

"equitable geographic distribution", which they read as providing an equal number of seats for each of the five UN regional groups, has to be adopted for the MCP. Firmly opposed to this idea was the USA, with the support of other JUSCANZ countries, including Canada, indicating that such an approach would not reflect the nature of the Convention, which is built along the line of Annex I and non-Annex I Parties. The distribution of seats should thus be of one half to Annex I and the other half to non-Annex I Parties. Thus the draft text for an MCP is sent to the Buenos Aires COP with these two remaining issues in brackets.

RULES OF PROCEDURES: Informal consultations were held with a number of delegations with a view to determine if a compromise solution could be found on the two outstanding issues blocking the adoption of the Convention's rules of procedures. Reports on these discussions indicated that consensus was rather to the effect that there was no movement towards compromise on these questions and that time was not ripe to take up these discussions again.