

plenary discussion, divergent views were evident on nearly all portions of the chapter and so it was referred to a contact group for further consideration. There were lengthy discussions on terminology, particularly on "indigenous people(s)" and territories. Several new objectives appear in L. 72 and the wording of others has been broadened. One objective now talks of protection from activities which are environmentally unsound "or which the indigenous people concerned consider to be socially and culturally inappropriate."

Canadian objectives in general have been met, since the text recognizes the role which indigenous people can play in sustainable development efforts, and includes particular references to the contributions of indigenous women.

MAJOR GROUPS: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS: PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

Many of the changes to the text of Add. 13 were based on wording changes submitted by NGOs at the PrepCom and incorporated in amendments tabled by delegations. The objective to establish a government NGO dialogue by 1995 has been strengthened by specifying that this take place in all countries. In some cases, target dates have been removed and specific wording changed. However, the amended text is general enough to accommodate broad NGO participation in the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels without being prescriptive, and hence restrictive.

The original text of this chapter in Add. 13 had been drafted in close consultation with the traditional grass roots, community based organizations involved in environment and development issues on a voluntary basis. In order to ensure that all societal groups are able to participate in UN activities to implement Agenda 21, Canada proposed an amendment to the chapeau of Add. 13 stating that any policies and rules affecting access to, and participation in UN activities to implement Agenda 21 must apply equally to all major groups. This proposal was accepted.

MAJOR GROUPS: LOCAL AUTHORITIES INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT
OF AGENDA 21

Contact Group and Plenary discussions on this chapter proceeded rapidly. This was one of the few areas that all countries seemed to agree should be strengthened both in other chapters of Agenda 21 and through programs and