

## INSTITUTIONS

### **SUMMARY**

Following on the discussions at PrepCom II, delegates continued to present ideas for reforming/revitalizing the UN to promote sustainable development objectives, but it remains to be seen if Working Group III can make some fundamental decisions on institutions. Virtually all delegations stressed the need to examine existing bodies, rather than adding major new institutions to the UN system. Several countries suggested stronger coordinating roles for the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and ECOSOC; as well, they called for improved inter-agency coordination. African countries called for UNEP to broaden its mandate to cover both environment and development; this view was countered by representatives from other regions, who advocated a narrower focus for UNEP. Developing countries spoke against utilizing the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) as a main funding mechanism for sustainable development. Other issues raised included the role of regional organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in implementing UNCED's outcomes and dispute prevention and settlement (also raised under Legal Issues).

### **Documentation**

- |                        |   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| A/CONF.151/PC/80       | - | Report by the Secretary General on Institutions |
| A/CONF.151/PC/94       | - | Report of Working Group III                     |
| A/CONF.151/WG.III/L.10 | - | Chairman's Summary on Institutional Issues      |

### **PREPCOM DISCUSSION**

The Canadian objectives were to introduce ideas to the third PrepCom on the following issues:

- promotion of a high-level informal vehicle to maintain the political momentum generated at UNCED;
- encouraging the General Assembly and the Secretary General to take committed and authoritative roles in ensuring the coordination of environmental efforts throughout the UN system and promoting the integration of environment and development into its programmes and activities;
- setting into place interim arrangements for coordinating environment and development programming and performance review across the UN system;