

ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY. THE SUBSTANTIVE MERITS OF NEGOTIATING EITHER A GLOBAL CONVENTION ON DESERTS OR REGIONAL ONE FOCUSED ON AFRICA ARE NOT/NOT YET CLEAR; ALTHOUGH SUCH AN APPROACH MIGHT COMPEL A GREATER DEGREE OF COMMITMENT BY THE AFFECTED GOVTS AND GREATER REGIONAL CO-OPERATION THAN HAS BEEN EVIDENT TO DATE. POLITICALLY, HOWEVER, THE ARGUMENTS FOR AGREEING TO A DESERTIFICATION CONVENTION, AS A QUID PRO QUO FOR A FOREST CONVENTION, ARE OBVIOUS. BOTH COULD BE PORTRAYED AS THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVTL CONVENTIONS, AFTER THE CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY CONVENTIONS ARE SIGNED, AND PART OF A STEADY PROCESS BY GOVTS TO NEGOTIATE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS TO PROTECT KEY COMPONENTS OF THE BIOSPHERE. FOR ALL THESE REASONS, WE WILL HAVE TO THINK THROUGH OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE CAREFULLY IN PREPARATION FOR RIO.

15. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: BEYOND THESE SECTORAL ENVT ISSUES, THE KEY CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES OF THE CONFERENCE WILL ALL BE SUBJECT TO INTENSE NEGOTIATION IN RIO. OF THE FOUR, WE HAVE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF WORK TO DO ON THE ISSUE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. MOST OF THE DRAFT CHAPTER ON THIS ISSUE WAS NEGOTIATED IN NEW YORK - AND IT SUPPORTS THE APPROACH CANADA SOUGHT TO TAKE, ENCOURAGING GOVTS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO FACILITATE, THROUGH CLEARING HOUSES AND ODA PROGRAMS, WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITY. THE BRACKETED SECTIONS DEAL WITH THE LONG-STANDING IDEOLOGICAL ISSUE OF WHETHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE GRANTED QUOTE PREFERENTIAL ACCESS UNQUOTE TO CLEAN ENVTAL TECHNOLOGY, WHILE RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO PROTECT FIRMS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.