

POVERTY AND POPULATION

SUMMARY

For the developing countries, the issue of poverty was the key 'development' issue of the PrepCom. They were therefore concerned that it came so late in the agenda and was allocated only one day for consideration along with a cluster of other issues which included health, education and population. Interventions spoke mainly to the issue of poverty but many, including developing country delegations, said that population was an essential issue to address in combatting poverty.

Other highlighted issues included were the role of the international financial and trading systems in creating and perpetuating poverty in developing countries, the need for developed countries to reduce consumption and change lifestyles, the role of women and the need to work more with indigenous peoples and local communities.

Documentation

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|----------------------|---|--|
| A/CONF.151/PC/45 | - | Poverty and environmental degradation |
| A/CONF.151/PC/46 | - | The relationship between demographic trends, economic growth, unsustainable consumption patterns and environmental degradation |
| A/CONF.151/PC/CRP.14 | - | Cross sectoral issues: poverty, education, health, Chairman's Summary |
| A/CONF.151/PC/L.40 | - | Women in environment and development: Decision |
| A/CONF.151/PC/L.47 | - | Youth in environment and development: Decision |
| A/CONF.151/PC/L.48 | - | Indigenous peoples and local communities: Decision |
| A/CONF.151/PC/L.51 | - | Cross sectoral issues: poverty, sustainability, health, education, Decision |

PREPCOM DISCUSSION

The following Canadian objectives were identified for the third PrepCom:

- To encourage greater focus on the issue of the national and international inequitable distribution of economic resources;
- To have the Prepcom seriously address the role and status of women within the economy.
- To encourage examination of consumption patterns in middle income and rich nations and develop proposals for action to enable countries to achieve a sustainable balance between their population size, natural resource endowment and standard of living.
- To promote more effective poverty reduction strategies based on bottom up approaches to planning, local and traditional technologies and the integration of women and indigenous peoples into decision making and to monitor such strategies through the development of appropriate indicators.

The meeting opened with a plea from the director of UNIFEM to include women as a sector in their deliberations as majority of the world's population. Subsequent