

EXPERTISE FROM NATIONAL GOVTS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES TO DRAFT BALANCED NEGOTIATING TEXTS THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF GOVTS COULD ACCEPT. THE FACT THAT DELS WERE PREPARED TO WORK WITH EVERY DRAFT CHAPTER SAVE ONE (ON BIODIVERSITY) AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION, WAS TESTIMONY TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SECTS WORK.

10. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS STILL A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF NEGOTIATING IN RIO. IT IS CLEAR THAT FOR THE DURATION OF THE PRE-SUMMIT PORTION OF THE CONFERENCE, AND OUTSIDE THE MAIN PLENARY HALL (WHICH WILL BE FILLED WITH MINISTERS DELIVERING NATIONAL STATEMENTS), THERE WILL BE A CONTINUING PREPCOM WORKING ON A MUCH NARROWER, BUT MORE HIGHLY CHARGED AGENDA. THE ISSUES THAT WILL HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED WILL BE AS FOLLOWS.

11. FIRST, DELEGATIONS WILL HAVE TO REVIEW AND FINALIZE THE RELEVANT SECTIONS OF THE BIODIVERSITY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY CHAPTERS AND THE ENTIRE ATMOSPHERE CHAPTER THAT WERE BRACKETED PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS. IF BOTH OF THESE CONVENTIONS ARE SATISFACTORILY CONCLUDED IN THE FINAL NEGOTIATING SESSIONS FOR MAY, THIS SHOULD BE A LARGELY ADMINISTRATIVE TASK. IF THERE IS A BREAKDOWN ON EITHER OF THESE CONVENTION TRACKS, THESE CHAPTERS OF AGENDA 21 COULD BECOME SURROGATE BATTLEFIELDS. AT THE SAME TIME, DELS WILL HAVE TO FIND WORDING TO DEAL WITH THE MINOR BRACKETED SECTIONS IN SEVERAL OTHER CHAPTERS (AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 6 ABOVE). AGAIN, THIS SHOULD NOT/NOT PROVE CONTROVERSIAL.

11. FISHERIES: SECOND, THE CONFERENCE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THREE HIGH PROFILE ISSUES IN THE SECTORAL CHAPTERS OF AGENDA 21, WHICH