone
Port Loko United Nations Students Association/Port Loko United Nations Association
PO Box 788 Freetown
Sierra Leone
West Africa
Tel: +230457
Fax: +SL 232-22-22-5615 or 4439
Telex: EXT SL 3218
Cable: PLUNSA - Freetown

This is a non-governmental, non-profit voluntary organization of youth, students and adults. Its aims and objectives are to help promote and protect the dignity and worth of the human being for progress and peace. PLUNSA/PLUNA organizes and participates in workshops, seminars, conferences and projects on environmental protection, sustainable development, human rights, disarmament, peace and international security. It also maintains tree-planting, nutrition, water sanitation and literacy programs locally.

SASCO – South African Students Congress
9 D.J. DuPlessis Building
PO Wits 2050
Johannesburg
South Africa
Tel: + 27-11-716-5340 / 5337
Fax: +27-11-339-6786

SASCO’s aim is to unite all post-secondary South African students around educational, political, social, and cultural issues. Some of their initiatives include: an anti-crime campaign, with an emphasis on sexual harassment; an AIDS awareness campaign; an intensive learning project offering tutoring services; and a leadership development project.

UVCCM – Umoja wa Vijana wa CCM
CCM Youth Organization
PO Box 19989
Dar Es Salam
Tanzania
Tel:255-51-24176 / 24177 / 26709
Fax: +255-51-37880
Telex: 41800 SUKITA TZ

UVCCM’s objectives are to support and implement party and government policies; to take an active role in the process of policy formulation and decision making in order to further young people interests; and through youth initiatives, to participate in educating young people on health, education, protection and preservation of environment through the media, seminars, workshops, etc.

We Create Our Future Trust
PO Box 10
Suurbraak 6743
Cape Province
Republic of South Africa
Tel/Fax: 2921-632

We Create Our Future is an environmental and cultural organization dedicated to offering young people the opportunity to learn skills of communication and activism through camps.

Youth Alliance of Nigeria
7 Dotun Isijola Street
AKG Okokomaiko
PO Box 3171
Surulera
Lagos
Nigeria

Involving youth of all ages, this organization hosts seminars, workshops and exhibitions focusing on health, development education, agriculture, science and technology, and small-scale projects. Their aim is to help create an agricultural base for Nigerian youth, and to involve members in local agricultural research and development.

YPIC – Youth for Population, Information and Communication
PMB, GPO
Kumasi
Ghana
Tel: +233-51-3622
Fax: +233-51-2537

YPIC is concerned with promoting youth involvement in issues that affect their lives today and tomorrow in a sustainable and integrated manner, covering population, environment and development, health, poverty and unemployment issues.

YPIC’s activities include information, education and communication; seminars, workshops, group discussions, tree planting, skills training, job creation, small scale income generation, peer education programs and counselling.

ZARD – Zambian Association for Research and Development
PO Box 33955
Lusaka
Zambia
Tel: +260-1-228576-90
Fax: +260-1-222456
Telex: ZA 45040 Add DEVB

ZARD conducts research on development issues, with a special emphasis on youth, women and children.

ZYC
Zimbabwe Youth Council
PO Box 5079
Harare
Zimbabwe
Tel: +263-4-79909 / 729444
Fax: +263-4-702308
Telex: 24254 ZIM.GOV.

The ZYC is involved in youth exchanges, youth leadership workshops and youth income-generating projects. It also works on fundraising and coordination for the facilitation and strengthening of structures for youth.
CARIBBEAN

CYEN
Caribbean Youth Environment Network
c/o Caribbean Conservation Association
Savannah Lodge, The Garrison
Saint Michael
Barbados

Tel: +1-809-426-5373 / 426-9635
Fax: +1-809-429-8483
Cable: CONCARIB Barbados

The CYEN promotes environment and development education and awareness-raising for youth of the wider Caribbean. Action campaigns reach people through community participation, publications, video and radio programs.

JEYW – Jamaica Environmental Youth Watch
19 Coliston Drive
Kingston 10
Jamaica
West Indies

Tel: +1-809-926-0233

JEYW was established as a direct response to an identified need for local youth action on environmental issues.

JEYW aims to fashion integrated strategies that will prevent further degradation of the environment and foster sustainable growth and development on an environmentally sound basis. Its objectives are: to educate the public and youth about environmental protection and conservation; to mobilize youth; to liaise with and build dialogue between youth, community and government; advise government of youth positions on issues and establish official mechanisms for monitoring governmental policies and actions; to establish networks among youth and NGOs, nationally and internationally, that are engaged in environment and development disciplines.

National Youth Council of Montserrat
c/o C.A.R.D.I.
PO Box 272
Plymouth
Montserrat, WEST INDIES

Tel: +1-809-491-5694 / 3341
Fax: +1-809-491-5694 / 3599

The National Youth Council is an umbrella organization for youth and community groups on the island. Some of their objectives are to instruct youth in leadership and communication skills, drug abuse prevention, peer counseling, environmental protection, and community development.

St. Lucia National Youth Council
PO Box 1232
Castries, St. Lucia
West Indies

Tel: +1-809-452-2626
Fax: +1-809-452-6960

The primary activities of the Council include youth mobilization and equipping youth with basic leadership skills, providing them with avenues which will enable them to create employment for other young people as well as themselves. The areas of young women, illiteracy, environment and community development are of growing concern to the Council. It is trying to ensure that all youth issues be given priority, especially where important decisions concerning them are being made.

LATIN AMERICA

APID – Asociacion de Apoyo y Promocion de Ideas para el Desarrollo
708-2100 Guadalupe
San Jose
Costa Rica

Tel: +506-257336
Fax: +506-246525
E-mail: apid@huracan.cr

APID is a non-profit, non-governmental organization working with Costa Rican communities in the areas of solidarity, ecology and social development.

BUSCA A.C. – Brigada Universitaria de Servicios Comunitarios para la Autogestion Asociacion Civil
A.P. 70-599
C.P. 04510
Mexico, DF

Tel: +525-6-66-4771
Tel/Fax: +525-6-65-4070

BUSCA A.C. is an organization of youth working in community development projects with indigenous nations in Mexico. BUSCA works in the areas of education, health, environment and culture. It has a permanent program on human rights, migration, and community development youth work camps.

Consejo Nacional de la Juventud (National Youth Council)
Av. 16 de Julio 1800
Edif. Cosmos 5o Piso
La Paz
Bolivia

Tel: +541-375166
Fax: +541-359872

The Consejo Nacional de la Juventud is an umbrella organization for youth groups across Bolivia. Their work includes organizing conferences and facilitating communication amongst youth groups.
Federación Latinoamericana de Jóvenes Ambientalistas (FLAJA)
Carrera 21 No. 56-38, Apt. 301
AA 57668 Bogota
Colombia
Tel: +571-2486072
Fax: +571-010940

FLAJA is an non-governmental organization working in the field of environmental education.

FOLICO - Centro de Formacion y Desarrollo Juvenil
Fernandez Albano 8117
Casilla 39, San Ramon
Santiago 15
Chile
Tel: +56-2-558-4003
Fax: +56-2-558-9696

FOLICO works with youth living in poverty in low income communities in three main areas: education, projects and support for youth initiatives. FOLICO works with youth sexual education, AIDS prevention, youth leadership, and community development.

Fundacion Los Muchachos
Foundation for the Development of Salvadoran Youth
Apartado Postal 1720
Centro de Gobierno
San Salvador
El Salvador
Tel: +503-25-50-07
Fax: +503-26-71-52

Los Muchachos represents youth from all sectors: university students, community workers, Christian youth, and was created to deal with youth issues following the signing of the Peace Accords after many years of armed conflicts in El Salvador. Its areas of work are mental health, drugs, AIDS, education, unemployment and young women.

FUPAGEMA
Casilla de Correos 1727
Cochabamba
Bolivia
Tel: +42-82411
Fax: +42-82477

FUPAGEMA is an organization composed mostly of peasants who face the main struggle of the Third World rural communities: achieving sustainable development, which means a daily search for solutions for the poverty among the peasants without affecting negatively the environment in which they live.

Generacion Alternativa
Movimiento Juvenil de Accion Ecologica
Seminario 774-776
Santiago
Chile
Tel: +562-274-6192
Fax: +562-223-4522

Generacion Alternativa (Alternative Generation), the Youth Movement for Ecological Action, was established in 1990. Since then, it has developed ecology educational programs for youth in high schools and universities, this with the aim of encouraging them to take action in their schools and communities around environmental issues. Generacion Alternativa also works to develop alternative technologies towards sustainable development.

Grupo Ecologico de Organizacion y Solidaridad
7a. Calle 0-81 zona 3
C.P. 01003
Ciudad de Guatemala
Guatemala
Tel: +502-2-28077 / 20294
Fax: +502-2-683538

GEOS aims to contribute to environmental education among youth in order to strengthen the ecological movement in Guatemala. GEOS seeks to organize youth for action on environment and social issues. Their aim is to promote values which will contribute to building a sustainable society among youth. Their current areas of work are education, capacity building, and the setting up of a resource/documenta-
tion center.

Grupo Juvenil de Accion Ecológica
REDES Amigos de la Tierra Uruguay
(Friends of the Earth)
Avda. Millan 4113
12900 Montevideo
Uruguay
Tel: +598-2-356265
Fax: +598-2-381640
E-mail: redesur@chasque.apc.org

REDES objectives are to participate in designing social and ecological development, to promote concrete alternatives in different fields, integrating all aspects of life, from the perspective of youth, and; to support the formation of other youth groups in Uruguay. REDES organizes campaigns and disseminates information related to the social and ecological crisis as well as alternatives being developed by different groups at the local, regional and international level.

Jóvenes Ambientalistas (Environmental Youth)
Apartado C-101
Managua
Nicaragua
Tel: +505-2-650136 / 672149 / 74706
Fax: +505-2-674844 / 71990

Jovenes Ambientalistas work covers a variety of environmental issues. This group works with both urban and rural communities towards protecting the environment and natural resources.

Latin American Network of Youth Organizations for Sustainable Development

The Network is a group of youth organizations working in the areas of environment, development and human rights, among others. It seeks to promote Latin American integration through the strengthening of, and cooperation between youth organizations whose work is concentrated on those areas. It networks in order to implement joint activities in campaigns and actions on the issues mentioned; to involve Latin American youth organizations in a process of exchange of experiences and information, and to strengthen these organizations as organs of pressure at a national and international level.

The Network accomplishes its goals by promoting and supporting projects at local, national and sub-regional levels between its member organizations; implementing periodical workshops to promote analysis, solutions and actions; participating in international action networks, to promote global sustainable development that takes into account all sectors in society, particularly youth.
The Network can be contacted through any of the members of its Coordinating Committee:

**BUSCA A.C.**
**GEOS**
**APID**
**REDES**
**REJIMA**
(listed in this section)

**A SEED Brazil**
(listed in the International Youth Organizations section, under A SEED)

**Liga Peruana de la Juventud**
Gregorio Escobedo 135 - Jesus Maria
Lima
Peru
Tel: +51-14-63-5778/9823/3152 Anexo 222
Fax: +51-14-63-5965

The Liga Peruana de la Juventud is a coordinating body for youth organizations and youth serving organizations. Created in 1988, this organization is dedicated to youth capacity building, implementation of development projects, advocacy for youth organizing and research.

**OCLAE**
Organizacion Continental Latino Americana de Estudiantes
Calle 36 no. 710, entre 7MA y 17, Miramar
Ciudad de la Habana
Cuba
Tel: +53-7-64-96-98
Fax: +53-7-22-61-68
Telex: 511843

OCLAE is the umbrella organization for National Unions of Students in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Pastoral da Juventude do Brasil**
Caixa Postal 02067
CEP 70259-970
Brasilia - DF
Brazil
Tel: +55-61-225-2955
Fax: +55-61-225-4361
Telex: (61) 1104

This group is the youth organization of the Roman Catholic Church of Brazil. Its objective is to improve youths' status and socio-politico-economic and cultural realities with an emphasis on faith in God.

**PRIDE Belize**
PO Box 1099
Belize City
Tel: +501-2-32131
Fax: +501-2-31825

PRIDE is an organization involved with education and community development, with its education component aimed at youth through youth leadership skills development.

**Programa de Jóvenes CESAP**
Centro al Servicio de la Acción Popular
Apartado de Correos 4240
Caracas 1010-A
Venezuela
Tel: +58-813885 / 8627423
Fax: +58-8627182

CESAP aims to strengthen the social and political participation of the public sectors. Its Youth Program promotes youth leadership through capacity building leading to action. Some of its activities include community camps and leadership training schools for youth.

**Provita**
Apdo Postal 47552
Caracas 1041-A
Venezuela
Tel: +58-2-576-2828
Fax: +58-2-576-1579

Provita is a Venezuelan non-profit, non-governmental organization working on environmental conservation and protection of endangered species. Provita works with peasants on sustainable development projects, research, education, and conducts awareness campaigns with local communities.

**Union de Jovenes Comunistas**
(Union of Socialist Youth)
Avenida Misiones 5 y 7
La Habana
Cuba
Tel: +537-625644
Fax: +537-625661

This non-governmental youth organization seeks to provide support for and to promote the ideas of communism in Cuba.
Since its creation in 1971, CWY has developed strong ties, relationships and expertise in more than forty countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. CWY's mission is to increase people's ability to participate actively in the development of just, harmonious and sustainable societies. Some of its activities include: North-South cooperation and linkages; leadership training; intercultural training; non-formal education; and development education.

The Canadian Federation of Students was established in 1981 by post-secondary students who felt the need for an organization which would defend their rights and interests. Since then, the Federation has stood up against the slow but steady degradation of students' quality of life, on and off campus.

The Cree Nation Youth Council was established in 1985, the International Year for Youth. Its purpose is to promote activities enhancing Cree traditions, values, customs and ways of life among the Cree youth. Areas of action include: preservation of traditions, identities and heritage through direct youth involvement and input into the social, cultural, economic and political sectors at all levels affecting Cree youth.

CUSEN is a university-based network operated for and by students. It publishes a newsletter and facilitates communication across Canada amongst youth and other environmental groups.

The Overseas Development Network educates students on international development issues and encourages them to take action on their campuses through the Development Education Program, to raise money for global partnership in the Partnership in Development Program, and to seek opportunities for service through the Development Opportunities Program.
SEAC  
**Student Environmental Action Coalition**  
PO Box 1168  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-1168  
USA  
Tel: +1-919-967-4600  
Fax: +1-919-967-4648  
E-mail: seac@igc.apc.org  

SEAC is a grassroots organization dedicated to building power among students involved in environmental and social justice action. SEAC accomplishes this by encouraging local, regional, and national leadership through: educational resources; building coalitions and encouraging cooperative actions; challenging the traditional definition of "environment"; and using effective strategies and tactics.  

**Student Pugwash USA**  
1638 R Street NW, Suite 32  
Washington, DC 20009  
USA  
Tel: +1-202-328-6555  
Fax: +1-202-797-4644  
E-mail: uspugwash@igc.org  

Student Pugwash USA is a national, educational, non-profit organization dedicated to building a commitment among young people to solve critical global problems through the responsible use of science and technology. There are Pugwash chapters worldwide.  

