

## ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

### SUMMARY

The issue of health and the environment was dealt with during the PrepCom among a cluster of issues which also included education, poverty and population. Of these four, poverty was major focus of most interventions. Several developed country interventions did refer to health, notably the European Community, the United States and Australia. The International Labour Organization (ILO), ICFTU (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) and the World Health Organization (WHO) also made strong pleas for the meeting to look more seriously at health and environment. The WHO presented the preliminary findings of its Commission on Health and the Environment and asked that these recommendations be integrated in the Agenda 21 chapter on health. Timing may be difficult for this as the final report of the Commission is due in November while final documentation for the next Prepcom is due by 1 December. The latter deadline will be strict this time due to the many problems caused by late and untranslated documentation for this Prepcom. Decision A/CONF.151/PC/L.51 annexes the chairman's brief summary for the discussion of the four items and the summary does devote one section to health.

### Documentation

A/CONF.151/PC/54	-	Environmental Health Aspects of Development
A/CONF.151/PC/CRP.14	-	Chairman's Summary of Discussions on Poverty, Education and Health
A/CONF.151/PC/L.51	-	Decision on Cross-sectoral Issues (poverty, sustainability, and health and education)

### PREPCOM DISCUSSION

The primary Canadian objectives were:

- To develop an awareness of the different perspectives of developing and developed countries with respect to health;
- To obtain recognition that the decision-making process must involve the participation of all stakeholders;
- To foster international cooperation on the health impacts of environmental degradation;

The issue of health and environmental degradation was dealt with together with the issues of poverty, education and population/consumption patterns. Since poverty was the main 'development' issue and since up to that point very little attention had been given to development issues in the agenda, interventions on poverty far outweighed