

availability of documentation and information to non-governmental organizations, and encouraged the secretariat to proceed with those activities, within the available resources;

(d) The SBI noted that representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGO) may be allowed to participate in informal contact groups, unless the Parties object.

82. The Chairman indicated his understanding, with respect to paragraph 81 (d) above, that this provided for the possible participation of NGOs as *observers* in *open-ended* contact groups (emphasis added). Different views were expressed on the manner in which participation would be determined.

83. The SBI requested the secretariat to prepare, for consideration at its ninth session, a draft decision on the modalities for participation of representatives of NGOs in contact groups for a decision by the COP at its fourth session.

XII. REPORT ON THE SESSION

(Agenda item 12)

84. At its 12th meeting, on 12 June, the SBI approved the draft report on the work of its eighth session, as contained in document FCCC/SBI/1998/L.1, and as orally amended.

85. At the same meeting, the SBI authorized the Chairman, with the assistance of the secretariat, to complete the report on the session.

XIII. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

86. At its 13th meeting, which was held jointly with the SBSTA on 12 June, closing statements were made by four Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

87. After thanking all participants for their constructive cooperation, the Chairman declared the session closed.