

Conservation of biological diversity - and complements many of the proposals currently part of the convention. Some phrases and paragraphs remain in square brackets. However, except for those within the means of implementation, these are related to the subjects under negotiations within the INC-Biodiversity. These bracketed phrases should be resolved following agreement within the convention negotiations.

The remaining bracketed areas are related to "fair and equitable" sharing, the concept of the "country of origin", technology transfer, and the concept of governments undertaking the proposed activities with the support, "where necessary" of indigenous people and their communities, NGOs and other groups, etc.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

Negotiations on this chapter of Agenda 21 were based on the Secretariat's prepared text PC/100/Add.27. The major contentious issues during negotiations were related to the degree to which safety should be the emphasis of the chapter and whether there should be principles or guidelines governing biotechnology use; including liability and compensation for damages caused through the application of biotechnology; the over specificity of some of the activities; and the specific reference to fertility-related drugs and technologies.

The adopted text contains some phrases and subparagraphs in square brackets related to the contentious issues mentioned above. The issue of whether the use of biotechnology should be governed by internationally agreed principles or whether there is a need for a legally-binding instrument/code of contact will require further negotiations and possibly ministerial intervention if an effective resolution can not be found. The references to liability and compensation remains in square brackets and will also require further negotiations. Both these issues will require some refocusing if we are to achieve resolution at UNCED as position on both sides are well entrenched.

The over-specificity of some of the activities was dealt with through negotiations at PrepComm IV and the fertility-related subparagraph should resolve itself prior to Rio.