

the draft. Most Western countries, including Canada, attempted to forestall attempts to broaden the declaration in the interest of issuing a short, pithy statement capable of generating international and particularly media interest. This effort was unfortunately doomed to failure as a number of delegations (mainly Third World) came armed with "shopping lists" of particular environmental issues they wished to see included. A Canadian proposal to limit the number of paragraphs to the original ten as symbolic of the tenth anniversary of Stockholm found ready acceptance, however, although the end result was ten very long paragraphs.

24. Negotiations on the text of the declaration were rendered particularly difficult as a result of politically-motivated initiatives by Mexico and the African and East European Groups. Mexico pressed for the inclusion of a substantial addition to the original text on the threat of war and the arms race to the environment. The Africans wanted references to apartheid and racial discrimination included in paragraph 5, while the Eastern Europeans pressed for the addition in the same paragraph of a reference to colonialism and foreign aggression and occupation.

25. Mexico was eventually persuaded to drop its proposal in the context of the declaration and put forward a separate resolution on "Arms and the Environment" which was adopted independently. After lengthy negotiations, the African and East European proposals were slightly modified, as proposed by Canada, to reflect the language contained in the Stockholm Principles. The United States succeeded in having a reference to market mechanisms included in paragraph 4 to balance that on the new international economic order. Much of the substantive work was undertaken by a core drafting group, in which Canada participated, which reported to the working group.

26. Despite the aforementioned difficulties, the Nairobi Declaration can be considered a reasonably well-balanced text. It includes a reaffirmation of the commitment to the Stockholm Principles, of international concern for environmental protection and the catalytic role of UNEP. Only time will tell as to the extent that the Nairobi commitments are reflected in national and international practice.

V RESOLUTION II: SPECIAL COMMISSION ON LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES

27. The proposed establishment of a special commission to recommend long-term environmental strategies to the year 2000 and beyond encountered difficulties throughout the special session. Although Canada no longer actively supports the proposal and would be unable to make a financial contribution, the delegation agreed to participate in an informal drafting group (including inter alia the proponents, Sweden and Japan) to attempt to formulate an acceptable compromise. In the face of firm opposition from the Group of 77 and East Europeans, Sweden abdicated its leadership and Japan became the sole champion.