

PRESENTATION - RIO+20

UNECE - Regional Preparatory Meeting

- First of all, I would like to thank the Economic Commission for Europe and the European delegations for allowing Brazil, as the host country of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to address the European Regional Preparatory Meeting and share our views on the Conference.
- We express our appreciation for your efforts in coordinating a regional position and for your commitment to the Conference and its outcomes.
- Rio + 20 is being perceived as one of the most important global events within the next years. It is our expectation that the political commitment to sustainable development is renewed and strengthened and that the present international structures for sustainable development become more representative, legitimate and effective.

Outcomes

- We expect the main outcomes of the Conference to be:
 - a) Permanent incorporation of poverty eradication as an essential element for achieving sustainable development;
 - b) Full consideration of the concept of sustainable development in decision-making by economic, social, and environmental actors, with a view to creating greater synergy, coordination, and integration among the three pillars of sustainable development and overcoming the continued prevalence of sector-specific visions;

- c) Strengthening of multilateralism, with a clear message on the need to adapt the structure of the United Nations and of other international institutions to the challenges of sustainable development; and
- d) Acknowledgement of the ongoing process of redefinition of the world order and of changes in the positioning of countries, with implications for global governance;

The principle of non-regression

- Furthermore, it is essential that in evaluating the proposals submitted to Rio+20 **decisions are guided by the principle of non-regression, which rejects retreat on previously undertaken international commitments.** The importance of this principle is even greater in the light of today's global challenges, which demand neither accommodation nor relativism, but innovative and bold solutions capable of providing a broad and balanced response to the needs underlying the three pillars of sustainable development. As such, **Rio+20 should look towards the future and not back to the past**, in an effort to anticipate the themes and debates of the coming decades.
- One outstanding subject is **technological innovation for sustainability**. In our view, there are **three key issues** directly related to technological innovation: i) **energy security**, with emphasis on sustainable sources; ii) **food and nutrition security**, including the issues of access to water and technological innovation for agricultural production; and iii) the role of **biodiversity resources in social inclusion**, such as the production of pharmaceuticals for health, through the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable access to the benefits of biodiversity.

- Among the **new and emerging challenges** on sustainable development, **the social agenda is a priority for Brazil. Special attention should be attached to issues such as:** i) eradication of extreme poverty; ii) food and nutrition security; iii) improvement of equity; iv) access to health; v) decent work and job generation; vi) gender and the empowerment of women; and vii) promotion of racial equality, among others.
- With regard to **the economic and environmental pillars**, due importance ought to be given to the promotion and regulation by the State of programmes to address issues such as sustainable consumption and production; cities and urban development; transportation; energy; agriculture and rural development; access to technology; climate change; among others.

A word on the 2 main themes of the Conference:

Green Economy

- For Brazil, **the connection between the concept of green economy and sustainable development** With regard to the economic and environmental pillars, we believe underscores the importance of role of the State in the promotion and regulation of areas s
- **must be underscored at all times**, so as to ensure that the green economy concept is not interpreted as favouring aspects of commercialization of advanced technology solutions over the pursuit of solutions adapted to the distinct realities of developing countries. Thus, in our view, **the green economy should be seen as an instrument to implement the overall goals and commitments of sustainable development, in particular Agenda 21.**

- Bearing this in mind, Brazil's suggestion is that Rio+20 adopts the broader concept of **“inclusive green economy”**, which brings **the social dimension of sustainable development to the forefront of the discussion. In our view, the concept of “inclusive green economy”** effectively reflects and synthesizes one of the Conference's main themes, which is **the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication**. This conceptual shift will capture the imperative of incorporating billions of people to the economy on the basis of sustainable and feasible consumption of goods and services.

Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

- The second theme of the Conference is the institutional framework for sustainable development. Our challenge is **to promote greater coherence and consistency between the efforts of the various international organizations, as well as of national States**. The integration between the economic, social, and environmental pillars of sustainable development into strategic planning processes and development models at all levels is yet to become a reality.
- To ensure that sustainability is incorporated, in practice, in the activities and functions of economic, social, and environmental institutions, Rio + 20 will consider **the creation of a permanent high-level mechanism to coordinate international institutions acting in the area of development**. Through a three-way process – internal coherence at the national level, coherence from individual States within intergovernmental institutions, and coherence at the global inter-institutional level – more effective integration of the three pillars of development would be possible.

- In addition, it is urgent to address **the fragmentation of the governance structures underlying international financing for sustainable development**. These structures include agencies and programmes of the United Nations, multilateral development banks, multi-donor trust funds, regional initiatives, and international cooperation agencies in developed and developing countries.
- Despite advances on this front, **funding remains unpredictable. The difficulty in accessing resources continues to pose a major obstacle to the implementation** of long term programmes and actions for sustainable development.
- The present economic crisis should not be seen as an obstacle but rather as an opportunity to enhance coherence and integrate sustainability - in all policies at all levels - having sustainable development as the guiding principle and overarching goal.

Thank you.

- **Other issues:**
- **Logistics**
- On the organization and logistics of the Conference, I am pleased to inform that the Government of Brazil will provide accommodation for Heads of State or Government, as well as transportation in VIP vehicles and an office for delegations. Logistics support teams will be meeting and greeting the official delegations at five locations of the Brazilian territory.
- The Government of Brazil will shortly set up a website which will hold essential details regarding the logistics of the Conference. Moreover, the Brazilian Mission in Geneva will circulate, within the next days, a Note Verbal with relevant information regarding the organization of the Conference.
- To ensure the necessary high-level political representation during the Conference, new dates are being proposed. The High-Level segment should take place from 20 to 22 of June, preceded by the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee, from 13 to 15 of June .
- Finally, I would like to reiterate that Brazil - the country which, in 2007, originally proposed the Conference - remains strongly committed to organizing an event that will be able to provide a fruitful atmosphere for substantive debate and concrete deliberations. I hope to see you all in Rio next year! Thank you.