

# Earth Negotiations Bulletin

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## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS MONDAY, 2 MAY 1994

### PLENARY

The Plenary elected the remaining Vice President from the Eastern European Group, Croatia. It was announced that Germany had resigned as Vice President and that the WEOG had nominated Italy in its place. The election of Rapporteur-General was postponed.

**NEPAL:** Lila Sharma said that Nepal shares SIDS' commitment to preserving the environment, protecting its unique heritage and developing human resources.

**MADAGASCAR:** Andrei Rasolo stressed the role of women, without whose involvement sustainable development is impossible.

**COLOMBIA:** Amb. Reno Lung said that there is increased pressure on the international community to deliver new and additional financial resources and technology transfer.

**PAKISTAN:** Tehmina Janjua said that the Programme of Action should include realistically achievable measures backed by political will and clearly identifiable follow-up mechanisms through the CSD and the UN secretariat. The Barbados Declaration should be a reflection of principles.

**THAILAND:** Manop Mekprayoonthong noted that this Conference is a first test of the international community since Agenda 21. Thailand will be a more active partner in development cooperation in the Asia/Pacific region.

**FAO:** On behalf of Director-General Jacques Diouf, the representative said not enough attention has been paid to food security and the rural sector.

**UNESCO:** On behalf of Director-General Federico Mayor, Dr. Gisbert Glaser stressed sustainable human development and higher education systems in SIDS. UNESCO has established a focal point for SIDS within its secretariat.

**US VIRGIN ISLANDS:** Carlyle Corbin applauded UN member States for their responsiveness to the needs of non-independent countries, and allowing them to participate as observers. Poverty alleviation has to be a central tenet of sustainable development.

**UNCTAD:** Hama Arba Diallo, on behalf of the Director-General, said UNCTAD has been the focal point for SIDS since their needs were first raised. He also mentioned a number of problems and vulnerabilities faced by SIDS.

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA:** Hilario Torres said that his country was recently subject to a wave of storms with untold human suffering and material damage. Equatorial Guinea has recently established a ministry for women, who are central to sustainable development.

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM:** Amb. Pergiran Momin noted that with a long coastline many of the problems of Brunei are shared with SIDS.

**SUDAN:** Ahmed Yousif Mohamed hoped that the Conference would produce an ambitious Programme of Action as a prelude for other international efforts to assist developing countries.

**WFUNA:** Leonard Hill of the UNA of Barbados drew attention to the role played by the Bretton Woods Institutions and the international trading system.

**CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL:** Stan Malone called attention to the commitments made to partnership with NGOs in Agenda 21, the safeguard of traditional knowledge, and the establishment of a SIDS intellectual property center.

**ARUBA:** Cornelius Wilson said that SIDS are marine entities with small terrestrial components, and they are custodians for the marine environment.

**TONGA:** Sione Tongilava said that the environment Bible was written in Stockholm and re-translated in Rio. The Bible says that it is better to give than to receive; thus, the rich polluters should give more to SIDS than greenhouse gases.

**COMOROS:** Sittou Raghadat Mohamed, Minister of Social Affairs, Population, Employment and Work, called for: support for her government's sustainable development plans; change in macro-economic factors that affect SIDS' economies; increased ODA; and preferential trade.

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA:** Amb. Lionel Hurst said that unwillingness to fulfill the commitments made at UNCED and resistance to implementing the provisions of Agenda 21 are tantamount to condemning our planet to a very nasty, short and brutish future.

**CYPRUS:** Costas Petrides, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, said that in the quest for sustainability, efforts should concentrate on debt reduction and access to technology.

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION:** Amb. Arnold Kalinin said that it is very important to reach practical results that will reflect the will of the international community in concrete action.

**HUNGARY:** Dr. Andras Lakatos said that the Conference must show that the post-Cold War period created not only new problems and contradictions, but also opened up new possibilities for international cooperation.

**BAHRAIN:** Amb. Muhammad Abdul Ghaffar said that sustainable development is a process of change that takes into account present and future generations, with human beings at the center of the development process.

**NAMIBIA:** Amb. Tunguru Huaraka said that SIDS are at the frontline in the battle against environmental degradation. The other frontline is held by desert and/or drought stricken developing States.

**TUNISIA:** Ghazi Jomaa highlighted the progress that has already been achieved in the negotiation of the Programme of Action. He added that agreement was still to be achieved on the issue of financial resources and mechanisms.

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**BURUNDI:** Melchiade Bukuru said that support for SIDS needs to be more consistent and more systematic.

**ACCT:** Maurice Portiche said that the community of francophone countries now participates more actively in global conferences such as this one.

**INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION:** Mr. Khalimonov said that the IMO is directly involved with maritime safety and prevention of marine pollution in SIDS.

**BARBADOS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION:** The representative called on governments to encourage NGO participation in the implementation of the Programme of Action, restructure military and social budgets, and lift the trade blockade of Cuba.

**UNEP:** Peter Schroeder said that "the sun never sets on the UNEP Regional Seas Programmes." Integrated Coastal Management is very complex and hard to achieve but comprehensive island management could be a first step.

**BARBADOS:** Harcourt Lewis, Minister of the Environment, Housing and Lands, said that SIDS have limited options that are open to them. In the final analysis, their people are their greatest resource.

