

AGBM 7
August 3, 1997
Bonn, Germany

CANADIAN INTERVENTION ON NGO CONSULTATIONS TO THE SBI

- . My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat and the Executive Secretary for their work in developing such comprehensive documentation on this issue.
- . NGOs make a valuable contribution to the FCCC process in educating and broadening governments' thinking and comprehension of the climate change issue.
- . As we have noted before, Mr. Chairman, because of the importance which Canada places on this contribution of NGOs, we have extensive consultative processes in Canada. These are both formal and informal, and provide numerous opportunities for getting input from our interested NGOs as well as provincial and municipal governments, on international and domestic climate change issues.
- . For some time, Canada has also had representatives from ENGOs and industry on our official delegations.
- . We believe that this is an effective way for our domestic NGOs to contribute their views to the Canadian government.
- . That said, we recognize that there are concerns by some NGOs that enhanced input into the international climate change negotiating process is necessary.
- . Canada recognizes this. But we also recognize that the desire for enhanced NGO input has to be balanced by consideration of the financial pressures of resultant enhanced activities faced by the Secretariat and Annex 2 countries. It should also recognize the different role representative governments in these negotiations versus the role of NGOs.
- . Taking these considerations into mind, from Canada's perspective, the principal focus within the FCCC should be on improving existing processes and mechanisms, rather than creating new bodies, mechanisms or fora.
- . As such, we support cost effective initiatives, for example, allowing for written submissions by NGOs on upcoming agenda issues to the FCCC website. These could be compiled into a miscellaneous document.