**USSA**  
**United States Student Association**  
815 Fifteenth Street NW, Suite 838  
Washington, DC 20005  
USA  
Tel: +1-202-347-8772  
Fax: +1-202-393-5886  

Founded in 1947, USSA is the nation’s oldest and largest student organization. Representing 3.5 million students at 350 public and private colleges and universities, USSA comes together around an agenda of educational access - making education a right for everyone.  

**PACIFIC ISLANDS, AOTEAROA, AND AUSTRALIA**  

**AYPAC**  
**Australian Youth Policy and Action Coalition**  
PO Box 519  
Dickson ACT 2602  
Australia  
Tel: +61-6-241-8055  
Fax: +61-6-241-8066  

AYPAC is the peak Australian youth affairs organization in the community sector. AYPAC’s objectives are: to represent the interests of young people in Australia and internationally; to promote the well-being of disadvantaged young people; to contribute to activities designed to eliminate poverty among young people; to promote participation of all young people in the cultural, social, economic, political and spiritual life of Australia; to facilitate consensus on national youth issues among member organizations, and to advocate these positions to governments and other policy makers; to support the development of the youth sector through information, advice, referral and policy formulation.  

**Cook Islands National Youth Council**  
PO Box 536, Avarua  
Rarotonga  
Cook Islands  
Tel: +682-29630  
Fax: +682-29640  

This umbrella group serves youth groups of the Cook Islands, facilitating networking and providing information and other resources.  

**FYSL**  
**Fiji Youth and Students League**  
PO Box 15789  
Suva  
Fiji  
Tel: +679-410497  
Fax: +679-410497  

FYSL was formed in 1988 and its objectives are: to serve the youth and students of Fiji and work towards their development; to speak on behalf of Fiji youth and students on social, political and economic issues affecting the country; and to develop programs and activities for youth development.  

**GYA**  
**Green Youth Action**  
c/o ACF, Level 1  
88 George St.  
The Rocks 2000  
Australia  
Tel: +61-2-241-5273  
Fax: +61-2-489-2704  
E-mail: dannyk@peg.apc.org  

This grassroots group works towards increasing environmental awareness, with university and high school students, through a national magazine, information kits and campaigns from youth to youth.  

**Ministry of Youth Affairs**  
**Te Tari Taiohi**  
PO Box 10 300  
Wellington  
New Zealand  
Tel: +64-4-471-2158  
Fax: +64-4-471-2233  

The Ministry of Youth Affairs exists to give youth a voice and to encourage young people to be involved in the cultural, social and economic policies and services which affect New Zealand. It works through three main areas: policy advice; liaison services and conservation corps.
NOSCA
Network of Overseas Student Collectives in Australia
c/o PO Box 367
Wentworth Building
University of Sydney
NSW 2006
Australia
Tel: +61-2-330-1155
Fax: +61-2-330-1157
E-mail: nosca@peg.apc.org

NOSCA is an overseas students organization, whose aims include defending overseas students rights and awareness raising on Third World issues amongst overseas students. Working on local and international levels, NOSCA campaigns and addresses issues such as education, racism, gender equality, neo-imperialism, environment, development, human rights and social justice.

Tonga National Youth Congress
PO Box 2670
Nuku'alofa
Tonga
Tel: +676-21195
Fax: +676-24105

Concerns for the future and status of the youth in the Kingdom of Tonga led to the establishment of the Tonga National Youth Congress. The TNYC currently works with church youth development groups, private organizations and village youth groups.

USPSA
University of the South Pacific
Students’ Association
c/o PO Box 1168 USP
Suva
Fiji
Tel: +679-313900, extension 2385
Fax: +679-305799

USPSA advocates students’ rights in the South Pacific. They concentrate on current students’ rights issues through campaigns and dissemination of information.

Western Samoa National Youth Council
c/o PO Box 9565
APIA
Western Samoa
Tel: +685-23832
Fax: +685-23832

The WSNYC is the national umbrella organization working closely with NGO youth oriented organizations towards the facilitating of a network of training and practical projects to promote sustainable development economically, socially and spiritually.

ASIA

A SEED Japan
Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Development
4-3-302 Sakuragaoka Shibuya-ku
Tokyo 150
Japan
Tel: +813-3476-3252
Fax: +813-3476-5040

A SEED Japan works towards social justice and environmentally sustainable living through organizing education campaigns, speakers tours and other grassroots initiatives. It is the largest youth environmental network in Japan.

ABSDF
All Burma Students’ Democratic Front
PO Box 1352 GPO
Bangkok 10501
Thailand
Tel/Fax: +5915839 / 5896529

ABSDF represents students throughout Burma in their struggle to achieve human rights and democracy in Burma. It works on documenting and publicizing human rights violations by the military regime; promoting awareness of human rights among Burmese people.

ABSDF also works on rural development projects with the one million displaced people, providing basic health and education services. It publishes the DAWN News bulletin, which is an English bi-monthly focusing on human rights, civil war, drugs, AIDS, environmental issues and the political situation in Burma.

ACYF
All-China Youth Federation
General Headquarters
10 - Qianmen Dongdajie
Beijing 100051
China
Tel: +86-01-7018132
Fax: +86-01-7018131
Cable: CHINAYOUTH

ACYF is an umbrella organization for all youth organizations in China. The aim of ACYF is to unite and educate young people of all nationalities and social sectors, to encourage them to hold high the banner of patriotism and socialism, to represent and safeguard the lawful rights of young people, and to network within and outside China. Organizations working with ACYF include Chinese YMCA and YWCA, the Communist Youth League of China, the Chinese Rural Young Entrepreneurs’ Association, Chinese Young Press Workers’ Association, the Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center, and the Chinese Youth and Children Development Fund.
AMYC
Youth Council of Mauritius
PO Box 382
Port-Louis
Mauritius
Tel: +230-208-0145
Fax: +230-240-9964
Telex: 4647

AMYC was founded in 1985 and is formed by a membership of 109 local organizations in Mauritius. AMYC’s objectives are: to unite Mauritian youth, working towards national development, for the building of an harmonious Mauritian society and work for the eradication of drugs, sexual and adult education, health, population, environment, human rights, youth exchange programs. Its activities include conferences; research; workshops; seminars; social, sports and cultural programs and fund-raising activities.

ANNFSU
All Nepal National Free Students Union
PO Box 5837
Kathmandu
Nepal
Tel: +977-1-228728
Fax: +977-1-228728 / 227372

ANNFSU is an independent students organization of Nepal. They work locally for students welfare, and an accessible and democratic education system. It fights for self determination, political freedom, social justice and human rights as well as supporting national liberation movements around the world. It is also actively involved in environmental movements.

APYF
All Pakistan Youth Federation
Haleem Building
4-Mozang Road
Lahore
Pakistan
Tel: +92-42-873264 / 5720142
Fax: +92-42-723128 / 7233506

The federation is a coordinating body of 392 youth organizations in Pakistan. APYF is action-oriented, undertaking initiatives such as tree planting, clean-up Pakistan and public awareness campaigns.

ASA
Asian Students Association
353 Shanghai Street 4/F
Kowloon
Hong Kong
Tel: +852-388-0515
Fax: +852-782-5535
E-mail: asa@peg.apc.org

ASA is an independent and non-aligned regional body of 46 national student organizations from 26 countries in the Asia Pacific region. ASA is working for change on the basis of such concepts as human rights, democracy, development, Third World, and solidarity.

ASA Media Center
17, Jalan Timur
46000 Petaling Jaya
Selangor
Malaysia
Tel: +603-756-0828
Fax: c/o +603-703-2784
E-mail: mediacen@peg.apc.org

This is an autonomous department of the Asian Students Association specializing in research in media issues, training in “activist journalism” and publishing an alternative student magazine - ASA.

BCL
Bangladesh Chatra League
35-36 Bangabandhu Avenue, 2nd Floor
GPO Box 3903
Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh
Tel: +880-2-861331
Fax: +880-2-831912

The BCL is a collective that focuses on working towards democracy, students’ rights and socialism in the Marxist and Leninist traditions.

CFSU
Council of Free Students Union
Patan Post Box #8
Kathmandu
Nepal
Tel: +977-228728

CFSU was established in 1988 to work in the field of education. CFSU deals with the issues of academic freedom and autonomy, education systems, and students’ rights, welfare and dignity.

COSYM
Council of Students and Youth Movements
PO Box 401
Port Louis
Mauritius
Tel: +230-208-0145
Fax: +230-240-9964
Telex: 4647 Amicale IW
Cable: COSYM-MAURITIUS

The COSYM is a non-governmental organization whose aims are: to run activities for national development; to raise awareness and to work on sustainable development, human resources, environment, health, science, arts and culture, education, communications, women and child’s rights, elder people, illiteracy, population, consumers’ rights, drugs/alcohol, AIDS awareness, and any other issues that affect the mental and physical development for a healthy nation. Activities are in terms of research, conferences, seminars, debates, workshops, etc.

ECCA
Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness
PO Box 3923
Jawalakhel
Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: +977-1-526391 / 522712 / 527781
Fax: +977-1-521506

ECCA’s aim is to generate awareness and sensitivity among young Nepalese towards their surroundings and to protect the environment.
ICYO
Indian Committee of Youth Organizations
F-13, South Extension - One
New Delhi 110049
India
Tel: +91-11-4624776
Fax: +91-11-6444969 / 6461463

The ICYO is body of youth non-governmental organizations. Its aim is to strengthen youth organizations and the role they play in Indian society. They are also an advocacy group. ICYO provides training to social workers and officers, and serves as a liaison service between donors and youth NGOs.

IYD
Indian Institute of Youth & Development
Kalinga
Phulbani, Orissa
India 762 022
Tel: +91-06844-7514

The IYD works on training of vocational skills, forest conservation, public action and clean, accessible drinking water. There is an emphasis on traditional skills which are environmentally sustainable and appropriate. The IYD organizes training courses for teachers, youth organizations and NGOs on environmental issues. They have developed and operate a demonstration food garden using non-conventional resources and a waste plan, and have set up horticultural and environmental training courses in local areas as an alternative to shifting cultivation.

It also organizes international work camps on environmental protection. It has a series of publications in local language on environment.

ISA
International Students' Association of Japan
c/o International Education Center (IEC)
1-21 Yotsuya, Shinjuku-ku
Tokyo 160
Japan
Tel: +813-3353-3065
Fax: +813-3359-0562
Cable: IECENTER TOKYO

ISA aims to contribute to world peace by deepening mutual understanding among students throughout the world through cultural exchange. To accomplish this goal, ISA conducts its activities in an impartial and nonpartisan manner based upon the spirit of humanitarianism. It holds an International Student Conference every year.

Jana Seva Parishad
(Service - Sacrifice - Humanity)
Abhaya Bhawan
Kendrapara
754211 India
Tel: +91-6727-22511

Jana Seva Parishad (JSP) is a voluntary organization actively engaged in the process of youth empowerment, awareness generation, health camps, work camps, environment and sustainable development programs in India.

JSTPSF
Jeay Sindh-Tarvi-Pasand Student Federation
2400 A/29 - Muhammadi Town
Qasimabad - Hyderabad
Sindh
Pakistan
Tel: +221-654396 / 654397 - 71412 - 34156
Fax: +221-26257 Attn.: JSTPSF
Telex: 2271 PCOHS Attn.: 55

The JSTPSF works for freedom and liberty for students, concentrating on women's issues, Sindhi youths' problems and educational issues.

KADENA
Kabataan para sa Demokrasya at Nasyonalismo (Youth for Democracy and Nationalism)
PO Box 5M 384
Santa Mesa 1008
Manila
Philippines
Telex: 40404 Box 2400

KADENA's mandate is to uphold the ideals of democracy and nationalism, through cooperating with the democratic forces of Philippine society. Founded in 1984, KADENA operates in communities and municipalities across the country. KADENA believes that Filipino youth have a vital role in changing society.

Korea UNESCO Youth Centre
Maegok-ri, Hobyub-myun, Ichon-kun
Kyonggi-province
Republic of Korea
Tel: +82-336-638-9052
Fax: +82-336-638-9607

The main activities of the Centre revolve around training courses, research and publishing, international cooperation, UNESCO Club activities, and documentation of information concerned with youth-related matters.

LFS
League of Filipino Students
PO Box 312 SM
Manila
Philippines
Tel: +632-983566 / 781152
Fax: +632-967076

The LFS was founded in 1977 to promote the rights and welfare of Filipino students and to further the peoples' struggle for fundamental change through democratization. The LFS also deals with such issues as foreign debt, US military presence, and IMF and World Bank policies in the Philippines. One of their special projects is the ATC, or Activist Training Center, where workshops and classes are run on capacity-building.

LPRYU
Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union
PO Box 736 (Vientiane)
Lao PDR
Tel: +4602 - 4603
Cable: JEUNLAO

LPRYU is a governmental organization under the Popular Party. All ethnic youth groups work with LPRYU. The organization supports solidarity work with youth and the community. It publishes the NOUM-LAO News.
NCYOK
The National Council of Youth Organizations in Korea
PO Box Kwangwhamoon 195
Seoul
Korea
Tel: +02-841-5140
Fax: +02-841-1150
Cable: NOYOKWAY, Seoul

NCYOK is the coordinating body for youth organizations in Korea. The aims are to contribute in maintaining close relations among youth organizations both in Korea and abroad, and in supporting youth organizations for the development of youth so that they may contribute more effectively in their nation’s development.

NUSP
National Union of Students of the Philippines
166 Pepin St. Sampaloc
Manila 1008
Philippines
Tel: +63-2-732-90-79
Fax: +63-2-817-11-04

The NUSP represents the Filipino students and works both at the national and grassroots level with local student unions, youth groups and other independent bodies on a broad range of issues and concerns; spearheads campaigns and facilitates coordination. It also provides information, skills training and resource materials.

SBW
Students for a Better World
2-15-4 Fujigaoka Midori-ku
Yokohama-shi 227
Japan

SBW was formed in October 1991 by several high school students who took part in a meeting held during an A SEED Japan campaign. (For more information on A SEED, see INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS section). The group exchanges information and ideas on environmental issues.

SFT
Student Federation of Thailand
Thammasat Student Union
Thammasat University
Thaprajan, Bangkok 10300
Thailand
Tel: +66-2-223-2858
Fax: +66-2-223-2858

The SFT’s principle objective is to fight for student rights, participation, and for democracy. Some of its specific efforts revolve around working against the military for peaceful leadership, and joining with Myanmar students against the Myanmarese government’s human rights abuses.

SUB
Students Unity of Bangladesh
8/1 Nilkhet, Babupura
Dhaka - 1205
Bangladesh
Tel: +880-2-501682 / 508447
Fax: +880-2-863060
Telex: 642986 MASIS BJ, Attn. SUB

SUB’s mandate is to establish accessible education for all. SUB works on human rights, women’s rights, environment, development, democracy and social progress from a student’s perspective. SUB’s aims are: to unite the student community; to work in solidarity with the student and youth organizations from all over the world; to uphold human and women’s rights; to promote environmental awareness, and to fight for pro-people development initiatives.

