

DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS

SUMMARY

Negotiations on the population chapter were difficult as was anticipated. Discussions among delegates were confused by interference from the UNCED secretariat consultant and by overzealous lobbying on the part of the NGO women's caucus. In the end consensus was finally reached with the G77 removing square brackets from the paragraphs referring to community based programmes. While the text still has too great an emphasis on research, it has been considerably strengthened in particular with respect to the role of women and the importance of addressing the economic and social status of women in developing effective population programmes. The chapter recommends that countries report progress on implementation to the 1994 Conference on Population and Development and that UNFPA have prime responsibility for following up on this section of Agenda 21.

DOCUMENTATION

A/CONF.151/PC/L.68 (see Tab#25) Adopted Agenda 21 document: Combating Poverty, Changing Consumption Patterns, and Demographic Dynamics and Sustainability (replaces PC/100/Add.2).

CANADIAN OBJECTIVES

1. Seek continued support for population issues as key to sustainable development
2. Seek support for the three programmes proposed in the text and propose that the 1994 United Nations Conference on Population and Development be the forum for review and reporting on these.
3. Seek to promote national and international recognition of the positive effects of universal literacy, primary health care, and enhanced social and economic status for women in the reduction of population growth rates.
4. Seek to gain national and international recognition of the importance of comprehensive, affordable and accessible reproductive health services in order to reduce maternal mortality, promote child survival and to allow couples to fulfil their family size aspirations.