

Second PrepCom of UN Conference on Sustainable Development

New Zealand statement on institutional framework for sustainable development

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Mr Chairman

Turning to questions 2 and 5, we would briefly comment on reform of international environmental governance architecture, being considered in the Rio+20 preparatory process under the institutional framework for sustainable development theme.

New Zealand's preference has been to focus on pragmatic reform of existing institutions across the United Nations environment pillar, rather than large scale institutional change, ensuring that reforms are practical, achievable and effective.

New Zealand considers the focus should be on supporting and strengthening existing mechanisms and institutions to address any remaining gaps.

Reforms should be considered holistically across the three pillars of sustainable development, to enable existing institutions to work together more coherently. We are conscious that there are many voices for the environment and these voices need to speak in harmony if we are to achieve system wide coherence. Achieving a more effective, efficient and coherent United Nations is in all our interests, and in the environment's best interest.

Two weeks ago UNEP's Governing Council invited the Rio+20 preparatory process to undertake an analysis of the financial, structural and legal implications and comparative advantages of the options identified in the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome of the UNEP Consultative Group process. A comparative analysis would assist states in their discussions and consideration of options, and enable a broad holistic approach to reforms at the multilateral level.

Mr Chairman

To conclude, and leap forward to the closing session, we have listened to many interesting ideas over the past two days. We look forward to the continuing Rio+20 discussions ahead leading to the development of a concise, action orientated outcome to come from Rio+20.