

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

This issue in the mind of many countries, including Canada, was a simple, straightforward issue of marginal importance. Negotiations based on the text prepared by the Secretariat prior to the PrepCom would have been simple.

However, the G-77 produced their own version of the document and insisted that their document serve as the basis for negotiation. This useless procedural debate, in addition to the differences that emerged among developed countries on the issues of dispute settlement and the proposal for a convention, unduly complicated and extended the negotiations and made it difficult to arrive at an acceptable text.

Negotiations were carried out on the basis of a text, prepared by the vice-chair of the working group, which was a blend of the original Secretariat text, comments and additions proposed by delegations, and elements of the G-77 text. At the end of the fourth week of PrepCom IV, the negotiated text was left with many important brackets. Fortunately many of these got deleted by the small drafting group which met during the last week of the PrepCom.

The document agreed to during the Plenary session still contains some brackets, some of which may prove difficult to negotiate. Those refers to trade barriers; [compliance] in addition to implementation mechanisms; dispute [prevention] in addition to dispute settlement, technological assistance [on fair and equitable terms], the development of a "safety nuclear convention" and references to the role of the International Court of Justice for dispute settlement.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,
AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES

The document on the table at the start of Prepcom IV (A/CONF.151/PC/100/Add.3) had not been discussed at Prepcom III. Rather, it was a document which had been written by the UNCED secretariat based on the view that the four issues contained in the paper were important enough to merit a separate Agenda 21 chapter. However, the four areas covered under this chapter are all being handled elsewhere and hence an implicit consensus developed at Prepcom IV that UNCED should give some consideration to these issues and highlight their importance for successfully achieving the goal of sustainable development but refrain from expending scarce resources on issues which were not high priority for UNCED.

The resulting section on promoting development through trade