

developed.

- Explore the possibilities of providing technical and scientific assistance in order to help developing countries to participate more efficiently in the negotiation of new conventions, the revision of existing ones and help them respect their obligations arising for these conventions.

- Avoid guaranteeing specific financial assistance.

PREPCOM DISCUSSION

The document used as the basis for negotiation was a blend of the original Secretariat paper, including comments\ additions\deletions proposed by delegations during a first reading of the paper and the text drafted by the G-77.

In addition to the North - South splits on issues such as capacity building in the legal field in developing countries and the importance of improved international "compliance" and reporting regimes, considerable differences emerged among developed country delegations over proposals for development of a convention for the protection of the environment (promoted by the Nordic countries) and follow-up in area of dispute prevention (championed by New Zealand). While differences on the latter are for the most resolved, the question of a " nuclear safety convention" remain to be addressed.

OUTCOME AND ASSESSMENT

Prior to PrepCom IV, this issue was identified as one of less importance for Canada. Canada participated in the general discussions, provided its comments through CANZ on the G-77 text and the vice-chairman's text but (because of conflicting schedule with other working group III agenda items of greater importance) did not participate in the small drafting group discussions on this issue.

The text developed during PrePCom IV goes beyond the original expectations. The document still has significant square brackets, some of which may prove difficult to delete.

The portions of the text which are currently in brackets could be divided into two categories:

- those, such as technical assistance, trade barriers etc. which are related to unresolved issues in other Agenda 21 texts. These brackets will be dealt with in the same manner as they will be in the main texts on technology transfer and