

NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION

SUMMARY

Over 350 NGOs are now accredited to the UNCED preparatory process, according to the previously-established criteria of "competence and relevance", with many more expected by the end of PrepCom IV. The accreditation is in effect for the preparatory process only, and PrepCom III addressed the question of NGO accreditation and access at the Conference itself. Plenary adopted a decision that all NGOs which had been accredited to the preparatory process would be invited to participate "in like manner" in the Conference; this decision, however, is subject to review and debate at the 46th session of UNGA, where the issue could be reopened.

There was a significant increase in the number of developing country NGOs present over PrepCom II. Many had received travel assistance from the donors' fund initiated by Canada at PrepCom II. The Secretariat is encouraging more donor countries to contribute in time for PrepCom IV.

As at PrepCom II, NGOs were very active in the corridors, lobbying delegates on every item on the UNCED agenda. Daily meetings for debriefing and developing strategies were held. While encouraged by access to formal meetings of the Plenary and working groups, NGOs have expressed concerns regarding an inconsistent approach to granting them access to informal consultations and how this will affect their participation at PrepCom IV.

During the intersessional period, NGO interest will continue to be focused on these matters, in particular the outcome of the UNGA debate on participation at UNCED and the impact on NGO accreditation and access to the Conference.

Documentation

- A/CONF.151/PC/L.40 - Decision on Women in Environment and Development
- A/CONF.151/PC/L.47 - Decision on Youth in Environment and Development
- A/CONF.151/PC/L.48 - Decision on Indigenous People and Local Communities
- A/CONF.151/PC/L.42 - Provisional Agenda, Organisation of Work and Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Conference