

Section 4 : Means of Implementation

Chapter 36

Promoting Education, Public Awareness and Training

Education, raising of public awareness and training are linked to virtually all areas in Agenda 21.

A. Reorienting education towards sustainable development

To change people's attitudes, so as to achieve sustainable development requires education on development and the environment.

Activities

Governments and relevant organisations should:

- promote access to education for all
- integrate environment and development issues into education at all levels
- strengthen information exchange
- promote non-formal and adult education programmes
- foster opportunities for women in non-traditional fields
- provide incentives for establishing childcare facilities
- use the experience and understanding of indigenous people in education
- facilitate low-cost or no-cost use of mass media for education
- promote effective use of existing facilities e.g. multiple school shifts.

The United Nations should review its educational programmes so that they mobilize different sectors of the population into addressing environmental and development needs.

B. Increasing public awareness

There is a lack of awareness of the interrelated nature of all human activities and the environment.

Objectives

To promote broad public awareness.

Activities

Countries should:

- strengthen advisory bodies
- provide environment and development information
- use educational establishments to stimulate awareness
- promote a cooperative relationship with the media
- use new communication technology to reach people
- promote environmentally sound leisure and tourism activities
- incorporate the knowledge of indigenous people
- involve young people and children
- target both men and women
- highlight the impacts of violence in society.

C. Promoting training

Training should have a job-specific focus aimed at helping people find employment consistent with sustainable development.

Objectives

To:-

- strengthen vocational training programmes.
- promote a flexible and adaptable workforce equipped to meet growing environmental and development problems.
- strengthen scientific education.
- ensure that environmental and human considerations are integrated at all management levels in all areas.

Activities

Countries and relevant organisations should:

- encourage national professional associations to include environmental considerations in their code of ethics
- include an environmental management component in training activities
- consult with people isolated either geographically, culturally or socially regarding sustainable work practices and lifestyles
- promote understanding of the interrelationship between good environment and good business practices
- train environmental technicians to help local people and communities
- enhance access to information on environment and development.
- develop and implement strategies to deal with environmental threats and emergencies.

Aid agencies should strengthen the training component in all development projects. United Nations should extend its environmental training programmes.