



# Earth Negotiations Bulletin

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## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 1994

### PLENARY

**CUBA:** The Minister of Science, Technology and Environment, Rosa Elena Simeon Negrin, said that the primary wealth of SIDS is their people. The survival of human beings is threatened by high population density, scarcity of forest and water resources, global warming, dependence on imports, and infant mortality.

**SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS:** Eugene Petty, the Minister of Environment and Planning, said migration has led to population decline and a reduction in the level of expertise on the islands. He recognized the importance of NGOs, the private sector, youth and women.

**MALDIVES:** Deputy Minister of Planning, Human Resources and Environment, Hussain Shihab, stressed the need for coordination among governments and between donors. New and additional financial resources are needed. Poor market access and reliance on a single commodity are two problems facing SIDS.

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC:** Amb. Alounkeo Kittikhoun said that to meet the challenges confronting them, SIDS need support from the international community.

**AUSTRALIA:** Amb. Penelope Wensley said that the Programme of Action provides an instrument to achieve economic and social well-being for island peoples and an opportunity to measure the Rio commitments. Partnership with local communities and NGOs is essential.

**INDIA:** Amb. T.P. Sreenivasan said that India has set up an Island Development Authority. Decentralization and involvement of local communities is an effective way of managing the process. Science and technology and finance are priorities.

**WORLD BANK:** Andrew Steer said that the Bank's support for SIDS focuses on: human resource development; waste management; sanitation and water supply; strengthened environmental and natural resource management; and sound policy reform. The GEF can play a vital role in addressing climate change in SIDS through financing alternative energy sources; protecting biodiversity; and addressing marine pollution.

**MAURITIUS:** Sateevad Seebaluck, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Quality of Life, said SIDS are implicitly condemned to a development status quo, as if they exist only to preserve the environment.

**NEW CALEDONIA:** Simon Loveckhote, President of Congress, spoke on behalf of this French territory. He called for economic diversification, industrialization, improved communication and tourism development.

**Prof. Bishnodat Persaud**, Director, Centre for Environment and Development, University of the West Indies, presented the results of a case study on alternative energy for SIDS (A/CONF/167/CRP.1).

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION:** Sir George Alleyne said that the HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately affects developing countries. WHO aims to achieve a sustainable basis for health for all; a healthy environment; and to ensure all are aware of their responsibility for health.

**KIRIBATI:** Nakibae Tellatabo said that sustainable development would be meaningless if all low-lying islands were submerged by the seas. SIDS draw upon limited resources to set up plans for the exploitation of their living marine resources and donor countries should participate.

**CANADA:** John Fraser, Ambassador for the Environment, said that the response to global warming and a host of other problems depends on timely political decisions taken on the best evidence available.

**BENIN:** Amb. René Valéry Mongbe said that this Conference is the first follow-up Conference since Rio and that the international community should commit itself to helping SIDS through the provision of new and additional resources and technology transfer.

**UNFPA:** Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director and Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development, said that SIDS have high population densities and it is difficult to balance population, environment and development. Population programmes must include good quality reproductive-health care.

**ROMANIA:** Ioan Barac said that the preparatory process has demonstrated a general and sympathetic appreciation of the special circumstances of SIDS, and this appreciation should also prevail here in Bridgetown.

**INDONESIA:** Aca Sugandhy noted that the most important part of this Programme -- the provisions on finance and technology -- remains virtually unsolved.

**UNICEF:** On behalf of Executive Director James Grant, Teresa Albanese, said that sustainable development starts with children. She urged Governments to ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child. SIDS should adopt sustainable models for health care.

**BERMUDA:** Minister of the Environment Gerald Simons, speaking as a member of the UK delegation, highlighted Bermuda's experience in moving to a modern tourist destination and financial center.

**UN INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME:** Michel Amiot said that SIDS are not immune to the devastating problems caused by drug abuse and its ramifications, such as related increases in crime, money laundering, family disruption, and health problems.

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**ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES:** Brian Challenger, on behalf of the Director General, said that his organization has prepared a Regional Action Plan that aims to: provide the international community with an indication of the problems and opportunities facing its member States; and indicate efforts already being pursued.

**DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES WITH WOMEN FOR A NEW ERA:** Peggy Antrobus, Coordinator, said that programmes and structural adjustment policies have impacted most heavily on women, but that women's contributions are often overlooked.

**TRICKLE UP PROGRAM:** The representative said that the experience of the programme demonstrates that SIDS have special resources that enable them to sustainably reduce unemployment and underemployment, enrich the quality of life and further sustainable development.

#### MAIN COMMITTEE

Continuing the first reading of the AOSIS/G-77 non-paper on Section D of Chapter XV (Implementation, Monitoring and Review), the Committee began with paragraph 16. For clarity, it was agreed that reference to mechanisms for consultation in regional cooperation should include regional and sub-regional agencies and banks. It was agreed that such mechanisms should be first identified and then devised, where appropriate. In paragraph 17, it was agreed that sub-regional as well as regional non-UN bodies should take up the Programme of Action. Consultations continue on reference to regional economic integration organizations. In paragraph 18, relating to the role of the regional commissions, there was discussion on what authority should be granted to regional commissions and regional offices of UN agencies and how the Programme of Action should relate to ongoing UN decentralization. It was agreed that the Secretariat should seek clarification with the regional commissions.

