

Statement by Ambassador Norihiro Okuda
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan
First meeting of the Preparatory Committee
for the United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development in 2012
17 May 2010

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election to your important posts.

The 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro represented a real milestone in international efforts to promote sustainable development. For one thing, it produced Agenda 21. And just as important, it made manifest a new spirit of partnership between developed and developing countries, which came to recognize that they share the common and urgent challenge of protecting the planet. It is in that same spirit that we unanimously adopted GA resolution 64/236 to prepare for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. Therefore, this PrepCom should observe its mandate and the agreements reflected in the resolution.

Co-chairs,

A successful outcome of the Conference should derive from a well focused discussion on how to meet new challenges. Responding to climate change, we must accelerate the transition to a low-carbon society, and to do this we all should foster a green economy. On the institutional framework for sustainable development, we shall have valuable input from UNEP.

For the sake of efficiency, we need to avoid duplicating the work of CSD, including its overall appraisal of Agenda 21 in 2017 and 2018 which might require another high-level meeting. At the conference in 2012 and the PrepComs leading thereto, let us concentrate on the two specific themes that were selected. In our view, the final outcome, which is to be “a focused political document,” should be a short but compelling message on the two themes that clearly expresses our commitment to moving toward a green economy.

In conclusion, Co-Chairs, I would like to assure you that my delegation is fully committed to engage constructively in the discussion, under your able leadership to ensure the most successful outcome.

Thank you.