

Agenda item 7

Mr. Bedrich MOLDAN, Vice-Chair of the Preparatory Bureau for the Rio+20 Conference

From Stockholm to Rio...we have tried to elaborate how to achieve the transition to sustainable future that Ms. Brundtland in her opening speech at the Rio Conference characterized as the most difficult task for the human kind since the agricultural revolution. Despite all these efforts, it is still a challenge before us. This is the reason why the UNGA in December 2009 decided to hold an UN Conference on sustainable development, so called Rio+20 in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

We now do know what sustainable development means in broad strokes. We have established 3 solid pillars... but we also know that we have not been able to satisfy the noble task as posed in the Art. 1 of the Rio Declaration to secure healthy and decent livelihood for all people whose lives should proceed in harmony with nature. There are still many hundred of millions living in abject poverty, being hungry, malnourished, without success to basic services, clean water, sanitation or energy. So once again, the global community will try to foster transition of the developmental path towards the sustainable trajectory. As we all know the concrete task before us at Rio+20 are two: improvement of the institutional framework for sustainable development and help to establish a basis for a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. I would like to stress the second part of the title... what does it mean? It means that we should not focus on the economy per se but an economy that is people-centred. It means not only innovation, new technologies but also respect for human values and proper education for all. It means to focus on poor farmers, on slum dwellers. It means affordable energy and mobility for all.

It is obvious that all these means are enormous tasks for all of us in coming few months, in fact only 8 months that we have at our disposal before Rio. And therefore I, in the name of the Bureau of the Preparatory process for Rio+20, appreciate very much all the efforts and results of this important Astana conference. From the very beginning the organizers had in mind the close connection between these two landmark events. Just few moments ago we have heard many concrete contributions of the participants of the Astana Conference to the Rio topics. The connection is also mentioned in the final Astana declaration. So I would like to propose, in addition to the proposal put forward for the Green Bridge, to establish a very firm bridge between Astana and Rio.