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on Sustainable Development

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**REPORT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL MEETING
PREPARATORY TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Santiago, 7-9 September 2011

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago from 7 to 9 September 2011.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by the following States members of the Commission: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.

3. Also represented was one associate member of the Commission: Aruba.

4. The following representatives attended the meeting on behalf of the Secretariat: the executive coordinators of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, representatives of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, representatives of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and one representative of the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

5. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies also attended the meeting: United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and World Food Programme (WFP).

6. The following specialized agencies of the United Nations were also represented: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), World Bank, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

7. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Andean Development Corporation (CAF), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Central American Institute for Public Administration (ICAP), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Organization of American States (OAS), Latin American Energy

¹ The list of participants is contained in annex 4.

Organization (OLADE), Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Central American Integration System (SICA), Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

8. Also in attendance were 94 representatives of civil society organizations and representatives of the major groups, as defined in Agenda 21.

Organization of work

9. The meeting was divided into two segments: a plenary session and a meeting of the member countries of the Rio de Janeiro Platform for Action on the Road to Johannesburg 2002.

B. PROCEEDINGS

10. The following officers were elected at the meeting of heads of delegation of the member countries of the Rio de Janeiro Platform for Action on the Road to Johannesburg 2002.

Chair: Argentina
 Vice-Chairs: Barbados and Chile
 Rapporteur: Guatemala

11. The following agenda was adopted:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion of progress to date and remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, as well as an analysis of the themes of the Conference.
4. Report on the Regional Cross-sectoral Consultation on the Environment-Foreign Affairs, Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD)/Central American Integration System (SICA): Towards Rio+20 (Guatemala City, 27-29 June 2011).
5. Report on the Subregional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for the Caribbean (Georgetown, 20 June 2011).
6. Presentation of a proposal sponsored by Colombia and Guatemala, entitled "Rio+20: Sustainable development objectives".
7. Discussion on the theme "A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication".
8. Discussion on the theme "Institutional framework for sustainable development".
9. Consideration and adoption of the declaration setting forth the position of Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Plenary session

12. At the opening session, statements were made by Fernando Schmidt, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, Under-Secretary-General for Environment, Energy, Science and Technology of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, and Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, as well as representatives of the major groups.

13. The Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, speaking on behalf of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, said that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment to multilateralism and represented a bridge between the developing and the developed world. Improving living conditions was a priority and taking steps to protect animal and plant life, which were essential to the continuity of human life, was key. It was therefore necessary to ensure that the exploitation of natural resources was compatible with countries' economic growth. With regard to sustainable development, he emphasized the importance of increasing energy efficiency and making better use of renewable energy, as well as pursuing regional energy integration, agricultural development and food security. The path forged by the Doha Round should be followed, in order to promote investment and maximize the planet's agricultural potential. The State had an important regulatory function in promoting greater corporate responsibility and sustainable consumption and production patterns. He referred to the proposal of Colombia and Guatemala to define sustainable development objectives, which could build on the experience of the Millennium Development Goals, any such goals should be decided on jointly.

14. The Under-Secretary-General for Environment, Energy, Science and Technology of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil said that, at a time of international uncertainty, the region presented a unique set of circumstances in terms of growth rates, peace and democracy. The objective of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was to reflect together on how to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth in economic, social and environmental terms. The main themes of the Conference were the green economy, focusing on poverty eradication, and the global institutional framework for sustainable development: it was not a conference on the environment, but a conference on development. The Conference was a unique opportunity to define a collective vision on the development of the peoples of the region, with the collaboration of civil society.

15. After thanking the Government of Chile and welcoming the delegations, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC said that the region was building its own platform with regard to sustainable development. The world had reached a turning point and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development would mark a change to the economic and productive paradigm. Society had to be redefined to be inclusive and solidary and it was incumbent on the State to play its part. There was an opportunity for the South to construct a new development agenda, grounded conceptually in sustainability and with equality at its core; one which would include the interests of the developed countries, but, above all, those of the developing countries. She described the economic trends that the region has faced in recent decades and highlighted the significant advances that the region had made in reducing poverty, inequality and unemployment, and in harnessing its abundant natural resources. However, the profits from those resources were not being distributed evenly in society and Latin America and the Caribbean had to guard against the reprimarization of the economy and the risk of Dutch disease, and take advantage of its improved international standing. The region could build an agenda based on technological innovation, fair trade and intellectual property rights. The development paradigm should be based on a more people-centred approach and far-reaching changes were needed in the way that energy was produced, consumed, generated and used. The United Nations' development pillar had to be strengthened. With regard to

regional integration, new mechanisms were needed for shaping consensus positions. She mentioned three elements that marked a change of era: technological change, demographic transition and cultural change. Equality of rights was the cornerstone of all three of those elements. Lastly, she called on countries to invite ECLAC and the United Nations system to help them to build those consensus, which were of great importance to humanity.

16. After the opening addresses, statements were made by the representatives of the nine major groups defined in Agenda 21, who said that equity, equality and social and environmental justice were fundamental to achieving sustainable development. Some representatives expressed their concern regarding the use of the concept of “green economy” since a vision aiming for sustainable development could not focus solely on an economic agenda. Promoting dialogue between scientists and decision-makers was key to making progress towards sustainable development. The representative of the indigenous peoples expressed the hope that a cultural pillar would be adopted as the fourth pillar of sustainable development at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Adding to the existing economic, environmental and social pillars, the missing cultural pillar would be based on a rights-based approach, ancestral knowledge, cultural integrity, identity and common sustainable practices in the cultures of indigenous peoples. The representative of the non-governmental organizations proposed that, to ensure compliance with principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, a regional agreement should be drawn up to address access to information, participation and justice in decision-making in relation to environmental matters.

17. During the second part of the plenary session, statements were made by José Antonio Ocampo, Director of Economic and Political Development of the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, José Graziano da Silva, Director-General elect and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Elizabeth Thompson, Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and John Ashe, Co-chair of the Bureau for the Preparatory Process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

18. Delivering his statement via videoconference, the Director of Economic and Political Development of the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University highlighted the importance of the relationship between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and said that above all the connection between the economy and the environment had to be strengthened. Referring to the protection of natural resources in Latin America and the Caribbean, whose benefits in the long term would far outweigh any costs in the short term, he proposed a discount rate of 1.5% on investments equivalent to the rate of productivity growth. A structural transformation had to be undertaken to modify production and consumption patterns and science and technology should be placed at the heart of productive development policy. With regard to the dissemination of knowledge, he proposed greater public appropriation, as well as a rethinking of the current systems of technological dissemination. Lastly he mentioned two risks in relation to the protection of natural resources: increased protectionism and the emergence of additional conditionalities.

19. The Director-General elect and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of FAO said that, in addition to the unresolved challenges of the twentieth century, uncertainty was affecting all markets, especially the food market. Higher food prices had been compounded by serious volatility that benefited neither producers nor consumers. The uncertainty of the situation did not encourage productive investment, which was vital to emerge from the crisis. The food security agenda should be addressed in conjunction with climate change. Among the challenges facing the region, he placed

particular emphasis on creating governance mechanisms, reviewing consumption patterns and diet with a focus on family farming and local products, and applying new technologies to adapt to climate change, especially in relation to agriculture. In conclusion, FAO intended to work more closely with the regional commissions and the whole United Nations system to address those challenges.

20. The Executive Coordinator of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development explained that the deadline for submitting inputs for the draft document for the Conference was 1 November 2011. The Conference was drawing nearer at a time when the world was facing multiple crises that defied everyone to find innovative solutions to make an effective transition that would transform people's quality of life and make it possible to achieve sustainable development. With regard to the two themes of the Conference, the challenge, in terms of the global institutional framework, was designing an institutional architecture that would make it possible to recognize and respond more efficiently to the problems faced. As to the green economy, she urged countries to go beyond the definition of the concept and focus on defining the policies required to transform their economies. The green economy was not an end in itself, but rather a means to eradicate poverty and foster sustainable development.

21. The Co-chair of the Bureau for the Preparatory Process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development highlighted the importance of the meeting, which was the first of the regional meetings to be held and whose ultimate outcome should be a series of policies that would be useful and beneficial at the national level. He urged the representatives of national delegations to make their national interests known, to seek regional consensus and to ensure that outcomes were concrete.

22. The Executive Secretary of ECLAC voiced her support for the proposals of the previous speakers. Specifically, she referred to the need to transform consumption and production patterns, to reach a global compact on the governance of natural resources, to establish appropriate discount rates on investments in Latin America and the Caribbean, to propose new taxes on financial transactions and to agree on some commitments within the region to move forwards.

23. Representatives of several countries and United Nations bodies took the floor to express their support for Brazil as hosts of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which, it was hoped, would culminate in fruitful agreements. Among the issues that were raised, they emphasized the need to: achieve outcomes that were as ambitious as they were realistic, and which were universal enough to be feasible and to be carried forward to the global process; establish a balance between the three pillars of sustainable development, respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the agreements already reached; and promote a change of technological paradigm and share the benefits of scientific knowledge. Information and communication technologies would play a key role in accelerating towards sustainable development. Furthermore, it was necessary to ensure that the gender dimension was fully mainstreamed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The participants should avoid fruitless discussions on matters or policies on which countries of the region were divided and should concentrate instead on moving forward on issues on which all could agree. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela stated that the outlook for United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was encouraging given the rates achieved in the region, but was complicated by the need to take into account the three spheres of sustainable development of which, in his view, the social sphere was paramount.

24. Before concluding the first segment of the meeting, the participants observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of the former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, Gabriel Valdés Subercaseaux.

Meeting of the member countries of the Rio de Janeiro Platform for Action on the Road to Johannesburg 2002: Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for Rio de Janeiro 2012

Progress made to date and remaining gaps in the implementation of Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)

25. This segment of the meeting was attended by representatives of the following countries of Latin America and the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.

26. Following the presentation of the inter-agency document entitled “Sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean 20 years on from the Earth Summit: progress, gaps and strategic guidelines” by Joseluis Samaniego, Chief of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC, and Niky Fabiancic, Deputy Regional Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), statements were made by Haroldo Rodas Melgar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Denis S. Lowe, Minister of the Environment and Drainage of Barbados, María Fernanda Espinosa, Minister for Coordination of Natural and Cultural Heritage of Ecuador, and José Rafael Altomonte, Vice-Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic.

