United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
Second Preparatory Committee

Statement- Brazil
March 8, 2011
Session 3- Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

We align ourselves with the statement made by Argentina on behalf of the G-77.

•The international debate on institutional arrangements is at the heart of the global commitment towards sustainable development.

•There is need for enhanced coordination and cooperation among international organizations and environmental agreements.

•The challenge remains to reach convergence on the reform of the international institutions for sustainable development, while also catalyzing high-level political commitment for the outcome.

• Progress towards sustainable development should be supported by institutional reform at the global level, but it's at the national level that sustainable development is effectively implemented.

•But since national contexts differ, "standardized" blueprints for national level institutional frameworks for sustainable development are neither beneficial nor feasible.

•The institutional design at the national level should reflect the priorities of each country to implement sustainable development.

•The international institutional arrangement has to be composed of solid institutions.

• Coordination and cooperation among should aim at leading to positive outcomes on the ground.

• The strategy to strengthen institutions needs to be part of a broader reform process that provides equal attention to the three pillars so as to guarantee policy coherence.

•This can only be reached in the context of a broader and integrated reflection in lieu of the fragmented approaches which have been attempted so far. That reflection should review the existing framework

United Nations General Assembly

•The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation assigned to the General Assembly the task of "*giving overall political direction to the implementation of Agenda 21 and its review*".

•It also remains the forum of convergence between decisions related to economic and social development as well as environmental protection.

•Ideally, such convergence should lead to transversal and integrated decisions towards the implementation of sustainable development.

•Means to empower the General Assembly to coordinate the three pillars through a sustainable development approach should be sought.

The ECOSOC
•ECOSOC has the mandate to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development.

• There currently is no integrated discussion that would add value to deliberations at the ECOSOC.

•Even when sustainable development is the main topic proposed for discussion, as in the 2007 session, the concept is not debated comprehensively, nor is it revisited in subsequent years.

•The debate on the reform of the ECOSOC should consider its specific role in the implementation of sustainable development.

•It is necessary to renew the effort of strengthening ECOSOC as an effective forum for the multilateral discussion of economic and social themes through a sustainable development approach, which necessarily includes an environmental perspective.

•The process of UN reform should promote enhanced legitimacy and effectiveness to ECOSOC's work in the social and economic fields, as well as in the environmental and humanitarian ones.

CSD

•The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) is the subsidiary organ of the ECOSOC with the mandate monitor progress in the implementation of Agenda 21.

•Its functions were defined by the General Assembly in resolution 47/191 and later further detailed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

•The CSD also decided, in its Multi-Year Program of Work (MYPOW) to stagger the consideration of specific sustainable development issues in biannual cycles until 2017. While the adoption of the MYPOW led to benefits (rationalization of work, focused debate on small number of issues), a downside was the limitation of discussions to topics agreed in the past and the ensuing incapacity of the Commission to respond to new developments or pressing political issues.

•While there is the possibility of reviewing the themes of each biannual cycle, in practice this has not happened.

• In a context of rapid institutional development, over the last twenty years, of policy and regulatory tools in issue-specific areas under other treaty bodies or arrangements (such as climate change, biodiversity, chemicals), this programming aspect of the CSD has hindered the political role of the Commission.

•One can also observe a marked disconnection in the treatment of sustainable development issues, erroneously viewed by some as restricted to environmental aspects, separate from financial (e.g. the Monterrey Consensus, the financial crises) and social issues.

The "Umbrella" concept

As a contribution to the debate, Brazil offers the following reflection.

• An efficient and coherent institutional framework for sustainable development is key to enhancing international governance to not only tackle present challenges but also emerging issues. Four general principles should guide our efforts in defining how to strengthen governance for sustainable development:

•(i) Coherence with the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the JPOI;

•(ii) articulation with the MDGs and the Monterrey Consensus;

- (iii) Respect for the specific conditions and foremost, the particular needs, of developing countries;

- (iv) Strengthening the international institutions and organizations that deal with sustainable development, including the support to relevant local, national and regional institutions.

- Brazil's vision for a coherent and efficient institutional framework for sustainable development includes the concept of an "umbrella" structure, within the UN system, providing practical guidance to the promotion of sustainable development and the implementation of the existing multilateral commitments.

- The need for coherence and efficiency, as well as effectiveness, would necessitate the redefinition of the role and the mandates of the present institutions, with an emphasis on the ECOSOC, UNEP and CSD, with the "umbrella" or "roof" articulation built on the existing structure.

- This overarching structure would have the objective of coordinating those institutions as well as the MEAs, with an emphasis on integrating the economic, social and environmental pillars.

UNEP

- UNEP should have a pivotal role in that process and in assisting governments in implementing environmental commitments.

- UNEP should help countries in strengthening the environmental component of their national policies, within the perspective of sustainable development, by means of, in particular, capacity building and scientific knowledge.

- In that sense it is urgent to enable the implementation of Article 34 of Agenda 21 and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building.

- Financing and Cooperation

- The availability of means of implementation is crucial for the attainment of sustainable development.

- It is necessary to consider the role of the GEF in assisting developing countries in implementing sustainable development policies.

- Likewise, traditional international cooperation should be improved and complemented by a new paradigm: one that will strengthen the autonomy of recipient countries and include other forms of cooperation such as South-South partnership and trilateral initiatives (North-South-South).

- Rio+20 provides the appropriate context for a comprehensive discussion on the institutional framework for sustainable development.

- The overarching structure with a central Secretariat should be based on existing institutions.

•The structural arrangement resulting from already completed segments of the UN reform could provide a template for discussion.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, Brazil is keenly aware of the responsibility for hosting the Conference in 2012 and wishes to listen to all parties, including stakeholders. In that sense Brazil wishes to announce that it will hold three meetings for informal consultations, the first one on August 22 in Rio de Janeiro.