

subset of a regional seas programme and that bilateral (or smaller multilateral) arrangements were necessary to deal with specific problems, such as sewage effluent.

Institutions

Most countries which addressed this issue did not support all the recommendations contained in paragraphs 54 to 62 of PC/42/Add.6. Countries generally recommended the avoidance of new institutions or regulatory super structures. Canada, Chile, Colombia, the EC (and the UK in a separate intervention), Japan, and Sweden expressed reservations for most, if not all of the proposals for new institutions, stating that global mechanisms to deal with oceans issues already existed or provisions for them were contained in the UNCLOS. Canada, Japan, and the UK further noted that institutional proposals had to take into account deliberations in Working Group III on broad requirements for promoting sustainable development. Several African countries specifically called for countries to ratify the UNCLOS so that appropriate permanent institutions could be established as soon as possible.

Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela stated that the rational use of the ocean's resources should be based on a global framework which fully respects established international agreements among states, in accordance with their international rights and obligations; thus, environmental protection should not be a basis for unilateral trade measures, but rather trade matters should be dealt with in the context of the GATT.

Several countries (Finland, Gambia, Kenya, and Sweden) spoke in favour of strengthening regional programmes; Sweden stated that UNEP's mandate clearly included all aspects of marine environmental protection.

Norway stated that it considered the proposals on institutions "interesting". Benin said it supported the establishment of a high level intergovernmental body which would meet periodically and bring together competent UN bodies dealing with oceans issues, environment, and development.

Among NGOs, Greenpeace and the IOI called for the establishment of a high level global oceans forum, under the auspices of the UN General Assembly, which would plan and coordinate oceans related activities among global and regional intergovernmental bodies. The IOI suggested that the forum could either be a permanent conference, periodic special sessions of the GA, or, if ratified, a periodic meeting of the States Parties to the LOS convention. The IOI also recommended that there should be periodic meetings of regional oceans assemblies. ACOPS stated that States should cooperate in the development of appropriate arrangements at the global and regional levels based on the UNCLOS, Montreal Guidelines, UNEP Regional Seas Programme, and the Paris Convention. The Consortium of Action to Protect the Environment (CAPE) advocated establishing a global mechanism to coordinate pollution prevention.