

### TOXIC CHEMICALS

PrepCom IV agreed a comprehensive text on Toxic Chemicals, with square brackets only on the financial and technology transfer aspects pending resolution in the wider UNCED debate. All Canadian objectives were met, in particular the key objective of deleting a specific call for the banning of asbestos and organohalogenes; and recognition that various management tools are included in the life-cycle management approach in addition to phase-out and banning.

The chapter is a considerable advancement for international initiatives for management of toxic chemicals.

### HAZARDOUS WASTES

The Hazardous Waste chapter of Agenda 21 adopted at PrepCom IV is a reasonable text which meets all Canadian objectives. Proposals for self-sufficiency in management of hazardous wastes within the country of origin were softened to allow for the option of regionally-shared facilities. The text now includes provisions dealing with development of control procedures for the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes destined for recovery operations. The adopted chapter is compatible with current international work, notably in UNEP and the OECD, and with Canadian strategies. Finalisation of the Export and Import regulations will allow Canada to ratify the Basel Convention, as called for in the Agenda 21 chapter.

The square brackets remaining in the chapter are on the text dealing with financial resources and technology aspects, awaiting resolution in the broader UNCED debate; a reference to the European Community, pending a decision on its status vis-à-vis governments; and a reference to military establishments.

### SOLID WASTE AND SEWAGE

PrepCom IV adopted a reasonable text on solid waste and sewage, following fairly straightforward negotiations. The document is an important undertaking for industrialised countries; the degree to which developing countries will be able to meet the goals established will depend to a great extent on the level of assistance from UN agencies and bilateral donors. Linking waste and consumption patterns should move the issue forward and benefit the environment as a whole.

Canada achieved its objectives, notably inclusion of an