

Background

After Stockholm Conference 1972, more than 100 governments set up environmental ministries and agencies, which in turn enacted environmental regulations. The Stockholm Conference also gave birth to the World Commission on Environment and Development, known as the Brundtland Commission after its Chairperson, Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Prime Minister of Norway. It was this commission's report, "Our Common Future", that called a global conference on environment and development.

Our Common Future (World Commission on Environment and Development 1987), commonly called the Brundtland Report after its chair, Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, set the tone for much of the debate. "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (World Commission on Environment and Development 1987, pp. 27, 43)

UNCED (Earth Summit) was in fact inspired mainly by the Brundtland' Report of 1987

EARTH SUMMIT The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), popularly known as the Earth Summit, was convened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992 in the hopes of securing a number of environmentally responsible international agreements. The conference brought together the largest number of world leaders that had ever been assembled: 118 heads of state and government and delegations from 178 nations.

"mother of all summits"

"the biggest gathering of world leaders ever held"

The chief official for UNCED was Maurice Strong, a Canadian businessman and environmentalist.

Parallel to the official summit was a Global Forum. Here, by one count, there were 3,738 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) from 153 countries that had something to say about the environment, and about 30,000 participants in total.

The UNCED Preparatory Committee and Its Work??

Two open-ended Working Groups were established at the PrepCom's March meeting. The aim of the preparatory process was to arrive in 1992 at specific agreements and commitments by Governments and international organizations for defined activities on environment and development specifying targets and time tables and providing the basis for concrete action plans.

Working Group- I Protection of the atmosphere by combating climate change, depletion of the ozone layers, and trans boundary pollution; protection and management of land resources by *inter alia*(among other things), combating deforestation, desertification and drought conservation of biological diversity; environmentally sound management of biotechnology.

Working Group- II Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and of coastal areas, and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources; protecting of the quality and supply of fresh water resources; environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes, and of toxic chemicals, as well as prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes.

Working Group- III Preparation for Earth Charter pertaining to environment and development principles to govern the conduct of nations and peoples.

What Conference Produce??

- The conference produced the Rio Declaration (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development 1992b), a short statement of principles on environment and development.
- It also produced Agenda 21 (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development 1992a), at over 500 pages long perhaps the most complex and comprehensive international document ever attempted

Initially, there was hope for four international conventions—(1) Forests, (2) Biotechnology, (3) Biodiversity, and (4) Climate

Rio Declaration: Xerox

The **Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**, often shortened to **Rio Declaration**, was a short document produced at the 1992 **United Nations "Conference on Environment and Development"** (UNCED), informally known as the **Earth Summit**. The Rio Declaration consisted of 27 principles intended to guide countries in future **sustainable development**. It was signed by over 175 countries.

Agenda 21^[1] is a non-binding **action plan** of the **United Nations** with regard to **sustainable development**.^[2] It is a product of the **Earth Summit** (UN Conference on Environment and Development) held in **Rio de Janeiro**, Brazil, in 1992. It is an action agenda for the UN, other **multilateral** organizations, and individual governments around the world that can be executed at local, national, and global levels. The "21" in Agenda 21 refers to the 21st century. It has been affirmed and had a few modifications at subsequent UN conferences. Its aim is achieving global sustainable development.

The **Forest Principles** (also *Rio Forest Principles*) is the informal name given to the **Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests** (1992), a document produced at the **United Nations** Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), informally known as the **Earth Summit**.

Moreover, important legally binding agreements (**Rio Convention**) were opened for signature:

- [Convention on Biological Diversity](#)^[6]
- [Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC)
- [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#)