

There was general consensus that this was a key issue which would only grow in importance over the next decade. The meeting adopted a decision making human settlements a separate chapter in Agenda 21 and urging that other programme areas include references to human settlements especially atmosphere, land, coastal and freshwater. This will be an area of growing interest for a broad range of actors and the challenge over the months leading up to the next Prepcom will be to ensure that activities taking place on a variety of fronts be integrated into the Agenda 21 chapter which will be completed in draft by the end of November. This process should not be left entirely up to UNCHS.

In terms of meeting the objectives set out before the meeting, to some degree all objectives were addressed if not entirely met. Recommendations on links between activities at the local and international levels were made but few mechanisms exist to follow up on these recommendations. CIDA and CMHC should follow up with the UNCED Secretariat to ensure that recommendations flowing from Canadian initiatives on this front are well integrated into the Agenda 21 chapter.

The second objective was fully met through the inclusion of Human Settlements as a separate Agenda 21 chapter. It now remains to be seen that it is adequately implemented. The third objective, to include a broad range of constituencies in discussions, stands as an overall objective of the delegation and as such was addressed on many fronts throughout the meeting and was mentioned directly in several of the various Canadian interventions. However, the UN system (and thus the Prepcom process) is not as yet accustomed to the participation of actors other than government. There were mixed results on this objective at the meeting and Canada should continue to demonstrate leadership in pursuit of broader participation if a range of interested parties is to continue on at UNCED and afterwards.

With respect to the role of women, a decision was adopted by the Prepcom to include a separate chapter on women in Agenda 21 and to integrate this issue into each sector. As with the decision on Human Settlements the implementation of this decision should be monitored carefully. Major conferences on women's issues being held in Miami in November are almost too late to feed into the drafting process for Agenda 21.