

## **Thirteenth Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development**

### **Statement by Ambassador Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Head of the Delegation of Brazil to CSD-13**

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I wish to congratulate you on chairing the Commission on Sustainable Development during its very first policy year. The commitment of Brazil to an inclusive, ever-growing discussion on sustainable development is reflected in our determination to remain actively engaged in the CSD.

We are encouraged that Sustainable Development issues are being increasingly discussed within the global agenda. It is nonetheless regrettable that the concept of Sustainable Development itself has so far not been absorbed in all contexts with a bearing on its implementation. The primary tendency, rather, is to see the concept of Sustainable Development almost exclusively through its environmental angle, thus rendering marginal or insignificant its application to the economic field, in particular when macroeconomic policies are concerned.

As we see it, such focus amounts to a conceptual regression that threatens to thwart the achievements since the Rio Conference. The CSD is the appropriate forum where the necessary focus can be regained, a task which requires a concerted effort

involving States, the UN system, the international financial institutions, and all major groups. For Sustainable Development to succeed as a practical, applicable concept, it should always be viewed as an asset, never as a liability.

Mr. Chairman,

CSD-13 has rightly decided to emphasize the need for the inclusion and active participation of the Bretton-Woods institutions in the debate on Sustainable Development. Bringing together multiple actors, interests and needs in a debate encompassing far-ranging realities is a challenging but necessary and urgent task.

The discussions held at CSD-12, and in this session on water, human settlements and sanitation have showcased how difficult it is to unite views on issues that range from adequate valuation of natural resources to the difficulties of managing resource allocation. We have noticed a clear gap between the objectives established in international negotiations and our capacity to define effective strategies for international cooperation to fulfill them, using the best of the existing multilateral institutions.

The UN agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions can play a role, in this regard, by supporting innovative and supplementary ways of international cooperation that emphasize the potential of combining the experience of developing countries in the sustainable use of water resources and in improving human settlements with the resources available multilaterally and bilaterally.

The discussions on the "Action against Hunger and Poverty", led by Brazil, France, Chile, Spain, Germany and Algeria, seek to make a tangible contribution by identifying financing mechanisms to assist in the global fight against poverty and hunger. The new and additional financial resources generated by this initiative could also help achieving the commitments undertaken in our discussions.

Brazil believes that it is simply not enough to highlight the values of solidarity, participation and social justice, or to reaffirm our commitments to eradicate poverty and strive for the implementation of Agenda 21, of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and for the achievement of the MDGs. We must actually turn commitments into actions, and this demands a concerted, focused and persistent international effort. The UN system and other institutions should be part and parcel of these efforts by placing sustainable development at the top of their agenda and by concretely and directly facing the challenges on water, sanitation and human settlements.

Thank you.