After further consultations, agreement was reached on paragraph 11 of the non-paper, which now reads: "UNCTAD should have a strengthened capacity to carry out, in accordance with its mandate, the research and analysis necessary to complement the work of the DPCSD with respect to the implementation of this Programme of Action."

#### CHAPTER XV. IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING AND REVIEW

Paragraph 62: After much discussion on the nature of the agreements reached in Rio, the brackets around the first sentence were removed after delegates agreed on the following: "The Programme of Action is an opportunity for the international community to demonstrate its commitment to the means of implementation adopted in Agenda 21."

Paragraph 64: It was agreed that the first sentence, referring to the relationship of Agenda 21 to this Programme of Action, should remain in brackets until it is placed in the Preamble.

Paragraph 67: The brackets remain around the whole paragraph. It was suggested that reference to Chapter 27 of Agenda 21 be deleted since it is too specific. Others asked that the last sentence be placed at the beginning of the paragraph. One group objected, arguing that NGOs could only be partners in the decision-making process, not decision making *per se*, thus implying a consultative role.

Paragraph 70: After consultations, delegates agreed to the following: "In order to achieve greater and more stable export earnings, SIDS should seek to develop a more diversified production structure for goods and services which exploits existing or potential comparative advantages and which is consistent with environment and development policies which are mutually supportive."

Paragraph 73: Brackets were removed and the amended text reads: "Appropriate national measures for institutional development should be taken to integrate environmental, population and development strategies in national and sectoral development planning in order to achieve sustainable development."

Paragraph 74: After much debate it was agreed to delete reference to religious leaders and to insert reference to religious authorities elsewhere, possibly in paragraph 67.

Paragraphs 76-80: These paragraphs are now incorporated into the AOSIS/G-77 non-paper. It was agreed that references to the public and private sectors should remain in brackets wherever the paragraphs now appear, pending further consultation.

Paragraph 91: As no one could fully understand the meaning of the text, it was agreed that Australia would coordinate informal consultations on this paragraph and paragraph 92, which both address trade.

Paragraph 93: It was clarified that UNCTAD would carry out the study on the effects of trade liberalization. It was suggested that "globalization" be replaced with "global competition" and questions were raised as to the scope of the study. There will be further consultations.

Paragraph 99: The brackets were removed and the paragraph now reads: "Invite the Executive Board of UNDP to coordinate a feasibility study in collaboration with SIDS and relevant sub-regional organizations for the implementation of...(SIDS/NET)."

It was agreed that the same reference to UNDP and sub-regional organizations used in paragraph 99 be applied in paragraph 100 *bis*. The brackets were removed from paragraph 104 on the CSD. After queries as to how the vulnerability index will operate, New Zealand was asked to coordinate consultations on paragraph 117.

At the close of the morning session the EU introduced a composite text on finance that placed all the relevant paragraphs in the draft Programme of Action together. If agreement can be reached as a whole, the paragraphs could then be placed appropriately in the text. The group stressed three approaches: use existing resources more sustainably; prioritize resources towards sustainable development; and mobilize new and additional resources.

#### IN THE CORRIDORS

The corridors have been alive with consultations on various paragraphs in Chapter XV. In addition, Main Committee Vice-Chair Takao Shibata (Japan) is conducting consultations on a number of the outstanding issues in Chapters II-XIV of the Programme of Action. Other groups have been informally discussing the Barbados Declaration, which will be considered in an informal plenary meeting on Friday afternoon.

#### THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY

**PLENARY:** Possible speakers in the general debate today include: OAS, Brazil, SELA, US, Singapore, Uganda, ESCAP, Jamaica, Samoa, SPREP and Greenpeace. Possible afternoon speakers include: Micronesia, Solomon Islands, ECA, Egypt, Seychelles, Afghanistan, UNIDO, Nauru, Costa Rica, the Canadian Development Bank, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the International Social Service.

**MAIN COMMITTEE:** The Main Committee will resume at 11:00 am to allow AOSIS/G-77 time to consult on the EU's paper on finance. The Chair hopes that there will be progress to report on the outstanding paragraphs in Chapter XV. It is likely that the Committee will finish the finance paragraphs in Chapter XV and then move on to address the Preamble. Arrangements have been made for an evening session.

**GEF BRIEFING:** There will be a briefing on "The Global Environment Facility: Opportunities and Challenges and Additional Funding Sources for SIDS for Convention Implementation" today at 1:00 pm in Conference Room 3.

**UNESCO BRIEFING:** The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO will give a presentation on oceans and small islands today at 4:00 pm in Conference Room 4.