

INTERVENTION BY THE CANADIAN DELEGATION ON
PROGRESS OF WORK IN WORKING GROUP III

Mr. Chairman:

Canada's intervention today will be short. We direct ourselves to what might be usefully accomplished on the matter of institutional arrangements during the Sessions of Working Group III in this 3rd Preparatory Committee meeting. The Agenda adopted at the last session of Working Group III seems to be well conceived. It provides the opportunity for a few opening comments of a general nature today, followed by presentation and discussion of the survey of legal instruments, which in our opinion can be a fairly straight-forward matter. The next item, on principles on general rights and obligations, appears to us to provide the opportunity for substantive discussion and progress, and we would hope that delegates see fit to propose and debate initial text on a Charter or other form of declaration. A number of documents provide the basis for such discussion, including PC/78, prepared by the Secretariat, PC/83 submitted by Peru, texts prepared by Canada and the USSR, as well as documents prepared by non-government organizations. Given this opportunity for substantive discussion and progress on principles on general rights and obligations, we would encourage delegates to limit debate today to matters pertaining to what Working Group III might accomplish during this Preparatory Committee Meeting.

Some informal work has taken place on institutional arrangements, and the Secretariat has produced two papers. PC/36 which raises a number of major issues for consideration; and, PC/80 which identifies a number of institutional options which have been raised by other parties.

A number of delegations have identified issues and institutional options which are worthy of further discussion. Canada has produced a non-paper on "Ideas of Some Delegations on Institutional Arrangements for Consideration by the UNCED Preparatory Committee". This paper is based on informal discussions we have had with a number of delegations. Copies of the paper are available at the back of the room. In addition, Mexico has produced a non-paper on institutions, and the ASPEN Institute in the United States recently held a small international workshop to address institutional and other issues.

It is recognized by most delegations that the work of Working Group III is necessarily in its early stages. Several delegates have mentioned that it is important to have a better understanding of the likely outcomes on the technical issues under discussion in Working Groups I and II before defining institutional remedies. Notwithstanding the desirability of awaiting such outcomes, many delegates also recognize that discussions need to begin on possible institutional arrangements for implementing UNCED results, taking into account the emerging results from the other Working Groups.