

amendment which recognises that the transboundary movement of solid wastes should be allowed for environmentally sound reasons. Future work in Canada should focus on liaison with provincial authorities, given the shared jurisdictions in this area.

#### RADIOACTIVE WASTES

The stalemate at the end of PrepCom III as to whether there would even be an Agenda 21 chapter on Radioactive Waste was successfully overcome by agreement, with the exception of one paragraph, on a relatively neutral text. The unresolved issue deals with the disposal of radioactive waste near the marine environment.

Canada achieved its objectives for this chapter. The text does not pre-empt the work being undertaken in other international fora, including the IAEA and the London Dumping Convention. It does not refer specifically to transmutation, nor does it call for the "prevention" of radioactive waste.

#### THE EARTH CHARTER\RIO DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Countries, such as Canada, which have been promoting the concept of a concise, short, positive, forward looking, inspirational text as the outcome of the negotiations on the Earth Charter (now called the Rio Declaration) are not entirely satisfied with the draft text of the Rio Declaration. This text, however, may very well be the best we can accomplish in the present circumstances. The level of common understanding among countries is not sufficient at this time to arrive at the inspirational Earth Charter we were hoping for.

The draft Rio Declaration on Environment and Development is a chair's text of five and half pages composed of a Preamble and 27 Principles drafted along the lines of a United Nations second Committee resolution. The Declaration represents a rapprochement of extremely divergent views on questions that are substantially difficult and politically sensitive. It was agreed at the Plenary Session, in response to a plea made by the Chairman of PrepCom IV, to transmit the text to Rio, without brackets, for further consideration and finalization.

This text is an extremely fragile construct. General consensus has been extorted from delegations by Tommy Koh. It is not the preferred text of any country, each of them