Tibetan Youth Congress
Central Executive Committee
PO McLeod Ganj
Dharamsala - 176219
District Kangra (HP)
India
Tel: +91-1892-2554
Fax: +91-1892-4213
Cable: CENTREX

Founded in 1970, the Tibetan Youth Congress is a worldwide organization of Tibetans united in the common struggle for the restoration of complete independence for the whole of Tibet, which includes the traditional three Provinces, of U-Tsang, Do-toe, and Do-med.

UMS
Union of Mongolian Students
Small Ring Road 701
Ulannbaatar,
Mongolia
Tel: +98-264117 / 28001
Telex: 236 CNTIMH

The UMS, formed in 1942 has as its main objectives to protect students’ rights, and to promote student participation in all spheres of social and political life. Areas of work include student issues, democracy, human rights, and educational reform.

Youth Council of the Philippines
9th Floor, Mondragon House
324 Sen-Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati
Metro Manila
Philippines
Tel: +632-8181506 / 2211276 / 8107584

The Youth Council of the Philippines is a non-profit, non-governmental organization. It seeks to institutionalize a national youth network to strengthen Filipino youth towards a more coordinated response to issues and problems concerning youth. Their work is done through taking advocacy positions on different issues and through national networking.
EUROPE

**Allianssi**  
**Finnish Youth Cooperation Alliance**  
Nokiantie 4  
00510 Helsinki  
Finland  
Tel: +358-0-711-955 / 701-5422  
Fax: +358-0-701-7156

Allianssi consists of national youth and educational organizations representing a spectrum of youth groups, including children's, hobbyist, political, cultural and students' as well as trade unions, youth workers, religious organizations, etc. Allianssi serves its members by supporting their activities, by training and education, and by publishing youth-related books and the Nuorisotyo magazine (Youth Work).

**CEMYC**  
**Council of Europe Minority Youth Committees**  
International Secretariat  
PO Box 9683  
2003 LR Haarlem  
The Netherlands

Tel: +31-2550-37438  
Fax: +31-2208-94566

CEMYC was founded in 1988 as an umbrella organization for minority youth organizations and minority youth committees in European countries. The aims and objectives of CEMYC are: the setting up of an international network “for, of, and by” minority youth. It works for voting rights for all residents living in Europe; the rights for obtaining double citizenship; educational programs against discrimination, prejudices and racism. CEMYC lobbies for equal opportunity and access to education, employment and housing for minority youth. CEMYC also organizes international conferences and study sessions.

**CENYC**  
**Council of European National Youth Committees**  
Chaussee de Wavre 517-519  
B-1040 Brussels  
Belgium

Tel: +32-2-648-9101  
Fax: +32-2-648-9640

CENYC is an umbrella organization for National Youth Councils in European countries. CENYC's objectives include the promotion of democratic participation by young people in society and networking amongst European youth organizations.

**Conférence Générale de la Jeunesse Luxembourgoise**  
**(Luxembourg Youth Council)**  
B.P. 657  
L-2016 Luxembourg  
Tel/Fax: +352-406090

CGJL is an umbrella organization, encompassing all major tendencies in Luxembourg youth work and activism (from party political youth organizations to Scouts movements and a number of independent organizations). It plays an active role in the elaboration and implementation of youth policies in Luxembourg, and is a constant partner at dialogue for national and international institutions on the political level.

**European Educational Exchanges - Youth for Understanding**  
Van Geerstraat 69  
B-2140 Borgerhout - ANTW.  
Belgium

Tel: +32-3-236-0636  
Fax: +32-3-236-1457

European Educational Exchanges - YFU is the European Secretariat of all European YFU offices. YFU (Youth for Understanding) is a non-profit organization whose core program is an exchange experience for students between 15 and 18 years-old.

**ESIB**  
**European Student Information Bureau**  
c/o Österreichische Hochschülerschaft (ÖH)  
Liechtensteinstrasse 13  
A-1090 Vienna  
Austria

Tel: +43-1-310-8879  
Fax: +43-1-310-8879.36

ESIB is an organization which exists to promote the social, economic and cultural interests of students on a European level. ESIB is primarily a service organization, organizing seminars and coordinating a flow of information on higher education. Its services are mainly provided to its members, but the information is available to any interested party.

**European Union of Jewish Students**  
89, Chaussee De Vleurgat  
1050 Brussels  
Belgium

Tel: +32-2-647-72-79  
Fax: +32-2-648-24-31

The European Union of Jewish Students was created in 1978 in Grenoble, France, and represents Jewish students in Europe. Their main activity is the Summer University, where students gather during one week in international seminars and training seminars in Eastern Europe. EUJS regularly publishes educational material regarding Jewish history, human rights, racism and antisemitism.

**European Young Christian Democrats**  
Rue De La Victoire 16  
1060 Brussels  
Belgium

Tel: +32-2-537-41-47  
Fax: +32-2-534-50-28

The European Young Christian Democrats is an international non-governmental youth organization with its secretariat in Brussels. It is the youth organ of the EPP (European People's Party) and EUCD (European Union of Christian Democrats).
The EYFA was founded in 1985 by young environmentalists concerned about the effects of acid rain on European forests. Nearly ten years later, EYFA is an extensive, active network that includes environment, social and cultural organizations from Eastern, Southern and Western Europe. EYFA’s network has also expanded to include peace, anti-racism and women's issues.

Graffiti Youth Service
Stalingradlaan 18-20
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32-2-512-1936
Fax: +32-2-512-2384 (Indicate: Graffiti)

Graffiti Youth Service deals with a number of topics including students/youth and politics, media, anti-racism, Southern Africa and Latin America, tourism, youth exchanges, environment and sustainable development. Their work is done through research, campaigns, educational publications and a monthly youth magazine.

The National Youth Council
St. Francis Ravelin
Floriana VLT 15
Malta
Tel: +356-234305 / 245375
Fax: +356-245376

The National Youth Council was formed by a group of representatives of Maltese youth organizations to represent youths on a national level. It provides a wide range of services to its member organization and has embarked on a number of projects which will ultimately give Maltese youth a better voice in society. The Council stands up for the rights of youth and defends their interests, giving them many opportunities for self motivation, responsibility and social integration.

LTR
Liga Tineretului din Romania
(Youth League of Romania)
Str. Dem. I. Dobrescu nr. 4 - 6, et. 1, cam 80
RO - 70119 Bucharest
Romania
Tel: +40-1-615-79-86 / 312-37-15
Fax: +40-1-312-37-15

LTR is a confederation of various youth organizations throughout the country which aims to support and represent the common interests of its member organizations. LTR aims to develop a national cooperation between its member organizations and to help the young generation attain integration at all levels of the society's social, economic, political and cultural life.

NYCI
National Youth Council of Ireland
3, Montague Street
Dublin 2
Ireland
Tel: +353-1-478-4122
Fax: +353-1-478-3974

NYCI is the coordinating body for voluntary youth organizations in Ireland, representing their views to government and international agencies, as well as providing services in a range of areas including health education, youth participation, development education, the arts and publishing.

NUS
National Union of Students
Nelson Mandela House
461 Holloway Road
London N7 6LJ
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-71-272-8900
Fax: +44-71-263-5713

NUS publishes information packs geared towards university students and runs campaigns on topics surrounding students in general, women, disabled people and international students.

Österreichischer Bundesjugendring (ÖBJR)
Am Modenapark 1-2/326
A-1030 Vienna
Austria
Tel: +43-1-715-5743
Fax: +43-1-712-8584

ÖBJR is a service institution for its member-organizations and youth. One of its aims is to foster the personal development of youth in the changing Europe. ÖBJR is the meeting and discussion platform of its members and represents youth in various institutions and bodies.

q2000
Youth Campaign for a Sustainable Sweden
c/o Studieframjandet
PO Box 4067
102 62 Stockholm
Sweden
Tel: +46-8-714-0044
Fax: +46-8-644-6340
E-mail: q2000@pns.apc.org

q2000 is a youth campaign working to make all of Sweden choose the course of sustainable development by the year 2000. The campaign was initiated by a few individuals in preparation for UNCED and now it is actively involved in its follow-up. It involves Swedish youth who work on alternatives for sustainable development in local communities. q2000 also monitors and tries to influence government policies in Sweden as well as in international fora.
The Youth Council of Slovakia is an umbrella organization for 40 member youth organizations, associations and unions in the Slovak Republic. Its main aim is to support development of young people, protect their interests against governmental structures, help them solve their problems and to establish good connections with young people in the rest of Europe and of the world.

Rainbow conducts education campaigns on the environment and sustainable development using publications, training courses, seminars and summer camps. It also facilitates information exchange among youth ecological groups. Programs are to include action for saving the Siberian forest, a round table on sustainable development in Novosibirsk, an international seminar on water protection in Tual, a camp on the protection of Lake Baikal, and an international conference on “Youth and Sustainable Development.”

The Spanish Youth Council is an organization devoted to cooperation among young people. Its two principal goals: to be present wherever problems having to do with young people are debated upon and to create alternatives, based on youthful ways of thinking, to the problems affecting young people.

Sul is a youth NGO that works in four areas: human rights, sustainable development (training courses, national campaigns), education for development (radio programs, European contexts, youth exchanges with African countries, training courses, seminars, conferences) and direct cooperation (projects involving African countries in the areas of health, education, food assistance, training programs).
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

AIESEC International
40 Rue Washington
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: +32-2-646-2420
Fax: +32-2-646-3764
Telex: 65080 INAC

AIESEC, the International Association of Students in Economics and Business Management, is involved with a variety of programs, including an international work-exchange program for students. See the case study section of this Sourcebook for further details.

A SEED
Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment and Development

A SEED was established by young people in 1991 to provide an alternative analysis to the UNCED proceedings and to forge strong alliances among youth committed to a socially just and ecologically viable world. A SEED operates as a decentralized network which serves to strengthen and support local, national, and regional youth movements. Much of this work is accomplished through existing networks worldwide. The organization is active in organizing campaigns and disseminating information related to environment and development issues.

A SEED Afric Hub
c/o AYCODE
PO Box 21136
Nairobi
Kenya

Tel/Fax: +254-2-214898
E-mail: econewsafric@gn.apc.org

A SEED Europe Hub (SEEDLINKS publication)
Postbus 92066
10090 Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Tel./Fax: +31-20-6650166
E-mail: aseedeur@antenna.nl

A SEED North America Hub
c/o Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC)
PO Box 1168
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-1168
USA

Tel: +1-919-967-4600
Fax: +1-919-967-4648
E-mail: seac@gc.apc.org

A SEED Asia Hub
c/o ANNFSU
PO Box 5837
Kathmandu
Nepal

Tel: +977-1-228728
Fax: +977-1-228728 / 227372

A SEED Pacific Hub
c/o Green Youth Action
Level 1, 88 George Street
Sydney 2000
Australia

Tel: +61-2-241-5273
Fax: +61-2-247-1206
E-mail: nsusu4@peg.apc.org / dannyk@peg.apc.org

A SEED Latin America Hub
c/o Grupo Juvenil de Accion Ecologica de REDES
Avda. Millan 4113
12900 Montevideo
Uruguay

Tel: +598-2-356265
Fax: +598-2-381640
E-mail: redesur@chasque.apc.org

A SEED Brazil Hub
R. Dias de Barros, 39 - Apto. 03
Santa Tereza
CEP 20241 Rio de Janeiro - RJ
Brazil

Tel/Fax: +55-21-224-4383
E-mail: aseedbr@ax.apc.org

CYP
Commonwealth Youth Programme

CYP is an inter-governmental organization functioning under the Commonwealth Secretariat, involved in youth development work, including training. The Commonwealth Youth Programme is made up of five regional centers which provide a wide range of services in the areas of youth education and leadership training to the member countries in each region.

CYP Headquarters
Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House, Pall Mall
London SW1Y 5HX
UK

Tel: +44-71-839-3411
Fax: +44-71-930-1647
Telex: 27678

CYP Africa Centre
PO Box 30190
Lusaka
Zambia

Tel: +260-1-229895 / 229896
Fax: +260-1-252153
Telex: ZA 40032
Cable: COMYOUTH

CYP Caribbean Centre
PO Box 101063
Georgetown
Guyana

Tel: +592-2-68565
Fax: +592-2-68371
Cable: REGYCENTRE, GEORGETOWN, GUYANA
This organization has member associations in 62 countries and territories and encourages young people of all ages to love and care for their environment through hostelling activities. Last year Hostelling International ratified an Environmental Charter and is currently in the process of implementing the principles of this Charter throughout 5,000 hostels worldwide. From hostels which provide examples of sustainable living in the United States of America, to education programs in Germany, the Federation is striving to improve both its own practices and the education of its members in the broadest sense.

IAAS
International Association of Agricultural Students
Kardinaal Mercioriaan 92
B-3000 Leuven
Belgium

Tel: +32-16-22-09-31 ext. 1736
Fax: +32-16-20-50-32
Telex: 25941 elekulb

The work of the IAAS includes providing educational materials to students, organizing conferences and cooperating with international organizations on projects pertaining to agricultural students.

IFLRY
International Federation of Liberal and Radical Youth
PO Box 781
1000 Brussels 1
Belgium

Tel: +32-2-512-44-57
Fax: +32-2-502-41-22

IFLRY was founded in 1979 in Denmark, and currently has member organizations on 6 continents, most recently, in East and Central Europe and in Latin America. IFLRY is an umbrella group that exists to further aims of young Liberals and Radicals, and to represent the interests of youth on an international political level.

International Movement of Agricultural and Rural Catholic Youth
68, Tiensevest
B-3000 Leuven
Belgium

Tel: +32-16-22-83-12
Fax: +32-16-20-80-12

This is an international organization aimed at building solidarity among rural youth. It works on exchanges, international gatherings, seminars. It is an organization of rural youth, peasants, students, workers, unemployed youth between the ages of 15-35.

IOYED
International Organization for Youth, Environment and Development
PO Box 4078
Univ. Post Office
Ibadan
Nigeria

IOYED was formed in 1991 to campaign, liaise and advocate against development models based on materialism, marginalisation of under-privileged, the growing inequality in wealth between the rich and the poor, and the impoverishment and suffering of the human species.

International Young Christian Workers (IYCW)
Jeunesse Ouvriere Chrétienne Internationale (JOCI)
Juventud Obrera Cristiana Internacional (JOCI)
Rue Plantin 11
1070 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: +32-2-521-6983
Fax: +32-2-521-6944

The IYCW specializes in training, education and action by, with and for young people worldwide. International campaigns and exchange programs are arranged regularly.

The following are regional offices:

JOC America
A.A. 17-21
1200 Quito, Ecuador

Tel: +593-2-501-655
Fax: +593-2-501-657

JOC Europe
Rue Vanderstichelen 21
1210 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: +32-2-426-2149
Fax: +32-2-426-4172
International Union of Students

PO Box 58
CZ-110 01 Prague 01
Czech Republic

Tel: +42-2-24810-438
Fax: +42-2-24810-855
Telex: 122858 IUS C
Cable: UNISTUD Prague
E-mail: org.ius@ecn.gn.apc.org

The IUS is an umbrella organization for National Unions of Students worldwide. It works to defend and promote the rights and interests of students throughout the world. IUS organizes conferences and seminars for its members and issues a range of publications and campaign materials.

