



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 July 2013
Original: English

Word count (including
footnotes/endnotes):
1,132

**Commission on Sustainable Development
Twentieth session**

**Conference on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean:
Follow-up to the United Nations Development Agenda Beyond 2015 and to
Rio+20¹**

Bogota, 7-9 March 2013

The summary below was prepared by the Government of the Republic of Colombia, as the Chair of the Conference held in Bogota from 7th to 9th March 2013, and it was presented to participants at the end of the meeting.

I. Summary of discussions

1. We had two days of very fruitful discussions, which evidenced the wealth and the creativeness of the work and thinking in our region. We all had the freedom to share, listen and learn. This freedom of debate helped us to realize that we shared many perspectives on the post-2015 development agenda.
2. On behalf of the chair, we would like to share this summary, which conveys the broad lines of the rich dialogue.

3. The special vulnerabilities of the SIDs were amply acknowledged. The two-day meeting of Caribbean States held in advance provided key inputs, by highlighting the challenges these States face. The meeting also drew attention to the fact that the region recognizes these needs and shows full solidarity with the Caribbean States.
4. Fortunately, we agreed on the cornerstones upon which the new agenda should be built. We share the view that to achieve irreversible well-being and eradicate poverty in a structural manner progress must be made towards a visionary sustainable development platform. Our regional approach is systemic and holistic: we have all emphasized the importance of the transition towards a new mentality, which places humans at the centre from a comprehensive perspective that is in harmony with the planet.
5. It was concluded that this new agenda should be universal, with obligations, responsibilities and opportunities for all. It should be an agenda that obliges all countries —not only developing countries— to take action. In this vein, we also agreed that it should address global aspects and processes, such as international trade, the financial system and migration.
6. Conceptually, the agenda should enable us to stand up to global challenges, but at the same time it should have the capacity to address the specific features, needs and priorities of regional, national and local contexts. Accordingly, it will important for the framework to provide modalities of

differentiation to enable the countries to take ownership of the agenda and adjust it to their development plans.

7. Emphasis was placed on the need to build the future agenda around interrelations between key themes and sectors for development, in order to face complex challenges and seek concrete and sustainable solutions within a rights-based approach.
8. One of the priority themes of the interrelation is that of sustainable production and consumption patterns. We emphasized that this should be both an objective and a cross-cutting pillar of the new agenda. We understand sustainable production and consumption as having an economic, cultural and social perspective and as a prerequisite for achieving genuine equity, inclusion and environmental sustainability.
9. We also recognize the centrality of education as a condition for development. We understand education in a comprehensive manner and as a fundamental human right that is necessary to guarantee all other rights. We also emphasize that education is a prerequisite for inclusive growth and for satisfying other needs, from health to food security, to decent employment. We also affirm the importance of education for sustainability.
10. We made headway in identifying priorities for the new agenda, such as food security and the need for infrastructure for development, in particular for connectivity in the sectors of telecommunications, transport and energy. The

need to generate decent work was a recurring theme, as a determinant of equitable and sustained growth. We drew attention to critical issues such as demographic trends, the dizzying pace of urbanization, migration, health and the need to build up our resilience to a range of risks and vulnerabilities.

11. Means of implementation are of great importance for the region. From development assistance and South-South and triangular cooperation to public spending and the role of the private sector, financing for sustainable development is a key tool for turning this agenda into a reality.
12. We made progress, too, in identifying the areas in which we must continue working to maintain our regional leadership in defining the new agenda. We agreed upon the need to continue working immediately and beyond 2015 on achieving the MDGs. Now, we must look harder at how to achieve that continuation in practical terms. Understandings of how to do this vary: from a proposal to integrate the MDGs fully into the framework of the sustainable development goals, to proposals to keep the two sets of goals separate.
13. One consideration arising from these two approaches to the relationship between the MDGs and the sustainable development goals is how to prioritize resources and poverty eradication efforts. Concern was expressed that financing for immediate needs could be diverted towards other efforts. At the same time, it was clear that eradicating poverty in a sustainable manner and tackling basic needs will need investment and structural public policies.

14. One tension that used to exist between development and sustainability agendas has now been overcome. It has been stated repeatedly that irreversible poverty eradication must occur within a context of sustainable development.

15. Now, our pending task is to forge a deeper understanding of how to translate this synergy into defining a harmonious relationship between growth and the natural environment. There are diverse visions of how to achieve this: whether the starting point should be the planet's own limits, or the response needed to provide well-being for 9 billion people. As we see it, the two approaches must be complementary.

16. After two days of intensive and productive discussions, it is clear that our region has an enormous leadership potential in breaking with old paradigms and presenting creative visions. The experience of Rio showed us that, working as a region, we have greater capacity to influence the agenda: we unite to influence.

17. For the region it is clear that the only way to move ahead on this path is through broad and meaningful participation, both in defining and in implementing the sustainable development agenda. We must work hand-in-hand with civil society in all its forms, as well as with the private sector and international organizations, treating each other as agents of change who are collectively responsible for the future.

18. A brief summary does not adequately capture the richness of our discussions. But we trust that these words will reflect the dynamic, innovative and constructive spirit of the meeting. You will certainly be able to complement these considerations in this morning's discussion.