

In the end consensus language was found and the chapter goes forward to Rio with virtually no brackets.

OUTCOME AND ASSESSMENT

It was anticipated that this would be a difficult chapter to negotiate and it was. With constant monitoring from the Holy See, general resistance to the chapter from the G77, overzealous protection of the text on the part of the UNCED Secretariat leading to unprofessional behaviour, and, finally, overzealous lobbying by the NGO women's caucus, the text was in stress from several directions. Due to hard work by the Australian chair and the American delegate and a willingness to compromise on the part of the Indian delegate, representing the G77, consensus was finally reached. The text is not as strong and clear as it could be but there have been some important steps forward especially with respect to the importance of the economic status of women in dealing with population programmes and the need to educate men.

All of the Canadian objectives have been met in the text. The major weakness is the playing down of the importance of the 1994 Conference on Population and Development which is mentioned in only two of the three programme areas (Programme B - Policy, and Programme C - Implementation, not in Programme A - Research) and where "could report" is the agreed wording rather than "should report". This is partly due to the general fatigue of the negotiators and partly results from the desire to make the text less directive to developing countries and more collaborative.

Follow-up through Agenda 21 and after June is clearly the prime responsibility of UNFPA. IPPF will also doubtless have a strong role to play although they are not mentioned in the text. It is not yet clear how this chapter relates to the many other international population initiatives and conferences which are at play.

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