

## FRESHWATER

### SUMMARY

Freshwater was, by and large, not a contentious issue at PrepCom III. There was general agreement that the Mar del Plata Action Plan provides a still valid basis for actions which need to be taken. The main contentious point which was common to consideration of all issues was that developing countries were adamant that unless financial resources, technology transfer and other means of implementation were specifically laid out, they could not approve the proposed freshwater programme. Malaysia's insistence on reference to Antarctica ("potential sources of freshwater") in Agenda 21, was systematically rejected by the Antarctica Treaty Consultative Parties.

The main Canadian objectives were achieved. The revised Freshwater chapter of Agenda 21 emphasizes the need to identify mechanisms for implementing, coordinating and funding all activities, including at the international level. The need for women and indigenous peoples to participate in policy and decision making at the local, national, regional and international levels is also recognized. Despite India's attempt to decouple the International Conference on Water and the Environment (Dublin, January 1992) from the UNCED process, the final PrepCom documents invite the Dublin Conference to identify options for implementation mechanisms, so that the final stages of UNCED preparations can benefit from the views of the experts in Dublin.

### Documentation

A/CONF. 151/PC/73	-	Background Document
A/CONF. 151/WG.II/L.23/Rev.1	-	Freshwater Resources: Decision
Annex to L.23/Rev.1	-	Revised Draft Options for Agenda 21

### PREPCOM DISCUSSIONS

The Canadian objectives were the following:

- ensure that the need to improve arrangements for water management (at the international, regional, national and local levels) is recognized;