

XI. INVOLVEMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
(Agenda item 11)

1. Proceedings

78. The SBI considered this item at its 6th, 9th and 12th meetings, on 4, 8 and 12 June, respectively. It had before it document FCCC/SBI/1998/5. Documents previously issued on this agenda item were also available (FCCC/SBI/1997/14 and Add.1, and FCCC/SBI/1997/MISC.7). These documents were introduced by the Executive Secretary.

79. Statements were made by representatives of 11 Parties, including one representative speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, and representatives of two non-governmental organizations, representing the environmental and the business and industry constituencies, respectively.

80. Parties stressed the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the meetings of the Convention bodies, and in the implementation of the Convention. Representatives of non-governmental organizations emphasized their willingness to contribute to the Convention process. The SBI welcomed the practice of the Chairmen of the subsidiary bodies of meeting the different NGO constituencies.

2. Conclusions

81. The SBI, having considered a proposal by the Chairman, adopted the following conclusions:

(a) The SBI took note that the current arrangements for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations were satisfactory, and that no change in the accreditation procedures was required;

(b) The SBI noted that the existing three recognized constituencies: (i) environmental, (ii) business and industry, and (iii) local authorities, did not always provide a practical way of grouping the non-governmental organizations. The SBI concluded that a new framework could be based on elements provided by the Executive Secretary in document FCCC/SBI/1997/14/Add.1, paragraphs 5 and 6, as well as on the list of major groups in Agenda 21. In this regard, the SBI requested the secretariat to continue consultations with representatives of different non-governmental organizations to arrive at an improved set of constituencies, possibly to be confirmed by the SBI at its tenth session;

(c) The SBI recognized that non-governmental organizations, if they were to be effectively involved in the implementation of the Convention, must be well informed about the Convention process. The SBI welcomed the proposals of the secretariat for improving the