

## **Mr. Dusik, UNEP Regional Office for Europe – Abstract**

UNCSD has managed to link what used to be the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social, environment) into an interrelated web. This is probably most prominent in the decision to establish SDGs covering all dimensions in an integrated manner. The challenge will be to use the renewed mandate for SD, through the new HLP on SD replacing the CSD that has gradually lost its efficiency. For UNEP, a number of important changes were agreed in a number of our work areas (science-policy interface, green economy, synergies of multilateral environmental agreements and stakeholder engagement to name a few).

Looking at institutional set up after Rio+20, I would focus on two areas important for UNEP's work, contained in paragraph 88 of the Future We Want: 1) strengthening and upgrading of UNEP and 2) call for more regional and country delivery of UNEP's mandate. These changes were confirmed in December 2012 by the UNGA. In February 2014, the UNEP GC met for the first universal session in Nairobi where Member States decided to transform GC into UN Environmental Assembly of UNEP, which was in turn approved by the UNGA; the first session of UNEA will take place around mid 2014. Rio Outcome Document also envisages significant budgetary strengthening of UNEP (from UN regular budget as well as from voluntary contributions of countries), which has been transformed into UNEP's PoW 2014-2015 approved at the first universal session of GC in February, and should serve for enhanced delivery of UNEP's activities on the ground. This is closely linked to the second area of my focus: strengthening regional and country delivery. We expect that with the new Programme of Work and mandate, UNEP should enlarge the scope of its operation in regions and countries on policy dialogue, capacity building and implementation of concrete projects. We are however not planning to develop self-standing parallel programmes, neither we plan to dramatically increase our staffing or subregional/country representations. We plan to increase delivery of UNEP's products and policies through deepening our existing cooperation with countries, as well as with other parts of the UN system, including the UN regional commissions such as UNECE (which also get important mandate through paragraph 100 of the Rio Outcome Document) or the "One UN" processes. We would like to work closely with the countries to define areas and priorities for our possible interventions to empower countries in the pan-European region on their way towards better environmental sustainability. We will be therefore closely following the discussions during this session of the Commission and see how we could best provide support for their priorities in the future. And we would also work with you all to have a strong voice in the universal governing body of UNEP, which will be framing the future global environmental agenda. UNEP is valuing deeply the confidence given to it by the countries and we will do our best to honor this confidence through our targeted actions for the benefit of the environment globally, regionally and also nationally.