27. The Chief of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC and the Deputy Regional Director of UNDP said that the report presented, from the multidisciplinary perspective of the various United Nations agencies with a presence in Latin America and the Caribbean, the progress made to date and the remaining gaps in relation to the implementation of the global commitments on sustainable development undertaken since 1992. On the basis of the remaining gaps and emerging challenges, it proposed guidelines on taking steps towards sustainable development. The international community’s acceptance of the concept of sustainable development, widely disseminated through the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, was a milestone achievement of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit). Yet, 20 years later —and despite the significant headway made— the development model was still unable to bring about advances simultaneously on the social, economic and environmental fronts. In order to make progress on the sustainability agenda it was necessary to align policies on social protection, human security, and quality of life with environmentally friendly economic activities; heighten the visibility of the environmental and social costs of economic decisions with a view to their internalization; build better policies on a more informed, participatory basis; and strengthen education, science and technology in order to build human capital for sustainability.

28. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, referring to the institutional framework for sustainable development, one of the themes of the Conference, said that the challenge was to reduce the tension between economic growth and environmental protection. The green economy, the other theme of the Conference, meant using resources more efficiently, lowering carbon intensity and avoiding biodiversity loss. The most problematic issue to be resolved at the Conference would be securing multilateral cooperation and financial support for sustainable development at a time when the developed countries were facing an economic crisis. ECLAC was the appropriate forum for discussing such issues, including, for example, innovative financing mechanisms and South-South cooperation; however, such options were not a substitute for the commitments that had already been undertaken. Lastly, he underlined the efforts made by Guatemala and Colombia to move towards establishing specific sustainable development objectives.

29. The Minister of the Environment and Drainage of Barbados, referring to the progress that had been made on sustainable development in the region since 1992, said that the national sustainable development policy of Barbados consisted of a social compact between the Government, the private sector and trade unions, which had led to the formalization of a number of protocols. Outstanding challenges included inefficient production systems and the need to incentivize the use of waste as a resource, tackle non-communicable diseases, address inefficient transport systems, update sanitation infrastructure and diversify the economic base. In order to make progress in those areas, a new regional cooperation platform was required; one which included research, investment and a programme aiming to promote sustainable consumption and production, as well as greater participation by civil society.

30. The Minister for Coordination of Natural and Cultural Heritage of Ecuador said that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was a unique opportunity to assess the progress achieved on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, but above all to address other key themes such as food sovereignty and the effects of the financial crisis on the sustainable development agenda. Both Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation remained in force and any evaluation carried out could not lead to the renegotiation of the principles, outcomes or instruments that had been agreed. While there was an endless list of success stories at the local level, a global impact had not been made. Nevertheless, the changes required in the patterns of production and consumption involved profound cultural changes. This point had been taken into account in the drafting of the new Constitution of Ecuador and, therefore, the concept of *buen vivir* (“good living”) had been included as an objective. This involved taking a different perspective on life and moving beyond the outdated paradigm that development was synonymous with infinite economic growth regardless of the limits of ecosystems.

31. The Vice-Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic said that neoliberal economic policies had exacerbated the environmental crisis. It would not be possible to achieve sustainable development if the thirst for profit was the predominant ethical value. The region should align itself with Brazil’s aspiration to completely eradicate extreme poverty. The challenges facing the region included establishing sustainable consumption and production patterns, equitable access to employment with rights and quality education, increased access to energy, energy efficiency and greater access to drinking water. Lastly, the specificities of small island developing States (SIDS) made them particularly vulnerable to climate change.

32. In the discussion that followed, participants once again expressed their concerns regarding the concept of green economy and its exclusive focus on the economy and voiced their support for making the process towards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development thoroughly participatory. The representatives agreed that it was necessary to foster a new paradigm of sustainable consumption and production. It was recalled that General Assembly resolution 64/236 stated that countries should discuss the green economy but there was clearly a lack of agreement on the issue. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expressed that country’s commitment to the Conference but was opposed to any revision of the already established principles, given that they were dealing with imprecise notions and new terms which would be difficult to define in the context of sustainable development.

Report on the Regional Cross-sectoral Consultation on the Environment-Foreign Affairs, Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD)/Central American Integration System (SICA): Towards Rio+20 (Guatemala City, 27-29 June 2011)

33. The representative of Guatemala presented a report on the first Regional Cross-sectoral Consultation Environment-Foreign Affairs: Towards Rio+20 held in Guatemala City from 27 to 29 June 2011. She said that the challenges outstanding in terms of sustainability required innovative and creative

solutions, not a business-as-usual approach. Although no agreement had been reached regarding the concept of green economy, at the consultation it had been established that it should cover loss of natural heritage, ecosystem management, social inclusion, disaster risk management and reduction, and food price speculation, among other topics. The emerging issues identified at the regional consultation included poverty eradication, consumption and production patterns, and the protection of the atmosphere, with an emphasis on climate change and energy. Of the steps to be taken, she mentioned incorporating a political and cultural dimension into the concept of sustainable development, encouraging South-South cooperation and strengthening environmental education as a way of influencing and transforming consumption and production patterns.

Report on the Subregional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for the Caribbean (Georgetown, 20 June 2011)

34. The representative of Barbados presented the report on the Subregional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for the Caribbean, held in Georgetown on 20 June 2011. He said that since most of the countries in the Caribbean were considered to be middle-income, they did not have sufficient access to concessional resources and technical assistance, even though poverty rates had increased. In the last decade weather-related disasters had put the countries of the Caribbean to the test, with serious implications for the economies of the region. The subregional meeting had led to a series of recommendations, which included strengthening the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), establishing a new model of ocean governance and improving the coordination with the United Nations system in relation to defining sustainable development indicators. The following emerging issues had been identified at the meeting: non-communicable diseases, ecosystem services, the challenges associated with the opening of new shipping routes in the Arctic region and higher sea levels, and climate change and energy, food and livelihood security. Lastly, he drew attention to the need to resume the discussion on the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme (SIDS/TAP) and the Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSnet).

Presentation of a proposal sponsored by Colombia and Guatemala, entitled “Rio+20: Sustainable development objectives”²

35. The representative of Colombia presented the proposal entitled “Rio+20: Sustainable development objectives” submitted by the Governments of Colombia and Guatemala. The proposal considered the establishment of sustainable development objectives that would serve as a concrete reference for achieving the desired convergence of and linkages between the three pillars of sustainable development. Sustainable development goals could lend a logical sequence and structure to the process that had begun almost 20 years previously. In 1992, the guiding principles and road map for sustainable development had been agreed; in 2002, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation had been adopted; and in 2012 objectives could be set identifying gaps and needs in order to advance towards a more structured implementation of the principles and aims set out 20 years previously. Broadly speaking, the sustainable development goals could cover issues such as energy, water and food security, shedding light on the costs involved in the transition to sustainable development. Defined at the international level, like the Millennium Development Goals, the sustainable development objectives would serve to compare outcomes and identify opportunities for cooperation, including South-South cooperation.

² The proposal is contained in annex 1.

36. In the discussion that followed, the country representatives thanked Colombia and Guatemala for their proposal, took note of it and invited participants to consider presenting it as an input for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. They highlighted the active role that the region was playing in the lead up to the Conference. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela pointed to concerns relating to the convergence of the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development goals and said that the debate and discussions within the countries should be deepened. Reiterating how extremely vulnerable the countries of the Caribbean were to natural disasters, the representative of Jamaica expressed support for the proposal to strengthen South-South cooperation on technology and knowledge and intraregional collaboration in key areas such as food security. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia provided information on her country's proposal on the rights of nature.³

37. The representative of the Latin American Organization of Intermediate Governments (OLAGI) said that at a recent meeting held in Valparaíso, Chile, the Valparaíso Manifesto had been signed, emphasizing the importance of human and territorial security and establishing an agenda for Latin American integration with an emphasis on climate change and risk management.

Discussion on the theme “A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”

38. Following the presentation by Lucas Assunção, Head of the Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), statements were made by Ricardo Irrázabal Sánchez, Vice-Minister of the Environment of Chile, Graciela Muslera, Minister of Housing, Land Management and Environment of Uruguay, and Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo, Head of Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba.

39. The Head of the Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch of UNCTAD referred to the implications of the green economy for trade and sustainable development. Rather than focusing on the definition of the concept, it was best to consider the opportunities it offered for sustainable development. The green economy was not a concept for the future; indeed some elements that could be considered aspects of an incipient green economy already existed in the current economic system. However, the transition to a full-blown green economy should be guided so that it benefited all countries, especially the least developed. The positive elements associated with a green economy included price corrections that could favour exports and investments in developing countries where there was less pollution, the dissemination of the idea that there were gains to be made by investing in new technologies and the transformation of productive capacity and productive technologies. The negative elements included subsidies for green production and investment aimed at local producers or increasing local content, changes in trade flows as a result of modifications to production and consumption structures and the cost of adjustment in developing countries, which could be much higher in relative terms because of constraints on fiscal capacity, management and technology. The international community had to ensure that the support instruments were transparent, predictable, reliable and additional to existing support. Lastly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) could act as a forum for holding transparent discussions on those issues and for countries to openly share experiences.

40. The Vice-Minister of the Environment of Chile reiterated his country's commitment to the principles of the Rio Declaration and said that the green economy was one of the means of achieving sustainable development. The green economy was characterized by green investments and jobs, waste

³ The proposal is contained in annex 2.

minimization and low-carbon economies. All of these elements helped to make progress towards sustainable development. However, the concept of sustainable development should remain people-centred. Twenty years on from United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the main objective was still sustainable development and a green economy was one way of achieving that objective. The challenge was to make those two concepts compatible and consistent.

41. The Minister of Housing, Land Management and Environment of Uruguay said that significant progress had been made towards tackling poverty and promoting sustainable development in Uruguay and the rest of the region since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. However, it was important to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the upcoming Conference in Rio de Janeiro to project a united vision of the areas the international community should strengthen henceforth in order to achieve its long-term development objectives. Emphasis should be placed on meeting and strengthening international cooperation commitments on achieving sustainable development in the countries in the region and, in particular, on the need to guarantee improved access to new technologies and scientific advances, through international cooperation. Science and technology were key to achieving the technological progress that would enable structural change and productivity growth, good-quality employment and more egalitarian societies.

