

European Union

Mr Chairman, your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Spain has the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

We are very pleased to have the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development as a theme for UNCSO. We are committed to continuing our support for strengthening the United Nations authority and capability in the field of environment and sustainable development.

The Conference should result in a strengthened institutional architecture for global environmental and sustainable development governance. Better coherence is also needed at regional, national and sub national levels. The emphasis should be on better and more efficient implementation of already agreed targets.

The three pillars of sustainable development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. During the last year we achieved important results in our discussions on International Environmental Governance. Any broader institutional reform aimed at improving the convergence between the environment pillar and the economic and social pillars contributes to sustainable development at large. Thus, improved international environmental governance is a crucial element in our UNCSO discussions on Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chairman,

In preparing for the discussions on the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development, we should start from existing structures and processes as much as possible. As we know, the UNEP Governing Council at its 11th special session in 2010 established a consultative group of ministers or high level representatives to consider the different options on broader reform of the IEG system. The results from this group will be presented to the 26th UNEP GC which in turn will provide input to the preparatory process of UNCSO, in time for the Prepcom 2, and to the 65th session of UNGA. The input from UNEP GC 26th will be important when further discussing the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Also other relevant UN processes which address IEG and issues of Sustainable Development governance should be adequately considered. The recent successful outcome of the simultaneous ExCOPs on chemicals and wastes can be seen as a real concrete step towards strengthened international environmental governance. This could also stimulate our work on the International Framework for Sustainable Development.

The theme on Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development offers a good opportunity to reflect on the role and working methods of CSD. We could look beyond the CSD work programme. This could also give us an opportunity to discuss the strengthening of the roles of other relevant UN institutions related to sustainable

development.

To conclude,

The UNCSD enables us to reflect on the efficiency and coherence within the United Nations System. This should be done with a view to securing political commitment and combining environmental challenges with new economic opportunities. The possible interlinkages between the theme "A Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication" and the theme "Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development" could be further explored. An increased political profile of the environmental dimension within sustainable development can contribute to achieving economic development and poverty eradication.

Thank you very much for your attention.