



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States**

**By**  
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**Session 3 and 4 – Structure and Format for the Zero Draft of the Outcome Document**

*-Check against Delivery-*

**Mr. Chairman, Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,**

**I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The Acceding Country Croatia aligns itself with this declaration.**

**As agreed under UNGA Resolution 64/236, UNCSD needs to result in a "focused political document", which should be forward-looking and action-oriented, reflecting the Conference's objective and its two themes.**

**On the basis of these considerations, the EU's view is that the outcome document should be in the form of a political declaration setting out a shared vision for change, as well as objectives and actions in one single document.**

**In our view, such political declaration should have three basic sections, again reflecting what was agreed in UNGA Resolution 64/236:**

- **An *introductory section* recalling the objective of the Conference to renew political commitment for sustainable development; assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges; In addition, this section should also stress that the two themes of the Conference – "a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" (GESDPE) and "the institutional framework for sustainable development" (IFSD) – offer promising ways – "tools" – to achieve the Conference's objective and tackle these challenges.**
- **A *section on GESDPE* elaborating on what the EU and its Member States believe should be one of the main operational outcomes of Rio+20: a green economy roadmap. The roadmap should contain specific goals, objectives and actions at the international level, including with the aim to encourage and facilitate bottom-up national and sub-national actions. As stated at yesterday's session on the zero draft, the EU is of the opinion that such actions should be both of a cross-cutting and of a sectorial/thematic nature.**
- **A *section on IFSD* pointing to the need to improve governance at all levels in order to advance sustainable development, help eradicate poverty and accelerate the transition towards a green economy. This section should include a call for the establishment of an UN Specialized Agency for the Environment based on UNEP.**

**Those sections should also contain language on Rio+20 follow-up mechanisms.**

**Finally, we believe that the implementation of sustainable development commitments and initiatives at all levels is a cross-cutting issue that should be mainstreamed in the whole document, ensuring that we engage all partners.**

**Thank you for your attention.**