

Statement by Ambassador Wang Min, Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, at the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development

Mr. Chairman,

The 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development is an important meeting in the field of sustainable development after the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro.

Over the past 20 years, the international community has made a lot of progress in sustainable development, as evidenced by the deepening international and regional cooperation in environment and development in various forms and the popularity of the notion of sustainable development.

Nevertheless, economic and social development in different regions is uneven, biological degradation and environmental pollution continues to deteriorate, and achievement of the MDGs remains a long-term, arduous task. Developing countries still face practical difficulties such as lack of fund and technology. In recent years, the financial crisis, climate change, food crisis, natural disasters, energy security; geopolitical problems and other new challenges keep emerging. They have eroded the global efforts toward sustainable development.

Under such new circumstances, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development will provide an important opportunity for the international community to address the new challenges, and make comprehensive plans for global cooperation in sustainable development. The Conference should embody the spirit and principles of the Rio conference, and strive to inject new impetus into the global sustainable development endeavors. The current preparatory committee meeting shoulders the important task of preparing for the Conference. China stands ready to work with all parties concerned to lay the groundwork for the success of the Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

During the first preparatory committee meeting and the sideline meetings, Member States already had an in-depth discussion of the objectives and themes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. In this context, the Chinese delegation would like to stress the following points:

First, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development should build on past experience, strengthen the political will of the international community, formulate a specific and future-oriented program of action, support the sustainable development strategies of individual countries, and promote the global sustainable development process. To reach this goal and ensure positive results, the Conference and its preparatory process should follow these principles: First, the principle of sustainable development. The Conference must center on the goal of sustainable development, and promote harmonization and coordination of economic growth, social development and environmental protection in the globe. Second, the principle of pluralism and inclusiveness. We need to respect the right of countries to independently pursue sustainable development, take full account of the specific national conditions of different countries, respect their models of sustainable development, and ensure that they have enough space to make their own policies. Third, the principle of consensus. The views of developing countries, in particular, should be heeded, and their special needs be taken into full consideration.

Second, green economy is an important instrument for achieving sustainable development. Its core and main objective is coordinated development of the economy and environment, particularly the comprehensive, balanced and coordinated progress in the economic sector, social endeavors and environmental protection.

Now parties have different opinions on the concept of green economy. China maintains that discussion of green economy should center on the following areas: First, take full account of the energy resources, development stage and capacity of a country, and follow the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. No one-size-fits-all standards or targets should be set at this stage. Second, follow the principle of mutual benefit. Green economy should not be used as an excuse for new trade barriers and no "green strings" should be attached when providing development assistance. Third, strengthen international cooperation, especially in the areas of renewable energy, energy saving and emission reduction. It is necessary to provide more financial and technical support to developing countries and promote their capacity building.

Third, strengthening and improvement of the sustainable development mechanism framework should be based on existing mechanisms and focus on implementation. At present, countries are seriously divided over the principles, modalities and goals of international environmental governance. We may focus on strengthening the role of the UNEP and enhance the coordination among environmental mechanisms and between environmental mechanisms and other multilateral development institutions. The priority is to ensure stable, sufficient and predictable sources of funding and advanced, preferential and environmentally friendly technologies for developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

To launch the drafting and negotiation process of the outcome document at an early date will help parties have a full and in-depth discussion of the themes of the Conference, and push for the Conference to achieve positive, practical and concrete results. China hopes that parties will strengthen communication and coordination, and finalize the relevant arrangements as early as possible, so that parties can make plans, fully participate in the Conference, and work together to make it a truly pragmatic and efficient conference for implementation of the global sustainable development process. Mr.

Chairman,

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development and its preparatory work. We have set up an inter-agency preparatory mechanism for the Conference. To promote the preparatory process and show the Chinese government's support for developing countries, I hereby announce that China will contribute to the trust fund of the Sustainable Development Committee to cover the expenditure of recruiting experts and financing the participation of LDCs representatives in the Conference. China will continue to play a constructive role, and work with all parties to bring about positive results for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

Thank you.