
Co-Chairs,
Excellencies,

1. We would like to thank the Bureau and the Secretariat for organizing this intercessional meeting.

2. This session has provided a space to start discussing in depth the objective and themes of the Conference and it is now evident that more work is needed to clarify and identify a common understanding of the issues at hand.

3. The preparatory process needs to be enhanced and in that respect the Group believes that greater dynamism and leadership is needed.

4. A key to the success of the preparatory process and of the Conference itself is the adequate participation of developing country representatives. The resounding success of Rio 92 and the follow-up Conference in Johannesburg was largely in part because we had a very wide participation of governments, civil society and other important stakeholders. We hope that for Prep Com. 2 developing countries will be supported by the CSD Trust fund.

I thank you.