

## OCEANS

### **SUMMARY**

Subjects covered in the complex oceans discussion included: the role of the Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS) as a main framework for addressing oceans issues; marine pollution (especially from land-based sources); conservation and management of marine living resources, including such issues as drifnet fishing and whaling; coastal zone management; regional development including capacity-building in developing countries; Antarctica; marine biodiversity; and institutional mechanisms (including observation systems for monitoring critical uncertainties and climate change).

Following intense negotiations in the first two weeks of PrepCom III and lengthy procedural debates in the last week, delegates decided to ask the UNCED Secretariat to prepare a compilation document based primarily on two draft proposals: The Chairman's text (L.18), representing a compilation of views under all the subject headings, and a submission by several delegation (L.24), which splits up the marine living resources section of L.18 into separate sections of high seas and national jurisdiction, respectively. The new compilation will identify which paragraphs come from the Secretariat's original document (PC/42/Add.6) and which are proposals by countries, either individually or in groups, given that much of the language in L.18 contains language which is fundamentally unacceptable to some countries (e.g. Malaysia's proposal that, contrary to the Antarctica Treaty, Antarctica should be considered a common heritage of mankind; or New Zealand's proposal for a ten-year moratorium on whaling). The general view is that much good work has been done on the oceans text and delegations are prepared to begin negotiations at PrepCom IV.

### **Documentation**

A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.6	-	Options for Agenda 21: Report of the Secretary General
A/CONF.151/PC/69	-	Background Document
A/CONF.151/PC/70	-	Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution
A/CONF.151/PC/71	-	Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
A/CONF.151/PC/72	-	Environmental Assessment of the Gulf Crisis
A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.16	-	Draft Proposals by 16 Countries on the Conservation and Management of Living Resources of the High Seas
A/CONF.151/PC/WG.II/L.18	-	Draft Decision and Annex (Chairman's