

PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

SUMMARY

Negotiations of this chapter of Agenda 21 at PrepCom IV were based on a text introduced by the G-77 during the opening day of negotiations. This negotiating text was essentially a modification of the Secretariat's document PC/100/Add.14 and divided the chapter into four programme areas: a) addressing the uncertainties; b) promoting sustainable development through: energy development, efficiency, and consumption; transportation; industrial development; and terrestrial and marine resource development and land-use; c) transboundary atmosphere pollution; and d) stratospheric ozone depletion. The G-77 modified text was an attempt to eliminate those objectives and activities which tended to duplicate, preempt or prejudice the negotiations within the INC-Climate Change. The segregation of transboundary atmosphere pollution and stratospheric ozone depletion from promoting sustainable development was questioned by several delegations including Canada. However, in the spirit of compromise this text was accepted as the basis of further negotiations.

Negotiations were difficult with several delegations trying to introduce text that reflected their positions on how to deal with atmospheric issues (e.g., economic instruments and regulatory measures). Text that appeared to duplicate or prejudice the INC process was either rejected or made more general in terms of the broader atmospheric issues rather than focusing on just climate change or GHG emissions. The unwillingness of some G-77 countries to accept the terms and conditions of the Montreal Protocol caused some difficulties and considerably weakened this programme area.

During the Plenary's deliberations on this chapter, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Yemen introduced a number of additions and suggested deletions to the negotiated text which were accepted by the Chair (i.e. introduction of additional square brackets). In addition, they placed the entire text in square brackets stating that the protection of the atmosphere chapter in its entirety duplicated, preempted and prejudged the INC-Climate Change negotiations and that this chapter would have to be renegotiated in Rio after the INC had completed its negotiations. This chapter, therefore, remains in a state of flux and will need to be further negotiated prior to including it in Agenda 21.