

Montenegro (MNE) Intervention

(Bosiljka Vukovic, Head of the Division for the Support to the National Council for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Government of Montenegro)

Institutional framework for sustainable development: experiences and aspirations

Montenegro would like to align itself with a statement made by Poland on behalf of the EU and structure this intervention in two parts: need and direction for the reform of the international institutional framework for SD and three short points on the second part of question a (intersectoral cooperation) and question b (major groups' involvement).

With regards to the international level, we are all in agreement that the CSD, the main pillar of the international SD system today, has not lived up to the hopes of the international community that set it up after the original Rio Summit. It does not have the mandate to coordinate globally implemented initiatives, programmes and activities and its resources have been significantly reduced in terms of its ability to provide support to the member countries. In the context of its reform, **this capacity to provide direct expert and technical support to the member states** (as the CSD once had) should be in the mandate of the new body that will emerge as a result of the Rio Summit. This should be **followed by a mandate to measure and review the progress** made by all the member states but also across the regions and globally.

The way the UN provides support to its member states in general needs to be reformed. **Another change that Montenegro will support** is that **in measuring national progress we assess cumulative performance at the level of overall organization rather than the results achieved within frameworks of individual UN agencies**. As a country chosen to pilot the new UN coordination approach, Montenegro would like to give its support to the endeavours to increase coherence and efficiency of its operations through the "**Delivering as One**" approach.

As one segment of this broader IFSD reform, the International Environmental Governance needs to be strengthened, and stress here is on that this is **only a part of the whole system that needs to be reformed**. In this context, **Montenegro supports the strengthening of UNEP through its transformation into a specialized environment agency**. We believe this would also help streamline and reinforce the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) system and reinforce and mainstream the environmental dimension within the UN system.

With regards to the questions a) and b), drawing upon our national experience, Montenegro would like to extend its full support for the inclusion of the major groups through the establishment and the functioning of the **National Councils/Commissions for Sustainable Development**. In Montenegrin experience, with evolving/ improved structure over the last ten years, NCS has proven to be a **useful tool to enhance stakeholder participation and wide consultations**, and there is potential to replicate this experience to other countries.

On question a), our experience also shows that **creating multisectoral teams with the goal of monitoring the implementation of the SD strategies greatly increases the communication and coordination within the government.** Many delegations stressed the need for these bodies to be properly resourced. Here we would like to stress that resources are needed in both FINANCIAL AND HUMAN CAPACITY as **no multistakeholder body** (such as the Councils) **or multisectoral body within the government can function effectively over time** unless it is supported by a work of a **permanent expert secretariat designated solely to support its work.** This is a recommendation we would like to see incorporated at all governance levels -- international, regional, national and local as we believe it gives an answer to the question HOW do we stimulate multi-stakeholder dialogue.

In our hitherto discussions there is one body which hasn't been mentioned or has been touched upon only slightly and which, we believe, is of crucial importance in bringing sustainable development to all the citizens and stakeholders and also measuring the country wide progress to sustainability principles. And this is the **Parliament** – We are of opinion that the institutional framework for sustainable development at the national levels needs to be expanded to include Parliament in an effort to **strengthen the oversight and monitoring function, in this context we support the idea of** creating Ombudsmen for future generations, which in some countries have been placed under the structures of the Parliament.