

TURKEY'S VIEWS ON THE UN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20, 20-22 JUNE 2012)

Item - 5

General views:

- Turkey perceives Rio+20 as a global platform to generate a new political commitment by the international community for sustainable development.

-Rio+20 should not be a protectionist bargaining process. Instead, it should be a political platform to reach consensus, based on our commitment for a common understanding of our future. As environmental, economic and social challenges become ever more global, consensus and commitment at a global level are the only ways to effectively deal with these challenges.

-Challenges to sustainable development that should be addressed at Rio+20 include the financial and economic, food and energy crises, as the threats posed by climate change, loss of biodiversity, desertification and frequency of disasters.

- In the lead-up to Rio+20, it would be useful to conduct an elaborate analysis of the state of play concerning to the issues, principles and conventions which were agreed upon at the Earth Summit in 1992 and the succeeding Summits.

- In the light of this analysis, the Rio+20 Outcome Document should be concise, effective, adaptable, dynamic, transparent and equitable. It should be a document with a vision.

-The Outcome document should also outline concrete targets and the corresponding emergency actions.

“Sustainable development goals”: (Undersecretary General Sha Zukang)

- The agreement to be reached at Rio+20 should be based on more concrete targets and go beyond “efforts to adopt best practices”.

- In this regard, drawing inspiration from the Millennium Development Goals, the Rio+20 Summit could outline specific “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs). These would entail concrete actions to be taken by all UN Member States, on the basis of mutually agreed targets.

-The “Sustainable Development Goals” should define specific objectives and targets along the following main themes:

- Establishing a sustainable balance between socio-economic growth, use of natural resources and conservation of ecosystems;
- Securing firm political commitment to sustainable development;
- Applying a “differentiated approach” between countries according to their national capacities and capabilities to reach the objectives, goals and targets of the SDGs;
- Guiding national policies, strategies, plans and programmes for the implementation of the SDGs, to reach more concrete and substantive results at global, regional and national levels;
- Securing the observance of the SDGs throughout the UN system and the national level. Revision of the system to reach objectives, goals and targets of the SDGs if necessary.