

## International Cooperation

According to the action plan adopted in September 2002 at the Johannesburg Summit ( World Summit on Sustainable Development ), each country must promote sustainable production and consumption practices if sustainable development is to be achieved on a global scale. Each country is therefore encouraged to establish a 10-year framework plan for accelerating the implementation of such practices.

At the G8 summit held on Sea Island, Georgia, in the U.S. in June 2004, the G8 Action Plan: Science and Technology for Sustainable Development: 3R Action Plan and Progress on Implementation ( 3R Initiative ) was adopted. The action plan aimed, from a global perspective, to achieve the construction of a sound material-cycle society through the promotion of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. The plan will officially start at the Ministerial Conference to be held in Japan in the spring of 2005.

Even before the enactment of the 3R initiative, Japan proposed at the April 2003 G8 Environment Ministers Conference the implementation of a joint international research project to consider the establishment of common methods for material flow accounts and resource productivity. Based on this proposal, the International Expert Meeting on Material Flow Accounts ( MFA ) and Resource Productivity was held in Tokyo in November of the same year. Following the meeting, in April 2004, the OECD ( Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development ) adopted the Recommendation of the Council on Material Flows and Resource Productivity, which aims to promote the development of methods for material flow analysis and their use among OECD member nations.