International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations

16 Avenue Jean-Tremblay
Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: +41-22-798-5850
Fax: +41-22-733-4838

This movement promotes participation in United Nations activities among youth and students of all nations.

International Gay and Lesbian Youth Organization

IGLYO Main Secretariat
PO Box 1662
S-221 01 Lund
Sweden

Tel/Fax: +46-46-133-425

IGLYO is an organization for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth and student groups all over the world, providing them with a forum in which they can exchange ideas on an international level. Its aims are: to bring an end to discrimination against and support the emancipation of young lesbians, gay and bisexuals all over the world; and to create equal opportunities for all young people. IGLYO publishes a newsletter for the lesbian, gay and bisexual youth called SPEAK OUT and sponsors activities such as the Lesbian and Gay Youth Conference (Annual IGLYO Conference), Youth Exchanges, special training courses and the IGLYO Pen Pal scheme.

International Union of Socialist Youth

Neustifftgasse 3
A-1070 Vienna
Austria

Tel: +43-1-931-267 / 938-382
Fax: +43-1-526-1872

IUSY is an organization of socialist/social democratic youth organizations worldwide. IUSY activities have been devoted to development related issues such as debt crisis, poverty, North-South dialogue, and ecology (acid rain, deforestation, urban ecology).

Non-Aligned Students and Youth Movements

12, Bourbon Street
Port-Louis
Mauritius

Tel: +Att. NASYO 230-208-0145
Fax: +Att. NASYO 230-240-9964
Telex: Att. NASYO 4647

NASYM is an umbrella organization formed by 98 national youth and students organizations from different parts of the world that support the concept of the Non-Aligned Movement. NASYM’s objectives are: to work with students and young people towards the aims and ideals of universality; to strive for national liberation, for economic, social and cultural justice, for equality among nations, for cooperation among nations and peoples, and against all sorts of oppression and repression.

The World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth

BP 44 92333
Sceaux
France

Tel: +33-1-467601774
Fax: +33-1-46604554

SYNDESMOS works on projects aimed at providing environmental education for Orthodox Christian youth.

United Nations of Youth

International Secretariat

Venedien 25
1441 AK Purmerend
The Netherlands

Tel: +31-2990-36093
Fax: +31-2990-27126

UNOY was founded to “help create a united and transformed world” through giving young people a voice in the United Nations and other decision taking and policy making bodies. To this end it works “to build a global youth movement, a youth alliance for peace and cooperation”, and responds to the challenge “to forge a global partnership”. There are UNOY nets (national and local branches) working in community based projects. UNOY also hosts events, including international conferences.

World Assembly of Youth

Ved Bellahøj 4
DK-2700 Brønshøj
Denmark

Tel: +45-31607770
Fax: +45-31605797
Telex: 21465 way dk
Cable: WAYOUTH, COPENHAGEN

WAY is an international non-governmental youth organization. Its membership consist of national youth councils. WAY has member organizations worldwide, mainly from the South. WAY is a platform for youth and their organizations at a global level. Through its activities it promotes the work of voluntary youth organizations and raises awareness of the situation of youth especially in less developed countries. WAY recognizes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the basis of its action and is active in working for rights, population issues, young women and youth training.
**World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY)**
PO Box 147
1389 Budapest
Hungary
Tel/Fax: +361-129-5226 / 270-1202
Telex: 2226 27 H DIVSZ

The WFDY is an international non-governmental organization uniting national youth organizations of different political, ideological and religious backgrounds. WFDY works as an organization of youth "united in their determination to work for peace, freedom, democracy, independence and equality everywhere in the world".

**World Organization of the Scout Movement**
World Scout Bureau
PO Box 241
1211 Geneva 4
Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-320-4233
Fax: +41-22-781-2053
Telex: 428 139 wsb ch

The World Organization of the Scout Movement is an international non-governmental organization composed of its recognized national Scout organizations throughout the world.

**World YWCA**
World Young Women's Christian Association
37 Quai Wilson
1201 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-732-3100
Fax: +41-22-731-7938
Telex: WYMCA 412332
Cable: SOROMUNDI GENEV

YWCA operates in 91 of countries, where they provide educational and leisure facilities for young people and others. The YWCA has undertaken a major program on energy and the environment, appropriate technology, development and other issues related to primary health care. The YWCA also produces newsletters, supports a network of environmental activities, organizes workshops at grassroots and international levels on environment, education, training of trainers in appropriate technology skills, health and the environment, women and new technologies, waste recycling and resource conservation.

**WUS**
World University Service
International Secretariat
5 Chemin des Iris
1216 Geneva (Cointrin)
Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-798-8711/12
Fax: +41-22-798-0829
E-mail: world-univ@geo2

WUS is an international, non-governmental organization focusing on education, development and human rights. It is made up of a network of National Committees bringing together members from the academic community (academics, administrators and students) with other sectors of civil society (civil institutions and community groups) in inter-regional debate and action in the field of education.

**WAGGGS**
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
World Bureau
Olave Centre
12C-Lyndhurst Road
London NW3 5PQ
UK
Tel: +44-71-794-1181
Fax: +44-71-431-3764

The WAGGGS encourages and supports through training and other programs youth leadership in young women. National Associations worldwide provide young girls and women with opportunities to learn personal and community-oriented skills and leadership. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts organizations also promote preservation of the environment through tree-planting, clean water projects and anti-pollution campaigns.

**YDC**
Youth for Development & Cooperation
Overschiestraat 9
1062 HN Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: +31-20-614-2510
Telex/Fax: +31-20-617-5545
E-mail: geo2:YDC

YDC is an international youth organization whose aims are to strengthen youth structures working on North-South cooperation in order to promote development, the protection of the environment, international justice and cooperation. In its efforts to bridge the gap between North and South, YDC sets up programs for the purpose of development education and political campaigning on North-South issues. The activities are wide ranging and include seminars, workshops, training courses, campaigns, publications, simulation games and research on development questions.

**NON-YOUTH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**Amnesty International**
322 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10001-4808
USA
Tel: +1-212-807-8400
Fax: +1-212-627-1451
Telex: 666628

Amnesty International is an independent, impartial movement, which plays a specific role in the worldwide protection of human rights, focusing its activities on prisoners. Amnesty International's work is based on principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the United Nations adopted in 1948 in response to the horrifying events of World War II.
Established in 1980, APDC is an autonomous, regional institution designed to provide a practical response to the development problems faced by countries of the region and to assist them, through the study and analysis of development processes, in formulating appropriate development policies, strategies and programs. It helps member countries enhance the innovative quality of development planning within both governmental and non-governmental organizations. APDC strives towards the promotion of economic cooperation among developing countries of the region for their mutual benefit. APDC has a gender and development unit which publishes excellent resource material.

Baha’i International Community
Office of the Environment
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 120
New York, NY 10017-1811
USA

Tel: +1-212-756-3500
Fax: +1-212-756-3573

The Baha’i International Community is an international non-governmental organization that represents and encompasses the worldwide membership of the Baha’i Faith. The Office of Environment serves this network of Baha’i communities by acting as a catalyst for the creation and support of sustainable development projects and programs. The Office of Environment also represents the interests and concerns of the Baha’i International Community in the United Nations system and in other international fora on issues relating to sustainable development.

World Business Council For Sustainable Development
World Trade Center Building, 3rd Floor
Route de l’Aeroport 10
Case postale 365
CH-1215 Geneva 15
Switzerland

Tel: +41-22-788-3202
Fax: +41-22-788-3211

The BCSD is a council of business leaders representing all regions of the world and a wide spectrum of industry sectors. BCSD promotes and encourages development of goals and actions for sustainable development within existing market conditions and in the context of future international agreements, governmental policies and fiscal measures.

Climate Action Network
CAN's overall goal is to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. The CAN is now organized into regional networks, coordinated by several information nodes managed by existing NGOs. This flexible structure provides an NGO Forum to get together and share ideas, concerns and information on climate change.
Climate Network Africa (CNA)
PO Box 76406
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel/Fax: +254-2-214898 /729447
CNA is a coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to the exchange of information on climate-related issues in Africa. It produces a quarterly newsletter, IMPACT, that reports on the implications of climate change for Africa and analyzes policy responses from an African perspective. CNA liaises with the international Climate Action Network to increase the participation of African NGOs in international climate negotiations.

Disabled Peoples’ International
101-7 Evergreen Place
Winnipeg, MB R3L 2T3
Canada
Tel: +1-204-287-8010
Fax: +1-204-287-8175
The DPI network has over 90 national affiliates, of which the majority are in the developing world. The philosophy of DPI is that disabled people are citizens with equal rights, and hence should achieve full participation and equality with their fellow citizens in all societies.

Earth Council
PO Box 2323-1002
San Jose
Costa Rica
Tel: +506-23-34-18
Fax: +506-55-21-97
E-mail: abarcena@igc.apc.org
The Earth Council activities include: provision of information and materials in support of development and implementation of the Rio Agreements by people, communities and sectors; organization of public hearings, forums and media events which focus public attention on environment and development issues and promote action in respect of them; the compilation and evaluation of indicators of environment and development performance; provision of practical and financial support for communication and cooperation amongst “peoples” organization. In all its programs and activities the Earth Council consults and cooperates closely with other organizations to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and to ensure the most effective use of limited resources and capacities.

Earth Island Institute
300 Broadway, Suite 28
San Francisco, CA 94133
USA
Tel: +1-415-788-3666
Fax: +1-415-788-7324
Earth Island Institute is an organization dedicated to the development of innovative projects for the conservation, preservation and restoration of the global environment.

ELCI
Environment Liaison Centre International
PO Box 72461
Nairobi
Kenya
Tel: +254-2-56-20-22 / 56-20-15
Fax: +254-2-34-08-49 / 56-21-75
Founded in 1975, ELCI is a coalition of NGOs working toward sustainable development. The centre is a networking and advocacy institution which facilitates NGO input into UNEP programs and activities. It seeks sustainable approaches to development and explores endogenous solutions to environmental crises. ELCI’s activities include producing publications, running regional workshops, offering information services, networking, and offering training and support services to NGOs.

European Environmental Bureau
Rue de la Victoire 26 bte 12
B-1060 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32-2-539-00-37
Fax: +32-2-539-09-21
This organization aims to contribute to the debate on local and global environmental issues both at European level and in the Southern countries. Its activities are focused to promote a better participation of NGOs in environmental policy and sustainable development decisions.

FOEI
Friends of the Earth International Secretariat
PO Box 19199
1000 GD Amsterdam
Netherlands
Tel: +31-20-622-1369
Fax: +31-20-639-2181
E-mail: foeint@antenna.nl / foeint@gn.apc.org
Founded in 1971, Friends of the Earth International is a global network of organizations campaigning to protect the environment. Friends of the Earth national organizations are bound together by a shared name and a common cause the conservation, restoration and rational use of Earth’s resources. FOEI pursues this goal through the exchange of information and the promotion of bilateral contact and support among member groups. It also promotes and coordinates joint international campaigns and represents national groups at the international level. Campaigns are coordinated by national lead groups and supported by other national groups, uniting both “southern” and “northern” NGO perspectives. Campaigns link environmental and developmental issues, both at a national and international level.

The Gaia Foundation
18 Well Walk
London NW3 1LD
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-71-435-5000
Fax: +44-71-431-0551
The Gaia Foundation is concerned with the protection of ecological and cultural diversity. It works to raise awareness in the North of the initiatives of indigenous peoples through a network of policy makers, funders, non-governmental organizations, specialists, etc. The foundation carries on a South-North Program which seeks, through visits and publications, to offer a platform to people from the South.
Greenpeace International
Keizersgracht 176
1016 DW Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: +31-20-523-6555
Fax: +31-20-523-6500
Telex: 18775 GPRINT NL

Greenpeace is an international organization advocating action on environmental issues including climate change, forests, toxic trade, nuclear and marine ecosystem issues. International campaigns as well as more local endeavours are undertaken by Greenpeace on a regular basis. Greenpeace publishes numerous documents, films, books, and other resource materials. It has offices around the world and has a small fleet of ships.

IDS
Institute of Development Studies
Brighton BN1 9RE
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-273-606261
Fax: +44-273-621202
Telex: 877997

Located at the University of Sussex, IDS examines Third World development and the relationship between rich and poor countries. It is involved in research, teaching, and advisory work involving development problems. It is particularly interested in adjustment strategies for countries facing declining commodity export prices and heavy indebtedness; it also involves itself in issues of poverty, employment, income distribution and the international flow of resources through aid, trade and financial transactions.

IFOAM
International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
Ökozentrum Imsbach
D-66636 Tholey-Theley
Germany
Tel: +49-6853-5190
Fax: +49-6853-30110

IFOAM was established in 1972, and is active in the fields of sustainable organic agriculture, conservation of nature, education for consumers and agriculturists, and rural development. IFOAM works towards socially and environmentally appropriate agriculture.

InfoSud (Third World News and Documentation Centre) and
InfoSud Resource Center and Clipping Service
10, chemin des Epinettes
1007 Lausanne
Switzerland
Tel: +21-617-4353
Fax: +21-617-4352

InfoSud specializes in developing countries, development issues and North-South relations. The InfoSud Resource Center focuses gathering information on all development issues in 4 languages (French, English, Spanish and German) both by country and by theme.

Institute for Food and Development Policy
398 60th Street
Oakland, CA 94618
USA
Tel: +1-510-654-4400
Fax: +1-510-654-4551

The Institute conducts popular education and research activities on issues relating to hunger, poverty, development and environmental degradation. They also produce publications relating to issues of environment and development.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
PO Box 372
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-730-4222
Fax: +41-22-733-0395
Telex: 412 133 FRC CH

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies promotes the humanitarian activities of National Societies among vulnerable people. By coordinating international disaster relief and encouraging development support it seeks to prevent and alleviate human suffering. The Federation, the National Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross together constitute the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED)
3 Endsleigh Street
London W1C 0DD
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-71-338-2117
Fax: +44-71-388-2826

Established 20 years ago, the IIED is a leading policy research institute seeking ways to make economic progress without destroying the environmental resource base. Guided by research, the Institute operates in the areas of sustainable agriculture, dry lands management, forestry and land use, human settlements and environmental economics, environmental consequences and sustainability of social and economic development, especially in the Third World. The majority of the Institute's work is done in the developing world for the benefit of the poor.

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0Y4
Canada
Tel: +204-958-7700
Fax: +204-958-7710
E-mail: reception@iisdpost.iisd.ca

The International Institute for Sustainable Development promotes sustainable development in decision-making at all levels, and within and between all sectors. The Institute engages in policy research and communications, focusing on programs in international trade, business strategy, national budgets and eco-entrepreneurs. Poverty eradication is central to its research theme. IISD works in partnership with other organizations to create new approaches to the complex environment and development problems facing the world.
International Solar Energy Society
PO Box 124
Caulfield East, Victoria 3145
Australia
Tel: +61-3-571-7557
Fax: +61-3-563-6860

The International Solar Energy Society is a worldwide non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the utilization of solar energy. The Society's membership hails from national societies for solar energy, drawing from all continents. Its interests embrace all aspects of solar energy, including characteristics, effects and methods of use, and it provides a common meeting ground for all those concerned with the nature and utilization of this renewable non-polluting resource. It publishes journals and newsletters on solar energy and its utilization and organizes major international congresses on this issue in every two years.

