

MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable mountain development was not an overly contentious chapter and a consensus decision containing no square brackets resulted from the negotiations. During negotiations Austria introduced the concept of developing appropriate regional instruments including legal and other instruments aimed at the protection of fragile mountain ecosystems. The concepts of diversification of mountain economies and involving local communities in the decision-making process were strengthened through the introduction of appropriate language.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The adopted decision for this chapter of Agenda 21 is a consensus document with square brackets around those issues still under negotiations within the biodiversity convention and around unresolved issues within the Means of Implementation. The Secretariat's document PC/100/Add.19 was used as the basis of negotiation. The only contentious issue was the agriculture and trade paragraph which was resolved through some corridor discussions following consideration of the broader trade issue by the Plenary. Deliberations on the programme areas which dealt with plant and animal genetic resources although delayed until resolution of the biodiversity and biotechnology chapters, did result in a consensus text with only square brackets around the phrase "fair and equitable" sharing.

A new programme area on the evaluation of the effects on ultra-violet radiation on agriculture was added to the original list by Argentina during the first day of negotiations.

CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Negotiations began with many delegations expressing concern that the Secretariat's document PC/100/Add.20 duplicated and prejudged the deliberations under way within the INC-Biodiversity. It was decided that negotiation would take place on the basis of a Swedish proposal along with text proposed by the EC. The Swedish proposal was the result of limited negotiations in the corridor prior to the beginning of formal negotiations. The major contentious issues were related to those that touched on areas yet still unresolved within the biodiversity convention negotiations.

This chapter is comprised of one programme area -