

PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN HEALTH

SUMMARY

Final discussions on the health chapter erupted in heated debate over two paragraphs on contraception. After a long debate, compromise language was adopted which included taking into account cultural considerations. Overall the chapter has been improved bringing targets into line with those adopted in other fora and setting them as goals to be considered for implementation by countries with adaptation to each country in terms of phasing, priorities and availability of resources. The activities section on vulnerable groups still misses the mark with respect to women. Negotiations on this chapter were extremely useful in raising the profile of the issue of health within UNCED and in building north/south cooperation. The chapter was adopted with virtually no brackets.

DOCUMENTATION

A/CONF.151/PC/L.62 Protection and Promotion of Human Health (replaces PC/100/Add.5).

CANADIAN OBJECTIVES

1. Seek to have health and well-being recognized as the most fundamental objective of economic development activity.
2. Seek to have recognized the importance of including health as a fundamental criterion in all development initiatives.
3. Seek support for the concept that individual awareness of health is in itself empowering.

PREPCOM DISCUSSION

With the exception of the paragraphs on contraception there were no substantive disagreements among delegations on the health chapter. On the contrary, negotiations on this chapter provided the first opportunity for developed country and developing country delegations to work cooperatively.

Delegations' interventions in plenary and in contact group focused almost exclusively on improving the document. The final approved chapter has been strengthened to include more objectives of interest to developing countries such as water and sanitation and to focus more on a community-based approach. Objectives, targets and the general terminology