

between community groups at a national and international level.

The chapter was adopted as amended with no square brackets except for a single reference to people living under occupation. Strong references to poverty in the draft Rio Declaration clearly link these two documents.

OUTCOME AND ASSESSMENT

There was a much greater degree of agreement on this chapter than originally predicted by delegations. Negotiations focused on the need to strengthen what started out as a very poor text. The process of negotiation allowed for good north/south government cooperation and very fruitful and positive linkages with NGOs.

Canada's objectives going into the meeting were fully met by the final document which emerged except for the fact that the structure of the chapter remains weak. As the chapter goes forward to Rio with essentially no square brackets, no further negotiation will be required. The key issue which remains will be how to strengthen existing structures to ensure that recommendations from the chapter are implemented and that poverty is closely tracked by UNCED follow-up arrangements.

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