

provide safe methods to control it, especially in rural areas. The intervention goes on to state that it is imperative that the developed countries and multinational banks help the developing countries to expand their programmes to this end.

10. WORKING GROUP III

Working Group III was the focus of most of our Daily NGO Strategy Sessions. The evolution of Working Group III's mandate was contentious at every step of the way from the perspective of those NGOs present at our Strategy Sessions. The first issue of concern to NGOs was the fact that the Chairperson's consultations on Working Group III (on the non-paper which emerged from March meetings in New York) were closed to NGOs.

The actual mandate of Working Group III as approved by the PrepCom Plenary will include:

- a) Preparation of an annotated list of existing international agreements and international legal instruments in the environmental field;
- b) Examination of the feasibility of elaborating principles on general rights and obligations of States and regional economic integration organizations in the field of environment and development and incorporating such principles in an appropriate vehicle;
- c) Consideration of the legal and institutional issues referred to it by Working Groups I and II and the Plenary in addition to the legal and institutional aspects of cross-sectoral issues dealt with by the PrepCom;
- d) Review of the ways and means of strengthening the cooperation and coordination of the UN system and other environment and development institutions;
- e) Review of the role and functioning of the UN system in the field of environment and development; and