42. The Head of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba expressed the concern that the notion of a green economy could be used to impose an alternative vision, supplanting the urgent need to modify the current unsustainable production and consumption patterns, in particular in the developed countries. The scope of the concept of a green economy was inadequate and limited, as it gave priority to the economic pillar of sustainable development, relegating to a large extent its social and environmental dimensions. Cuba considered the green economy to be a complement to sustainable development.

43. In the statements that followed, country representatives said that although it had not been possible to define the concept of green economy, it was not a new idea and it had the potential to become a means to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. Nevertheless, several representatives expressed concerns that it could lead to new trade regulations or green protectionism. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia raised the question of how intellectual property rights regimes would be addressed in the context of negotiations associated with the green economy and recalled that in the climate change negotiations the developed countries had rejected her country's proposal to introduce more flexible intellectual property rights systems. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that care should be taken in proposing a green economy and in suggesting changes that did not bring about any real modification. Moreover, it was futile to pose new questions when the existing ones remained unanswered. It was added that the country expected the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to focus not so much the green economy as on the social economy.

44. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) called for an exchange of views on the territorial and spatial organization models, for local authorities to be strengthened to achieve sustainable development and for a specific goal on urban sustainable development to be set. The representative of FAO identified a series of steps that had to be taken to achieve sustainable development, including reducing the carbon footprint of food production, adapting agricultural production to climate change, ensuring the sustainable management of water, and expanding the role of fisheries to guarantee food security. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) said that health was a cross-cutting theme that affected all three of the pillars of sustainable development and should therefore be reflected in the outcomes of the Conference. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said that the green economy offered an opportunity to recognize that the planet's resources were limited. There was no single model

for the green economy and its implementation had to be adapted to national and regional realities through different policies, such as the elimination of perverse subsidies.

45. The representatives of the nine major groups defined in Agenda 21 expressed concern regarding the concept of green economy, since sustainable development could not be based solely on an economic and mercantilist agenda. The prevailing system had to reflect the fact that human beings were an integral part of Mother Earth and that harmony with nature was crucial to achieving a more just world. The green economy could win supporters if it helped to reduce inequities. The women's group called for sustainable development policies to recognize women's autonomy and to promote gender equality. Lastly, the representative of CARICOM referred to the challenges faced by the Caribbean countries in relation to sustainable development, particularly with regard to the narrow fiscal space and successive natural disasters. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development should be an opportunity to discuss how the green economy could put the poor at the centre of the debate on development and to discuss the collective successes and failures that had been recorded to date.

Discussion on the theme "Institutional framework for sustainable development"

46. Presentations on the institutional framework for sustainable development were given by Elliott Harris, Vice-Chair of the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), and Ana Bianchi, Vice-Chair of the Bureau for the Preparatory Process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, representing the Latin American and Caribbean States. Statements were subsequently made by Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, Under-Secretary-General for Environment, Energy, Science and Technology of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, René Castro, Minister of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications of Costa Rica, and Evadne Coye, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica.

47. The Vice-Chair of the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) said that the main obstacle to achieving sustainable development was the lack of policy coherence between the three pillars. To achieve that coherence it was necessary to correct the misconception that the political processes of the three pillars were irreconcilable, for example, by addressing the view that spending on social protection and the environment were costs and not investments in the economy. Achieving international cohesion would require changes in the governance system at the global level. The proposals to achieve that aim ranged from the creation of a general coordinating organization to reforming the existing structures, which each had their advantages and disadvantages. The former had the advantage of offering multidimensional coherence, greater legitimacy and representativity, but the disadvantage of the costs involved and the difficulty of bringing together the knowledge and experience needed for such an organization to function. Reforming the existing structures was a much less costly option, but it did require more complex coordination. Every effort should be made to avoid repeating the errors of the past; previously, the institutional frameworks had been set in stone and were thus difficult to change.

48. The Vice-Chair of the Bureau for the Preparatory Process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, representing the Latin American and Caribbean States, said that there was consensus over the need to avoid duplication of efforts and mainstream the participation of civil society. There was also consensus regarding the need to link the three pillars of sustainable development within the United Nations system.

49. The Under-Secretary-General for Environment, Energy, Science and Technology of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil stressed that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was part of a family of conferences that had made a major contribution to international governance. The

Conference represented an opportunity to review the existing institutions and evaluate whether they were able to meet the new challenges. He identified two areas that appeared to be of particular interest: strengthening the environmental pillar, and improving coherence and synergy between the three pillars of sustainable development.

50. The Minister of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications of Costa Rica voiced his concern that some 20 to 25 member States of the United Nations may disappear altogether because of climate change. This was a question of basic human rights. He also called for the greening of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The matter of common public goods had to be addressed, especially the oceans. One social issue that had been overlooked was the interests of older persons, and he pressed for fuller discussions in that regard.

51. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica said that the disadvantages of centralized government outweighed the advantages and that it would be better to channel knowledge and resources into strengthening existing institutions, rather than creating new ones. She added that the wide range of multilateral agreements on the environment, each with its own requirements for information, presented an enormous challenge for small States, and she called for compliance by member States to be better handled.

52. In their subsequent statements, countries requested that the scientific community should play a greater role in decision-making, emphasizing the importance of technological innovation and its scientific base in sustainable development. Questions were raised about the ability of prevailing institutional frameworks to achieve coordination and coherence between the three pillars of sustainable development. In that regard, Cuba presented a proposal for environmental governance, made up of two components.⁴ The first concerned strengthening UNEP to boost its visibility and financial resources, while the second related to strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development. This would entail changing the mandate, responsibilities and scope of activity of UNEP and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in order to establish a new institutional framework that would preserve part of the existing mandates, incorporate the aspects of sustainability more consistently and be better prepared to face the current challenges and threats. The proposal therefore suggested amending the current mandate of the UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum to allow it to address sustainable development issues from a broader perspective. The Forum could be called the Global Ministerial Forum on Sustainable Development or the Global Ministerial Forum on Sustainability and, unlike its predecessor, should meet at United Nations Headquarters in New York, on an annual basis as the CSD does. Establishing the Forum would render the CSD obsolete, and it should be succeeded by the new body. The Forum would report to the Economic and Social Council and through that body to the United Nations General Assembly. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela added that any new institutional framework should avoid establishing perverse mechanisms that might jeopardize the sovereignty of the developing countries.

53. The representative of UNDP said that sustainable development needed to be strengthened, not only its environmental pillar. He mentioned certain trends that were making it more difficult for countries in the region to access funding for sustainable development. These included the proliferation of funds, each with its own rules and bureaucracies; the fact that an increasing number of countries were being considered middle-income, making them ineligible for more concessional funding; and the fact that small States lacked the capacity to apply for different funds and meet their requirements. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stressed that education and culture were

⁴ The proposal is contained in annex 3.

key to achieving sustainable development. The representative of the Organization of American States (OAS) said that her organization was at the disposal of the countries of the region to provide a space for dialogue and technical assistance in matters of sustainable development so as to facilitate constructive dialogue in the run-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The representative of UNEP said that the challenges ahead for the international institutional framework included creating synergies and promoting effective implementation, strengthening national environmental institutions and supporting closer ties between science and decision-making.

54. Representatives of the major groups pointed out that fulfilment of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration was essential for building a national and international framework. A regional agreement on the fulfilment of that principle was one of the proposals they supported as a means of furthering the process. The need to affirm the precautionary principle by way of a new framework was also raised. The representatives also pressed for the process of finding synergies between similar agreements to begin, and for as much simplification as possible, including the harmonization of instruments, the integration of secretariats and the coordination of meeting schedules. This task could not be rushed; each process had to be given sufficient time to come to fruition, with a view to ensuring that the integrity of the mandate of each convention was preserved.

Closing session

55. The major groups spoke during the closing session. The women's representative expressed her satisfaction with the conclusions of the meeting, in which the importance of participation by women and indigenous peoples had been recognized. The representative of childhood and youth called for countries to include young people in their delegations and to promote cross-generational working spaces, and stressed that education was key to the achievement of sustainable development. The representative of indigenous peoples welcomed the conclusions of the meeting and requested the incorporation of a fourth pillar—that of culture—to sustainable development. The representative of non-governmental organizations said that the weakness of national preparatory processes was evident in the absence of concrete proposals from government representatives, which lent strength to the idea that dialogue with society was necessary. She suggested working towards a consultation process to explore the possibility of establishing a regional agreement that would safeguard principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and urged governments to commit themselves resolutely to find solutions to the major environmental problems such as climate change and the size of the ecological footprint. She proposed reducing the ecological footprint to sustainable levels; increasing and improving protected areas, both land- and sea-based; ensuring equitable access to dependable, renewable and efficient sources of energy, food and water; abolishing subsidies and allowances for unsustainable production activities; and affirming the precautionary principle.

56. The representative of local authorities was disappointed that the relevance of local authorities had not been recognized in the conclusions of the meeting. She called for their incorporation into the process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be considered. The workers and unions' representative suggested that the green economy could provide an opportunity to reach agreement on basic principles, such as minimum levels of social protection, a tax on financial speculation and national objectives for green jobs with rights. The representative of business and industry highlighted that the green economy had a vital role to play in the shared goal of civil society and governments of sustainable development. He added that a road map would be needed to develop and implement a green economy in the region, setting out the regulatory conditions for such a transition. Finally, he said that promoting sustainable business practices was essential for the creation of a sustainable future. The representative of the scientific and technological community then voiced concern over the superficial treatment of the

subject of a green economy, pointing out that the final chapter of Agenda 21 called for externalities to be incorporated into national budgets, which had not been done. The representative added that the scientific community was able to provide information on the opportunities and the limits of this new challenge. Lastly, the representative of the farming community expressed appreciation for the conclusions of the meeting and the inclusion of subjects such as climate change, food security and the vulnerability of coastal areas and urged governments to devote more attention to agriculture.

57. At the end of the meeting, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC thanked everyone for their enthusiasm and said that ECLAC would prepare a report of the meeting containing the presentations of the countries and the major groups. She wished Brazil every success and said that ECLAC was available to assist if needed. She expressed her appreciation for the participation of civil society and the organizations of the United Nations system and said that the comments received would be incorporated into the inter-agency document entitled “Sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean 20 years on from the Earth Summit: progress, gaps and strategic guidelines”, prepared by the United Nations for analysis in the region.

