

environmentalists and policy makers at the provincial and municipal levels. As a result the Canadian delegation brought a high level of knowledge and scientific expertise to the negotiating sessions.

The Canadian delegation included federal and provincial parliamentarians, premiers and ministers from British Columbia, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and the Northwest Territories. Women, youth, indigenous people, business, labour, and development and environmental NGOs were also represented. The Canadian negotiating team included officials from Environment Canada, EAITC, Fisheries and Oceans, Forestry Canada, Finance and CIDA. The Honourable David MacDonald, Chairperson of the Environment Committee, brought the Committee's concerns to all of the negotiations in his capacity as Advisor to the Canadian Delegation. Sound knowledge of atmospheric science was provided by Elizabeth Dowdeswell, who was Canada's principal delegate to the IPCC; and by officials from the Atmospheric Environment Service.

Canada had a clearly-defined position that paralleled our *Green Plan* commitment of stabilizing greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000. At the negotiations Canada pressed for targets and schedules, and pursued two main objectives:

- to conclude a framework convention as an effective tool for concrete, cooperative international action, agreed to by the maximum number of countries, equitable to all parties, and achievable in a cost-effective manner;
- to launch follow-on implementing steps, which should begin as soon as possible.

In addition, Canada went to the negotiations with three aims: (i) to preserve Canada's competitiveness; (ii) to provide opportunities for Canadian business; and (iii) to involve as many countries as possible using a common approach that allows differentiated action among countries.

The climate change negotiations began in February 1991 and ended in May 1992 after five negotiating sessions. During the early negotiations a number of countries, in particular some European nations, favoured well-defined emission reduction targets and timetables. It should be noted that well prior to UNCED negotiations Germany, Denmark and New Zealand had all adopted voluntary carbon dioxide reduction targets that were more ambitious than those of Canada. Based on 1987 carbon dioxide levels, Germany had proposed a 25% reduction in emissions by 2005. Both Denmark and New Zealand had pledged to reduce 1990 carbon dioxide emission levels by 20% in 2000. A similar target was proposed in the Environment Committee's 1990 report *No Time To Lose: The Challenge of Global Warming*. Specifically, we recommended a 20% reduction in 1988 carbon dioxide emissions by 2005. However, the Government of Canada chose to adopt the less rigorous goal of stabilizing Canadian greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by 2000.

Initial drafts of the Convention were opposed by the United States and a number of oil-producing countries. The United States felt that the countries supporting the timetables did not have credible plans for stabilizing emissions, while the United States had already committed itself to an action plan that by the year 2000 would reduce emissions by 7-10% of a business-as-usual scenario. They felt that in the absence of sound scientific evidence it would be unwise to support emission-reduction programs that might impinge upon the United States economy. After much negotiation and compromise a convention lacking in firm targets and timetables was drafted. At the Earth Summit the United States signed *The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, and on 15 October 1992 it became the fourth nation (the first industrial nation) to ratify the Convention.