

AGENDA 21

SUMMARY

One of the significant outcomes of PrepCom III was that, for the first time, delegations began to discuss Maurice Strong's concept of Agenda 21 as the principal output of UNCED. Preliminary negotiations were held on draft chapters of Agenda 21 as prepared by the UNCED Secretariat. At the next PrepCom, delegations will be working on texts that contain a greater amount of their own input. Governments also took the decision at this PrepCom to give Agenda 21 a more operational and development oriented structure. However, a number of fundamental questions remain to be resolved about Agenda 21 before it will be ready for signature in Rio de Janeiro.

Documentation

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| A/CONF.151/PC/42 | Discussion Document, and draft Agenda and ten addenda
21 documents on ten sectoral issues |
| A/CONF.151/PC/L.49 | Decision Document on Structure and Organisation of
Agenda 21 |

BACKGROUND

Maurice Strong's concept is that Agenda 21 should be an integrated action plan for governments and international organizations to deal with the specific sectoral issues on the UNCED agenda. The three key features of Agenda 21 are:

- that its objectives will be negotiated, but the means of achieving them will be voluntary
- that it will emphasize the linkages between different kinds of human activities and their impact on sustainable development
- that it will integrate environment and development to the maximum extent possible in its definition of UNCED's objectives and the means of achieving them.

The overview discussion paper prepared for PrepCom III outlined Strong's view of the structure for Agenda 21. It would be comprised of a number of building blocks or chapters - at least one for each of the ten sectoral issues handled by Working Groups I and II. Each chapter would identify a number of programme areas, which would list