Conclusions of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

58. The delegates attending the meeting of the member countries of the Rio de Janeiro Platform for Action on the Road to Johannesburg 2002: Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for Rio de Janeiro 2012 reached the following conclusions:

1. The ministers and representatives of the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Santiago from 7 to 9 September 2011, salute the organization of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.
2. *Welcome* the organization of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in the Latin American and Caribbean region.
3. *Recall* that, pursuant to resolution 64/236 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the objective of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing progress to date and the remaining gaps in implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and addressing the new and emerging challenges,
4. *Reaffirm* the commitment of the countries of the region to continue to contribute constructively to a successful outcome of Rio+20.
5. *Reaffirm also* the relevance of, as well as their commitment to, the principles and objectives set forth in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy and the World Charter for Nature.

6. *Recognize* the progress made thus far and the gaps still remaining as regards achievement of the goals of sustainable development, which are more pressing in the case of the small island States of the Caribbean.
7. *Note* that some of the barriers to the achievement of sustainable development are the scientific and technological gap, the lack of sufficient financing and the fragmentation in implementation.
8. *Affirm* that to the existing issues for the achievement of sustainable development have been added new and emerging challenges. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean commit to address these challenges and to adopt decisions at the Rio+20 Conference.
9. *Reiterate* that the objective to be achieved is sustainable development, which should ensure the balance between these three interconnected pillars: social, economic and environmental, while maintaining the fundamental principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and equity.
10. *Affirm* the need for commitments to achieve:
 - (i) the eradication of extreme poverty,
 - (ii) a change in patterns of production and consumption, in which the developed countries should play a leading global role,
 - (iii) effective access to and transfer of safe and appropriate technologies, without conditionalities and on preferential terms for developing countries,
 - (iv) the promotion of a global intellectual property rights regime that facilitates the transfer of such technologies, in keeping with the commitments undertaken by each country,
 - (v) full implementation of the right to access to environmental information, participation and justice enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration,
 - (vi) a global institutional framework for sustainable development which is efficient and flexible and ensures the effective integration of its three pillars,
 - (vii) new, additional, stable and predictable financing for supporting implementation activities in developing countries,
 - (viii) the fulfilment of mitigation and adaptation commitments in relation to climate change and the building of resilience to its impacts,
 - (ix) greater South-South cooperation and exchange of successful experiences,
 - (x) the restoration of harmony with nature,
 - (xi) better ways of measuring countries' wealth that adequately reflect the three pillars of sustainable development.
11. *Reaffirm* respect for multiculturalism and for the knowledge and traditional values of the region's indigenous peoples and local and traditional communities.

12. *Recognize* the importance of the participation and the contribution of civil society to sustainable development, in particular, women, indigenous peoples and local and traditional communities, and encourage all stakeholders to engage more fully with the actions of Governments.
13. *Express* their firm determination to continue to work towards sustainable development, with the primordial purpose of eradicating poverty and achieving equality in our societies, bearing in mind the particular characteristics of each of the States of the region.
14. *Take* note of and express our thanks for the proposals presented by Bolivia “Rights of nature”; Colombia and Guatemala “Sustainable development goals” and Cuba “Institutional framework for sustainable development” and submit them for examination and consideration as contributions to the Conference.⁵
15. *Thank* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for convening the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and for its constant efforts and the support it extends to the countries of the region.

⁵ These proposals are contained in annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the present report.

Annex 1

PROPOSAL BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF COLOMBIA AND GUATEMALA⁶**RIO + 20: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)****A PROPOSAL FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF COLOMBIA AND GUATEMALA****I. INTRODUCTION**

The Governments of Colombia and Guatemala consider that Rio + 20 constitutes a critical opportunity for the international community to agree on a concrete approach that delivers means for measuring—in accordance with the contexts and priorities of each country— both advances as well as bottlenecks in efforts to balance sustained socio- economic growth with the sustainable use of natural resources and the conservation of ecosystem services. There are experiences, such as the MDGs, that indicate that when there are objectives to guide the international community’s efforts towards a collective goal, it becomes easier for governments and institutions to work together to reach them. **A key outcome of Rio+20 is that of “securing political commitment to Sustainable Development”. However, concrete ways of grounding that commitment are needed.**

Therefore Colombia and Guatemala are proposing that a key outcome of the Rio + 20 process be the definition and agreement of a suite of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, similar and supportive of the MDGs. These SDGs would focus the broad debate at a practical level, and enable the preparatory process to productively address key issues for which measurable progress would be welcome. Moreover, the SDGs approach would generate a series of additional benefits:

- Objectives agreed to internationally could eventually be underpinned by targets – as is the case with the MDGs - that reflect the realities and priorities at national levels. They would thus be fully aligned with national contexts and could therefore be a useful tool for guiding public policies.
- The SDGs would play an important role in the identification of gaps and needs in countries, for example in terms of means of implementation, institutional strengthening, and capacity building to increase absorptive capacity for new technologies. Defined internationally, like the MDGs, these would serve both for comparing results as well as furthering opportunities for cooperation, including South-South cooperation.
- The definition of the SDGs would contribute to focusing the preparatory process towards Rio+20, thus achieving more substantive and concrete results.
- A process framed along these lines would build upon the Johannesburg WSSD Plan of Implementation as well as Agenda 21.
- The SDGs would contribute to positioning the three pillars as cross-cutting building blocks for development throughout the UN system.

⁶ The document contained in this annex is a true copy of the document presented by the respective delegation and has not been edited.

II. THE PROPOSAL

The process of defining the SDGs should be rich and useful, an exercise through which the international community can prioritize those issues which are the most indicative of current needs to balance socio-economic growth with responsible environmental stewardship. The process should result in the definition of a small number of key Objectives that could be later elaborated through a suite of targets, much like the MDGs.

The SDGs would be based on Agenda 21 given that it already maps our requirements for sustainable development. This would also avoid reopening debates as Agenda 21 does not need to be renegotiated.

The SDGs could provide a logical sequence and structure to the process launched almost 20 years ago: in 1992 the guiding principles were agreed to as well as a road map for sustainable development; in 2002 a Plan of Implementation was defined; and now in 2012 we could consider identifying goals in order to better identify gaps and needs and provide for more structured implementation of the principles and goals defined 20 years ago.

The SDGs and the MDGs should be fully complementary. It is worth noting that while the MDGs applied only to developing countries, the SDGs would have universal application.

III. THE WAY FORWARD

The Rio+20 process is complex, and there are many activities, consultations and decisions that need to be undertaken at national, regional and global levels in the remaining months to June 2012. Therefore it is necessary to gauge a practical level of ambition for the development of the SDGs by June 2012. It is proposed that a reasonable deliverable by June 2012 at Rio would be **agreement on suite of Objectives at a broad level**. This would mean prioritizing those themes and issues that are considered critical factors in moving forward the sustainable development agenda, inspired on Agenda 21. *These could broadly include issues such as:*

- Combating Poverty
- Changing Consumption Patterns
- Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development
- Biodiversity and Forests
- Oceans
- Water Resources
- Advancing Food Security
- Energy, including from renewable sources

The expected results at the Rio Summit would be two pronged: 1) a definition of the thematic Objectives and, 2) an agreement on a mandate to subsequently define (post-Rio):

- (i) How these Objectives would be further developed —this would include decisions, for example, on:
- definition of goals (as with the MDGs) and/or indicators for the Objectives
 - whether these goals would be at global, regional and/or national levels
 - how these goals might reflect the integration of the 3 pillars in each Objective
 - interlinkages between the Objectives themselves
- (ii) A process that could converge with the revision of the MDGs given that it will soon be necessary to undertake this exercise as the MDGs have a deadline of 2015. Tackling both processes in a coordinated or converging manner could be a win-win situation as the international community would ultimately benefit from a more solid, coherent and comprehensive suite of Objectives.

Thus this would be a reasonable level of ambition:

- By June 2012, to define the suite of Sustainable Development Objectives.
- During the Conference, a mandate would be agreed to for further developing the Objectives and defining possible options such as those detailed above. There would not be a need to prejudge the outcome in the remaining months leading up to Rio.

Annex 2

PROPOSAL OF PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA⁷**PROPOSAL OF THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RIO+20****RIGHTS OF NATURE**

The proposals put forth by the Plurinational State of Bolivia take into account and build on progress made under the World Charter for Nature (1982), the Rio Declaration (1992), the Earth Charter (2000), Agenda 21, and the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth (2010).

I. A DEEPER COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

1. In this century, sustainable development faces two prime challenges. They are: to overcome poverty and tremendous inequality, and to restore balance within the Earth system. The intrinsic link between these two objectives means that one cannot be achieved without the other.
2. We should acknowledge and accept that infinite development on a finite planet is unsustainable. Growth has its limits. The pursuit of unlimited growth should take into account the ecological constraints of living on a finite planet, that is, the regenerative capacity of Earth's ecosystems. When growth starts to disturb this balance (as global warming is doing), development is displaced by degradation and destruction of the place we call home. A certain degree of growth and industrialization is necessary to meet essential needs and guarantee human rights. But instead of unlimited, indiscriminate growth, "necessary development" should strive for balance among human beings and between them and nature.
3. We should protect and allow the natural workings of Earth system cycles that produce and reproduce life on our planet, taking an integrated approach instead of just a quantitative one. Development should take place within the bounds of these regenerative cycles.
4. It is a mistake to think that there is a path to permanent economic development that can be decoupled from environmental degradation caused by the growing use of technologies and innovative market mechanisms. While scientific progress can, in certain circumstances, help to solve some development problems, it cannot escape the natural limits of the Earth system we live in.

⁷ The text contained in this annex is a translation of the document presented by the respective delegation, which did not undergo formal editing prior to translation.

