

support. The IEA/OECD Climate Technology Initiative was frequently cited by Annex II countries as an action already begun, although reference to it was rarely made by non-Annex II countries. Nonetheless, CTI did gain credibility from its visibility at COP 2.

30. The development and transfer of technologies, which had been on the agendas of both SBSTA and SBI at the start of COP 2, was eventually moved entirely to SBI (where it will remain in the future). The final decision, not objected to by the OPEC block, urged the provision of relevant information on technology in national communications, further action on inventories, the development of options for information centres and networks, the removal of barriers and establishment of incentives, and the compilation of a list technology needs. The decision also requested the FCCC secretariat to organize a round-table on transfer of technologies and know-how in conjunction with COP 3 (Japan, December 1997). Canada should be alert to the opportunities that such a round-table may offer. Roster of experts has been tentatively established to look at issues regarding technology transfer.

31. Work Programme: SBSTA urged continuing cooperation between IPCC and the Convention bodies, recognizing the need for continuing work by the IPCC to further reduce scientific uncertainties, in particular regarding socio-economic and environmental impacts on developing countries.

32. Business Consultative Mechanism (BCM): Only five Parties spoke on this issue, including Canada, indicating limited support as long as the BCM did not interfere with domestic consultations. New Zealand, the originator of the idea, was tasked with finding a consensus view. The U.S.A. was most strongly against a BCM as they viewed alternative mechanisms as sufficient and did not want the BCM delving into policy issues. Canada, although supportive of a BCM, felt that, given limited interest on all sides and limited resources of the Secretariat, it may be best to consider improving the existing mechanisms and dropping the BCM idea for now. The EU and New Zealand were more reluctant to let the process end at CoP 2. In the end, the Secretariat was tasked with exploring further with NGO groups current mechanisms and procedures for consultation to see if improvements could be made. A paper would be prepared for consideration at SBSTA #4, where a final decision on a consultative mechanism will be made. On a related item, Canada did intervene opposing open access to NGOs on the floor during negotiations. No others spoke on this issue directly, except for the ENGOs who do want such open access.

33. Guidance to the financial mechanism and approval of Annex to the MOU - negotiations/discussions on the GEF were difficult throughout the two weeks at COP 2. Agreement was finally reached on guidance to the GEF from the COP. All Parties, in expressing concern over the difficulties developing countries experienced in receiving adequate financial support from the GEF for the preparation of national communications, agreed that the initial focus of support from the GEF should be on