



Statement by Mr. Olav Kjørven

Assistant Secretary-General and Director of Bureau for Development Policy

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

UNDP is committed to a strong engagement with Member States and the UN system to ensure a successful outcome of UNCSD/Rio+20.

We believe that the UNCSD process offers an opportunity to marry the international system's efforts to fight poverty, reduce inequalities, and achieve the MDGs with its efforts to tackle environmental degradation and climate change. Our hope is that the outcome of UNCSD will promote policy coherence between the Rio+20, the climate change and MDGs agendas; that it will address the full scope of the institutional arrangements of multilateral development cooperation based on countries' own development objectives; and that it will promote sustainable and equitable growth and human development.

In this context UNDP is pleased to note that the Cancun Agreements put the emphasis clearly on the relationship between development and climate change by reaffirming

the “legitimate needs of developing country parties for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty, *so as to be able to deal with climate change*”. Indeed, human development is essential to avoid dangerous climate change; reducing poverty is a condition for increasing resilience and driving sustainable development.

UNDP contributed to the Synthesis Report and the Secretary General’s Report for the 2nd PrepCom. A draft paper entitled “Climate Change, the Millennium Development Goals and Rio+20: Moving towards a new development paradigm” was shared as part of UNDP’s response to the Questionnaire for the Synthesis Report.

We believe both reports contain many good suggestions and recommendations. We find, in particular, the seven messages on “The Way Forward” in the Secretary General’s report to be very useful for guiding the UNCSD/Rio+20 process.

As stated in the Secretary General’s report, a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction is an approach to economic decision-making that will need to be built from the bottom up. The green economy is broader than simply low-carbon growth because the social dimension and poverty eradication remain paramount for most developing countries – and for UNDP.

UNDP continues to offer support to countries that want to strengthen national green economy efforts and to help them align these with poverty eradication efforts and other national priorities. As documented in our response to the Questionnaire for the Synthesis Report, we have since long been supporting partner countries in developing and applying “green” economy policy instruments, particularly as an implementing agency of the GEF, although we did not use to call it green economy. However, as

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also stated in the Secretary General's report, the combined impact of what has been undertaken so far at the country level, with or without external support, does not yet add up to changes in production and consumption patterns on a scale equal to the challenges.

UNDP also welcomes the active engagement by Member States in providing political guidance on how to overcome the institutional fragmentation and lack of integration of the three pillars of sustainable development which is holding back the full potential of otherwise important initiatives.

Allow me, finally, to mention how some of UNDP's work contributes to the conference preparations:

Firstly, the 2011 UNDP Human Development Report will focus on sustainability and vulnerability. The report will be a substantive contribution to the UNCSD process. It will be launched in late 2011.

Secondly, between now and 2015 a key priority for UNDP is to support countries in accelerating progress on the MDGs, including through the roll-out of an MDG Acceleration Framework. This is an innovative tool, already piloted with UN support in 10 countries, to help countries identify bottlenecks in the way of achieving the MDGs and to prioritize action and resources with all development partners to overcome those bottlenecks. The experiences gained through this work will prove useful for implementation challenges in the context of sustainable development and lessons learned will be shared with the UNCSD preparatory process.

Thirdly, in response to the recent resolution adopted by the General Assembly, which encouraged “the United Nations development system to support, as appropriate, national country preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, upon request of national authorities”, UNDP is preparing to engage UN Country Teams through the UN Development Group, and also working closely with the UNCSD Secretariat/DESA, to support national preparatory processes. A joint proposal, building on the successful approach taken in support of the preparations for the MDG Summit, is underway and we are seeking support for this effort.

The objective is to assist a select number of developing countries in preparing for and contributing effectively to the UNCSD process based on their expression of demand and their particular needs and circumstances. A more in-depth analysis and synthesis will also be included of experiences in a smaller number of countries where green economy concepts and institutional reform for sustainable development are beginning to take root.

A draft of this proposal is available in the room for those interested and we welcome your comments.

Let me conclude by emphasising that UNDP remains committed to playing its part in ensuring a successful outcome of the UNCSD/Rio+20 process and we look forward to working with Member States to make that happen.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.