5. Sustainable development should eradicate poverty for the sake of living well. It should not contribute to the widening gap with the wealthy who live at the expense of the poverty of others. The goal is to meet fundamental human needs and ensure decent living conditions, strengthening the bond between humankind and Mother Earth. Overcoming inequality is key to sustainable development. Eradicating poverty and restoring harmony with nature are impossible in a world where 50% of the wealth is in the hands of 1% of the population.
6. To overcome poverty and equitably distribute well-being, a country's primary resources and companies should be owned by the public and by society. Only a society that controls its main sources of revenue can aspire to the fair distribution of profits that will eliminate poverty.
7. The so-called developed countries should cut back on overconsumption in order to restore harmony between human beings and nature, thereby enabling sustainable development in the developing countries. The problem of underconsumption —between developed and developing countries and within individual countries— should be addressed.
8. Developing countries should exercise their right to development. This overdue undertaking should follow patterns and paradigms that differ from those in developed countries if it is to eradicate poverty, meet the population's fundamental needs and restore harmony with nature. It is neither sustainable nor feasible for all countries to follow the developed countries' growth model without triggering the collapse of our Earth system. The developed countries' ecological footprint is three to five times larger than the average ecological footprint that the Earth system can bear without impacting the regenerative capacity of its ecosystems.
9. Sustainable development is only achievable with a global approach. It cannot be confined to the national level alone. A country's well-being is sustainable if, and only if, it does no damage beyond its borders or to other parts of the planet and if it furthers well-being throughout the Earth system. The so-called developed countries are still far from achieving sustainable development themselves.
10. Sustainable development should ensure the balance between its three pillars: social, economic and environmental. These interrelated pillars are rooted in the core principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

II. NEW AND EMERGING CHALLENGES: RESTORING BALANCE TO THE EARTH SYSTEM

11. The emerging challenges of the twenty-first century are the product of excessive ambition and the overconcentration of wealth, on top of contradictions carried over from the previous century. The food, energy, ecological, climate, financial, water and institutional crises, among others, have become chronic, recurring and mutually reinforcing. Some have reached the point of no return.
12. The Earth is a living system, and it is the source of life. It is an indivisible, interdependent and interrelated community of human beings, nature, the atmosphere, the hydrosphere and the geosphere. Intrinsic physical, chemical and environmental laws combine to govern how the Earth system works to make life possible. When we refer to Mother Earth we are acknowledging the laws of nature, our place in the system and our respect for our home.

13. Human activity is changing the dynamics and operation of the Earth system in unprecedented ways. The capitalist system is the prime cause of this imbalance because it puts market rules and profit before the laws of nature. Nature is more than the sum of its parts; it is not just a source of resources to be exploited, altered, privatized, commoditized and processed without consequences. Its vital cycles and functions are intertwined. We are in the midst of an ecological crisis that, if allowed to deepen, will jeopardize human existence and life as a whole.
14. Human beings and nature are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. The anthropocentric view should be discarded. Throughout history, no species other than man has changed the very features of the planet so much, so quickly. Restoring and protecting the existence, integrity, interrelatedness, interaction and regeneration of the entire Earth system and each of its components is essential for achieving sustainable development capable of addressing the many crises that humankind—and the planet—now face.

III. TOOLS FOR CLOSING PERSISTENT GAPS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

15. Restoring harmony with nature calls for acknowledging and respecting the intrinsic laws that govern nature and its vital cycles. It is not just human beings who “are entitled to a healthy life.” So are the other components and species that make up the system we call nature, in which all species—including human societies—depend on each other and on nature to survive. In an interdependent and interrelated system like planet Earth, the rights of just the human part of the system cannot be acknowledged without affecting the whole. Just as we humans have our rights, Mother Earth has the right to exist, to its vital cycles, to regenerate, to protect its structure and to interact with the other parts of the Earth system. Restoring balance with nature calls for clearly defining humankind’s obligations to nature and acknowledging that nature has rights that are to be respected, promoted and defended.
16. We should put an end to consumerism and waste. Millions of human beings are dying of hunger in the poorest corner of the planet while the richest spends millions of dollars on fighting obesity. The so-called developed countries should change their unsustainable patterns of consumption, production and waste, using public policy, regulations and active, purposeful citizen participation to foster a set of ethics that values human beings for what they are instead of for what they own.
17. The human right to water, education, health, communication, transport, electricity and sanitation should be guaranteed. Provision of these services should basically be in the public realm (instead of a private business) and based on efficient social governance, where the overarching goal is common good instead of private gain. This will ensure that such services reach the poorest and most marginalized sectors in a balanced, equitable way.
18. States should guarantee their population’s right to food by means of food sovereignty, safeguarding (a) the role of peasant, indigenous and small farmers in food production; (b) access to land, water, seeds, credit and other essentials for family and community producers; (c) the development of social and public enterprises for producing, distributing and marketing food that avert hoarding and help to stabilize domestic market food prices while checking speculative practices and the displacement of local production; (d) the citizens’ right to choose and know what they eat and to have access to essential information such as how and where their food is produced; and (e) the right to healthy, safe, varied and nutritious food; (f) that there is enough to eat and that locally sourced food is given priority; (g) practices that help to restore harmony with

nature by preventing further desertification, deforestation and destruction of biodiversity; and (h) promotion of the use of indigenous seeds and traditional knowledge. Food production and marketing should be socially regulated instead of being left to free market forces.

19. Without water, there is no life. Not only do human beings and all living things have a right to water: water has rights, too. All the States and peoples of the world should work as one to keep the loss of vegetation, logging, and air and other pollution from further impacting the water cycle and causing desertification, food shortages, temperature changes, rising sea levels, migrations, acid rain and physical and chemical alterations that can trigger the loss of genetic diversity and of entire species and damage ecosystem health.
20. Forests are one of the cornerstones of planet Earth's balance and integrity. They are essential for the proper working of its ecosystems and of the larger system of which we are all a part. So we cannot view forests as a mere provider of goods and services for human beings. Protecting, preserving and recovering forests and jungles are key to restoring balance to our Earth. Plantations, promoted as nothing more than carbon sinks and providers of environmental services and planted for profit, are not forests. Forests are not plantations that can be reduced to mere carbon sinks and providers of environmental services. Native forests and jungles are crucial for the water cycle, the atmosphere, biodiversity, flood protection and ecosystem preservation. They are home to indigenous peoples and communities. Preserving the forests calls for integrated, participatory management plans financed by public funds from the so-called developed countries or by taxes targeting the highest-consumption sectors.
21. We should ensure effective, real reduction of greenhouse gases. The developed countries are historically responsible for climate change and have committed to combat it. The global temperature increase this century should be limited to 1°C. We should strengthen the Kyoto Protocol, with the developed countries amending the second commitment period instead of replacing it with a more flexible, voluntary agreement. Carbon market mechanisms and so-called offsets should be eliminated so that reductions are domestic and real within the countries that have these commitments. South Africa should not be another Cancún, postponing once again the core issue of substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
22. All forms of violence and discrimination against women are incompatible with sustainable development. Violence in militarily occupied territories, domestic and gender-based violence and discrimination in the public workplace are issues that should be addressed. They are linked to the economic role of women in protecting nature.
23. Full compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is essential for achieving sustainable development.
24. Within the framework of common but differentiated responsibilities under the Rio Declaration of 1992, the so-called developed countries should assume responsibility for paying their historical ecological debt, having caused the greatest degree of damage to the Earth system and exacerbated underdevelopment worldwide. The developing countries and the most-affected sectors of their own population should be repaid by remedying to the greatest possible extent the environmental damage done. The developed countries should allocate financial resources from their public funds and effectively transfer socially and environmentally appropriate technology as sovereignly required by the developing countries.

25. The vast amounts of money that the developed countries budget for defense, security and war should be reduced. These resources should be used to address the effects of climate change and imbalance with nature. It is inadmissible that, with US\$ 1.5 trillion in public funds being spent on these budget items, a mere US\$ 100 billion from private, market and public sources was proposed for climate change.
26. A tax on international financial transactions should be established to create a sustainable development fund for meeting the challenges of sustainable development in the developing countries. This new financing mechanism should generate additional new, stable resources for developing countries. A rate of 0.05% applied worldwide has a revenue potential of US\$ 661 billion per year (ECLAC⁸).
27. This international financial transaction mechanism would be phased in voluntarily with those developed and developing countries wishing to participate.
28. The mechanism should be voluntary and gradual. Those countries that are in agreement and are in a position to participate could set it up quickly. The Plurinational State of Bolivia does not support the creation of global nature, biodiversity and environmental service market mechanisms for financing the sustainable development fund, for the following reasons. (a) Market logic and attaching a monetary value to services provided by ecosystems and biodiversity will lead to greater inequity in distributing these essential resources to humankind and Mother Earth. (b) Creating such market mechanisms and setting a monetary value will further deepen the imbalance with nature because they are driven by the need to obtain the highest possible profit instead of harmony with nature. (c) It will impair the sovereign rights of our States and peoples by generating a new right to own the functions of nature held by investors. These mechanisms are unreliable, volatile and a source of financial speculation because most of the money they mobilize goes to intermediate actors. (d) The market logic of supply and demand runs contrary to the laws of nature and would have catastrophic impacts for planet Earth and its people, especially for the most vulnerable countries and populations.
29. Sustainable development calls for a new international financial architecture to replace the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Global Environment Facility with democratic, transparent institutions that provide unconditional support and respect national priorities and national independence in applying development strategies. Developing countries should have majority representation in these institutions, which should operate on the principles of solidarity and cooperation instead of commodification and privatization.
30. It is vital to set up an effective technology transfer mechanism based on the needs and requirements of the countries of the South for socially, culturally and environmentally appropriate technologies. Such a mechanism should not be a showroom for selling rich-country technology. Intellectual property rights barriers should be dismantled to promote the exchange of scientific and technological knowledge and the true transfer of environmentally friendly technologies from the developed countries to developing ones.

