



CSD 19 High-Level Dialogue on the road to Rio+20, New York 13 May 2011

Remarks by UNDP

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

The Rio+20 process presents opportunities to promote sustainable and equitable growth while addressing the full scope of the institutional arrangements of multilateral cooperation and development assistance in function of countries own development objectives. In the light of crises facing our current development model, UNDP welcomes these opportunities. The combined impact of what has been undertaken so far by countries, with or without external support, does not yet add up to the changes in production and consumption patterns needed to address inequities and inequalities on a scale equal to the challenges.

Concerning the Rio+20 theme green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, UNDP has since long been supporting partner countries in developing and applying “green” economy policy instruments, particularly as an implementing agency of the GEF, although we did not use to call it green economy. As we move along our deliberations to prepare for a conference outcome in this area, UNDP would, however like to point to the need for further

exploring the qualifying part of the theme, e.g. the part that positions the green economy in the context of “sustainable development and poverty eradication”.

Earlier this week, at the LDC Conference in Istanbul, the UNDP Administrator, Ms. Helen Clark, referred to an International Assessment produced by UNDP of what it will take to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Among the many key factors identified was the importance of promoting economic growth which is inclusive and has its proceeds widely shared. After a period of prolonged slow growth, LDCs accelerated their economic growth to about seven percent per annum on average over the period 2000 – 2007.

In many of the LDCs, however, that positive economic performance was not reflected in commensurate drops in poverty or in the development of substantial productive capacities.

In this regard, the challenges facing a green economy or green growth are identical with the challenges facing conventional growth. Inclusiveness is a deliberate choice. It is about bringing the poor and marginalized into the picture, and empowering all to reach their economic, social, and political potential. It is about targeting the sectors, activities, and regions where poor people live and work. It’s about investments in health, education, and physical infrastructure that can enable more people to participate in and benefit from growth, and social protection can be helpful in ensuring that citizens enjoy a minimum level of well-being.

By ensuring this in the context of a green economy, the world would indeed be on its way to sustainable development.

Regarding the theme on the institutional framework for sustainable development, UNDP would like to encourage that Rio+20 should lead to a strengthening of the governance of all three pillars of sustainable development as well as to ensuring the broader integration of the economic, social and environmental agendas.

Governance of the economic and social pillars of sustainable development is, in fact, just as fragmented as environmental governance, and while governance discussions in the context of sustainable development have traditionally been focused on strengthening governance in the field of environment, which is, of course, important, we may thereby have been overlooking the fact that the decisions that impact the environment as well as social structures the most are economic development decisions.

Last but not least, Rio+20 presents an opportunity for strengthening the Delivering as One approach at all levels of the international system and for turning development around and make it country driven. The needs and aspirations of countries should be the driving factor in the transitioning to sustainable development, supported by a multilateral system that Delivers as One and provides coherent, sequenced, and integrated services to countries to help them make the transition to pro-poor, pro-growth low-emission and climate resilient production and consumption patterns.

UNDP looks forward to continuing to work with governments and other stakeholders in making this a reality.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman