

urged the meeting to move away from general statements and to work strategically on key areas of importance.

OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

The discussion of this item after formal statements from delegates was brief and looked very broadly at the chairman's summary (annexed to this report).

The decision adopted instructed the Secretary General to prepare proposals for inclusion in Agenda 21 to be considered at the next Prepcom. The discussion of Agenda 21 proposals on this item is to begin early on in the next Prepcom to allow adequate time for consideration of options.

With respect to the objectives set out by the Canadian delegation before the meeting, a full and complete airing of views on the international economic system took place both in discussions on poverty and in discussions on international economic issues. However, the meeting did not have much time for informal discussions nor were there Agenda 21 options to consider. This more detailed and realistic discussion will have to take place at the next Prepcom; it is not clear if there will be enough time to reach even a preliminary resolution of these issues or to decide on a future course of action at that time.

While there was no forum for detailed discussion of population and consumption issues it was clear that for developing and developed countries alike there was a will to discuss both issues openly and to develop Agenda 21 options for further action. The decision adopted instructs the Secretary General to prepare options on these two items for the next Prepcom. As with international economic issues there will be little time left before the conference itself to reach any resolution of these two issues. The best that can be hoped for is an agreement to refer them to specific other fora for action.

On the issue of women and environment and development, the draft decision which asked both for a separate Agenda 21 chapter and integration into other relevant chapters was sponsored by almost all delegations and passed without discussion. The challenge will be to assist the UNCED Secretariat to implement the decision in the short time remaining. CIDA and Status of Women Canada may wish to follow up with UNIFEM and the UNCED Secretariat to assist with implementation.

The Prepcom adopted two decisions on the importance of including indigenous peoples, local communities and youth in the deliberations of the meeting and in Agenda 21 options. This decision links closely with the objective of increasing the number of constituencies to be involved in deliberations. Canada continued to provide leadership on these issues in the third Prepcom and will continue to do so during the next meeting. New mechanisms will have to be sought to include the non-government sectors in a more meaningful and consistent fashion. The UN system as currently constituted is not set up to do this easily.