⁸ <http://www.eclac.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/prensa/noticias/comunicados/4/44324/P44324.xml&xsl=/prensa/tpl-i/p6f.xsl&base=/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl>

31. Intellectual property of genes, microorganisms and other forms of life endangers food sovereignty, biodiversity and access to medicines and other things that are essential to the survival of the lower-income population. All intellectual property rights over forms of life should be repealed.
32. Gross domestic product is not an appropriate indicator for measuring development and well-being in a society. We need indicators that measure environmental degradation caused by economic activity, in order to advance towards sustainable development in harmony with nature. These indicators should integrate social and environmental components that do not lead to monetization or commodification of nature and its functions.
33. Respecting the sovereignty of national States is key to managing and protecting nature in cooperation with other States.
34. There are no “one-size-fits-all” solutions for the peoples of the world. Human beings are different; we form peoples with our own identity and culture. To destroy a culture is to endanger the identity of a people. Capitalism seeks to standardize everyone, as if they were nothing more than consumers. There never has been and never will be a single model that can save the world. We live and act in a plural world, and a plural world should respect diversity as another word for life. The planet, humankind and life cannot be saved if there is no respect for, and peaceful, harmonious complementarity across, cultures and economies and if some discriminate against or exploit others.
35. Peace is crucial for sustainable development. War and violence are the worst form of aggression against humankind and Mother Earth. War destroys life and weighs most heavily on the poorest and least protected. Nothing and no one is safe from war. Suffering falls to those who fight and to those who are left without bread in order to feed the war. Wars are the largest waste of life and natural resources.
36. An international court for climate and environmental justice is needed to prosecute crimes against nature that transcend national borders, violate the rights of nature and affect humankind.
37. To achieve sustainable development we should promote public partnerships, public-public partnerships among State actors from different countries and public-social partnerships between social sectors, as well as public-private partnerships.
38. The global issues facing humankind and nature call for global democracy in the shape of consultation and decision-making mechanisms such as referendums, plebiscites and worldwide consultations of the people so that all the citizens of the world can have their say.
39. Sustainable development is incompatible with all kinds of imperialism and neocolonialism. We should put an end to conditionality-based financing, military interventions, coups d'état and all forms of blackmail in order to overcome neocolonialism and imperialism.
40. The collective global response for tackling the crises we face calls for structural changes. We have to change the system, not the climate or the way the Earth balances its natural cycles. In the hands of capitalism, everything becomes a commodity: water, land, genomes, ancestral cultures, justice, ethics and life itself. We should develop a plural system based on the culture of life and harmony between human beings and nature. Such a system should promote sustainable development grounded in solidarity, complementarity, equity, social and economic justice, social participation, respect for diversity and peace.

IV. THE GREEN ECONOMY AND FALSE, DANGEROUS SOLUTIONS

41. On a global scale, the green economy objective of decoupling economic growth from environmental pressures in order to ensure continued growth is unviable. The proponents of the green economy are promoting a form of three-dimensional capitalism encompassing physical capital, human capital and natural capital (rivers, wetlands, forests, coral reefs, biodiversity and other components). The green economy sees the food, climate and energy crises as having something in common (the misallocation of capital) and so proposes that nature be treated like capital (“natural capital”).
42. In the struggle to preserve biodiversity, the green economy considers it necessary to put a price on the free services (such as purifying water, pollinating plants, protecting coral reefs and regulating the climate) that plants, animals and ecosystems provide to humankind. According to the green economy, we have to identify the specific functions of ecosystems and biodiversity that can be given a monetary value, evaluate their current state, determine how far their services can be stretched and set out in economic terms the cost of conserving them in order to develop an environmental services market. The green economy sees market instruments, such as tradable permits, as powerful tools for managing the “economic invisibility of nature.”
43. One of the examples most often cited by proponents of the green economy is the REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries) Initiative for identifying and measuring the carbon capture and storage function of forests in order to issue greenhouse gas emission reduction certificates that can be commoditized for purchase by companies in developing countries that cannot fulfill their mitigation commitments. Developing countries will thus end up financing developed ones.
44. It is a mistake to break down nature into “environmental services” with a monetary value that can be traded as a commodity. We should not put a price on the carbon sequestration function of forests, much less promote their commodification as the REDD Initiative does. A forest carbon certificate market can only lead to (a) the developed countries’ failing to meet their effective emissions reduction commitments; (b) most of the resources being appropriated by intermediaries and financial institutions, with very little trickling down to the countries, indigenous populations and forests; (c) a speculative financial bubble based on buying and selling these certificates; and (d) the creation of new property rights to the carbon capture capacity of forests that would clash with the sovereign rights of States and of the indigenous peoples living in the forests. Promoting market mechanisms on the back of the developing countries’ need for economic resources is a new form of neocolonialism.
45. The premises of the green economy are false. On a finite planet, overcoming poverty is closely linked to the equitable distribution of resources. Economic growth should seek to meet the fundamental needs of the population, restore harmony with nature and do away with unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.
46. Putting a price on nature is not the solution. Nature is not capital. The green economy should not distort the fundamental principles of sustainable development. It is wrong to say that we only take care of what has a price and an owner and generates a profit. Market mechanisms, which are necessary for trade between people and nations, have proven incapable of furthering the equitable distribution of wealth among human beings. Applying a market approach and private appropriation to solve the Earth system imbalance caused by capitalism is like trying to put out a

fire with gasoline. The environmental and climate crisis we face cannot be reduced to a mere market failure; that is a reductionist, narrow view.

47. All that glitters is not gold. All that is touted as green is not environmentally friendly. For the sake of precaution, we should explore in depth the various “green” alternatives being put forth before testing and implementing them.
48. Nature cannot be subjected to the whims of the laboratory or to manipulation with new technologies without suffering the consequences later on. History shows us that many dangerous technologies were unleashed on the market before understanding their real environmental and health impacts, or their economic and social impacts on the poorest and on developing countries. Such is now the case with genetically modified food, agrottoxins, agrofuels, nanotechnology and synthetic biotechnology, among others. These technologies should be avoided.
49. Geoengineering and all kinds of artificial climate manipulation should be banned because they entail enormous risks of throwing the climate, biodiversity and nature further out of balance.
50. We need public, multilateral mechanisms within the United Nations for evaluating, independently and without conflicts of interest, potential environmental, health, economic and social impacts before these technologies spread. Transparency and social participation by those potentially affected are vital for this mechanism.
51. “Green” capitalism will once again lead to plundering of natural resources, depriving much of humanity and nature of essential elements for life. Far from restoring harmony to the system, the greed-driven engine will set off greater imbalances, inequity, concentration and speculation.

V. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

52. The institutional architecture of the United Nations for sustainable development should establish a balanced structure giving equal strength to its three pillars: economic, social and environmental. This institutional architecture should bring together the various entities involved in the three pillars, to as to optimise resources and keep from overlapping and duplicating efforts.
53. Economic pillar. We need economic institutions that lay out sustainable development guidelines for agencies in the economic and trade spheres like the World Trade Organization, World Bank and International Monetary Fund. If these agencies are not effectively integrated in the institutional framework it will be impossible to frame the economic policies needed for sustainable development that respects national priorities and independence, leads to transparent and socially accepted governance and ensures efficient, cost-effective management of the public procurement process.
54. Social pillar. The World Trade Organization, World Health Organization, UNESCO, UN Women, and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, among others, should join forces. We should promote public partnerships, public-public partnerships among State actors from different countries and public-social partnerships between social sectors, as well as public-private partnerships. The private sector cannot have the same representation as the social sectors because its purpose is to generate profits instead of social well-being.

55. Environmental pillar. The environmental pillar should rest on coordination and implementation of the various conventions (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Convention on Biodiversity) and incorporate all environmental issues, including water.
56. Coordination of the three pillars should be entrusted to a sustainable development council based on the Commission on Sustainable Development, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. The council would ensure the fundamental role of the States, coordinate with the Economic and Social Council and meet regularly. It would have the authority to follow up on agreed goals and mechanisms and to adopt resolutions for implementing them.
57. The developing countries should have majority representation on the council, whose actions should be democratic and transparent and provide for accountability.
58. The mechanisms for participation by civil society and non-governmental organizations should promote, in particular, the participation of representative organizations of workers, indigenous peoples, peasants, small family farmers, fishery industry workers, women, youth and consumers. The sustainable development council would be linked to social actors through a consultative group.

Annex 3

PROPOSAL OF CUBA**PROPOSAL OF CUBA FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20)****SUBJECT: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT****Introduction**

Cuba attaches the utmost importance to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The issues to be tackled are critical to the future and survival of the human race, which is currently immersed in a serious international crisis affecting multiple areas, including the economy, finance, food, energy and the environment.

The Rio Conference of 1992 signified the emergence of a new development paradigm, which has until now inspired the work of governments and the organizations of the United Nations system. Rio+20 draws on the previous conference's programme and principles and represents an opportunity to evaluate the past 20 years and decide which actions and measures will enable us to achieve the goal of sustainable development.

A concerted international effort within the framework of the United Nations as the main multilateral forum is required to address the numerous crises of today, which appear to threaten mankind's very existence, and whose root cause lies in the prevailing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.

With this in mind, and given the need for greater coherence and complementarity in the work of the main bodies and institutions that play a role in coordinating and formulating sustainable development policies, Cuba considers that one of the possible concrete outcomes of the Conference could be a set of measures to strengthen the global institutional framework for sustainable development.

Substantial inconsistency and duplicate processes characterize the current framework at the international level, undermining the achievement of social, environmental and economic goals. Coherence and complementarity in strategies, programmes and activities across the system are far from adequate, while the three pillars of sustainable development are not sufficiently integrated.

Economic, social and environmental activities within the United Nations system should be pursued keeping in mind the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the need to enhance the complementarities between the three pillars of sustainable development. Furthermore, it seems clear that any proposed change to the current institutional framework would entail amending the mandates of the various bodies and agencies within the system. This would need to be approved by the General Assembly, which would probably take longer.

To change this situation for the better, Cuba believes that the debate over the institutional framework for sustainable development in the context of Rio+20 must be guided by the following objectives:

1. Direct the process of reforming the institutional framework for sustainable development at improving coordination and consistency among the institutions and instruments that make up the global institutional framework for sustainable development.
2. Define more clearly and effectively the inter-relations between the various intergovernmental bodies that play a role in determining strategies, policies and programmes in the environmental and development spheres.
3. Ensure that the institutional framework responds to the need to fully internalize the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and makes it feasible to achieve in the short and medium term the goals set by Agenda 21, the Millennium Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building (Bali Plan), and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, while also being able to respond to the emerging challenges of the twenty-first century. The document prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme could be used as a reference for achieving the environmental goals (UNEP/GC.25/INF/16).
4. Ensure an effective response to the needs, vulnerabilities and special conditions of developing countries, especially small island developing States and least developed countries, whose chances of achieving sustainable development are considerably reduced owing to the environmental, economic, financial and food crises.
5. Develop the necessary mechanisms to effectively transfer environmentally sustainable technology, assign new and additional financial resources, and build capacity in developing countries.
6. Incorporate the sustainable development paradigm into the agendas and programmes of work of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system so that they may include implementation of the goals of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in their agendas.
7. Ensure that developing countries participate significantly and effectively in formulating international policies and strategies on environment and development.
8. Ensure that we, the developing countries, which account for over two thirds of the member States of the United Nations, participate significantly and effectively in the governance structures of the institutions and financial mechanisms.

