

SESSION 99-07 OF ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, 26 June 1999
Banff, Canada

SUMMARY RECORD

The Council, represented by its Alternate Representatives, met in Banff, Alberta, Canada, on 26 June 1999. Ms. Norine Smith (Canada) chaired the meeting. Mr. José Luis Samaniego and Mr. William Nitze represented Mexico and the United States, respectively. Mr. Greg Block, Director, represented the Secretariat. Mr. Marc Paquin, Council Secretary, acted as the secretary of the session. Other officials of the Parties and the Secretariat also participated. JPAC members attended the joint Alternate Representatives/JPAC portion of the session.

Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

The Alternate Representatives adopted the agenda at the opening of the session.

Item 2 Revision of Guidelines for submissions on enforcement matters under Articles 14 and 15 of the NAAEC and discussion on directions for the development of factual records

The Alternate Representatives discussed the proposed revisions and agreed to submit a set of revised guidelines to the Council for its discussion and approval, as appropriate.

Item 3 Finalization of Resolutions

The Alternate Representatives agreed on changes to the various resolutions which will be presented to Council for discussion and approval, as appropriate.

Item 4 Framework for Public Participation

The Alternate Representatives indicated that the Parties are close to finalizing the guidelines for public participation and officials will attempt to have this document ready as soon as possible.

Item 5 Other Issues

Item 5.1 Attendance of National Advisory Committees (NACs) at joint Council/JPAC sessions

The Alternate Representatives agreed that the NAC representatives attending the Banff session be invited to participate in the joint Council/JPAC sessions as observers. The Alternate Representatives further agreed that participation of NAC members in future sessions will have to

be decided on an ad-hoc basis, depending in each case on availability of space, number of members present, etc.

Item 5.2 Laboratory standards and biosafety

This item was added at the request of Mexico. The issue of laboratory standards was finally not discussed by the Alternate Representatives. With regard to the issue of biosafety, the Alternate Representatives will consider the possibility of addressing this issue under the Environment and Trade program or Emerging Trends project, but given the political sensitivities and lack of preceding consultation, no final decision was taken on any future direction with respect to biosafety.

Item 6 Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (TEIA)

The Alternate Representatives discussed the status of TEIA negotiations and possible alternative avenues that would meet the objectives of the NAAEC with regard to TEIA, including a voluntary system.

Item 7 Closure of the Session

The Chair declared the meeting closed.

Prepared by Marc Paquin, Council Secretary.