

consensus on language related to contraception services and information. As a result the relevant paragraphs were placed in square brackets by several G77 countries who felt that the language did not take adequate account of collective rights as opposed to individual rights. Despite this, the text contains solid statements on violence against women and the need to implement measures to increase the proportion of women involved as decision makers at all levels. However, the chapter on institutional follow-up makes little reference to the key role that women must play in the implementation of Agenda 21. Work needs to be done to ensure that the final Agenda 21 document rectifies this lacuna with practical and practicable language.

MAJOR GROUPS: CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

All Canadian objectives relating to this chapter have been met. Broad language has been included calling for youth involvement at all levels of government and in all UN agencies; reduction of youth unemployment, particularly where high in comparison with overall unemployment; and increased access to education. References to the development of an International Youth Advisory Council were replaced by wording dealing with the administration and promotion of the existing UN Youth Fund. New wording allows for flexibility in establishing national mechanisms for involving youth in environment and development decision-making. Community level action has been strengthened by language emphasizing access to information and consultation with youth by all levels of government regarding implementation of Agenda 21.

A major change addition to the text is a new program area proposed by Sweden to ensure that the rights and interests of children are taken into account in the preparatory process and beyond.

L. 72, in particular the objectives section, contains much of the language introduced by CANZ, which incorporated most of the Canadian brief as well as many amendments proposed by a youth working group at the PrepCom. Ms. Erin Hannah, a member of the youth working group and a youth representative on Candel introduced many of the changes in Plenary on behalf of CANZ.

MAJOR GROUPS: RECOGNISING AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Agreement was reached on an overall text. At the initial