

**Speech of E. Stavytsky, Head of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Plenary Meeting of the UN Sustainable Development
Conference “Rio+20”**

Dear Mrs. President,
Dear Co-Chairs,
Dear Mr. General Secretary,
Eminent Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost I would like to thank Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary-General for preparation and conduct of this Conference in such hard and important time for the whole world. At the same time I would like to express my gratitude to the President of Brazil for hospitality and possibility to hold the Conference just in Rio de Janeiro, in 20 years after the historical Earth.

Today the world experiences the period of considerable social changes. States, governments, world leaders face new challenges. In the world, in particular, under the economic crisis, unfortunately, the trends towards impoverishment and inequality, exhaustion of natural resources and environmental disasters deepen.

The prior and ambitious goal of the UN is to develop economy and preserve environment for the improvement of living conditions and welfare of the Earth planet’s population, solving the complicated and mutually related problems of sustainable development implementation guiding by high ethical and moral principles.

The outcomes of our performance should make the foundation for better future, in particular, support the initiatives to introduce sustainable energy initiatives, implement the actions for protecting and preserving the World Ocean’s resources; additionally, our activity should focus on non-exhaustive consumption and production, removal of famine, providing for access to water resources and sustainable development of human settlements and what is the most important – preventing the global climate change.

The significant obstacle towards achieving a sustainable development worldwide is a lack of consistent approach, which would fully integrate its social, economic and ecological pillars.

This Conference provides an opportunity to strengthen the political commitments to sustainable development. The final outcome document of the Conference will include the voluntary commitments of governments, the UN and other stakeholders to ensure the comprehensive approach towards sustainable development, which will be achieved under an active UN support.

In this context we hope that integration of three pillars of sustainable development could be implemented, first of all, through the global and national strategic planning. Environmental problems should be addressed at the global level thus the respective development goals have to be focused on the control of common natural gains.

Ukraine supports the proposals of the European Union to the draft Outcome document Rio+20, especially, of France, as well as Brazil, Serbia, Chile, Thailand, Turkey, Republic of Korea and other countries, with regard to reforming the system of Global Environmental Governance by strengthening the role of UNEP Programme, transforming it into the dedicated UN agency or establishing, on its platform, the World Environmental Organisation. We believe that the proposals of Ukraine and certain other countries to establish the Environmental Security Council (or delegating the environmental security mandate to the current UN Security Council), to set up the International Environmental Court and International Environmental Bank as well as other institutions of global environmental governance are worthy of attention and support.

It is important to emphasize that the President of Ukraine stands for creation of system related to institutional support to global environmental governance, which is a part of the Concept of Environmental Constitution of the Earth – a new universal document.

To achieve the objectives of sustainable development Ukraine considers as advisable to:

1. Launch the process of drafting the Concept of Environmental Constitution of the Earth and public consultations;

2. Set up, on the UNEP platform, the World Environmental Organisation;
3. Launch the process of “ecologization” of the education in all educational institutions to train professionals for sustainable development, to improve the level of environmental education among population.
4. Approve the 10-year framework of programmes of sustainable consumption and production.

We welcome the steps of internal community towards adoption of universal international environmental organization, introduction of Environmental Constitution of the Earth and for support of the Ukrainian initiatives.

Taking into consideration the complications and intensification of competition on global agricultural markets, Ukraine is ready to make its own input in strengthening the food security and to get involved in joint international efforts aimed at avoiding the crisis in future.

Any country, which decided to follow the scientific and technical progress as well as to utilize its outputs to the full, cannot already and should not ignore such objective factors as exhaustion of many natural resources, exposure of environment to anthropogenic effects.

The issues of sustainable environmental development are extremely important to Ukraine, which currently experiences environmental and economic difficulties. It is caused by the fact that the principle of getting the maximal benefit at minimal costs prevailed before. At that inconsistency of pace of economic development and requirements of environmental safety, predominance of industries with high specific weight of resource and energy intensive outdated technologies, raw material-oriented export, militarization of production, lack of labour and consumption behaviour etc. took place.

As a result an anthropogenic load on environment currently approaches the limit, beyond which the crisis and disastrous effects in nature can start that threatens the normal life of society.

At present the Government of Ukraine takes the effective actions to remedy the situation and it is committed to cooperation towards achieving the sustainable development. I am pleased to note that in 2010 Ukraine approved the fundamental document in environment protection – the Law of Ukraine “On Main Principles (Strategy) of State Environmental Policy until 2020”. This document is focused on harmonization of national environmental standards with the European and International law, in particular, on integration of environmental policy into sectoral and local development programmes. Additionally, a priority is given to the balanced approach towards addressing the environmental, economic and social issues, which contains a number of mechanisms for introduction in Ukraine of “green economy” on the ground of sustainable consumption and production.

Besides the Strategy the National Environmental Action Plan for 2011 – 2015 was adopted. This document contains the foundations to address problems of environment protection in national policy and strategy. . Furthermore the State Programme for development of domestic production adopted by the Government of Ukraine became the basis of sustainable production of Ukraine on the principles of development of “green economy”.

The activities related to drafting the “National Concept for Development of Environmentally Clean Production and Technologies until 2020” are underway.

Ukraine is ready to continue acting as a reliable partner in consolidation of international activity on sustainable development, overcoming the consequences of the global financial and economic and food crisis, challenges caused by climate change and preventing the other global threats to mankind in future.