



Earth Negotiations Bulletin

A Reporting Service for Environment and Development Negotiations

Vol. 11 No. 23 Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) Thursday, 15 February 1996

HABITAT II PREPCOM III HIGHLIGHTS WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 1996

Delegates continued to work in three Subgroups and several informal groups on the "last" day of negotiations for the PrepCom.

WORKING GROUP II SUBGROUP A

SECTION F. (Implementation and follow-up): In a general statement, the G-77/China noted that their proposals on section F agree with the EU in several ways, but differ on the future role of UNCHS. The G-77/China said the reticence of other governments regarding UNCHS may stem from an inadequate understanding of the organization or because it largely benefits developing countries. On **158** (introduction), delegates debated references to government and international community commitments, responsibility for monitoring and assessment, and "all stakeholders." Delegates accepted the original text as amended. Delegates bracketed the G-77/China's proposal to rename and strengthen the mandate of the UN Commission on Human Settlements (the Commission).

In **159** (tracking progress on the Global Plan of Action), the group considered the roles for all actors in follow-up, including the different responsibilities of national governments and the international community, and the review activities of the UNCHS and other UN agencies. The G-77/China said the EU proposal for **159** and **160** would undermine and practically abolish the Commission and UNCHS. He noted that the EU proposal calls upon the Commission to "monitor" implementation and little else. The G-77/China objected to an EU proposal for a drafting group, stating that the "full house" should know the level of disagreement. The group adjourned early to allow consultations.

In the afternoon, delegates debated at length the order and content of the paragraphs. The EU proposed combining its proposals for **159**, **160** and **160bis** to form a single paragraph (**158bis**). The G-77/China characterized this as a step back and said it would reopen their paragraphs bracketed earlier. Delegates agreed to re-order the paragraphs and add the heading "implementation at national level" to the EU proposal. Delegates discussed the EU proposal that gives governments the primary responsibility for implementing the Global Plan of Action and lists groups to be enabled. The G-77/China requested additions to the list and Australia suggested "indigenous" peoples. Morocco proposed a reference to developing country assistance for implementation. The G-77/China disassociated itself from, and

later opposed, the Moroccan proposal. Morocco said there was no common G-77/China position on his proposal and called for a suspension of the meeting. Upon resuming, the group adopted the paragraph with the G-77/China and Australian amendments.

Returning to **159** (tracking progress), the G-77/China proposed language noting that effective implementation of the outcome of Habitat II will take into account the integration of human settlements with broader environmental, social and economic development considerations, and the main actors will be the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the ECOSOC, the Commission, UNCHS and all other policy making and implementing organs in the UN system, which was accepted. He proposed following with a paragraph on UNCHS and the role of the Commission. The EU accepted the proposed language, but proposed following with their proposal covering many UN organs. Delegates agreed to references on the UNGA, but debated the timing for review. The EU and the US stated that a special session of the UNGA for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21 represented an existing obligation and was the appropriate forum for the review. The G-77/China proposed, in addition to the Agenda 21 review, an additional UNGA agenda item solely for the purpose of reviewing the follow-up of Habitat II. Delegates bracketed G-77/China-proposed text regarding a special UNGA review session in 2006 and calling on the UNGA to convene high-level meetings to promote international dialogue on Habitat's goals. Delegates also debated the content of an ECOSOC reference. The G-77/China proposed text calling for ECOSOC review. The EU and US supported such a review, but questioned the appropriateness of including the reference in the Habitat Agenda.

At the meeting's end, the Chair proposed bracketing all outstanding text. The US supported the NGO statements in paragraphs 161, 162, and 163 to ensure their inclusion in documentation for Istanbul.

WORKING GROUP II SUBGROUP B

The Subgroup approved text for outstanding paragraphs **59bis** (community based production of housing), **64** (infrastructure at the community level), and **65** (Government action to safeguard health and provide infrastructure). They also approved text drafted Tuesday evening for paragraphs 109-113.

SECTION C. (Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world) (paragraphs 100-128): In **115** (strengthen urban economies), the US proposed action by governments "in