Proposal of Cuba for effective reform of the institutional framework for sustainable development

1. Strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme

Since the Earth Summit in 1992, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in addition to being the administrative umbrella for many of the environmental Conventions, has functioned as the methodological framework for implementation of Agenda 21 (in particular with regard to cross-cutting issues and other matters associated with implementation of the Conventions it encompasses) at the international, regional and local level.

Commendable efforts have been made, which must be borne in mind during any discussion on sustainable development. These include preparing the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO), coordinating the negotiation process for new international legal instruments, and, as previously mentioned, compiling internationally agreed environmental goals.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, UNEP today has neither the requisite visibility nor influence to lead international efforts in the domain of environmental protection. The Governing Council adopts decisions that have little impact for the international environmental agenda and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum has been unable to establish itself as the political authority guiding the global environmental debate.

Given Cuba's historical stance as a champion of UNEP and its preservation in Nairobi, we consider that the Conference must agree to strengthen UNEP and its structures, so that it has the tools to confront the challenges and threats to the environment posed by the current systemic crisis. Such action must contribute to effective implementation of the environmental agreements and the broader objectives of the sustainable development agenda that concern the environmental domain.

In the first instance, the financial base of UNEP would need to be built up considerably, through an increase in the resources it receives in its regular budget from the United Nations and the voluntary contributions from member States in a position to do so. This would enable UNEP to significantly improve its capacity for assessment, research, early warning and the formulation of policy in order to take decisions on environmental conservation, and also effectively incorporate the concept of sustainable development into its programme of work.

This process must also allow for:

1. Increasing developing countries' participation in UNEP decision-making mechanisms, in order to better take their needs, distinctive features and national priorities into consideration when carrying out the Programme's mission.
2. Strengthening and optimizing existing roles by promoting synergies between environmental Conventions belonging to the same cluster, with no loss of autonomy for the Conventions and their respective Conferences of the Parties. In this endeavour, approaches such as the development of common services of the Conventions with similar purposes have proven to be a positive experience, and could be considered.
3. Avoiding or cutting down on the duplication and overlap of responsibilities in existing structures with regard to the collection of scientific information. New commissions, groups, panels or equivalent should not be created unless their duties, composition and sources of funding have been clarified and negotiated in advance within the intergovernmental framework.

4. Fostering the participation and representation of scientists from developing countries in global environmental assessment processes. Clear terms of reference must be drawn up for selecting participating scientific personnel. The rules used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change could be used as a basis.
5. Prioritizing the immediate implementation of the Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building (Bali Plan) and formulating a coherent strategy for its effective funding.

2. Strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development

Cuba favours a change in the mandate, role and scope of activity for UNEP and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the aim being to establish a new institutional framework that preserves something of the current mandates, incorporates sustainability more consistently, and is better prepared to face the current challenges and threats.

To that end, one possibility would be to amend the mandate of the UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum to allow it to address sustainable development issues from a broader perspective, as currently done by the CSD.

The Forum could henceforth be called the Global Ministerial Forum on Sustainable Development or the Global Ministerial Forum on Sustainability and, unlike its predecessor, meet in principle at United Nations headquarters in New York, on an annual basis as the CSD does. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP would coordinate and cooperate to offer joint support of a superior quality for the work of the Forum.

Establishing the Global Ministerial Forum on Sustainability would render the CSD obsolete, and it would be succeeded by the new body. The Forum would report to the Economic and Social Council and through that body to the General Assembly.

Eliminating the current Global Forum and replacing it with the new entity merged with the CSD is justifiable based on the scant political relevance of these two bodies today and the need to integrate perspectives and efforts more closely.

The aim of this proposal, together with the idea of strengthening UNEP, is to improve consistency, coordination and efficiency of the main elements of the global institutional framework. In addition to the points outlined in the section on strengthening UNEP, this component of our proposal would probably expand the role of UNEP further by allowing it to assume a major role in inter-Secretariat coordination.

As we envisage it, the new Forum would be a high-level arena in which preferably ministers from the economic, social and environmental spheres would participate, depending on the agenda and/or programme of work that is adopted. It would be open to all member States, and should take account in its deliberations of the decisions and/or recommendations of the Governing Council with regard to the various environmental issues and their relationship to development problems.

Moreover, the Forum could recommend to the General Assembly that it examine new international legal instruments on sustainable development.

Annex 4

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Representante/Representative:

- Annette Rattigan-Augustin, Deputy Chief of Sustainable Development and Environment

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Laverne Walker, Sustainable Development and Environment Officer/Costal Unit Coordinator, Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment

URUGUAY

Representante/Representative:

- Graciela Muslera, Ministra de Vivienda, Ordenamiento Territorial y Medio Ambiente

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Pedro Humberto Vaz, Embajador del Uruguay en Chile
- Pauline Davies, Directora de Medio Ambiente, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
- Alejandra Castiñeira Latorre, Primera Secretaria, Embajada del Uruguay en Chile
- Silvia Fernández, Asesora de Relaciones Internacionales del Ministerio de Vivienda, Ordenamiento Territorial y Medio Ambiente

VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)/VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)

Representante/Representative:

- Rubén Darío Molina, Director General, Oficina de Asuntos Multilaterales y de Integración, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- María Lourdes Urbaneja, Embajadora, Embajada de Venezuela (República Bolivariana de) en Chile
- Jesús Alexander Cegarra, Viceministro de Conservación Ambiental, Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Ambiente
- Guillermo Barreto, Director General de Investigación en Ciencia y Tecnología, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Ciencia, Tecnología e Industrias Intermedias
- Delitza Nahyr Fuentes Linares, Segunda Secretaria en Comisión, Embajada de Venezuela (República Bolivariana de) en Chile
- Isabel Di Carlo, Tercera Secretaria, Oficina de Asuntos Multilaterales y de Integración, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores

**B. Miembros asociados
Associated members**

ARUBA

Representante/Representative:

- Gisbert Robinus, Head, National Climate Change Commission

**C. Secretaría de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations Secretariat**

Departamento de Asuntos Económicos y Sociales/Department of Economic and Social Affairs

- Elizabeth Thomson, Coordinadora Ejecutiva de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible
- Oliver Brice Lalonde, Coordinador Ejecutivo de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible
- Marianne Schaper, Oficial Superior de Asuntos Económicos/Senior Economic Affairs Officer
- Chantal Line Carpentier, Oficial de Desarrollo Sostenible/Sustainable Development Officer

Mesa del proceso preparatorio de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible/Bureau of the Preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

- John Ashe, Co-Chair, Latin American and Caribbean States Group
- Moldan Beldrich, Vice-Chair - Eastern European States Group
- Ana Bianchi, Vice-Chair - Latin American and Caribbean States Group

Comité de Alto Nivel sobre Programas de la Junta de los jefes ejecutivos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para la coordinación/High level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

- Elliott Harris, Vicepresidente/Vice-Chair

**D. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies**

Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR)/United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

- Favio Varoli, Senior Liaison Officer in Chile

Centro de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Regional/United Nations Center for Regional Development (UNCRD)

- Claudia Hoshino, Coordinator, Latin American and Caribbean Office

Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Comercio y el Desarrollo (UNCTAD)/United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- Lucas Assunção, Head, Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad entre los Géneros y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

- Ricardo Mera, Jefe de la Oficina Regional para las Américas
- Rebecca Tavares, Directora de ONU-Mujeres del Brasil y Cono Sur

Estrategia Internacional para la Reducción de Desastres de las Naciones Unidas/United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

- Elina Palm, Liaison officer
- Ricardo Mena, Jefe de la Oficina Regional para las Américas

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Gary Stahl, Coordinador Residente del sistema de las Naciones Unidas en Chile a.i., y Representante para Chile

Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Jean Paul Guevara Avila, Oficial de Programas para Población y Desarrollo

Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (ACNUDH)/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- Amerigo Incalcaterra, Representante Regional para América del Sur/Regional Representative for South America
- Humberto Henderson, Representante adjunto

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Niky Fabiancic, Director Regional Adjunto para América Latina y el Caribe
- Benigno Rodríguez, Representante Residente a.i.
- Christopher Briggs, Jefe, Unidad Regional de Energía y Medio Ambiente
- Emma Torres, Asesora Senior para Medio Ambiente
- Raúl O'Ryan, Oficial de Programas

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para los Asentamientos Humanos (ONU-Hábitat)/United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

- Frédéric Saliez, Human Settlements Officer, Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)

Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA)/World Food Programme (WFP)

- Jaime Vallaure, Deputy Regional Director and Representative for Panama, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Mara Murillo, Deputy Regional Director
- Elisa Tonda, Regional Officer for Sustainable Consumption and Production-Resource Efficiency from UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Christopher Corbin, Programme Officer, Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution, Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit

Programa Conjunto de las Naciones Unidas sobre el VIH/SIDA (ONUSIDA)/Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

- Annabella Arredondo, punto focal en Chile

**E. Organismos especializados
Specialized agencies**

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- Guillermo Miranda, Director de la Oficina Subregional para el Cono Sur de América Latina
- Linda Deelen, Especialista Principal en Pequeña Empresa y Desarrollo Económico Local
- Gerhard Reinecke, Especialista Principal en Políticas de Empleo

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- José Graziano da Silva, Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe y Director General Electo
- Benjamin Kiersch, Oficial de Recursos Naturales y Tenencia de Tierras
- Lucas Tavares, Asesor de Comunicación
- Fernando Soto Barquero, Director de Políticas
- Arnaldo Chibarro, consultor, Planificación Estratégica
- Sergio Gómez, consultor

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- Jorge Sequeira, Director de la Oficina Regional de Educación de la UNESCO para América Latina y el Caribe
- Jorge Grandi, Director de la Oficina Regional de Ciencia de la UNESCO para América Latina y el Caribe

Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)-Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/World Health Organization (WHO)-Panamerican Health Organization (PAHO)

- José Antonio Pagés, Representante en Chile
- Luiz Augusto Galvão, Gerente del Área de Desarrollo Sostenible y Salud Ambiental
- Carlos Corvalán, Asesor Principal en Evaluación de Riesgos y Cambio Ambiental Global