IOCU
International Organization of Consumers Unions

IOCU is a federation of consumer organizations worldwide dedicated to the protection and promotion of consumer rights through research, information and education. Formed in 1960 as an independent, non-profit foundation, IOCU operates via a network of regional offices with the Director-General's Office located in London. Its two primary goals: to support, build and strengthen a strong consumer movement and; to promote and protect the consumer interest at international institutions. The organization remains close to its membership through its regional offices and sub-regional programs.

IOCU Director-General's Office
9 White Lion Street
London N1 9PD
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-71-865-9006
Fax: +44-71-865-9007
Telex: 41 82202908 10D
E-mail: geo2:ilocu

Regional Offices:

IOCU for Asia and the Pacific
PO Box 1045
10830 Penang
Malaysia
Tel: +60-4-371396
Fax: +60-4-366506
Telex: MA40439 CBMSPR (Attn: IOCU)
E-mail: geo2:ilocu

IOCU for Europe and North America
9 Emmastraat
2595 EG The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel: +31-70-347-6331
Fax: +31-70-383-4976
Telex: 33561
E-mail: geo2:ilocu-co

IOCU for America Latina and the Caribbean
Casilla 9635 Correos de Chile
Santiago
Chile
Tel: +56-2-223-4172 / 4763
Fax: +56-2-223-4638
E-mail: geo2:ilocu-lac

IUCN
The World Conservation Union
Rue Mauverney 28
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-999-0001
Fax: +41-22-999-0002
Telex: 419 624 IUCN CH

IUCN is a union of sovereign states, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations. It is concerned with the initiation and promotion of scientifically-based action that will establish links between development and the environment to provide a lasting improvement in the quality of life for people all over the world. Its mission is to provide leadership and to promote a common approach for the world conservation movement in order to safeguard the integrity and diversity of the natural world, and to ensure that human use of natural resources is appropriate, sustainable and equitable.

Millennium Institute
1611 North Kent St., Suite 204
Arlington, VA 22209-2135
USA
Tel: +1-703-841-0048
Fax: +1-703-841-0050
E-mail: millennium@igc.org

The Institute promotes long-term integrated global thinking. It focuses the emotional energy of the new Millennium toward a sustainable future for Earth. Its programs construct frameworks for action by nourishing a worldwide network of individuals and organizations.

NGONET:
Environment and Development Information for Non-Governmental Organizations
Casilla Correo 1539
Montevideo 11000
Uruguay
Tel: +598-2-49-61-92
Fax: +598-2-41-92-22
E-mail: ngonet@chasque.org.uy / geo2:ngonet

NGONET began in 1990 and was operational by 1991. It is a service operated by the Instituto del Tercer Mundo to facilitate global linking and information sharing among NGOs. Although it is not an electronic network, as a network of organizations it does make use of the APC electronic network system for its communications and databases.

North / South Coalition
Diakonveien 14
PO Box 23, Vinderen
N-0319 Oslo
Norway
Tel: +47-22-45-1811
Fax: +47-22-45-1810

The North / South Coalition publishes an information bulletin, and arranges seminars and meetings and has done work on the effect of trade on developing countries and the environment.
North-South Institute
200 - 55 Murray
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5M3
Canada
Tel: +613-236-3535
Fax: +613-237-7435
Telex: 053-3300

The North-South Institute conducts research on issues of international development, often publishing its results so that they are available to the public.

OXFAM
251 Laurier Avenue W., Suite 301
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5J6
Canada
Tel: +1-613-237-5236
Fax: +1-613-237-0524
Telex: 0533893 OXFAMOTT

OXFAM is an international development agency that offers a progressive alternative for people who believe in positive change. Since 1963, it has been helping people work for alternatives and self-sufficiency through partnership with communities in Central America, the Andean region of South America, the Caribbean, the Horn of Africa, Southern Africa and Canada.

Panos
Panos is an independent information organization, with offices in London, Paris and Washington, working internationally for the promotion of development which is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. It combines careful research with imaginative and forceful dissemination of information. Panos works on key global issues such as AIDS, environment and race, biotechnology, global warming, media pluralism, migrant communities, narcotics.

Regional Offices:

Panos London
9 White Lion Street
London N1 9PD
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-71-278-1111
Fax: +44-71-278-0345
Telex: 9419293 Panos G
E-mail: panoslondon@gn.apc.org

Panos Paris
53, rue de Turbigo
75003 Paris
France
Tel: +33-1-42 71 20 21
Fax: +33-1-42 71 21 55
E-mail: Panosparis

Panos Washington
1717 Massachusetts Ave N.W.
Suite 301
Washington, DC 20036
USA
Tel: +1-202-483-0044
Fax: +1-202-483-3059
E-mail: en:panos

Probe International
225 Brunswick Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2M6
Canada
Tel: +1-416-964-9223
Fax: +1-416-964-8239

Probe International is a Canadian non-profit, citizen’s group which monitors the environmental impact of Canada’s foreign aid projects and trade policies in the Third World. Probe focuses its attention on the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and Canadian corporations overseas. Started in 1980 as a project of the Energy Probe Research Foundation, it has become a leader among the world’s environmental groups, working closely with environmentalists from Western and Third World countries.

Sierra Club
730 Polk Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
USA
Tel: +1-415-776-2211
Fax: +1-415-776-0350

Working mostly in the USA and Canada, the Sierra Club focuses on wilderness protection and the care of the public lands.

Society for International Development (SID)
Palazzo della Civilta del Lavoro
00144 Rome
Italy
Tel: +39-6-591-7897, 592-5506
Fax: +39-6-591-9836
Telex: 616484

SID is an association for people with an interest in international economic, political and social development. It promotes international dialogue, understanding, and cooperation for social and economic development, aimed at furthering the well-being of people and achieving an interdependent world of self-reliant nations. The society seeks to encourage, support and facilitate the creation of a sense of community among individuals and organizations committed to development. Finally, SID is committed to advancing development through educational means. SID has members worldwide and a significant part of the society’s work is carried out through SID chapters which provide active programs geared to the interest of their communities. Among these programs is an initiative for youth.

The Other Economic Summit/Americas (TOES/AMERICAS)
PO Box 12003
Austin, Texas 78711
USA
Tel: +1-512-476-4130
Fax: +1-512-476-3971

TOES was constituted as a counter-balance to the economic summit of the seven most industrialized countries. TOES/Americas is a network of individuals and organizations working to bring about a more just and economically sustainable society, meeting annually as a forum where citizen leaders from the western hemisphere discuss and develop strategies for economic development without destroying the environment, our diverse cultures or democratic and human rights. TOES also researches the practicalities and definitions of a sustainable economy in an international working group, and publishes a variety of books and a newsletter.
Trickle Up Program
54 Riverside Drive
New York NY 10024-6509
USA
Tel: +1-212-362-7958
Fax: +1-212-877-7464

Working in 103 countries, the Trickle Up Program promotes an economic development process designed to teach the poorest to help themselves out of poverty; over 30,000 small businesses started over 12 years. The program's projects are designed to encourage self-sustained socio-economic development with a focus on "youth, women, the environment and refugees/displaced people."

TWN
Third World Network
87, Cantonment Road
10250 Penang
Malaysia
Tel: +6-04-373511
Fax: +6-04-368106

The Third World Network (TWN) is a network of groups and individuals involved in efforts to bring about a greater articulation of the needs and rights of people in the Third World; a fair distribution of world resources and forms of development which fulfill people's needs and that are ecologically and humanely harmonious. TWN also seeks to coordinate and consolidate cooperation among development groups in the South as well as the North.

WCC
World Council of Churches
150, route de Ferney
PO Box 2100
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-791-6111 / 6211
Fax: +41-22-791-0361
Telex: 415 730 01K CH
Cable: oikumene Geneva
E-mail: geo2:wcc-coe / wcc-coe@geo2.geomail.ort

WCC has over 340 member churches in over 100 countries. It organizes a variety of activities, including conferences and other programs relating to sustainable development issues, from an ecumenical perspective. It supports appropriate development activities by ecumenical partners. It has staff teams on Economy, Ecology and Sustainable Society (ECOS) and youth.

WISE
World Information Service on Energy
PO Box 18185
1001 ZB Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel: +31-20-6392681
Fax: +31-20-6391379
E-mail: gn:wiseamster

WISE was formed in 1987 when the anti-nuclear movement began to organize internationally. The organization specializes in networking and information in the fields of the problems of nuclear energy, environment and development. WISE has branches worldwide, mostly in Europe.

World Federation of United Nations Associations
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-733-0730
Fax: +41-22-733-4838

This organization's aim is to mobilize public awareness around the UN, its conferences and projects.

World Resources Institute (WRI)
1709 New York Avenue NW, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20006
USA
Tel: +1-202-638-6300
Fax: +1-202-638-0036
Telex: 64414
E-mail: wri@igc.apc.org

WRI is a research and policy institute helping governments, the private sector, environmental and development organizations and others address the question: How can societies meet human needs and nurture economic growth without destroying the natural resources and environmental integrity that makes prosperity possible? WRI's projects are directed at determining the effects of natural resources deterioration on economic development, and alleviating of poverty and hunger in developing countries.

WRI is an independent, non-profit corporation. In developing countries, the Institute's Center for International Development and Environment provides policy advice, technical assistance and other support services to governments, non-governmental organizations and local groups charged with managing natural resources and economic development.

World Sustainable Agriculture Network
c/o Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
1313 5th Street SE, Suite 303
Minneapolis, MN 55414
USA
Tel: +1-612-379-5980
Fax: +1-612-379-5982
E-mail: iatp@igc.org

The World Sustainable Agriculture Network was created by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy to use emerging computer technologies to encourage communication between individuals and organizations working to create a more sustainable system of agricultural production.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-649-111
or contact the regional WWF office

Founded in 1961, the WWF is one of the largest independent nature conservation and advocacy organizations. WWF seeks to promote sustainable development through various activities and programs. In the conservation fieldwork projects, members listen and learn from local people, incorporating their economic and social needs into projects, and build on local knowledge and skills. The organization's other sustainable development activities include policy development in collaboration with governments, aid agencies, commerce and industry. WWF provides institutional support for sustainable development.
WRM
World Rainforest Movement
International Secretariat
87 Cantonment Road
10250 Penang
Malaysia

Tel: +604-373-511
Fax: +604-368106
E-mail: en@twn geo2:cap

WRM has its membership in forest countries, among rain forest and other ecological groups. WRM’s main objective is to address the destruction of rain forests through creating a global network of rain-forest peoples, through documenting examples of community-based sustainable forest management, and through peoples’ participation in efforts to plan rain forest management.

WOMEN’S ORGANIZATIONS

AWORD
African Women’s Association for Research on Development
c/o CODESRIA
PO Box 3304
Dakar
Senegal

Tel: +221-25-25-72
Fax: +221-24-12-89

AWORD gathers approximately 600 women researchers from 17 geographic regions of Africa. AWORD has 13 national chapters in 12 countries.

Bangladesh Nari Odhikar Andolon
(Movement for Women’s Rights)
GPO Box No. 3903
Dhaka-1000
Bangladesh

Tel: +880-2-861331
Fax: +880-2-831912 / 863060

Nari Odhikar Andolon fights for women’s rights, women student issues, human rights, and education. It works mainly with women students and youth and with working women in Bangladesh.

Center for Women’s Global Leadership
27 Clifton Avenue
Douglass College, Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
USA

Tel: +1-908-932-8782
Fax: +1-908-932-1180

The Center seeks to deepen an understanding of the ways in which gender affects the exercise of power and the conduct of public policy internationally, with a special focus on women’s human rights. Its goals are: to promote the visibility of women and feminist perspectives in public policy decision-making and implementation globally; to increase the extent and efficacy of women’s participation both in their national governments and in the international arena; and to build international linkages among women in local leadership that enhance their effectiveness, expand their global consciousness, and move women from international networking to building international strategies.

Comite Latinoamericano para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer
Apartado Postal 11-0470
Lima 11
Peru

Tel: +51-14-61-56-70
Fax: +51-14-42-45-85

This organization is a regional body whose objective is the defense of women’s rights from a legal and social perspective.

DAWN
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era
c/o Extra Mural Department
University of West Indies
Pinelands, St. Michael
Barbados

Tel: +809-436-6312
Fax: +809-426-3006
Cable: UNIVADOS

DAWN analyses development processes and strategies through a framework that privileges the life of poor Third World women. DAWN’s goal is to understand the economic, social, cultural and political processes which cause and perpetuate inequalities of gender, class and race, and to work toward building alternative visions and strategies. It attempts to fulfill these objectives through research/analysis, training, advocacy, international relations, and communications activities.

FIRE
Feminist International Radio Endeavour
a/c WINGS
PO Box 5307
Kansas City, MO 64131
USA

Tel: +1-816-361-7161

OR

a/c Radio for Peace International
Apartado 88
Santa Ana
Costa Rica

Tel: +506-49-1821

FIRE began broadcasting May 1st, 1991, one hour a day in magazine format on Radio for Peace International, an independent short-wave radio station located in Costa Rica. FIRE gives women worldwide a voice to speak out on all issues, from sexuality to agriculture, from politics to medicine, education and demilitarization. By this means women cross all the barriers of nation, race, class and culture, to strengthen the international consciousness of women.
Foundation for Women
PO Box 47
Bangkok 10700
Thailand

Tel: +662-433-5149
Fax: +662-434-6774

Foundation for Women started from Women's Information Center in 1984 with counseling services for Thai women who wish to go abroad. In order to build up understanding of women's problems among policy makers, planners and women themselves, WIC developed "Women's Education Media" for women in different sectors. In 1986, the Home for Battered Women was set up to provide counseling and temporary shelter to women victims of domestic violence. And in 1987 the Foundation for Women was set up as a legal body for the Women's Information Center and Home for Battered Women.

The Kama project was launched in 1988 to discourage the recruitment of children and young women into prostitution by developing appropriate media and disseminating information among the rural population. The project encouraged local initiatives and strengthened local networks and action preventing child prostitution.

Gabriela Women's Coalition
PO Box 4386
Manila 2800
Philippines

Tel: +632-998034
Fax: +632-922-9557

GABRIELA is a national women's coalition of organizations with membership from the popular sectors: peasants, workers and the urban poor. Its membership also includes young women, women students, indigenous women, professional and religious women. GABRIELA-the General Assembly Binding Women for Reform, Integrity, Equality, Leadership and Action-seeks to transform women into an organized political force. GABRIELA works on issues such as economic and political oppression of women, social and economic marginalization of women, militarization, women political prisoners, discrimination, sexual violence and abuse, human rights and environmental degradation.

