

have one main committee. A number of G-77 delegations resisted the recommendation that the main committee could set up subcommittees (to carry out last minute negotiations on outstanding issues), on the grounds that this would overtax small delegations. This provision was approved, but with accompanying decision asking UNGA 46 to review participation of developing countries at UNGA (i.e. Consider further financial assistance to facilitate their participation). All aspects of this decision will have to be confirmed by UNGA 46 this autumn. Many basic questions about program for leaders on last two days still need to be resolved by UNCED Secretariat and Brazilian hosts - including how many documents leaders will sign and whether there will be any form of "round table" to facilitate discussion between them. These decisions will probably not be finalized until the fourth PrepCom.

PARTICIPATION OF NGOs

NGO's accreditation proceeded smoothly at this PrepCom, and the decision taken to accredit all NGOs to the final conference removed one major source of concern.

However, the shift in this PrepCom to informal negotiations between governments revealed limitations on effective participation of NGOs in this process. NGOs responded by more intensive lobbying of government delegations, and in some cases drafting texts for government delegations to use. NGOs remain very concerned that they will be excluded from observing most of the informal negotiations at the fourth PrepCom. Chairman Koh was unable to reach informal consensus among delegations to grant chairs the liberty to admit NGOs into informal negotiations. Uncertainty surrounding this issue will adversely affect delegate relations with NGOs until procedure is resolved at the fourth PrepCom.

The actual degree of participation of NGOs in fourth Conference is also up in the air. Canada developed the idea, which we presented through CANZ, that the final conference should dedicate different days of the conference to different NGO sectors (e.g. business, women, youth, indigenous people) and schedule a time each day for statements in main conference from representatives of designated sector. The purpose of this suggestion was to create a formal link between NGO parallel events and the main conference, which could help focus media attention on both events in a constructive fashion. The idea was well received however, CANZ elected not to push for formal adoption of this proposal until rules of procedure for the final conference are finalized by UNGA 46.

CANZ delegates worked with informal coalition on women delegates, both NGOs and government, to co-sponsor general resolution highlighting the need to consider gender dimensions of environment and development issues, and to follow up conclusions of UNCED Secretariat sponsored seminar held in May entitled "Women and Children First". Canada also followed up on initiative on indigenous people at the last PrepCom by assisting representative from the government of the Northwest Territories convene an informal panel on indigenous use of renewable natural resources. Canada included specific suggestions regarding indigenous peoples interests in our suggestions for Agenda 21 drafts on living marine resources, biodiversity and forests. Canada also co-sponsored a resolution presented