MAJOR GROUPS: BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Negotiations concerning the role of business and industry in contributing to sustainable development were dealt with during two contact sessions of the contact group on the role of major groups. Debate revolved about three critical issues: confusion surrounding the definition of non-government organizations, a perceived lack of equity in the treatment of different groups and the need for a more balanced portrayal of industry activities and responsibilities.

MAJOR GROUPS: THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY

Few substantive changes were proposed to the text of Add. 13. The scientific and technological community was defined to include, among others, engineers, architects, industrial designers, urban planners, and other professionals and policy makers. The reference to "ethical principles" in the title of the second program area was removed, although the phrase "ethical awareness in environmental and developmental decision-making" remains in the text.

MAJOR GROUPS: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FARMERS

Discussion of this final chapter of Add. 13 proceeded quickly in the Contact Group. The definition of farming was extended to include fishing and rural forestry practices. The importance of farming management activities as well as data and information have been included. Wording to protect and formalize women's access to tenure and use of land, as well as their access to credit and training has been included.