

a strong influence on the final text. Their work was timely, reached all major delegation groupings and was presented in a form that was easily accessible to negotiators. Among the plenary group of issues, this was the area where the NGO/government working relationship was the most productive.

CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

Canadian objectives were largely met in the development of the final version of the chapter on consumption. This was an area where Canada was able to play a positive role with respect to the proposed chapter by strongly supporting its intent in our opening intervention on behalf of CANZ (Canada, Australia and New Zealand). Initially the USA put square brackets around Programme Area A (focusing on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption) but after several negotiating sessions, all square brackets were removed with little dilution of the text, with the exception of two introductory paragraphs for which the USA and G77 could not find consensus language.

While the chapter could be improved considerably, it is a good first commitment by developed countries to take the leadership in achieving sustainable consumption patterns. Follow-up at the international level on the recommendations proposed in the chapter will be necessary and has not yet been clearly assigned.

DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS

Negotiations on the population chapter were difficult as was anticipated. Discussions among delegates were confused by interference from the UNCED secretariat consultant and by overzealous lobbying on the part of the NGO women's caucus. In the end consensus was finally reached with the G77 removing square brackets from the paragraphs referring to community based programmes. While the text still has too great an emphasis on research, it has been considerably strengthened in particular with respect to the role of women and the importance of addressing the economic and social status of women in developing effective population programmes. The chapter recommends that countries report progress on implementation to the 1994 Conference on Population and Development and that UNFPA have prime responsibility for following up on this section of Agenda 21.