

**Republic of Serbia – Statement on IFSD session within the RPM UNECE meeting, 2nd
December 2011, Geneva**

Rio+20 represents an important opportunity for the international community to enhance *global cooperation on sustainable development* respecting the right of countries to pursue their own sustainable development paths. Moreover, international co-operation can provide a platform for easier and better best practice exchange.

Rio+20 represents an important opportunity for the international community to achieve coherence and coordination among different (fragmented) multilateral environmental agreements, **adapt, implement and enforce environment-related legislation at the national level.**

Rio + 20 should serve as platform for strengthening partnerships with all Major Groups and financial institutions. Rio+20 will contribute *to further development of mechanisms for partnership with all stakeholders*, particularly to motivate the business sector to innovate and invest, civil society to participate in decision making processes, scientific and educational organisations to provide high-level, appropriate and relevant expertise.

Based on Belgrade process and Nairobi-Helsinki Outcomes on IEG, we are of the opinion that strengthening of global authoritative voice for environment could best be achieved if new UN agency for environment would be established on the basis of UNEP structures, including its resources and functions. From the country perspective, this would, to the great extent facilitate complex coordination between different MEAs while at the same time saving time and resources needed for negotiations and adoption of MEAs related decisions.

Besides environmental pillar, the rest of the IFSD structures also require reforms that will lead to more integrative and inclusive governance.

After last CSD 19 session in New York, it has become evident that SD policy will require more accurate and reliable review, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms that will have to be followed by reformed existing functions and by establishing new structures, such as for example SD Council. Accordingly similar innovations and reforms should be reflected at national levels where effectiveness of SD councils, offices and other sub ordinary bodies need to be reaffirmed or, at least, operationalized.

The IFSD also has its subregional dimension that should be taken into account in our preparations towards Rio + 20 Summit. In this sense, many of the subregional mechanisms for cooperation, that exist for example in the region of SEE, such as the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, Central European Initiative, Regional Council for Cooperation, REC, BSEC, river commissions, should be upgraded in their scope of activities and political agendas with the strong SD components, as well as green economy issues. They should, besides other issues, represent platforms for consideration of integration of all 3 dimensions of SD in very practical and action-oriented ways.

Strengthening subregional cooperation can lead to better integration of global SD targets and issues at national levels. Regions, such as the big river regions, namely the Danube river region, can be considered as a role model for sustainable development, as well as the mountain regions that also represent a common platform for fostering SD policies – with that respect, Mountain Partnership Initiative and mountains related MEAs can set an example (such as the Carpathian ecoregion, Balkan and Dinaric Arc mountains).

This approach may, to the great extent, facilitate regionally more appropriate implementation of global SD decisions while at the same time strengthening regional cooperation and coordination.