ICRW
International Center for Research on Women
1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 302
Washington, DC 20036
USA

Tel: +1-202-797-0007
Fax: +1-202-797-0020

ICRW is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting social and economic development with women's full participation. ICRW works in collaboration with policy makers, practitioners, and researchers throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America in formulating policy and actions concerning the economic, social and health status of women in developing countries; women's critical contributions to development, given their dual productive and reproductive roles; and policy and program features that can improve the situation of poor women while making development interventions more effective. Focusing on economic policies, family and household structure, health and nutrition, and agriculture and the environment, ICRW's program consists of policy oriented research, program support and analysis services, and communications forums.

ISIS International
PO Box 1837
Quezon City 1100
Philippines

Tel: +632-997512 / 993292 / 996343
Fax: +632-997512
E-mail: isis@phil.gn.apc.org

OR
Casilla 2067 - Correo Central
Santiago
Chile

Tel: +56-2-633-4582 / 638-2219
Fax: +56-2-638-3142
E-mail: isis@ax.apc.org

ISIS International is an international non-governmental organization created in 1974 as a women's information and communication service. Its primary objective is the empowerment and full participation of women in development processes through the formation of networks and channels of communication and information. As part of the global women's movement, ISIS International supports women's efforts around the world with information resources, South-South and South-North channels of communication, linking women worldwide, advocacy of women's issues, information and communication skills sharing.

ISIS International was founded in 1974 and was based in Rome, Italy. In 1984 an office was open in Santiago, Chile, to take responsibility for ISIS International's Spanish-language programs and networking activities for Latin America and the Caribbean. A dream was born to transfer the rest of the ISIS International's programs and activities to the South. This dream was fulfilled in early 1991 with the transfer of the Rome-based operations to the Philippines.

ISIS/WICCE
Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange
3, Chemin des Campanules
CH-1219 Aire (Geneva)
Switzerland

Tel: +41-22-796-4437
Fax: +41-22-796-0603

ISIS/WICCE is a women's international action oriented resource center whose objectives are: to build up a network and pool of documentation and information by and about women in all countries of the world and to make it available as widely as possible; to implement programs which promote direct sharing of women's experiences, skills and knowledge across national and regional boundaries; to provide technical services to women in the area of communication and information management; to mobilize support internationally for women who are persecuted on grounds of gender.

ISIS/WICCE operates from an extensive database built up from 1974 to the present day. Its resource center is action oriented: the fast dissemination of information, and the design of programs for women to directly share information and skills, are a priority for the center as much as documentation collection. The center offers information services, documentation packets and internships.
IWTC
International Women's Tribune Centre
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
USA
Tel: +1-212-687-8633
Fax: +1-212-661-2704
The IWTC is an international non-governmental organization that offers information and communication support services to women's groups in Third World countries. Through a network of organizations and individuals who share commitment to empowering women, they work on issues such as community economic development and small business planning; appropriate technology, water, environment, legal literacy, violence against women, women's rights as human rights, and other related concerns.

MATCH International Center
1102-200 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1L5
Canada
Tel: +1-613-238-1312
MATCH is a non-profit, non-governmental development agency that concentrates its support on women through overseas project funding and education in Canada. MATCH is committed, with their Southern sisters, to a feminist vision of development. Such a vision requires the eradication of all forms of injustice, particularly the exploitation and marginalization of women.

Sisterhood is Global Institute
4343 Montgomery Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814
USA
Tel: +1-301-657-4355
Fax: +1-301-657-4381
Sisterhood is Global Institute (SIGI) is an independent international organization that works to improve women's rights on national, regional and global levels. SIGI encourages women to recognize and work with one another across cultures, religions, ages, races, classes, sexual preferences, disabilities, and national and regional traits. SIGI members contribute to a growing resource library containing reports, articles, periodicals and books on women's status, research, and activism.

The Women's Environmental Network Trust
Aberdeen Studios
22 Highbury Grove
London N5 2EA
UK
Tel: +44-71-354-8823
Fax: +44-71-354-0464
Telex: GREENET WEN
EMAIL: gw:wen
The Women's Environmental Network is a forum linking women, health and the environment which campaigns to educate, inform and empower women who care about the environment.

WEDO
Women's Environment and Development Organization
845 Third Avenue, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10022
USA
Tel: +1-212-759-7982
Fax: +1-212-759-8647
WEDO promotes women's equal participation in policy making and leadership on environment and development issues, from grassroots to international levels. Its 52-member Women's International Policy Action Committee, including women from every region of the world, is monitoring UNCED decisions, forming regional Women for a Healthy Planet centers and sponsoring grassroots Community Report Card projects, enabling women to evaluate the real environmental and social justice health status of their communities.

WIDE
Women In Development Europe
3rd Floor, Square Ambiorix 10
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32-2-736-4087
Fax: +32-2-732-1934
WIDE is a group of women researchers, NGOs and activists living in Europe and working in international development from a northern perspective in partnership with southern women. In preparation for UNCED a WIDE women and environment group was formed from among active members of the WIDE network to develop WIDE's political analysis of environment and development and to lobby for women's need in environmental issues. The WIDE critique of environment and development begins from a challenge to the current development model with a political analysis of the environment from a European gender perspective based on the need for empowerment of women worldwide.

Women and Environment Education and Development Foundation (The WEED Foundation)
736 Bathurst Street
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2R4
Canada
Tel: +1-416-516-2379
Fax: +1-416-531-6214
WEED provides a forum for communication, conducts research and acts on issues related to women in their natural and urban environments. In addition to taking projects, WEED publishes a quarterly magazine Women and Environments.

Women Living Under Muslim Laws
BP 23
34790 Grabels
France
Women Living Under Muslim Laws is a network of women whose lives are shaped, conditioned or governed by laws, both written and unwritten, drawn from interpretations of the Koran tied up with local traditions. It aims at providing information for women and women's groups from Muslim countries and communities; disseminating this information to other women from Muslim countries and communities; supporting their struggles and providing a channel of communication.

These objectives are fulfilled through building a network of information and solidarity; disseminating information through “dossiers”; facilitating interaction and contact between women from Muslim countries and communities, and between them and progressive and feminists groups at large; facilitating exchanges of women from one geographical area to another in the Muslim world.
Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
Case postale 28
1 rue de Varembe
1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland
Tel: + 41-22-733-6175
Fax: + 41-22-740-1063
Telex: 427 993 TXC-CH for WILPF
Cable: WILPIF, Geneva

WILPF aims to bring together women who are opposed to war, violence, exploitation, and all forms of discrimination and oppression, and who wish to unite in establishing peace based on economic and social justice for all, without distinction of sex, race, class or creed. A current priority of the League is to promote awareness of the detrimental effects of military activities on development and the environment.

Women, Ink.
777 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
USA
Tel: +1-212-687-8633
Fax: +1-212-661-2704

Women, Ink. publishes information and training resources on women and development issues around the world - in Asia, Western Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

World YWCA Energy and Environment Network
Box 9874
Nadi Airport PO
Fiji
Tel: +679-720003
Fax: +679-721246

The Energy & Environment Network program is part of the Advocacy Department of the World YWCA and it is responsible for Energy & Environment and Appropriate Technology. The Energy & Environment Program seeks to: increase women’s consciousness about worldwide energy and environment problems and to directly improve the lives of women in their communities particularly through appropriate technology and improvement of their environment. The Program works through education, networking and advocacy; training; technical assistance and research; cooperation with other organizations.

CISA
Consejo Indio de Sud America
Indian Council of South America
Apartado Postal 2054
Lima 100
Peru
Tel/Fax: +51-14-236-955

CISA was founded in 1980 as an organization for indigenous peoples organizations from South America. CISA’s objectives are oriented to reach the recognition and respect for the right to live, justice, development and peace of the indigenous people at the United Nations and National Governments. CISA promotes knowledge and traditional practices on the use, conservation, preservation and sustainable development of natural resources.

Confederacion De Nacionalidades Amazonicas Del Peru (CONAP)
Brigadier Pumucahua
No. 974 Jesus Maria, Lima, Peru
Tel: +51-14-238-391

CONAP works to strengthen the cultural identity of indigenous peoples. Through their work they hope to improve living conditions through direct work with the people, the environment and alternative development projects.

Confederacion de Nacionalidades Indigenas del Ecuador (CONAIE)
Av. Los Granados y 6 de Diciembre
Casilla 17-17-1235
Quito, Ecuador
Tel: +593-2-248-930
Fax: +593-2-442-271

CONAIE is an independent indigenous organization which represents Ecuador’s 4 million indigenous people at national and international levels in their struggle for land and cultural rights, economic and social justice and in the defense of the environment.

Coordinadora De Las Organizaciones Indigenas De La Cuenca Amazonica (COICA)
Larco Herrera No. 1057
Lima 17, Peru
Tel: +51-14-619-2228
Fax: +51-14-619-2228

COICA is composed of 5 national Indigenous confederations from Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil and Bolivia. The organization works to defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples, their self-determination and culture.

CPA
Cordillera People’s Alliance
Box 975
Baguio City
2600 Philippines
Tel: +63-74-442-7008
Fax: +63-74-442-5247

The CPA “works in defense of ancestral domain and for self-determination.” They defend indigenous peoples’ rights, hold anti-open-pit mining, anti-militarization and anti-poverty positions.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ORGANIZATIONS
Assembly of First Nations
55 Murray Street, Suite 500
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1N 5M3
Tel: +1-613-236-0673
Fax: +1-613-238-5780

Composed of representatives of first nations, their objectives are to share information, develop strategies to address national and regional government policy initiatives as they affect First Nation peoples.
Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Cree Regional Authority National Office
2 Lakeshore Road
Nemaska, Quebec JOY 3BO
Canada
Tel: +1-819-673-2600
Fax: +1-819-673-2606

The Grand Council promotes and enforces the rights of the Crees as set out in international and domestic law. It promotes ecologically appropriate development which preserves the complexity and productivity of the environment and protects the Cree traditional ways of life.

ICC
Inuit Circumpolar Conference
170 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 504
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5V5
Canada
Tel: +1-613-563-2642
Fax: +1-613-565-3089

The ICC is an international organization representing the Inuit peoples of Alaska, Greenland, Canada, and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Indigenous Survival International
55 Murray Street, 3rd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5M3
Canada
Tel: +1-613-562-3230
Fax: +1-613-562-3233

Indigenous Survival's aim is to ensure the cultural survival of the indigenous peoples of Canada. The organization promotes the protection and conservation of renewable resources through effective harvesting and management methods.

NAPGUANA
Asociacion Kunas Unidos por Napguana
Via Espana, Edif. Domino, Piso 2, Ofic. 31
PO Box 536
Panama 1
Republica de Panama
Tel: +507-69-6525 / 6526
Fax: +507-69-3514

NAPGUANA has been working for several years with indigenous communities for the defense of indigenous rights, environment protection, and sound management of natural resources, among others. The organization serves as a legal adviser to indigenous peoples and several environmental NGOs. It holds seminars and conferences concerning the existing natural resources in indigenous areas and their importance on national level. It also works to sustainably develop indigenous communities and to strengthen the culture and tradition of these communities.

National Committee to Defend Black Rights (CDBR) - Aboriginal Corporation
PO Box 498
Broadway, NSW 2007
Australia
Tel: +61-2-698-9166 / 698-9826
Fax: +61-2-698-9826

This organization is comprised of aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-indigenous peoples.

National Federation of Indigenous Peoples of the Philippines (Kalipunan Ng Mga Katutubong Mamayawang Pilipinas - KAMP)
Room 701, WEB-JET Building
64 Quezon Avenue. Cor. BMA Street
Quezon City
Philippines
Tel: +632-712-0951 loc. 14

This federation is composed of 9 indigenous peoples' organizations and communities maintaining networks at the municipal, provincial and regional levels.

National Maori Congress
PO Box 5079
Lambton Quay
Wellington
Aotearoa
Tel: +64-4-499-4602
Fax: +64-4-499-4608

The congress is composed of the Maori population of New Zealand. The Congress works towards the construction of a national forum for tribal representatives to address economic, social, cultural, environmental and political issues within the Maori framework. In meeting these objectives, the Congress is guided by ancient Maori philosophy.

Organizacion Mapuche Ad-Mapu
Calle Cautin No 1635 Temuco
Provincia de Cautin IX Region
Casilla 516 Tempo, Chile

This organization of small farmers and artisans of the Ad-Mapu people defends the land rights of indigenous peoples whose lands are being threatened or whose lands were lost.

Saami Council
FIN-99980 Utsjoki
Finland
Tel: +9697-71-351
Fax: +9697-71-353

This council is composed of people from Finland, Norway, Russia and Sweden, and was set up by the Saami Program for the Environment which seeks to demonstrate common efforts for the preservation and promotion of the environment and indigenous peoples of Saami.

Survival International
310 Edgewise Road
London W2 1DY
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-71-7235535
Fax: +44-71-7234059
E-mail: gn:survival

Survival International is a worldwide movement to support tribal peoples. It stands for their right to decide their own future and helps them protect their lands, environment and way of life.
WCIP arose from the First International Conference on Indigenous Peoples, in October 1975. The objectives of WCIP are: to promote unity among indigenous peoples; to facilitate the exchange of information among the indigenous peoples of the world; to strengthen their organizations and to encourage the abolition of any possibility of genocide or ethnocide; as well as to combat racism, to ensure the political, economic, social and cultural justice of the indigenous peoples, based on the principles of equality among the indigenous peoples and the people of the countries that surround them.

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

**African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies**
Kairaba Avenue, K.S.M.D.
Banjul
Gambia
Tel: +220-94-525
Fax: +220-94-762

**Asian Women’s Human Rights Council**
198 Katipunan Ave.
Blue Ridge Park, Project 4
Quezon City
Philippines
Tel/Fax: +632-721-8883

**Comision para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos en Centroamerica**
(Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America)
Apartado Postal 189
Paseo de los Estudiantes
San Jose
Costa Rica
Tel: +506-24-5970 / 25-0270
Fax: +506-34-2935

**Human Rights Watch**
1522 K Street NW, Suite 910
Washington, DC 20002
USA
Tel: +1-202-371-6592
Fax: +1-202-371-0124

**Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos**
(Interamerican Institute of Human Rights)
Apartado Postal 10081
100 San Jose
Costa Rica
Tel: +506-34-0404/5
Fax: +506-34-0955

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

**AFREDA**
Africa Relief and Development Consultancy Association
29 Arusha Street Ilala
PO Box 45847
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania
Tel: +255-51-25825
Fax: +255-51-46107 / 46108
Telex: 4100

AFREDA is a voluntary non-governmental organization founded in 1989. AFREDA operates in the areas of youth, women, refugees, rural development and environmental programs both educational and field, such as tree planting. In addition to field projects and programs in the above areas, AFREDA has a research, training and consultancy unit.

