

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

Brazil associates itself with the statement of the G-77.

1. Brazil is willing to discuss both the challenges and opportunities posed by biofuels in an open, scientifically based and well informed manner. Since biofuels have a significant contribution to make in achieving sustainable development, the debate within the mandate of the CSD is more than welcome. We would like to reinforce the consensus reached in the High-Level Conference convened by the FAO last June, that relevant inter-governmental organizations, within their mandates and areas of expertise, with the involvement of national governments, partnerships, the private sector, and civil society, should foster a coherent, effective and results-oriented international dialogue on biofuels in the context of the world's food security and sustainable development needs.
2. Brazil is convinced that a new energy paradigm is needed, and that biofuels have to be a part of it. The world's current challenges – sustainable development, climate change, the financial and economic crisis, energy and food price instabilities - should be seen not as obstacles, but as opportunities for this change. We should bear in mind that while biofuels are an important form of renewable energy, they have a significant role to play in revitalizing the agricultural sector.
3. Brazil firmly believes that biofuels should be sustainable in accordance with the three pillars of sustainable development. Brazil is convinced that the decision to produce and use biofuels must be an informed and responsible one, and must be taken in view of the world's food security, energy and sustainable development needs. Countries looking to produce biofuels should learn from both the positive and negative aspects of existing experiences. A successful model cannot be identically replicated elsewhere without taking into account local realities and peculiarities.
4. Biofuels are not a one-dimensional energy alternative. They can be associated with income generation, job creation, rural development, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and increased access to energy. They are at the intersection of several public policies: social, agricultural, economic, environmental, energy and technological. Therefore, the establishment of a global market for biofuels – one that has many producers, as well as consumers - can contribute positively to address the many global challenges we face. We must be careful that non tariff barriers do not stifle the development of such a market.

5. The recent food crisis was caused by a series of factors, such as speculative activity in futures markets, subsidies and protectionist policies of developed countries, higher fossil fuel prices and increased demand in a scenario of lower inventories. It is still surprising, however, when biofuels are referred to as one of the main causes of such a crisis and are made out to be the villains of the process, without regard to the benefits they may bring when sustainably produced.

6. Brazil therefore coincides with and reiterates the position of the G77 with regards to this subject, that the production of biofuels should be sustainable and address the opportunities and challenges that they represent. We also support the African group's views on the need for increased cooperation in this field, including through South-South cooperation. We hope that both points will be reflected in the negotiating document to be prepared by the Chair.

Thank you.