



Second Intersessional Meeting of the PrepCom, New York, 15-16 December 2011

Swiss Speaking points on agenda item “Discussion on the compilation document: comments and guidance for the zero draft outcome document”

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GE in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

- The world faces major environmental and social challenges. The growing world population and changing consumption and production patterns increase the pressure on natural resources and the environment. Furthermore, there are growing social disparities.
- The current economic structures, rules and activities are not able to respond to these challenges in a way that leads the world into a sustainable future. Since we have only one planet to live on, a green economy that takes into account the earth' limits while facilitating pro poor development is essential for our common future.
- Green economy should not be understood as a substitution for sustainable development, but as a practical and concrete instrument for its implementation at the international, the regional and the national level.
- Rio+20 should amplify the implementation of sustainable development by accelerating the transition to a green economy by addressing several key topics as well as the necessary enabling conditions.
- The Zero Draft should address the following eight critical areas for making progress towards a Green Economy:
 1. Sustainable agro-food systems with increased resilience, that ensure food security for all, maintain availability of natural resources, provide decent livelihoods and income for farmers and rural populations.
 2. Public procurement on national as well as on sub-national level that respects sustainability criteria (sustainable public procurement);
 3. Transformation of the global energy system to ensure access to affordable, clean and sustainable energy resources for all;
 4. Secure water supply by ensuring sustainable water management and use;

5. Sustainable management of fragile ecosystems such as mountains, drylands, and forests in order to secure livelihood for their population, avoid environmental degradation and strengthen the potential to provide ecosystem services;
 6. Improve resource productivity and environmental performance of economic activities over their whole life cycle in particular through the promotion of successful approaches such as Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production;
 7. Trade in sustainable biodiversity products and services should help specifically the developing countries rich in biodiversity as a tool to greening their economies;
 8. Green economy skills and innovations should be promoted through specific education programmes.
- In addition to integrating these key topics, the following four enabling conditions should also be addressed in the outcome of Rio+20:
 1. development national green economy action plans,
 2. measurement of the total environmental impact of production and consumption,
 3. ecological market transparency and trade,
 4. fossil fuel subsidies reforms.
 - Switzerland is of the opinion that a Green Economy Roadmap that contains specific goals and targets for these priority areas is the most promising way to advance implementation. Such a Roadmap would facilitate the transitions towards green economy at the global level, while respecting different needs and situations of low-, middle and high-income countries and leaving room for specific national measures.
 - The Green Economy Roadmap would thus enable us to make a giant step towards a more sustainable future.

Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

- It is Switzerland's view that the Rio+20 conference should agree upon comprehensive reform measures for improving the institutional framework for sustainable development.
- The Zero Draft should therefore contain measures in particular in three areas: Firstly, governance for sustainable development in a holistic manner, secondly, governance in the environmental pillar, and thirdly, governance on the national and local level.
- Regarding the international level, there is agreement that the CSD has not succeeded in playing the role it was meant to play. The Zero Draft needs to address the need for stronger global governance for sustainable development.
- We propose to include reform measures such as establishing a peer review mechanism, more effective involvement of civil society, presentation of national commitments for sustainable development in support of candidacies, and regular high-level segments.
- We have come to the conclusion that such reforms are best put in practice by replacing the CSD with a Global Sustainability Council as a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly. This option needs to be included in the Zero Draft.
- The Zero Draft should also include the idea of universal Sustainable Development Goals. Such goals have to address all dimensions of sustainable development and their interconnectedness. They should build on the experience of the MDGs as well as the numerous international goals that have been agreed upon by the international community over the last decades in particular in the environmental field. The goals should not be negotiated. They should be elaborated through a process led by the UN secretariat.

- We further consider it crucial for the Rio+20 conference to settle on an ambitious reform package for strengthening international environmental governance. The Zero Draft should therefore include reform measures which are based on the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome. It should include elements such as universal membership of the IEG anchor institution, reinforced relationship between a strengthened IEG anchor institution and the MEAs and enhanced synergies within thematic clusters.
- The Zero Draft should be formulated in a way that leaves it open - for the time being - whether the necessary reforms are best implemented through a strengthened UNEP or a specialized agency. This organization aspect can be addressed once the negotiations on the substantive reform measures have advanced further. We therefore propose that the Zero Draft uses a neutral term such as "strengthened IEG anchor institution".
- Finally, Switzerland considers it important for the Zero Draft to include measures for renewing the political commitment for national and local sustainable development governance. This could include measures such as the development or renewal of sustainable development strategies or the participation of civil society in decision making.