

cross-sectoral issues. The Chair's paper also proposed using mainly an informal consultation format with Plenary meetings throughout the session, Working Groups I and II starting in the second week and Working Group III beginning in the first week; the Chair proposes to request General Assembly authority to hold up to six meetings per day. His final suggestions concerned documentation, with Secretariat distribution to occur six weeks before the beginning of the session and restrictions on document submission and processing during the session.

OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT

Following formal discussion of this matter, the Chair submitted his proposals, issued as A/CONF.151/PC/L.52 (Arrangements for Future Sessions of the Preparatory Committee), together with PC/95 (Provisional Agenda for the Fourth Session) and A/CONF.151/PC/L.42 and corr.1, (both on Provisional Agenda, Organization of Work and Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Conference) for consideration by Plenary.

A. Organization of the Conference (L.42)

Discussion on paragraph 4(b) of L.42 led the Chair to request six delegations (Brazil, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Colombia and Uruguay) to withdraw for private consultations in an effort to resolve the disagreement that arose over the number of subsidiary bodies the Main Committee of the Conference would be permitted to create. The Chair asked them to consider how, contrary to Tunisia's proposal, a decision might be made at the PrepCom to avoid putting it forward for discussion and decision by the General Assembly (UNGA 46). The source of disagreement was the concern put forth that if there were no limits on the establishment of subsidiary organs at UNCED, then they would proliferate beyond the means of many delegations and thereby inhibit the full participation of some developing countries.

The result of those consultations was that L.42 and corr.1 were adopted together with a third (unnumbered) decision requesting UNGA 46 to examine the question of "adequate and full participation of developing countries at UNCED and to examine the question of participation in the Conference and its subsidiary organs". The wording of the decision goes beyond addressing the concerns of the delegations involved to encompass the question of who may take part in UNCED. This may be directed at the participation of non-governmental organizations at UNCED with a view to establishing restrictive measures.

Canada early committed itself to broad participation in UNCED by non-governmental organizations, and these efforts have so far been successful. It will be necessary to follow discussions in UNGA should the question arise.