

Contribution of the Republic of the Sudan

Delivered by

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In terms of our main expectations of this Second Preparatory Conference of Rio Plus 20, we hope it will allow for an interactive dynamic discussion on the **Objective and Themes** of the Conference, and the expected results of this process, and the contents and formats of the **outcome document**, which my delegation hope that it will be action-oriented and forward looking.

On the *Objective of the Conferences*,

- Our term of reference is **Resolution 64/236**, which stipulates that the main objective of the Conference is, *“to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, to assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development”*. We believe that this must be discussed within the context of the new and **emerging challenges**, as our world has indeed changed since 1992, (the international financial and economic crisis, energy crisis, climate change, desertification and land degradation, loss of biodiversity, the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters), to name a few. These challenges constitute impediments to the achievement of sustainable development.
- There are several critical gaps with regard to the fulfillment of international commitments related to the achievement of sustainable development, especially in the areas of finance, trade investment, capacity building, technology transfer. Since 1992, official development assistance (ODA) has declined. External debt remains a real obstacle seriously limiting the development prospects of our countries.
- We expect that the UN Conference on Sustainable Development will be an important opportunity for the international community to strengthen **international cooperation and the global partnership for development**, in order to address these new challenge, and devise ways to prevent new crisis from reoccurring, and will also enhance the central role of the UN in economic social development, .
- We believe the Rio Plus 20 should help us reinforce the integrity of the three pillars of sustainable development (economic Development, Social Development and Environmental Protection) and their interlinkages, complementarity and balance, and how can that be translated and achieved on the ground.

On the *Themes of the Conference*,

The Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and Poverty eradication,

- As is clear from current discussions, there is no clear and consensual definition of “green economy”. There is certainly a need for *policy space* for countries to decide their own national priorities and development paths, hence, we must stress the voluntary nature of any policy choices to be undertaken, and that no one-size fits all..
- We also re-emphasize the central overriding objective of poverty eradication, and the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and the need to change the unsustainable patterns of production and consumptions, with developed countries taking the lead. We also caution against the use of “green economy” to impose any trade barriers, such as green protectionism and conditionality.
- Having said this, Sudan has been moving along a cleaner development path, despite the many challenges it is facing. Sudan has been developing the country’s huge potential of renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and hydropower energy, and raising awareness to the environmental implications of proceeding along unsustainable development paths, but urgently needs the necessary support, especially in the areas of technology transfer, capacity building, and cancellation of its external debt, to liberate the resources necessary for its development..

On the *Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development*,

- My delegation believes in the need for an effective institutional framework guided by **chapter 11 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation**, while building on the provisions of Agenda 21, as well as the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and the Principles of the Rio Declaration.
- We need to address the fragmentation in the approach adopted towards sustainable development at all levels. The Institutional framework for sustainable development need to be strengthened, to ensure effective implementation. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the Commission of Sustainable Development (CSD), for instance, as the central intergovernmental body of the UN dealing with sustainable development, should be strengthened.
- Sudan had expressed its support in the past to the creation of a mechanism that would help accelerate implementation of the decisions of CSD, which are often reached after long protracted negotiations, but unfortunately, remain merely words on paper waiting to be translated into action on the ground to help lift people from poverty and hunger. We fully endorse the G77 and China statement on the need to enhance the UN system’s delivery of resources taking into account the needs of developing countries
- We also need to enhancing cooperation and synergies among all relevant UN agencies such as CSD, UNEP, UNDP, UNCTAD, the regional commissions.

- We value the sharing of national experiences on challenges of achieving coordination and synergy between different national actors at the country level, especially given the cross cutting nature of sustainable development.

Sudan believes that the Conference will need to pay particular attention to the challenges of achieving sustainable development faced by countries in special situations. **Countries emerging from conflict** face unique challenges, especially in making the smooth transition from relief to development, and require attention and support to achieve sustainable development.

Finally, needless to say, while sustainability is both desirable and vital, it comes with a huge bill. DESA estimates that a trillion dollars is needed annually for climate actions alone. The UNEP Green Economy report estimates that around US \$1 trillion to 2.5 trillion is needed in 2011 for investments for various sectors to promote the so called green economy, and that the amount will rise to \$3.9 trillion in 2050 (in 2010 prices).

It is therefore my delegations belief that Rio plus 20 must have at its heart the **Means of Implementation**. This package of international commitments and support, which must be urgently met, consist of the following:

- i. The commitment of **developed countries to allocate 0.7 % of their GDP to developing countries** in the framework of ODA must be met, as well as the target of **0.15% to 0.20% of gross national income for least developed countries**.
- ii. The need to meet commitment of **doubling aid to Africa** by 2010 as articulated at the Summit of the Group of Eight, held at Gleneagles in July 2005.
- iii. Urgent need for the international community to adopt an effective, equitable, durable and development oriented solution to the **debt problem** of developing countries, particularly through total debt cancellation, and increased concessional financial flows.
- iv. The need to fully implement the **Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building**, the implement the provisions contained in Chapter 34 of Agenda 21 and JPOI Agreements on technology transfer.
- v. The need for **a development oriented universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system**, and to reinvigorate the multilateral trade negotiations, to achieve a development oriented outcome of the Doha Round. We also call for facilitating the **accession of the WTO by developing countries**.