

Session Institutional Framework, Contribution by ILO (Mr. Poschen/Mr. Van der Ree).

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for entertaining this debate and to the Secretariat for bringing such constructive insights from the panel members to the discussion, both yesterday and today.

We have listened carefully to the support to the notion of the green economy and welcome the importance given to green jobs. We have also taken note of the doubts and concerns, especially with regards to prospects for real gains in terms of income and poverty reduction.

The work of the ILO in the context of promoting the goal of Sustainable Development and green economy strategies have been mentioned already by Mr. Steiner of UNEP and, in a broader sense, by Mr. Kjørven earlier today, when he mentioned the progress in effective collaboration in the context of One UN.

Rather than going over these issues again we would simply like to state that the ILO is fully committed to work further together in bringing about good experience and lessons about making the green economy a real economy notion with guidance for the set of policy options for countries and target populations. This, we hope, will inform the debate at the Rio Conference, as well as in the preparatory process.

In terms of the institutional framework and the way to shape a conducive set of arrangements at global, national and local level, we at ILO fully subscribe to the notion of stronger policy coherence. The ILO's recent experience in making employment and decent work a central plank in crisis response packages in a range of countries could provide guidance on this respect.

The key to a successful formulation, implementation and assessment of national policies and local strategies towards sustainable development is inclusion and dialogue. As the Synthesis Report reflects, there is a strong call for mobilizing a broad range of stakeholders to shoulder the sustainable development agenda. The experience with poverty reduction strategies could provide guidance, as the subsequent generations of PRSPs became increasingly broad-based.

As already have been voiced by several other speakers, the ILO views the partnership with organized labour and business – those with stakes in the real economy – as essential. We simply call it social dialogue. In countries with less advanced industrial relations and a large informal economy, this notion also includes cooperatives, women organizations, Indigenous People organizations, small business associations, etc. Their engagement is not only essential to enhance the economic feasibility and efficiency of advancing a green economy. It is also indispensable to assess and improve the social relevance of policies and articulate the costs and benefits for the transition. This, in turn, will bring focus on the needs for social

protection to empower and enable the full participation of the more vulnerable groups in the move to a sustainable society.