**Bohumukhi Milon Shangha**
Natun Bazar, Parbatipur
Dinajpur - 5250
Bangladesh
Tel: +880-2-418776, 393 (Parbatipur)
Fax: +880-2-833938 / 835273
Telex: 632359 HSC BJ

This group’s aim is to deal with the concerns of Bangladeshis such as the environment, food security, education, health, water, sanitation, women’s development and population. It aims to build people’s institutions with a view to strengthening the people’s effort in promoting their condition. The energetic intervention of the youths among the rural peasantry is the spirit of this organization. It also deals with youth issues separately. Mobilization of youths around social issues, such as anti-drugs and AIDS prevention campaigns undertaken by youth groups, are the main focus of the organization.
Caribbean Conservation Association
Savannah Lodge The Garrison
St. Michael
Barbados
Tel: +(809) 426-5373 or 9635
Fax: +(809) 429-8483
Cable: CONCARIB - Barbados

The Caribbean Conservation Association is a regional, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting policies and practices which contribute to the conservation, protection and wise use of natural and cultural resources in order to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations. CCA's activities span five major program areas: the formulation and promotion of environmental policies and strategies; information collection and dissemination services; promotion of public awareness through environmental education activities; research about, support for, and implementation of natural resource management projects to foster sustainable development; and assistance for cultural patrimony programs.

CEN
Canadian Environmental Network
PO Box 1289
Station B, Ottawa
Ontario K1P 5R3
Canada
Tel: +1-613-563-2078
Fax: +1-613-563-7236

The CEN is a non-governmental, non-profit network of environmental organizations that provides a cooperative forum for groups to share knowledge and expertise and involves public interest groups concerned with the environment in consultations on environmental legislation, policies and programs.

A number of caucuses within the network allow groups to share information and plan action and advocacy on particular issues as atmosphere, biotechnology, constitution, energy, environmental assessment, education, ecological pest management, forests, health and environment, international affairs, oceans, waste avoidance, water and wilderness.

CFEJ
China's Forum of Environmental Journalists
CEN - China Environmental News
15 (A) Xiao Xinglonjie Chongwen District
Beijing 100062
People's Republic of China
Tel: +861-752478
Fax: +861-7013772

The CFEJ's CEN serves to publicize environmental information in China and other parts of the world. The organization also works to strengthen networking among environmental journalists.

Citizens Alliance for Saving the Atmosphere and the Earth (CASA)
1-3-17-813 Tanimachi
Chuo Ku, Osaka 540
Japan
Tel: +81-6-941-3745
Fax: +81-6-941-5699

CASA was established in 1988 by organizations and individuals from consumers groups raising awareness about the responsibilities of the citizens in the North; organizations of victims of environmental pollution and grassroots groups fighting against environmentally damaging projects; and professionals such as scientists, lawyers, physicians, teachers and others who had been working in cooperation with citizens. This organization works both as national network of environmental NGOs and as an independent group, which is active in organizing symposia and study meetings, publishing newsletters, proposing policies, and promoting the practice of sustainable lifestyle.

Development Alternatives
B-32 TARA Crescent
Qutab Institutional Area
New Delhi 110 016
India
Tel: +91-11-66-5370 / 65-7938
Fax: +91-11-686-6031
Telex: 031-73216 DALT IN
E-mail: geo2:tara / econet:tara

Development Alternatives is a non-profit organization which designs and promotes better approaches for the sustainable development of India. Its aim is to transform the opportunities offered by technology into solid rewards for the people. Development Alternatives functions as an agent of change, particularly on the problems of the poor in our country. It acts as a bridge between what is within their reach and what could be in their grasp.

FRETILIN
Frente Revolucionaria de Timor-Leste Independiente (Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor)
89 Wulagi Cres, Wulagi
Sanderson NT 0812
Darwin
Australia
Tel/Fax: +61-89-279177

FRETILIN is a political organization established in 1974 to gain total independence for the people of East Timor, also called Maubere People. FRETILIN Program is based on the universal doctrines of socialism and democracy, is against racial discrimination and corruption and favoring a policy of good-neighborliness and cooperation in all sectors and at all levels with the countries in the East Timor geographical area.
The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy is a non-profit research and education organization. As part of the Institute's work to help build sustainable communities, they publish daily news bulletins and computer databases on a wide range of trade, agriculture and sustainable development topics (these are available to the public through electronic computer networks). IATP also offers training programs in agriculture and trade policy for government and private sector leaders.

GEO
Green Earth Organization
PO Box 16641
Accra-North
Ghana

Tel: +233-21-223476
Fax: +233-21-669187 / 228668
Telex: 2645 CADTEK

The GEO is an agency which has a mission to engage in activities geared towards the defense, conservation, preservation and restoration of the flora and fauna of the Earth. It believes that development should have the conservation of the environment as its prime target. GEO concentrates its efforts in community-based conservation activities, including a wide range of activities leading to improved natural resource management, reduced environmental abuse and restoration of life forms on the planet. Through non-formal education and training, GEO focuses on activities which tend to improve the quality of life of mankind, especially in areas of relief and development and population.

Global Tomorrow Coalition Inc.
1325 G Street NW
Suite 1010
Washington, DC 20005-3104
U.S.A.

Tel: +1-202-628-4016
Fax: +1-202-628-4018

The Global Tomorrow Coalition provides educational materials for community groups, teachers, policy-makers, and concerned citizens on global issues relevant to health, security, and long-term sustainability.

The Green Belt Movement
PO Box 67545
Nairobi
Kenya

Tel/Fax: +254-2-504264

Established in 1977 in Kenya, the Green Belt Movement is an indigenous, environmental campaign with tree-planting as its basic activity. Although its objectives are many and varied, the tree has been used as the focal point around which other environmental issues are discussed and brought to the attention of the public and decision makers, underlining the inseparable relationship between the environment, development and good government.

Working primarily with rural-based, self-help women groups, the Movement has planted over 7 million trees on over 50,000 small-scale farm-holdings and 3,000 schools. The Pan-African Greenbelt Network, designed to promote Greenbelt-like activities within the region, has also been established in 8 African countries.

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
1313 5th Street SE, Suite 303
Minneapolis, MN 55414
USA

Tel: +1-612-379-5980
Fax: +1-612-379-5982
E-mail: iatp@igc.org

KCO
Kenyan Consumers’ Organization
PO Box 21136
Nairobi
Kenya

Tel: +254-2-226022
Fax: +254-2-214898

KCO is an independent, non-profit organization which has identified consumer activism as one of the most tangible ways of promoting sustainable development in Africa. It promotes consumer responsibility in Kenya and encourages research on climate change in Africa, focusing on the implications of analysis and recommendations for policy responses. KCO also works to raise awareness of the linkages between consumption patterns and climate changes in Africa.

PeTA
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals
PO Box 42516
Washington, DC 20015
USA

Tel: +1-301-770-7444
Fax: +1-301-816-8907

PeTA is a non-profit organization dedicated to establishing and defending the rights of all animals. PeTA works through public education, research and investigations, legislation, special events, direct action, and grassroots organizing. PeTA works in North America and other countries in the North.

RADEV
Reseau Africain pour le Developpement (African Network for Development)
RADEV Secretariat
PO Box 60233
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: +251-1-51-49-63 / 51-01-75
Fax: +251-1-51-58-33

RADEV is an officially recognized, private, non-profit, non-political, non-governmental organization established in 1991 to assist in the mobilization of resources for development associations, cooperatives, youth, women, and private entrepreneurs in various environmental and socio-economic fields.

South Asia Partnership - Nepal
SAP-Nepal
PO Box 3827
Kamaladi, Kathmandu
Nepal

Tel: +977-226440
Fax: +977-1-223050
Telex: 2255 GORKHA NP ATTN. SAP

SAP-Nepal, an association of Canadian and South Asian voluntary organizations works in cooperation with national and international NGOs and assists in socio-economic and cultural development activities. Its major goals are to raise awareness among the disadvantaged groups (e.g. small-scale farmers, landless workers, women and their children, youths, etc); promote and nurture peoples’ organization; help institutionalize NGOs; and develop partnership between/among NGOs. Its main objectives are to provide program support to NGOs; help build capacity of NGOs; promote participatory development; facilitate open forum for mutual understanding; and develop long-term partnership with non-governmental organizations.
SPACHEE
South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology & Environment
c/o University of South Pacific
PO Box 1168
Suva
Fiji
Tel: +679-313-900 ext. 2465
Fax: +679-302-548
E-mail: spachee@usp.ac.fj

SPACHEE is a non-governmental organization that was established in 1982 to raise awareness about environment concerns and to encourage action to promote environmentally sustainable development. It produces a variety of materials including a newsletter that covers issues of concern to fragile island ecosystems and organizes environment awareness workshops and programs.

Taller De Educación y Capacitación Ambiental (TECA)
Casilla 181-11
Santiago 11
Chile
Tel: +56-2-634-7316
Fax: +56-2-634-7289

TECA is an institution dedicated to education and training which gives special emphasis to the use of innovating and participative methodologies. From different professional points of view and with an interdisciplinary approach, TECA have been working in the various fields of the national endeavour, such as the educational field, social organizations, local government, feminine action groups, and alternative sources of energy.

Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI)
J1 Penjernihan I/15
Kompleks Keungan, Pejompongan
Jakarta 10210
Indonesia
Tel: +021-588-416/583975
Fax: +021-586181
Tlx: 44672 SWIDJOIA
Cable: WALHI
EMAIL: gn:pn:walhi

WALHI is an extensive network of non-governmental groups in Indonesia interested in issues of environment, development and social change. The network includes environmental groups, anti-pollution groups, bird lover groups, community development workers and others. It seeks to find solutions to the interlinked problems of environment, development and population through holistic programs that address economic, social and ecological concerns.

PUBLISHING COMPANIES

Earthscan Publications
3 Endsleigh Street
London WC1H ODD
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-71-338-2117
Fax: +44-71-388-2826

Books from Earthscan Publications address Third World issues and their global implications, beginning with the inescapable link between poverty and environmental degradation. Earthscan publishes titles on environment and development issues. Earthscan is the editorially-independent arm of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

Inter Press Service
Van Eeghenstraat 77
1071 Ex Amsterdam
Netherlands
Tel: +31-20-6626016
Fax: +31-20-6719701

IPS is an alternative press agency with a presence in 93 countries. It can be accessed through the APC electronic network.

Island Press
Centre for Resource Economics
1718 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20009
USA
Tel: +1-202-232-7933

In 1984 Island Press, a small publisher with a diverse list of books, was reorganized to focus exclusively on environmental issues. It publishes practical and solution-oriented books on problems which threaten health, well-being and the sustainability of life on Earth. To date it has produced more than 60 books from both environmental organizations and individuals.

Zed Books
57 Caledonian Road
London N1 9BU
United Kingdom
Tel: +44-71-837-4014/8466
Fax: +44-71-833-3960

Zed Books issues books on a variety of issues related to global change, including environmental deterioration, poverty and development, international trade, primary health care, and international refugee relief. These books seek ways in which sustainable development in both North and South can move beyond convenient rhetoric and become a practical reality.
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

The following is a list of development agencies established by individual countries. Each agency works and focuses in particular areas of development and regions. They also have different funding guidelines and requirements. Here we only include the general addresses where inquiries according to the specific information needs may be directed.

CIDA
Canadian International Development Agency
200 Promenade du Portage
Hull, Quebec K1A 0G4
Canada

DANIDA
Danish International Development Agency
Udenrigsministeriet (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Asiatisk Plads 2
DK-1448 Copenhagen K
Denmark

Development Cooperation Department
PO Box 20061
2500 EB
The Hague
Netherlands

FINNIDA
Finnish International Development Agency
Kanavakatu 4 A
00160 Helsinki
Finland

Norwegian Agency for Development
PO Box 8142 DEP
OSLO 1
Norway

ODA
Overseas Development Administration
Eland House, Stag Place
London SW1E 5DH
UK

SIDA
Swedish International Development Agency
Klarabergsgatan 60
S-10 525 Stockholm
Sweden

USAID
United States Agency for International Development
320 21st St, NW,
Washington, DC 20523
United States

UN, INTERNATIONAL BODIES

The following is a selective list of UN specialized agencies. The UN NGLS and DPI, both listed below, can provide you with more specific information. Most of these agencies either have a youth unit or information pertaining to youth.

FAO
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
1-00100 Rome
Italy

Tel: +39-6-57971
Fax: +39-6-514-6172 / 679-9563

FAO works in the areas of agriculture, agrarian reform and rural development, education, employment, environment, fisheries, forestry, health, nutrition, population, and women, among others.

GATT
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
Centre William Rappard
154, rue de Lausanne
CH-1211 Geneva 21
Switzerland

Tel: +41-22-739-5111
Fax: +41-22-731-4206

GATT is an international trade and trade policy body. It publishes trade statistics and analysis on international trade. Some of its publications include trade studies, GATT activities and annual reports on trade.

IMF
International Monetary Fund
700 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20431
USA

Tel: +1-202-623-7000
Fax: +1-202-623-4661 / 623-6220

IMF was created to regulate the operation of the international monetary system; to promote exchange stability and maintain orderly exchange arrangements among members; to provide financial assistance, subject to conditions, to member countries in balance of payments difficulties, and to facilitate expansion and balanced growth of international trade. IMF publishes regular and special reports, a statistical bulletin, books, periodicals, pamphlets and papers. Briefings and liaison services are provided for NGOs and other groups on request.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Via del Serafico 107
1-00142 Rome
Italy

Tel: +39-6-54591
Fax: +39-6-504-3463

IFAD works on funding resources for agricultural development, agricultural research and good production in developing countries, combating rural poverty, hunger and malnutrition.
The work of ILO focuses on cooperatives; equality of rights; freedom of association; human rights (including apartheid questions); international labor standards; labor administration; migrant workers; multinationals; population; social security; training; women; working and living conditions and environment and; workers' education. ILO makes information available to the public.

INSTRAW
United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
Cesar Nicolas Peuson 102-A
Santo Domingo
Dominican Republic

Tel: +809-685-2111
Fax: +809-685-2117

INSTRAW is mandated to develop activities to help ensure the integration of women into the mainstream of development, particularly in developing countries. INSTRAW also contributes to raise awareness of women's issues worldwide and to better assist women to meet new challenges and directions. INSTRAW's major programs and activities relate to the improving of statistics and indicators on women and development, focusing particularly on the informal sector of the economy, research in environment and sustainable development, development of communications materials, training of trainers in sectoral issues such as water supply and sanitation, and new and renewable sources of energy.

Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
Case postale 2500
CH-1211 Geneva 2 Dépôt
Switzerland

Tel: +41-22-739-8111
Fax: +41-22-731-9546

The UNHCR provides international protection for refugees; searches for permanent solutions to the problem of refugees; and provides material assistance. It makes available to the public information and educational material concerning refugees and UNHCR action (periodicals, publications and multimedia kits, photographs, posters and films).

UN Department of Public Information (DPI)
NGO and Institutional Relations Section
United Nations Room S-1037D
New York, NY 10017
USA

Tel: +1-212-963-6842
Fax: +1-212-963-4361

The NGO Section of DPI covers all subjects currently relevant to the UN, including political, economic and social issues and human rights. It publishes weekly briefings for NGO representatives, from September to the end of May, on a variety of topics; and it holds film and video screenings, including those on development. It promotes an annual DPI/NGO Conference at UN Headquarters and periodic regional conferences for NGOs worldwide. The DPI also provides NGO representatives at the UN Headquarters with a Resource Center for UN documents, publications and press releases.

UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
United Nations Building
Rajadamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Thailand

Tel: +66-2-282-9161 / 200
Fax: +66-2-282-9602

The aim of ESCAP is to facilitate action for the social and economic development of Asia and the Pacific and to maintain and strengthen the economic relations of countries and territories in the region, both among themselves and with other countries of the world. It publishes specific reports/newsletters/bulletins on economic and social issues related to the region in a wide range of fields.

UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
PO Box 927115
Amman
Jordan

Tel: +962-6-693-351
Fax: +962-6-694-981 / 694-982

The aim of ESCWA is to assist in the achievement of the economic and social development of Western Asia and to strengthen economic relations among the countries of the region, and between them and other countries of the world. It publishes, among others, ESCWA Notes (covers forthcoming seminars, committee meetings, etc.), the External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region, the National Accounts Studies Bulletin, the Bulletin of Industrial Statistics of the ESCWA Region, the Bulletin of Agriculture and Development, the Population Bulletin of ESCWA.

UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)
United Nations Room DC2-1103
New York, NY 10017
USA

Tel: +1-212-963-3125
Fax: +1-212-963-8712

NGLS works in the areas of human development, environment and development, the global economy and African recovery and development. It works with Southern NGOs seeking access to UN system events, processes and resources. NGLS monitors and participates in the research, meetings and publications of a wide range of institutions on the changing roles of northern and southern development NGOs, and their relations to governments and multilateral organizations.
NGLS brings important development activities and issues of UN system to the attention of NGOs, assists NGO networks active on issues and themes under discussion in the UN system, and facilitates NGO activities around UN conferences, events and processes. NGLS organizes meetings and puts NGOs in touch with other organizations sharing similar interests and with appropriate UN system offices. It maintains databases on the NGO community and publishes information on UN and/or NGO resources.

**UNDP**

United Nations Development Programme  
UNDP Headquarters  
1 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY 10017  
USA  
Tel: +1-212-906 + extension  
Fax: +1-212-906-5364

UNDP works on development assistance and technical cooperation; technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC); women in development; liberation movements; regional development cooperation; NGO activities in developing countries; science and technology for development; national economic and social development planning; disability prevention and environment. Some of UNDP’s publications are: Human Development and Source (magazines); Update (newsletter); UNDP Annual Report; booklets, brochures, leaflets, etc. It also provides raw information on specific development topics and activities, briefings and press liaison.

**UNEP**

United Nations Environment Programme  
UNEP Headquarters  
PO Box 30552  
Nairobi  
Kenya  
Tel: +254-2-230-800 / 520-600  
Fax: +254-2-226-886 / 228-890

UNEP works on a wide range of topics related to environment: environmental health, desertification control, forestry, energy, environment and development, oceans, environmental law, environmental management, and environmental assessment, among others.

**Regional Offices:**

**UNEP Liaison and Regional Office for Europe**  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41-22-798-5850  
Fax: +41-22-798-3945

**UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**  
United Nations Building  
Rajadamnern Avenue  
Bangkok 10200  
Thailand  
Tel: +66-2-2829-615

**UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean**  
Apartado Postal 6-718  
11570 Mexico City  
Mexico  
Tel: +52-5-203-4975

**UNESCO**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
7 place de Fontenoy  
F-75700 Paris  
France  
Tel: +33-1-4568-1000  
Fax: +33-1-4567-1690

UNESCO’s work covers the areas of communications and information, education and literacy, environment, human rights, new international economic order, peace, international understanding, population, preservation of cultural heritage, rural development, water sciences, women and youth.

**UNESCO International Bureau of Education (IBE)**  
PO Box 199  
CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41-22-798-1455  
Fax: +41-22-798-1486

The Bureau is responsible for the preparation and organization of the International Conference on Education (every two years); the undertaking and publishing results of studies, particularly on comparative education; the production and dissemination of information on education; the maintenance and development of an international educational library and an educational documentation and information center.

**UNICEF**

United Nations Children’s Fund  
UNICEF New York HQ  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
USA  
Tel: +1-212-326-7000  
Fax: +1-212-326-7260 / 326-7768

UNICEF advocates and works for basic services for children, community development, global interdependence and respect for other cultures. It focuses on: primary health care, immunization, water supply and environmental sanitation, formal and non-formal education, women, girls and youth in development, children in especially difficult circumstances, structural adjustment with a human face, child’s rights. It provides resource materials, development education kits, publications and other information materials, photos and photo-exhibit sets, wall sheets and posters.
UNIFEM
United Nations Development Fund for Women
304 E 45th St., 6th Floor
New York, NY 10017
USA

Tel: +1-212-906-6400
Fax: +1-212-906-6705

UNIFEM was established to channel and ensure the involvement of women in the development process. UNIFEM provides development assistance for women on agriculture (Food Security and the Environment), trade and industry, and macro planning/policies through pamphlets, brochures and reports on UNIFEM's activities and programs.

United Nations Centre for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22-734-6011
Fax: +41 22-733-9879

The Centre for Human Rights is the lead agency of the UN in the field of human rights. It provides a secretariat and substantive services to UN bodies concerned with human rights questions, administers the Programme of advisory services and technical assistance on human rights, and coordinates the relevant activities of the World Campaign for Human Rights within the UN system.

It liaises with governments, NGOs, external institutions and the media, and is responsible for the collection, production and dissemination of human rights publications. It publishes the Human Rights Newsletter, Bulletin of Human Rights, fact sheet series, ad hoc publications, human rights studies, press relations. Human rights reference materials and copies of certain studies and reports provided on request.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
UNFPA Headquarters
220 E 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017
USA

Tel: +1-212-850 + extension
Fax: +1-212-557-6416

OR

UNFPA Liaison Office
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Tel: +41-22-798-5850 / 8696
Fax: +41-22-733-0875

UNFPA works in the subject areas of maternal and child health and family planning; population information, education, communication; women, youth, aging; internal migration; population distribution and urbanization; infant, child, maternal mortality; integration of population factors with development planning; socio-economic, demographic and biomedical research.

WORLD BANK (IBRD)
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
International Development Association (IDA)
1818 H Street NW
Washington, DC 20433
USA

Tel: +1-202-473-1782
Fax: +1-202-473-8533/477-6931

The World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference and its membership is open to members of the IMF. The World Bank was established to assist in the financing of the rebuilding of the nations affected by the Second World War. The objective of the World Bank evolved into the lending of funds to less developed countries for projects that lead to economic growth.

FOUNDATIONS

A foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization set up to maintain or assist charitable initiatives for the benefit of the public. The following is a list of some foundations that support youth projects, international cooperation and initiatives relating to Environment and Development. This list is by no means complete but it will provide you with a starting point for grant seeking. Each foundation works in different ways, some are more interested in particular areas, issues and types of projects than others. By providing the names of a few foundations, you could get started in learning how to fundraise through foundations. Each one has their own particular criteria set out for people wishing to apply for money from them. The best approach is for you to write to them individually simply asking for information. Once you receive information from them, and explore whether your project meets their criteria or not, you can begin applying directly for funding.

American Express Philanthropic Program
American Express Tower, World Financial Center
200 Vesey St.
New York, NY 10285-4710
USA

Public Welfare Foundation, Inc.
2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Rm. 505
Washington, DC 20037-1977
USA

Amoco Foundation Inc.
200 East Randolph Dr.
Chicago, Illinois 60601
USA

Ralston Purina Corporate Contributions
Checkerboard Square
St. Louis, Missouri 63164
USA

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
1200 Mott Foundation Bldg.
Flint, Michigan 48502-1851
USA
Reebok Foundation  
100 Technology Center Dr.  
Stoughton, Massachusetts 02072  
USA

Global 2000 Inc.  
One Copenhill  
Atlanta, Georgia 30307  
USA

Rockefeller Brothers Fund  
1290 Ave. of the Americas  
New York, NY 10104  
USA

J. Roderick MacArthur Foundation  
9333 North Milwaukee Ave.  
Niles, Illinois 60648  
USA

Syntex Corporate Contributions Program  
3401 Hillview Ave., A-1-291  
Palo Alto, CA 94304  
USA

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 South Dearborn St.  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
USA

Shell Oil Company Foundation  
(Formerly Shell Companies Foundation, Inc.)  
Two Shell Plaza  
P.O. Box 2099  
Houston, Texas 77252  
USA

Levi Strauss & Company Corporate Giving Program  
1155 Battery St.  
P.O. Box 7215  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
USA

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
300 Second St., Suite 200  
Los Altos, CA 94022  
USA

The Ford Foundation  
320 East 43rd St.  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

The Pew Charitable Trusts  
Three Pkwy., Suite 501  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102-1305  
USA

The Service Master Foundation  
c/o V. Squires 2300 Warrenville Rd.  
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515-1765  
USA

The Xerox Foundation  
P.O. Box 1600

The Rockefeller Foundation  
1133 Ave. of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036  
USA

W. K. Kellogg Foundation  
One Michigan Ave. East  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017  
USA

International Youth Foundation  
67 W. Michigan Suite 608  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017  
USA

There are also many publications which provide information on foundations.

For more information write to:

The Foundation Center  
8th Floor  
79 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10003  
USA

or call: 212-620-4230
AGENDA 21: CHAPTER 25; CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

25.1 – Youth comprise nearly 30 per cent of the world’s population. The involvement of today’s youth in environment and development decision-making and in the implementation of programmes is critical to the long-term success of Agenda 21.

PROGRAMME AREAS

Advancing the role of youth and actively involving them in the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and social development.

BASIS FOR ACTION

25.2 It is imperative that youth from all parts of the world participate actively in all relevant levels of decision-making processes because it affects their lives today and has implications for their futures. In addition to their intellectual contribution and their ability to mobilize support, they bring unique perspectives that need to be taken into account.

25.3 Numerous actions and recommendations within the international community have proposed to ensure that youth are provided a secure and healthy future, including an environment of quality, improved standards of living and access to education and employment. These issues need to be addressed in development planning.

OBJECTIVES

25.4 Each country should, in consultation with its youth communities, establish a process to promote dialogue between the youth community and Government at all levels and to establish mechanisms that permit youth access to information and provide them with the opportunity to present their perspectives on government decisions, including the implementation of Agenda 21.

25.5 Each country, by the year 2000, should ensure that more than 50 per cent of its youth, gender balanced, are enrolled in or have access to appropriate secondary education or equivalent educational or vocational training programmes by increasing participation and access rates on an annual basis.

25.6 Each country should undertake initiatives aimed at reducing current levels of youth unemployment, particularly where they are disproportionately high in comparison to overall unemployment rate.

25.7 Each country and the United Nations should support the promotion and creation of mechanisms to involve youth representation in all United Nations processes in order to influence those processes.

25.8 Each country should combat human rights abuses against young people, particularly young women and girls, and should consider providing all youth with legal protection, skills, opportunities and the support necessary for them to fulfill their personal, economic and social aspirations and potentials.

ACTIVITIES

25.9 Governments, according to their strategies, should take measures to:

(a) Establish procedures allowing for consultation and possible participation of youth of both genders by 1993 in decision-making processes with regard to the environment, involving youth at the local, national and regional levels;

(b) Promote dialogue with youth organizations regarding the drafting and evaluation of environment plans and programmes or questions on development;
(c) Consider for incorporation into relevant policies the recommendations of international, regional and local youth conferences and other forums that offer youth perspectives on social and economic development and resource management;

(d) Ensure access for all youth to all types of education, wherever appropriate, providing alternative learning structures, ensure that education reflects the economic and social needs of youth and incorporates the concepts of environmental awareness and sustainable development throughout the curricula; and expand vocational training, implementing innovative methods aimed at increasing practical skills, such as environmental scouting;

(e) In cooperation with relevant ministries and organizations, including representatives of youth, develop and implement strategies for creating alternative employment opportunities and provide required training to young men and women;

(f) Establish task forces that include youth and youth non-governmental organizations to develop educational and awareness programmes specifically targeted to the youth population on critical issues pertaining to you. These task forces should use formal and non-formal educational methods to reach a maximum audience. National and local media, non-governmental organizations, businesses and other organizations should assist in these task forces;

(g) Give support to programmes projects, networks, national organizations and youth non-governmental organizations to examine the integration of programmes in relation to their projects requirements, encouraging the involvement of youth in project identification, design, implementation and follow-up;

(h) Include youth representatives in their delegations to international meetings, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted in 1968, 1977, 1985, and 1989.

25.10 The United Nations and international organizations with youth programmes should take measure to:

(a) Review their youth programmes and consider how coordination between them can be enhanced;

(b) Improve the dissemination of relevant information to governments, youth organizations and other non-governmental organizations on current youth positions and activities, and monitor and evaluate the application of Agenda 21;

(c) Promote the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Youth Year and collaborate with youth representatives in the administration of it, focusing particularly on the needs of youth from developing countries.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

FINANCING AND COST EVALUATION

25.11 The Conference secretariat has estimated the average age total annual cost (1993-2000) of implementing the activities of this programme to be about $1.5 million on grant or concessional terms. These are indicative and order-of-magnitude estimates only and have not been reviewed by Governments. Actual costs and financial terms, including any that are non-concessional, will depend upon, inter alia, the specific strategies and programmes Governments decide upon for implementation.

CHILDREN IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

BASIS FOR ACTION

25.12 Children not only will inherit the responsibility of looking after the Earth, but in many developing countries they comprise nearly half the population. Furthermore, children in both developing and industrialized countries are highly vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation. They are also highly aware supporters of environmental thinking. The specific interests of children need to be taken fully into account in the participatory process on environment and development in order to safeguard the future sustainability of any actions taken to improve the environment.
OBJECTIVES

25.13 National governments, according to their policies, should take measures to:

(a) Ensure the survival, protection and development of children, in accordance with the goals endorsed by the 1990 World Summit for Children (A/45/625, annex);

(b) Ensure that the interests of children are taken fully into account in the participatory process for sustainable development and environmental improvement.

ACTIVITIES

25.14 Governments should take active steps to:

(a) Implement programmes for children designed to reach the child-related goals of the 1990s in the areas of environment development, especially healthy, nutrition, education, literacy and poverty alleviation;

(b) Ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, annex), at the earliest moment and implement it by addressing the basic needs of youth and children;

(c) Promote primary environmental care activities that address the basic needs of communities, improve the environment for children at the household and community level and encourage the participation and empowerment of local populations, including women, youth, children and indigenous people, towards the objective of integrated community management of resources, especially in developing countries;

(d) Expand educational opportunities for children and youth, including education for environmental and developmental responsibility, with overriding attention to the education of the girl child;

(e) Mobilize communities through schools and local health centres so that children and their parents become effective focal points for sensitization of communities to environmental issues;

(f) Establish procedures to incorporate children's concerns into all relevant policies and strategies for environment and development at the local, regional and national levels, including those concerning allocation of and entitlement to natural resources, housing and recreation needs, and control of pollution and toxicity in both rural and urban areas.

25.15 International and regional organizations should cooperate and coordinate in the proposed areas. UNICEF should maintain cooperation and collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations, Governments and non-governmental organizations to develop programmes for children and programmes to mobilize children in the activities outlined above.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

FINANCING AND COST EVALUATION

25.16 Financing requirements for most of the activities are included in estimates for other programmes.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

25.17 The activities should facilitate capacity-building and training activities already contained in other chapters of Agenda 21.
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