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**STATEMENT BY**

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**SESSION 1: OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE**

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Co-chairs, fellow delegates,

Canada very much welcomes the continuation of our work together at this Second Preparatory Committee. We have much to do.

Securing renewed political commitment for sustainable development is critical.

My delegation believes that renewing and maintaining political-level commitment depends on renewing the vision of all three pillars of sustainable development reinforcing each other and on demonstrating clearly to our respective publics how this interaction is of direct benefit to them.

Since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, we have come a long way, guided by the landmark Agenda 21. Our efforts must continue to be informed by this progress taking into account what we have learned along the way.

My delegation also believes that renewal of political commitment must mean recognizing the practical realities of the world we live in.

Our planet faces numerous challenges.

Sustainable, robust economic recovery is essential to achieve the promise of Rio. Yet, environmental degradation can, in turn, jeopardize sustainable growth.

The collective efforts underway, plus the commitment of all major economies to make the interconnected economic and structural reforms necessary to ensure that the world economy achieves such growth will strengthen in turn the storyline and result for Rio +20.

If industrialized and newly industrialized partners can work together then this success will provide the self-confidence and resources to renew the broader collective and absolutely fundamental efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including for example in the area of maternal, newborn and child health where Canada has been at the forefront in recent years, in close cooperation with the UN Secretary General and other partners.

Renewed, sustainable economic growth will also provide the global, political level self-confidence to deepen efforts to promote green growth, including by reducing trade and investment barriers which impede such growth; by making a variety of policy adjustments (not always cost-free in the short-term, we need to be honest in that regard); and by unleashing new technologies to make a significant shift to a cleaner energy future which will also in turn create jobs and contribute to eradicating poverty.

Finally, co-chair, my delegation believes that renewed political commitment does not flow from big, new governance models and more bureaucracy, although promoting inter-agency efficiencies and synergies is always worthwhile, but rather through committing to concrete measures necessary to achieve balanced and sustainable recovery, and to building a tool-kit of policy measures and best practices from which members can draw to encourage further progress towards green growth and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Thank you.