

## Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

### Statement by the delegation of Egypt

before the First Session of the Preparatory Committee of Rio+20, New York, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2010  
delivered by Mootaz Ahmadein Khalil, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister

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Egypt associates itself with the statement made yesterday by the distinguished representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of the 77 and would like to add the following comments:

One of the main principles of good governance is to make the best and most efficient use of existing resources and structures. This includes doing so in a balanced manner.

The report of the Secretary General recognizes that “the test for sustainable development lies in the extent to which its three components are integrated or brought together”, and “that one major goal for the institutional reform is to clarify that sustainable development is not restricted to the environment pillar” (paragraph 69). The report recognizes as well that “the rate of institutional growth in the environmental pillar is faster than the other two, namely the economic and social pillars” (paragraph 62). Yet, when it comes to sustainable development governance at the international level, the same report focuses on the environmental pillar alone in section C entitled International Environmental Governance and Governance of the Economic and Social Pillars of Sustainable development. This methodology reflects, and deepens, the current imbalance between the three pillars. Hearing the statements made yesterday and this morning, I felt we were at the UNEP Governing Council or the High Level Group on IEG. This imbalance has to be redressed. Rio + 20 should address the individual governance arrangements of the three pillars in an integrated and balanced manner, not restrict itself to only one of them.

This brings me to the questions raised for this session:

1-What are the changes that are needed to strengthen the global institutional architecture of sustainable development?

The day before yesterday the issue of the imbalance between developed and developing countries in the global economic governance, was raised. Ambassador Park mentioned that Korea intends to deal with that at the G-20 summit next November. Egypt reaffirmed that this has to be addressed at the United Nations level as well, as it is the only multilateral forum where all parties stand on an equal footing. We believe that Rio+20 is an opportunity to restore this deficit.

Mr. Co-Chair, the main reason for the gap in implementation and the need for reform is the lack of sufficient means of implementation. This gap will not be bridged unless we ensure a

stable, predictable and adequate financial basis for the international cooperation in the field of sustainable development and unless we demonstrate the necessary political will.

On the IEG, Egypt is looking forward to transform UNEP into a successful action oriented implementation programme with sufficient resources, comparable to the UNDP, not into a normative, enforcement oriented world organization comparable to the WTO.

2-Egypt fully supports effective synergies between existing instruments and processes addressing the three pillars of sustainable development, not only one of them. Yet synergies should be achieved in an inclusive and transparent manner that respects the differences in the membership and mandates of the different instruments in question.

3-On the actions required to build stronger bridges between the three pillars of sustainable development, I'll focus on the international level. Strengthening inter-agency coordination is a must. A clear distribution of work between the different instruments and coordination bodies might help as well to avoid unnecessary and unproductive turf battles, provided there is enough flexibility to allow for the participation of all relevant institutions and organizations (or what I would call all institutional stakeholders).

Changing names or institutional architectures might not necessarily be very effective. We have to realize that the same countries sit in the different organizations that address sustainable development. Change is not going to happen unless the same countries and representatives display a strengthened political will that is action oriented.

In short, we expect the following from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development:

- 1- Addressing the current imbalance at the global economic governance level.
- 2-Restoring the institutional balance between the three pillars.
- 3-Strengthening implementation on all three pillars.
- 4-Providing a strong and predictable financial basis for action.
- 5-Developing an empowering / supportive approach towards developing countries, and an effective compliance / enforcement approach towards developed countries; that corresponds to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

To conclude, I would like to stress that the institutional reform should help developing countries achieve the goals of sustainable development, by ensuring access to new and additional financial and technological resources. It should not lead by any means to new and additional burdens on developing countries.

Thank you for your attention.