

given to development issues in the agenda, interventions on poverty far outweighed those addressing the other three issues including health. All four issues were dealt with in one half day formal discussion and a half day informal discussion.

Several delegations did make a point of addressing the issue of environment and health, however, and the chairman of the poverty discussion included a section on health in his brief overview of this part of the plenary agenda.

The European Community led the discussion by pointing out that health has linkages to nearly all other issues on the UNCED agenda. Health considerations are central when dealing with urbanization, fresh water supplies, toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. In addition there are primary global problems such as global atmospheric changes and loss of biodiversity which have implications for health. The EC made reference to the WHO Commission on Health and Environment, established in 1990, and said that the Commission had laid the basis for WHO to develop strategies to tackle the problems of health and the environment in the future. They recommended that the final conclusions and recommendations of the WHO Commission should be considered for inclusion in Agenda 21 and discussed at the fourth PrepCom.

The EC supported the four action areas outlined in PC54 but said there would be a need to set priorities and for coordination. The intervention closed by reminding the plenary that the EC Ministers for Environment and for Health had met in December 1989 and adopted the European Charter on Environment and Health. Reference was also made to the Sudsvall Conference on Supportive Environments in June 1991. The EC asked that recommendations from this latter conference also be integrated into Agenda 21.

The ICFTU referred to the work that trade unions have done over the years on the health and safety of their members who are often put at risk by dangerous and polluting processes. The ILO called for recognition of the inter-relationship between the working environment and environment and development. They therefore asked that more attention be given in the documentation going to the next Prepcom to activities related to supporting the improvement of working conditions and environment, especially improvements in occupational safety and health.

The Australian statement referred to the WHO Commission and recommended that it be used as the basis for a health chapter in Agenda 21 as well as providing a range of options for possible incorporation in other specific sectoral chapters. They called for the key priorities which would hold the most promise for the improvement of human health to be identified. The German delegation called for improved access to health care as a means to reduce poverty.