

Statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Chile Ambassador Octavio Errázuriz, on behalf of the States Members of the Rio Group

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the States that are members of the Rio Group, and to extend to you both, Mr. Presidents, our warmest greetings.

First and foremost we would like to pledge our support for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development as it was decided in G.A. resolution A/RES/64/236 and declare that our region stands ready to address the issues at hand, in the clear understanding that our planet has reached a crossroad where the difference from one path and another can mean the difference between sustainability and survival, on the one hand, and inaction and condemnation of future generations and their lively-hood, on the other. Under these circumstances, we must understand that is necessary to take actions to decouple economic growth and environmental degradation. The urge to attain sustainable development is a condition to ensuring equity.

At the outset, let me start by saying that it is regrettable that the Trust Fund was not able to finance the participation of any developing country delegate.

The full participation of developing countries in this process is essential in order to achieve an adequate balance in the negotiations enabling the success of the conference and multilateralism.

The importance that we give to the Objective and Themes of the Conference make it necessary for us to breathe greater dynamism and leadership into this process, if we want to rise up to the challenges before us.

Mr. President,

The preparatory process of the Rio+20 Conference will be crucial in the definition of the concrete outcomes and commitments we can achieve in 2012. We believe we should focus our discussions in further advancing the international

commitment with sustainable development, poverty eradication, addressing inequalities and preventing new economic and financial crisis.

For the Rio Group, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development represents a crucial opportunity to reaffirm at the highest political level our commitment to the Rio Principles and ensure their consistent and effective application.

In this regard we emphasize the importance of considering the necessary means of implementation to support the efforts undertaken by developing countries in achieving sustainable development. The success of Rio + 20 will be measured against our capacity to effectively address vital issues such as access to adequate financing, technology and human capacities development.

In relation to means of implementation, we again stress the importance of access to financing and technologies, which are crucial in the discussion of environmental and sustainable development issues.

In regards to new and emerging issues, we believe that the experiences and effects of the financial and economic crisis, food crisis and energy crisis have brought to surface many problems that need to be tackled in a comprehensive manner and with utmost urgency. Challenges such as climate change, energy security, biodiversity loss, desertification, water scarcity and frequency of disasters will all deserve our attention.

Mr. President,

Let me next address the themes of the conference.

With regards to institutional framework, we believe we must advance along this path with a healthy, unbiased approach, taking into account the need to consider the three pillars of sustainable development in a balanced manner. We need to find efficient institutional mechanisms for sustainable development that will eliminate duplications, promote synergies and respond, in a dynamic manner, to the concerns of developing countries. In so doing, we must not lose gained

ground by lack of acknowledgement of, or appreciation for, the advances obtained by existing international institutions and agreements, or awareness as to their true potential.

We consider it's very important that developed countries provide financing in a predictable and adequate manner for addressing the ODA to sustainable development. The developed countries must fulfill their commitments, in particular the 0.7 % from their GDP.

In this regard, regional and sub regional mechanisms should be given major attention and support for creating or enhancing those structures that coordinating and assessing the main tasks addressed to sustainable development, with adequate funds in order to implement their objectives, in a context where the United Nations would have a central role.

We also believe that the institutional framework should support scientific capacity in areas of sustainable development in developing countries and that the fulfillment of ODA commitments is a key to enhancing capacity building, including scientific, technical and technological capacity, and development for developing countries.

With regards to Green Economy there is not, at this moment, a clear and consensual definition of what a "green economy" approach entails.

We believe that UNCSO provides an opportunity to discuss the possible benefits as well as possible risks involved in such a concept and its policy implications. We also believe the road to a an economy that better integrates social and environmental concerns will require a certain degree of flexibility and the consideration of the different levels of economic, social and environmental development in different countries.

Thank you

“Sr. Presidente,

Creemos que debemos impulsar sinergias entre las organizaciones de la ONU que se ocupan del medio ambiente y el desarrollo sostenible y mejorar la coordinación entre los acuerdos multilaterales relativos a estos tópicos. Evitaría brechas en la formulación de políticas, así como la confusión, duplicación e incoherencia existentes en la estructura institucional actual.

Como comentario particular al documento de síntesis, queremos llamar la atención sobre el párrafo 56 donde se menciona la posibilidad de mejorar los sistemas de alerta temprana sobre la base de las redes de comunicación con teléfonos portables. La experiencia del terremoto en Chile del 27 de febrero es elocuente; la red telefónica colapso completamente a los pocos minutos del terremoto por la saturación de llamadas y por la falta de respaldo energético adecuado. La experiencia muestra que la gestión de desastres, en particular en la etapa posterior a los mismos, debe basarse en redes de comunicación que posean autonomía energética y que sean independientes de las redes comerciales.

También creemos fundamental que, junto con la cooperación internacional, el financiamiento, la transferencia tecnológica y la formación de capacidades, se haga un esfuerzo por fortalecer las instituciones en los niveles nacionales y regionales, tanto en las autoridades públicas como en la sociedad civil y el sector privado.

Reconocemos que el concepto de economía verde, ya nos ha acompañado en los últimos años como una tendencia reconocible en varios procesos sociales, económicos ambientales. Creemos que el reconocimiento de estos avances puede ser una base para completar los elementos requeridos y donde los avances no han estado a la altura de los desafíos, para el logro de un desarrollo sustentable, que, reiteramos, constituye el foco y objetivo principal de los resultados que debemos esperar en la conferencia de Río + 20.

También deseáramos ver un tratamiento más profundo, en los documentos preparatorios sobre la sustentabilidad y los océanos. Sabemos que no es el único tema relacionado con la sustentabilidad. Con todo, los océanos son esenciales para la alimentación de una población creciente y constituyen la base para la reserva de la biósfera y de muchas cadenas alimentarias. Muchas gracias”.