Banco Mundial/World Bank

- Juan Carlos Belausteguioitia, Economista Ambiental Principal

Unión Internacional de Telecomunicaciones (UIT)/International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- Sergio Scarabino, Head, Area Office in Chile

Organización Meteorológica Mundial (OMM)/World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- Miguel Angel Rabiolo, Director, Oficina Regional para las Américas

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Industrial (ONUDI)/United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

- Mateo Ferriolo, Oficial

**F. Otras organizaciones intergubernamentales
Other intergovernmental organizations**

Asociación Latinoamericana de Instituciones Financieras para el Desarrollo (ALIDE)/ Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE)

- Javier Carvajal, Economista

Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM)/Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

- Garfield Barnwell, Director for Sustainable Development

Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF)/Andean Development Corporation (ADC)

- Ligia Castro, Directora de Medio Ambiente
- Alfredo Paolillo, Ejecutivo Principal de Medio Ambiente

Instituto Centroamericano de Administración Pública (ICAP)/Central American Institute for Public Administration

- Carlos Burgos Rivas, Consultor, Área de Gerencia de Proyectos

Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE)/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

- Anna Konialis, Green Growth Policy Analyst, Green Growth Unit
- Simon Upton, Director, Environment Directorate

Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)/Organization of American States (OAS)

- Claudia de Windt, Jefa, Sección Derecho Ambiental, Política y Gobernabilidad, Departamento Desarrollo Sostenible

Organización Latinoamericana de Energía (OLADE)/Latin American Energy Organization

- Néstor Luna, Director del Área Técnica

Organización del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica (OTCA)/ Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

- Alejandro Gordillo, Secretario General
- Horst Steigler, Director Ejecutivo

Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)/International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- Juan Artola, Regional Director for the Southern Cone

Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA)/ Central American Integration System

- Julio Calderón, Secretario Ejecutivo, Consejo Agropecuario Centroamericano
- Mónica Castillo Gonzalo, Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD)

Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (UNASUR)/Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

- Diana Mejía, Consejera, Embajada de Colombia en Chile

**G. Otros
Other guests**

- Ponciano Catrin Contreras
- Lucie Duez, representante regional de la región Île-de-France en Chile, Conseil Régional Ile de France
- Jorge Feriga, Universidad de Chile
- José Antonio Ocampo, Director de Desarrollo Económico y Político de la Escuela de Asuntos Internacionales y Públicos de la Universidad de Columbia (por videoconferencia)

**H. Secretaría
Secretariat**

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Alicia Bárcena, Secretaria Ejecutiva/Executive Secretary
- Antonio Prado, Secretario Ejecutivo Adjunto/Deputy Executive Secretary
- Luis F. Yañez, Oficial a cargo, Secretaría de la Comisión/Officer-in-charge, Secretary of the Commission
- Joseluis Samaniego, Director, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Chief, Sustainable Development and Human Settlement Division
- Sonia Montaña, Directora, División de Asuntos de Género/Chief, Division for Gender Affairs
- Hugo Altomonte, Director, División de Recursos Naturales e Infraestructura/Chief, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division
- Hugo Guzmán, Asesor Regional, Oficina de la Secretaría Ejecutiva/Regional Advisor, Office of the Executive Secretary
- Marcia Tavares, Oficial de Asuntos Económicos, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
- Carlos de Miguel, Oficial de Asuntos Ambientales, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Environmental Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
- José Javier Gómez, Oficial de Asuntos Económicos, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division

- Raquel Szalachman, Oficial de Asuntos Económicos, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
- Heather Page, Oficial de Asuntos Ambientales, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
- Valeria Torres, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
- Ricardo Jordán, Oficial de Asuntos Económicos, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
- Wilson Peres, División de Desarrollo Productivo y Empresarial/Division of Production, Productivity and Management
- Filipa Correia, Oficial de Asuntos Económicos, Oficina de la Secretaría Ejecutiva/Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary
- Charmaine Gómes, Sede subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe/ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean
- Nia Cherret, Sede subregional de la CEPAL para el Caribe/ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean Development and Human Settlements Division
- Manlio Coviello, División de Recursos Naturales e Infraestructura/Natural Resources and Infrastructure Division
- Karina Martínez, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
- Elizabeth Peredo, Consultora, División de Asuntos de Género/Consultant, Division for Gender Affairs
- Mauricio Pereira, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
- Gastón Rigollet, Asesor

I. Organizaciones no gubernamentales reconocidas como entidades consultivas, generales o especiales por el Consejo Económico y Social y organizaciones no gubernamentales reconocidas como entidad de carácter consultivo inscrita en la Lista por el Consejo Económico y Social para el trabajo de la Comisión sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible/Non-governmental organizations recognized by the Economic and Social Council as having consultative, general or special status and non-governmental organizations on the roster for the purposes of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

ACCION RSE: World Business Council for Sustainable Development

- Eduardo Ordóñez
- Alejandro Díaz

Bahá'í International Community

- Daniella Hiche
- Leslie Stewart

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University

- Angélica Fanjul Hermosilla
- Caroline Therese Ward

Centro Simon Wiesenthal

- Sergio Widder

Confederación Sindical Internacional (CSI)

- Catarina Faria Alves Silveira
- Laura Maffei

Conservación Internacional de Brasil

- Camila Luciana Gramkow

CropLife International

- Eliane Kay
- Miguel Angel Sánchez

ETC group

- Silvia Ribeiro Guazzo

Fundación Terram

- Paola Vasconi Reza

Greenpeace

- Elizabeth Soto Muñoz
- Samuel Leiva Guzman

Help for the Andes

- Rosita Raffo
- Carlos Fuentealba

ICAE- International Council for Adult Education

- Marcela Ballara

ICLEI- Gobiernos Locales por la Sustentabilidad

- Florence Karine Laloë

ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

- Manuel Limonta
- Arturo Martinez

Instituto Equit

- Graciela Rodríguez

Internacional de Trabajadores de la Construcción y la Madera (ICM-BWI)

- Luis Salazar

International Council of Chemical Associations

- Marcelo Kós Silveira Campos

International Council of Environmental Law

- Eduardo Astorga Jorquera

IPIECA's regional members (Petrobras, Repsol YPF and ARPEL)

- Miguel Moyano

La Federación Mundial de Organizaciones de Ingenieros (FMOI)

- Elías Arze Cyr
- Humberto Peña

Oficina de Consumers Internacional para América Latina y el Caribe (CI)

- Luis Flores Mimica

PEW Environment Group

- Maximiliano Bello

Sisters of Mercy

- Ana Siufi
- Margaret Milne

Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

- Jan-Gustav Strandenaes

Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education)

- Dennis Mairena
- Marcos Terena

The Aldet Centre-Saint Lucia

- Albert Deterville

The Nature Conservancy: Southern Andes Conservation Program

- Francisco Solís Germani
- Lila Gil
- Ana Cristina Barros

WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future

- Hortencia Hidalgo
- Simone Lovera

Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)

- Vivienne Solis Rivera

World Society for the Protection of animals (WSPA)

- Luis Carlos Sarmiento
- Mayumi Sakoh

WWF International

- Luis Pabón-Zamora
- Mauricio Eugenio Galvez Larach

J. Otras organizaciones no gubernamentales
Other non-governmental organizations

Alianza Global por Alternativas a la Incineración - GAIA

- Magdalena Donoso Hiriart
- Eduardo Giesen Amtmann

Asociación Civil Red Ambiental

- Cecilia Iglesias
- Paloma Swinburn

Asociación Prodefensa de la Naturaleza (PRODENA)

- Teresa Flores Bedregal

Avina

- Ramiro Fernandez
- Ricardo Abramovay

Central de Trabajadores de Argentina (CTA)

- Maria Teresa Llanos

Centro de Derechos Humanos y Ambiente (CEDHA)

- Verónica Cipolatti

Centro de Estudios e Investigación en Impactos Socio Ambientales (CEIISA)

- Alex Santivañez

Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental – CEDA

- Gabriela Muñoz

Chile Sustentable

- Cristian Villarroel

Collective Leila Diniz

- Joluzia Baptist

Comunicación y Educación Ambiental S.C.

- Gloria Olimpia Castillo Blanco

Confederación Sindical de las Americas

- Daniel Angelim

CoopeSoliDar R.L

- Patricia Madrigal Cordero
- Vivienne Solis Rivera

Coordinadora de Mujeres Campesinas (CMC)

- Shirlene Chaves Carballo

Corporación Participa

- Paula Fuentes Merino
- Andrea Sanhueza Echeverría

Foro Mujeres Mercosur

- Elisa Schuster
- Claudia Calciano

Franiscans International Bolivia

- Jamie Campos
- Yamile Cadrera Clevas
- Ignacio Harding

Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN)

- Bernardo Voloj

Fundación Casa de la Paz

- Ximena Abogabir Scott
- Pablo Valenzuela Mella

Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA)

- Marianela Curi
- Pablo Larco

Fundación Heinrich Böll

- Sebastián Ainzúa

Fundaexpresion - Colombia / More and Better Network

- Adam J. Rankin

Gente de Soluciones, Venezuela

- Carmelo Ecarri
- Alejandro Ecarri

Global Compact Local Network

- Alex Godoy

Impacto

- Adrián Contursi-Reynoso

Instituto “O Direito por um Planeta Verde”

- Sílvia Cappelli

Instituto Ethos de Empresas e Responsabilidade Social

- Paulo Itacarambi

Instituto Ipanema

- Pedro Eduardo Graca Aranha

Instituto Latinoamericano para una Sociedad y un Derecho Alternativos (ILSA)

- Ana Lucía Maya Aguirre

Instituto Zambuling Para La Transformación Humana

- Alfredo Sfeir Younis

Mundo Sustentable A.C.

- Carlos Jesús Gómez Flores

OLAGI- La Organización Latinoamericana de Gobiernos Intermedios

- Alberto Emilio Ferral

Rede Siades

- Andrea María Cavada Vera

Redes Venezuela A.C.

- Eglis J. Hernández

Responsable de Incidencia MOCICC- Movimiento Ciudadano Frente al Cambio Climático

- Osver Polo Carrasco

Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental – SPDA de Perú

- Manuel Pulgar-Vidal

University of La Punta/Regional Government of San Luis, Argentina

- James Scipioni
- Victoria Marini