

## United States of America

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.

The United States believes that a discussion of the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development must focus on enhancing implementation and truly making a difference on the ground.

Mainstreaming environmental concerns into development efforts is a critical undertaking, and a key component to achieving development goals. The United States also believes that the principal responsibility for environmental governance must lie with national governments, and that governments should aim fully to engage their publics by ensuring transparency.

We support improved efficiency and effectiveness for UNEP and other international organizations working on environmental matters; we also support greater cooperation among these actors. We have been, and will continue to be, active in the UNEP and UNGA International Environmental Governance processes.

We also support full use of the Bali Strategic Plan to build capacity by UNEP and its partners in the UN system, through such mechanisms as the Poverty and Environment Initiative and the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management. Further, the Bali Strategic Plan incorporates important principles such as transparency, gender-mainstreaming strategies, public-private partnerships and identification of best practices.

Efforts have been made to pursue greater coherence and synergy among the chemicals and waste conventions, and the outcome of that process thus far will lead to greater programmatic and administrative coordination among these bodies. The United States supports the UNEP Executive Director's consultative process on financing options for chemicals and waste, which is anticipated to meet again in 2010 and report back to the CSD in 2011.

As Rio 2012 considers improvements to various international institutional frameworks, we believe the threats facing our shared oceans and marine resources must still be dealt with in a serious and deliberative way. The United States supports strengthening marine protected areas, including the JPOI goal of representative networks by 2012, as well as developing related capacity-building and technical cooperation for marine protection. We must continue, as matter of priority, to work within the competent existing organizations and arrangements to promote sustainability of global fish stocks and mitigate the impacts of fishing activities on the global marine environment.

As we consider the question of the institutional framework for sustainable

development, we should consider our priorities and how we as governments convey them in a consistent and focused manner. We urge that we all consider what has worked and what has not worked since the introduction of Agenda 21 and why. We look forward to engaging more deeply in this discussion.

Thank you for your attention.