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STATEMENT BY

H.E. Mr. Milorad Šćepanović

Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations
at the

Second open-ended informal intersessional meeting of the
Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
New York, 15-16 December 2011

Mr. Co-Chairs,

Sustainable Development is one of the main priorities for the Government of Montenegro. The main characteristic of the country's evolving legal framework in all the areas pertinent to sustainable development is its progressive harmonisation with the EU *acquis*, as a part of the accession process. Bearing in mind the importance of Rio+20 Summit, the Government of Montenegro undertook numerous activities in the context of the preparations.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

I would like to join other speakers in stressing the importance of adopting the Road map for green economy which should contain specific goals, objectives and actions at the international level. The transition to green economy requires a well-balanced policy mix and financing mechanisms. Choosing the most cost-effective and efficient policy mixes for the green economy needs to be country specific and to rely on specific information and analysis. To this end, it is necessary to develop adequate national capacities and to secure international coordination. Furthermore, ecosystem services should be promoted through the concept of green economy. Ecosystem services valuation represents an important tool and a good argument in advocating for green economy.

With regards to the international level, we are all in agreement that the CSD, the main pillar of the international SD system today, has not lived up to the hopes of the international community that set it up after the original Rio Summit. It does not have the mandate to coordinate globally implemented initiatives, programmes and activities and its resources have been significantly reduced in terms of the ability to provide support to the member countries. In the context of its reform, this capacity to provide direct expert and technical support to the member states (as the CSD once had) should be in the mandate of the new body that will emerge as a result of the Rio Summit. This should be followed by a mandate to measure and review the progress made by all the member states but also across the regions and globally.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

The way the UN provides support to its member states in general needs to be reformed. Measuring national progress requires that we assess cumulative performance at the level of overall organization rather than the results achieved within frameworks of individual UN agencies. As a country chosen to implement the new UN coordination approach, Montenegro would like to give its support to the endeavours to increase coherence and efficiency of its operations through the "Delivering as One" approach.

The need to reform institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD) is apparent in order to provide for adequate responses to current and future challenges, to bridge gaps in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda, as well as to accelerate global action towards a greener and more sustainable economy and eradication of poverty. International Environmental Governance (IEG) needs to be strengthened as a part of the broader IFSD reform. In this context, Montenegro supports the strengthening of UNEP through its transformation into a specialized environment agency. We believe this would also help streamline and reinforce the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) system and reinforce and mainstream the environmental dimension within the UN system.

Montenegro would like to extend its full support for the inclusion of major groups through the establishment and the functioning of the National Councils or Commissions for Sustainable Development. In our experience, with evolving structure over the last ten years, NCSO has proven to be a useful tool in enhancing stakeholder participation and wide consultations, with the potential to replicate this experience to other countries.

Creating multisectoral teams with the goal of monitoring the implementation of the SD strategies greatly increases the communication and coordination within the government. Many delegations stressed the need for these bodies to be properly resourced. Here we would like to stress that resources are needed in both financial and human capacity as no multistakeholder body (such as the Councils) or multisectoral body within the government can function effectively over time unless it is supported by the permanent expert secretariat designated solely to support its work. This is a recommendation we would like to see incorporated at all governance levels -- international, regional, national and local.

Mr. Co-Chairs,

We are of opinion that the institutional framework for sustainable development at the national levels needs to be expanded to include Parliament in an effort to strengthen the oversight and monitoring function. In this context we welcome the idea of creating Ombudsmans for future generations, which in some countries have been placed under the structures of the Parliament.

Thank you.