This issue of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@igc.apc.org> is written and edited by Chad Carpenter <ccarpenter@igc.apc.org>, Peter Doran <PF.Doran@ulst.ac.uk>, Richard Jordan, Kira Schmidt <cjs28@columbia.edu> and Lynn Wagner <grund@usc.edu>. The Managing Editor is Langston James Goree VI "Kimo" <kimo@pipeline.com>. The sustaining donors of the *Bulletin* are the International Institute for Sustainable Development <iisd@web.apc.org> and the Pew Charitable Trusts through the Pew Global Stewardship Initiative. General support for the *Bulletin* during 1996 has been provided by the United Kingdom, Denmark, Australia and Iceland. The authors can be contacted at their e-mail addresses and by phone at +1-212-644-0204 and fax at +1-212-644-0206. IISD can be contacted at 161 Portage Ave. East, Sixth Floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0Y4, Canada. The opinions expressed in the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD and other funders. Excerpts from the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* may be used in other publications with appropriate citation. Electronic versions of the *Bulletin* are automatically sent in English and French to e-mail distribution lists (ASCII and PDF format) and can be found on the gopher at <gopher.igc.apc.org> and in hypertext through the *Linkages* WWW-server at <<http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/>> on the Internet. For further information on ways to access, support or contact the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, send e-mail to <enb@igc.apc.org>.

consultation with all relevant stakeholders." Norway proposed adding "including women." The EU proposed removing "relevant" instead and delegates agreed. In **115(a)** (training in information systems), delegates called for education and job training (US). Delegates revised **115(c)** (private sector participation) to call for review of the relevant regulatory framework to attract private investment (US), and added US-proposed subparagraphs calling for crime prevention and sound financial practices. Libya proposed calling for promotion of necessary legislative issues.

In **116** (alleviate adverse impacts of structural and economic transition), delegates added subparagraphs calling for: integrated functioning of housing markets; and review of the impact of structural adjustment on social development by paying attention to gender-sensitive assessments (EU). The Women's Caucus called for "training and employment of local residents, especially women," but the EU suggested it would be better placed in **114** (opportunities for small businesses), which will be negotiated in Istanbul.

In **117** (population in rural settlements), delegates added text noting that "rural settlements need to be valued and supported" (US), and that the lack of employment opportunities in rural areas increases migration and results in a loss of human capacity in rural communities (Holy See). In **118** (rural populations and food security), delegates noted the contribution of rural populations to the sustainable use of biological resources.

In **119** (sustainable development of rural settlements), delegates added the goal of reducing rural-to-urban migration. In **119(a)** (participation of communities), delegates called for participation of all stakeholders to ensure integrated consideration of the environmental, social and economic objectives of rural development efforts (US). In **119(c)** (incentives for investment), delegates also called for infrastructure and services for investment (FAO). Delegates added two subparagraphs calling for a sustainable agricultural system (FAO) and promotion of education and training in rural areas (Holy See).

In **120** (new technologies), delegates called for promotion of appropriate traditional practices as well as new technologies (US) and for involvement of the private sector. In **120(b)** (research on use of technologies), delegates called for action in cooperation with farmers' organizations, "women's groups and other stakeholders" (US). In **121(a)** (procedures for full participation), delegates added a call for education and training programmes. The EU suggested that actions in **121(c)** (implement regional and rural development plans) and **121(d)** (establish system for resource allocation) be consistent with sustainable development, which was bracketed. Norway noted that a reference in **121(d)** to allocation based on "economic potential" might exclude women, and the reference was deleted.

Delegates added a new **101(d)bis**, calling for countries, in particular developing countries, to cooperate in exchanging knowledge in phasing out lead gasoline, including the use of biomass ethanol. New drafts of **38** (globalization of the economy) and **38bis** (new communications technology) were circulated, but the G-77/China requested time to consider the text. The group continued negotiations during an evening session.

WORKING GROUP II SUBGROUP C

SECTION C. (Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world) (paragraphs 76-99): Reformulations of **98** (integrated approach to provision of environmental services) and

98bis (promotion of healthy environment to support sustainable human settlements) were placed in brackets. A G-77/China-proposed **98bis** (water) was also bracketed.

In the bracketed chapeau **99** (transboundary pollution and movement of hazardous technology), the G-77/China proposed a reformulation, stating that technologies hazardous to the environment represent a serious threat to the viability of human settlements and health. The US said it was a delicate paragraph. Delegates agreed on language from the Rio declaration calling on Governments to "cooperate in developing" "bilateral and multilateral" (US) legal mechanisms. The EU and US deleted reference to parent company decisions which lead to adverse effects and the EU inserted a sentence on preventive measures in cases of clear risk of major environmental accidents with transboundary effects.

Mexico introduced **99bis** (prevention of transboundary pollution), on cooperating to develop mechanisms for assessing the impact of proposed activities likely to have a significant adverse impact including evaluation of comments from potentially affected countries, prior and timely notification, exchange of information, consultation, and mitigation of potential adverse effects, taking into account existing international agreements "and instruments" (Canada/US). The G-77/China proposed "projects and activities" likely to have a "gravely hazardous" impact. All options were bracketed.

Brackets were placed around a Canadian-proposed new section **92bis** (population and sustainable development) which was referred