

ECOSOC itself, rather than setting up a new forum. Delegations also agreed that the follow-up mechanism should be supported by a "highly qualified and competent secretariat support structure." The Secretary-General is requested to report on the staffing implications as soon as practicable.

Delegations also clarified the function of the follow-up mechanism; the role of key UN agencies (in particular UNEP and UNDP) in implementing the outcomes of UNCED and their cooperation with other international organizations; regional and sub-regional cooperation and coordination; national implementation activities (including the preparation of sustainable development plans and reports); and the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the relevant UN bodies dealing with sustainable development.

Canada's objectives were achieved. The listing of the two options for the UNCED follow-up mechanism allow for further consideration of optimal UN institutional arrangements for dealing with sustainable development. With respect to other issues, such as rational use of resources, linkages among the bodies dealing with sustainable development issues at all levels, national implementation, and the role of NGOs, virtually all of our proposals were incorporated in the final text. It is expected that all outstanding issues will be resolved in Rio de Janeiro, with detailed modalities for the UN follow-up to be finalized at UNGA 47.

#### ROLE OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND COOPERATION

Following one negotiating session, the Agenda 21 Chapter on Regional Organizations and Cooperation was eliminated and its main contents incorporated into the Agenda 21 chapter on International Institutional Arrangements. The result is a section on "Regional and sub-regional cooperation and implementation", seven paragraphs in length, addressing: (i) the promotion of regional and sub-regional capacity building; the integration of environmental concerns in regional and sub-regional development policies; and, regional and sub-regional cooperation regarding transboundary issues related to sustainable development. The emphasis is on the role of UN regional economic commissions, regional economic and technical cooperation organizations, and regional development banks.