Statement

By

Ms. Diana Al-Hadid

First Secretary

The Second InterseSSIOnal

Meeting of UNCSd

New York, 15-16 December 2011
Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

I wish to express our appreciation for convening the Second Intercessional Meeting of UNCSD, which provides a valuable opportunity to share perspectives on achieving a significant outcome at Rio+20 conference, which will mark 20 years since the original Rio Earth Summit of 1992 and is seen as a chance to renew political commitment for sustainable development. Much has been done to address the interrelated global challenges including poverty eradication, job creation, food and energy crisis, climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem degradation, drought and desertification, but looking at the road ahead, we can see that many challenges still require our immediate and proactive response.

Mr. Chairman,

Sustainable Development requires that societies understand the nature of the changes required and are prepared to support political will in that direction. Moreover renewed political commitment should lead to the full implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Program for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of
Implementation, it should fully support national efforts to achieve sustainable development. A more holistic approach is required; the environment and the economy cannot be thought of in isolation of development and combating poverty. Strengthening the environmental pillar would support sustainable development; nonetheless a balance of the three pillars must be recalibrated.

Furthermore, eradicating poverty must be at the heart of the green economy and is an indispensible requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people in the world, however, it is necessary for the green economy not to represent a pretext for new form of protectionism and conditionality, new parameters or standards in the areas of financing, ODA and other forms of international cooperation.

The Rio+20 conference should consider establishing an International Mechanism to put into practice concrete actions focused on bridging the technological gap between developed and developing countries, through ensuring the flow of needed technologies, adequate financial resources, as well as providing capacity building, as needed and identified by developing countries. The conference could consider creating a green stimulus that would help developing countries make the transition to green economy.

Mr. Chairman,

An effective institutional framework for sustainable development at all levels is key to the full implementation of existing commitments. It should ensure the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as its implementation. More emphasis ought to be on
activating and making optimal use of existing institutions at both the regional and international levels prior to considering the possibility of creating new institutions; and enhancing coordination among national, regional and international frameworks, and between UN agencies and bodies.

On the Process of defining and agreeing on a post-2015 global agenda, the Rio+20 should pave the road for developing concrete principles to be fed into the post MDG debates. MDGs are a step in the right direction toward sustainable development but they are not enough in incorporating socioeconomic and environmental issues into a unified approach.

Integrating SDGs in this framework, could contribute to making this agenda conducive to sustainable development.

I thank you.