#### **BARBADOS DECLARATION**

The contact group to elaborate a Barbados Declaration met all day Monday. Over the weekend, the Chair, Amb. Besley Maycock, took it upon himself to prepare a revised draft. Other delegations had also been busy making their own revisions. After a discussion on whether NGOs may observe the proceedings, the group worked laboriously paragraph-by-paragraph. At times, the debate bordered on the farcical as points scored in the Preamble, and lost, were replayed in the Declaration. In the afternoon, the group averaged one paragraph an hour. At the conclusion of the days work at 7:30 pm, one delegation introduced a new non-paper as a possible structure of the Declaration.

#### **MAIN COMMITTEE**

The Main Committee met in the morning to review the status of all outstanding issues in the Programme of Action.

**PREAMBLE:** Consultations are still in progress on: paragraphs 5 and 6 (responsibility of SIDS for the marine environment); paragraph 15 (financing of the Programme of Action); and paragraph 16 (the special needs of the least developed SIDS).

**III. MANAGEMENT OF WASTES:** Paragraph 22 still contains brackets around reference to transboundary movement of hazardous and toxic wastes.

**IV. COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES:** Agreement was reached on paragraph C(v), which now reads: "Use the relevant results of the World Coast Conference of November 1993 as well as of the ongoing work within UNEP's Regional Seas Programme to assist small island developing States with the development and implementation of integrated coastal zone management plans, to improve international coordination in that field, and to develop strategies to prevent further marine and coastal degradation." The long paragraph that follows in A/CONF.167/L.1 is now divided into two sub-paragraphs (vi) and (vii).

**V. FRESHWATER RESOURCES:** Australia's proposal for paragraph 27 on groundwater resources is still being considered by AOSIS.

**VII. ENERGY RESOURCES:** Delegates reached agreement on paragraph A(ii), which reads: "Promote the efficient use of energy and the development of environmentally sound sources of energy and energy efficient technologies, paying special attention to the possibilities of using, where appropriate, economic instruments and incentive structures and the increasing economic possibilities of renewable sources of energy."

**IX. BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES:** Paragraph A(vii) on intellectual property rights is still under negotiation.

**XII. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:** Consultations are still underway on paragraph C(v) on the lowering of international telecommunication costs to SIDS.

#### **XIV. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT:**

Consultations are still underway on paragraph 58, which references population-related policies.

#### **XV. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW:**

Paragraphs 71 and 95, which address technology, are still under negotiation. Agreement has been tentatively reached on paragraph 91, which now reads: "Given the limited possibilities of generating local value added, deriving from their small market size, narrow resource base, and limited production of inputs, special efforts are needed to assist SIDS to increase their production and exports. Towards this objective, special consideration should be given, where appropriate, to the local value added criteria applied to the exports of SIDS."

In the afternoon, delegates reviewed a non-paper prepared by Vice-Chair Takao Shibata, based on consultations to consider additional proposals for inclusion in Chapters II-XIV. The non-paper contained nearly 50 proposals. Some of the more substantive additions included: reference to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in Chapter III; reference to the International Ministerial Conference on Drinking Water and Environmental Sanitation (the Netherlands, 1994) in Chapter V; reference to the Conference of Small Island Countries on Sustainable Development and Environment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Barbados, 1992) in Chapter VI; reference to effective and efficient ways of utilizing, disposing, recycling and reducing the by-products of waste of energy production in Chapter VII; the involvement of NGOs, women, indigenous people and other major groups in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Chapter IX; and references to drug abuse control in Chapter XIV.

Three of these new proposals were placed in brackets. The first, which is a new sub-paragraph A(viii) in Chapter III, refers to the formulation and enforcement of laws or regulations that ban the importation of hazardous wastes from OECD to non-OECD countries. During the discussion, AOSIS/G-77 replaced the word "importation" with "exportation." The entire sub-paragraph is bracketed. In Chapter VIII, a new sub-paragraph C(iii) "promotes closer cooperation to improve national and international measures to combat illicit drug trafficking and money laundering." AOSIS/G-77 thought that reference to money laundering should be deleted from the paragraph. Finally, in paragraph 61 A(iii), there was a proposal to add "options" after reference to "family planning." Since several delegates questioned this proposal, there will be further consultations.

#### **IN THE CORRIDORS**

Observers expressed both bemusement and frustration with the arduous negotiations on the Barbados Declaration. The intended "reader friendly" document seems to be buried deeper and deeper beneath evocations of the Gaia-like quality of islanders, eulogies to the pearl fishers and constant reiteration of the vulnerabilities of SIDS. While some would rather scrap the Declaration, citing the Preamble as a better text at the moment, others seem resigned to continue.

### **THINGS TO LOOK FOR TODAY**

**MAIN COMMITTEE:** When the Main Committee convenes at 10:00 am, the Chair will receive progress reports on all of the outstanding paragraphs in the Programme of Action. The day's schedule depends on the progress made in the Chair's informal-informal consultations on finance last night, as well as the consultations on the other outstanding paragraphs.

**BARBADOS DECLARATION:** The informal consultations on the Barbados Declaration will continue this morning at 10:00 with paragraph 19.

**BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM:** Angela Cropper, Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity, will give a presentation today in Conference Room 3 at 1:00 pm, with a repeat performance in Conference Room 4 at 4:00 pm.