

be no new institutions. In its redrafting of the institutions section of the oceans paper, the Netherlands thus deleted specific proposals about establishing a new oceans forum and convening a world oceans conference. The representative from the UN Office of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (OALOS) did make the point that, if the UNCLOS is not ratified, countries would have to decide whether the item should continue to be on the UNGA agenda (Sixth Committee) or dealt with in another, possibly new, forum. The representative added that the same would, of course, apply if the UNCLOS were ratified, but countries would also have to consider whether parties should form their own deliberating/negotiating body or keep the LOS agenda item solidly entrenched in the UN system, given the truly global nature of oceans issues. Finally, some delegations pointed out that different aspects of oceans are considered in a number of bodies (UNGA, UNEP, UNESCO/IOC, IMO) and that perhaps there may be a requirement either to consider all oceans issues annually in one body or at least ensure that key problems, such as marine pollution, are addressed in an appropriate forum.

It is recommended that it would be useful to consider the original institutional proposals contained in PC/42/Add.6, bearing in mind the issues raised in other sectors (e.f. forests, freshwater) in the Plenary and Working Group III, with a view to making a coherent presentation of institutional reform/revitalization proposals coming out of the UNCED process. The matrix developed by CIDA could be a useful tool for further discussions in this regard.

Critical Uncertainties and Climate Change

This issue was a higher priority for small island states, which are likely to flesh it out some more at PrepCom IV. The emphasis would be on linkages between climate change and sea level rise. The US highlighted the need to support the establishment of UNESCO/IOC's Global Ocean Observation System (GOOS).

Whaling and Antarctica

Discussions on marine mammals (whales) and polar regions (Antarctica) proved to be extremely divisive and almost unravelled the tremendous work already done on L.18. On the former issue, Japan and the Nordics (Denmark, Iceland, and Norway) insisted they could not accept even bracketed reference's to New Zealand's proposal for a ten-year moratorium on whaling. They eventually backed down, but submitted their own language on the need to promote the sustainable use of all marine mammals and to counteract pollution, which is the real culprit (not whaling) in diminishing stocks.

On Antarctica, the Treaty Parties (ATCP) met several times and decided that the Malaysian proposals to establish, inter alia, a world park and a UN sponsored science station in Antarctica and to negotiate a comprehensive convention on the conservation