

Section 1 : Social and Economic Dimensions

Chapter 2 : International cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries and related domestic policies

A. Promoting sustainable development through trade

Objectives

While taking into account the results of the Uruguay Round of the multilateral trade negotiations, Governments should:

- promote an open, equitable trading system which enables countries to improve their standards of living through sustained economic development
- improve market access for developing countries
- promote domestic and international policies that support both economic growth and environmental protection.

Activities

- the international community should promote an international trading system that takes account of the needs of developing countries.
- developing countries should, within the framework of sustainable development, develop domestic policies that maximise the benefits of trade liberalisation.

B. Making trade and environment mutually exclusive

An open trading system will allow for more efficient allocation and use of resources. This should lead to an increase in production and income and lessen the demands on the environment.

Objectives

Governments, through relevant multilateral forums including GATT and UNCTAD, should:

- make international trade and environment policies mutually supportive and based on sustainable development
- encourage international productivity and competitiveness yet consider environment and development issues.

Activities

Governments should encourage GATT, UNCTAD and other relevant economic institutions to develop trade within the framework of sustainable development.

C. Providing adequate financial resources to developing countries

Developing countries require investment from domestic and external sources to achieve economic growth and improve the welfare of their populations without depleting their resources.

Activities

Both indebted countries and lending countries, banks and organisations should address debt issues and negotiate ways to reduce debt.

D. Encouraging economic policies conducive to sustainable development

Objectives

To establish economic and social policies that promote sustainable development, foster entrepreneurship, remove distortions from trade, and incorporate social and environmental costs into resource pricing.

Activities

Industrial countries and other countries in a position to do so, should:

- encourage a stable and predictable economic environment
- develop policies to improve efficiency