



**2<sup>ND</sup> PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING UN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**

**Intervention on the Institutional Framework for  
Sustainable Development by Switzerland**

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to touch upon several of the questions that were presented to us.

With regard to questions 1 and 2: We think that probably the most significant challenge the institutional framework for sustainable development is facing is its high fragmentation. There are numerous institutions – with overlapping mandates and different legal standing – and there is a lack of coordination, cooperation and coherence in the system. In view of limited resources, the improvement of the institutional framework is crucial for better deliveries on all levels.

With regard to question 5: It is important to distinguish between two aspects of the discussion: On the one hand, governance of sustainable development in a horizontal manner, and on the other hand, governance in each pillar of sustainability. We need improvements in both of these aspects in order to better promote sustainable development at the international, regional, national and sub-national levels.

While we recognize the importance of sound governance in each of the three pillars, we welcome the considerable attention that has already been given to strengthening International Environmental Governance.

We fully agree with the finding contained in paragraph 84 of the synthesis report that the UNCSD will provide an opportunity for agreement on an ambitious and effective International Environmental Governance reform package in the context of strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development.

In order to be ready to take such a decision, a full analysis of the financial, structural and legal implications and comparative advantages of the options identified in the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome needs to be undertaken as foreseen in the decision of the UNEP Governing Council. In doing so, countries should be given the opportunity to refine and elaborate the different options. The result of



the analysis should be available in a timely manner and feed into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intersessional Meeting.

Mr. Chairman, how to improve governance of sustainable development needs to be discussed much more extensively and also in this regard, the UNCSD is the right place to come up with concrete deliverables. From our point of view, any solution should build on existing institutions and capitalize on positive experiences gained and lessons learned in the UN-System.

For example, we can learn from “Delivering as One” as the answer on how the UN family can provide development assistance in a more coordinated way. Likewise, the synergies process in the area of chemicals and waste management where a cluster approach between the conventions and institutions leads to a better and more effective response to the challenges related to the sound management of chemicals and waste.

With regard to question 3: We need to find ways so that the CSD can better fulfill its role as a multi-stakeholder forum for new and innovative initiatives. Switzerland is also open to consider proposals for fundamental reforms of the CSD as there is lack of accountability and convening power. For example, a state-driven peer review process could be established which allows to assess actions undertaken for implementing sustainable development at the national level. It should be designed so that it is cooperative in nature and ensures equal treatment for every country assessed.

In conclusion, all endeavors for the fostering of the institutional framework of sustainable development have to make sure that sustainable development makes it back to the top of the political agenda and the UN-System is better placed to deliver more authoritative and effective answers to the manifold challenges we face.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.