



## **Australian Government**

### **Australia's Intervention delivered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Rio+20 Intersessional meeting on 16 December 2011**

Thank you Mr Co-Chair,

In terms of format and structure Australia would like the outcomes document to reflect a set of clear, practical outcomes, including actions and responsibilities. In order to achieve this, the zero draft should reflect those areas of common ground, shared between Member States. We support a short and focused document which includes a high-level political declaration and builds on past summit outcomes.

As I tried to say yesterday, we must not repeat the previous outcomes and agreed actions of past summits, but look to the future and identify those gaps and new and emerging issues. Those critical areas which were not on the horizon 20 years ago or were out of sight and out of mind like oceans, including the high seas.

The zero draft should not be prescriptive but should highlight those areas where general consensus is emerging.

Mr Chair, Australia has detailed an approach to a template, but in the interest of time I will not describe it here, but will send it to the Secretariat for your consideration. Please be assured that this is not an Australian proposal per se, but is just food for thought.

Australia supports a short, focussed document that is understandable, actionable and must be realistic and practical. One that takes a holistic approach, a system-wide approach, and one which reflects an ecosystem based approach.

Mr Chair, Australia reiterates the importance of having a zero draft that reflects the growing areas of consensus and one that will resonate with the expressed interests of civil society.

Our political declaration must be ambitious and capable of galvanising political commitment as we did 20 years ago in Rio. Australia is committed to working closely in the coming months as we set the stage for a common sustainable future.

Thank you Mr Co-Chair.

## TEMPLATE PROPOSAL FOR RIO+20 OUTCOMES DOCUMENT

For consideration at the Second Intersessional meeting in December 2011, Australia would like to propose the below template for the Rio+20 Outcomes document.

This document does not represent a formal proposal by Australia, rather we suggest it as a tool to help catalyse discussion to find a practical way forward to clearly structure the outcomes of Rio+20. Australia welcomes any amendments or suggestions to the proposed template (please see contact details below) to ensure a format is agreed which addresses the needs and interests of all Member States.

Guiding principles for template:

1. This template is based on 'Option 1 model – A Political Declaration accompanied by a separate action plan' drafted by the Secretariat and the Bureau'.
2. This template seeks to achieve an outcomes document which reflects a set of clear, focused and practical outcomes, including actions and responsibilities that will address the key challenges of sustainable development.
3. This template is procedural in nature, seeking to capture a format and structure whilst avoiding a pre-judgment of the key priorities and issues to be addressed through the outcomes document.
4. This template seeks to avoid duplicating commitments made and captured in Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
5. Although there is no 'new and emerging challenges' section, new and emerging challenges will be captured throughout the document, particularly under the 'sectoral priorities' and the 'cross-cutting issues' sections of the document.
6. By agreeing to specific actions on a range of priorities (whether these are sectoral, cross-sectoral or new and emerging), progress to date and gaps in implementation will be consequently addressed.

If you would like to discuss this further or have any suggestions please contact:

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# United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Rio de Janeiro 2012

## *The Global Plan for Sustainable Development The Future We Want*

### **Foreword\* (maximum 1 page)**

*The foreword, jointly written by Mr Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General and Mr Sha Zukang, Secretary General United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, should provide a short and focused contextual description of the importance and need for sustainable development.*

### **Introduction\* (maximum 1 page)**

*The introduction should introduce the outcomes document and briefly explain its mandate and purpose and further build on the context.*

*\*Note – the foreword and the introduction is the ‘preamble’.*

## **I Political declaration (maximum 1 page)**

- 1. The political declaration should be concise and focused. It should meet the Conference objective of securing renewed political commitment for sustainable development and address through a high level statement the other two elements of the objective: 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. It should also include a high-level statement on the headline outcomes agreed under the two themes of Rio+20: a ‘green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication’ and the ‘institutional framework for sustainable development’.*

## **II Framework of Action**

### **A. Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication**

- 2. This section should briefly introduce the concept of a ‘green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication’ and briefly introduce the sectoral and cross-cutting priorities.*

#### **Sectoral Priorities (length as necessary)**

- 3. This section should list the sectoral priorities agreed to be included as Outcomes of the conference and provide detail as instructed below for each priority. The example of a sectoral priority is provided for illustrative purposes and should not prejudice decisions made by Member States on the sectoral priorities agreed to be included as Outcomes of the conference.*

### **Sectoral priority e.g 'Blue Economy'**

4. *Introduction (maximum 1 paragraph) – briefly introduce the sectoral priority*
5. *High-level actions (length as necessary but should be guided by a focussed approach and recommended guideline of 10 or less agreed high-level actions per sectoral priority) - List the agreed high-level actions, each action should be listed on a new line e.g:*
  - a) X
  - b) Y
  - c) Z
  - d) Etc...
6. *High-level means of implementation (length as necessary but should be guided by a focussed approach and recommended guideline of 10 or less agreed high-level means of implementation per sectoral priority) – state the high-level means of implementation as agreed. These should be addressed at the global level (each member state/region should produce and agree as necessary national and regional means of implementation in parallel to these or through a process as agreed following Rio+20).*
  - a) X
  - b) Y
  - c) Z
  - d) Etc...

### **Cross-sectoral priorities (length as necessary)**

7. *This section should list the cross-cutting priorities agreed to be included as Outcomes of the conference and provide detail as instructed below for each issue. The example of a cross-sectoral priority is provided for illustrative purposes and should not prejudice decisions made by Member States on the cross-sectoral priorities agreed to be included as Outcomes of the conference.*

### **Cross-sectoral priority e.g 'Empowering Women'**

8. *Introduction (maximum 1 paragraph) – briefly introduce the cross-cutting priority*
9. *High-level actions (length as necessary but should be guided by a focussed approach and recommended guideline of 10 or less agreed high-level actions per cross-sectoral priority) - List the agreed high-level actions, each action should be listed on a new line e.g:*
  - a) X
  - b) Y
  - c) Z
  - d) Etc...
10. *High-level means of implementation (length as necessary but should be guided by a focussed approach and recommended guideline of 10 or less agreed high-level means of implementation per cross-sectoral priority) – state the high-level means of implementation as agreed. These should be addressed at the global level (each member state/region should produce and agree as necessary national and regional means of implementation in parallel to these or through a process as agreed following Rio+20).*
  - a) X
  - b) Y
  - c) Z
  - d) Etc...

## **B. Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD)**

11. *Introduction (maximum 1-2 paragraph/s) – briefly introduce the IFSD*
12. *High-level actions (length as necessary) – List the agreed high-level actions, each high-level action should be listed on a new line e.g.:*
  - a) X
  - b) Y
  - c) Z
  - d) Etc...
13. *High-level means of implementation (length as necessary) – state the high-level means of implementation as agreed. These should be addressed at the global level (each member state/region should produce and agree as necessary national and regional means of implementation in parallel to these or through a process as agreed following Rio+20). NB: Means of implementation may not be required for the IFSD, considering that reforms to the IFSD will constitute an integral aspect of the means of implementation to provide the appropriate framework for the outcomes under the ‘green economy’ theme of the conference.*
  - a) X
  - b) Y
  - c) Z
  - d) Etc...