

being attached to one or more principles and each of them having difficulties with one or more principles.

Between now and Rio, we will evaluate the bottom line need for modifications to the text, consult with other countries and assess the likelihood of arriving at a better text taking into consideration that the alternative "better no declaration than a mediocre declaration" is not an option.

NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING

The final decision document on capacity building was adopted unanimously early in the last week of the PrepCom. The chapter places emphasis on the prime responsibility of national governments with respect to endogenous capacity building. The overall objective of the chapter is to improve national, subregional and regional capabilities including those of NGOs. The UNDP is identified as the prime multilateral agency to coordinate capacity building activities but the role of specialized agencies especially UNEP, regional and non-government organizations is also recognized. The UNDP is urged to strengthen its regional capacity to enable it to more effectively carry out this role.

The chapter recommends that countries establish a coordinating committee with assistance from UNDP and UNEP to develop a "country driven participatory and sustainable development strategy" based on the experience of the country reports. All the main Canadian objectives were met although the chapter remains slightly disjointed and could be stronger with respect to calling for more coordination within the UN system and at the regional level. The chapter has been strengthened in terms of clarifying the respective roles of UNDP and UNEP, in pointing out the need for national sustainable development strategies and in emphasizing the importance of involving regional organizations and NGOs.

INSTITUTIONS

Thanks to skilful management by the Malaysian coordinator (Ambassador Razali), PrepCom IV exceeded expectations in terms of producing a clear text on institutions for onward transmission to Rio de Janeiro. Most of the Agenda 21 chapter has been agreed to, with two major options for the UN intergovernmental follow-up mechanism. These are: a) to establish a Sustainable Development Commission reporting to both the UN General Assembly and ECOSOC; or b) to use the