

**10th Session of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals
31 March - 04 April, 2014**

**Cluster 3 - Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition and water and sanitation
Statement by Brazil and Nicaragua**

Mr. Co-Chair,

Brazil and Nicaragua support the statement made by Bolivia on behalf of the G-77.

(SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION)

Agriculture development and food security are critical for poverty eradication and sustainable development. Close to a billion people still go hungry everyday and many more are far from having access to safe, adequate and nutritious food.

In this regard, the Rio+20 outcome document has rightly emphasized the need to focus on the situation in rural areas in developing countries, because this is where hunger and malnutrition are more prevalent. It also indicates the need for an increase in agricultural production and productivity, by means of better access of farmers ó especially poor farmers ó to markets, technology and financing.

This can only be achieved through the productive integration of developing countries to international markets in a fair, transparent and sustainable manner.

We need to step up our efforts to fight agricultural protectionism in all its forms, not only those measures that are regulated by the WTO Agreements. In fact, in many cases, it is those measures that are not covered by the WTO, such as agricultural export subsidies and other forms of trade distortive support, that have the most detrimental effect to

the participation of developing countries in international trade flows and to their own domestic rural development.

With these aspects in mind, Brazil and Nicaragua would like to suggest the following additional items to focus areas 2, on sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition:

- Establishing a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, including provisions for the granting of special and differentiated treatment to developing countries, especially LDCs (Rio+20 para.118).
- Facilitating/improving market access to agricultural exports of developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries (Rio+20 para.109).
- Promoting adherence to and use of science-based, intergovernmentally agreed sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards.
- Facilitating integration of smallholder farmers to regional, national and international markets, as well as improved access to information, technical knowledge and know-how, including through new information and communications technologies (Rio+20 para. 114).
- Enhancing adherence to and upholding of the internationally recognized Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment (Rio+20 para.115).

Regarding the existing items, we suggest the following changes:

There is an incorrect reference to "drought" in item "c". Drought is a natural phenomenon and, unlike land degradation and desertification, cannot be reversed. It needs to be mitigated.

On item l), after "Reducing post-harvest crop losses and food waste along food supply chains" we propose to add "as well as promoting sustainable consumption patterns, especially in developed countries".

Item "e" needs to be followed by "according to adequate international agreements such as the Codex Alimentarius and the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions on toxic waste".

As far as item "m" is concerned it is necessary to clarify the definition of "harmful subsidies" in the light of WTO agreements, especially the Agreement on Agriculture, and taking into account ongoing negotiations. In that regard, we stress that agricultural export subsidies provided by developed countries cause severe damages to the economies of developing countries, especially least developed countries, negatively affecting employment and jeopardizing rural development and food security.

With regard to item "n", it is important to note that price volatility is normal to agriculture markets. "Excessive" price volatility is what needs to be addressed. Additionally, Nicaragua and Brazil would like to ask the co-chairs to clarify in more precise terms the meaning of "oversight on commodity markets".

Mr. Co-chair,

(WATER AND SANITATION)

Regarding focus area 6, on water and sanitation, Brazil and Nicaragua would like to present the following remarks.

There is no basis in the Rio+20 outcome document for the reference to a "water-secure world". Such a concept is not present in The Future We Want and neither is it mentioned in resolutions 64/292, entitled "The

human right to water and sanitation, and 68/157, entitled "The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation".

Brazil and Nicaragua would like to request the deletion of such expression, keeping the focus of the chapeau on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, in line with the Rio+20 outcome document and resolutions on the right to water and sanitation.

Still in the chapeau on water and sanitation, we would like to propose the addition of the expression "with full respect to state sovereignty" in the end of the first sentence, as per paragraph 121 of Rio+20 outcome document.

Mr. Co-chair,

There is no reference in Rio+20 outcome document to "water governance" or to "trans-boundary cooperation", both expressions adopted in item "f". Such concepts, when referring to targets applicable at the international level, could be interpreted in ways contrary to the sovereign right of States over their natural resources.

In order to be consistent with the Rio+20 Outcome Document and with principles of international law, item "f" should read "improve the implementation of integrated water resource management at all levels as appropriate", as per paragraph 120 of outcome document.

Mr. Co-chair,

In our view, item "g", "expanding water-related vocational training at all levels", should be moved to the section on means of implementation, since it is a central action for capacity-building in developing countries.

The same is applicable to item "k", "investing in water harvesting technologies", which should be moved to the section on means of

implementation and included as a measure related to facilitation of environmentally sound technologies.

In order to reflect commitment under paragraph 120 of Rio+20 outcome document, the item on means of implementation would have three sub-items:

- 1) Firstly, a sub-item entitled "mobilization of additional resources, especially for developing countries";
- 2) The second sub-item would read "facilitate access to water- and sanitation-related technologies, especially water harvesting technologies and wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies";
- 3) Thirdly, "enhance capacity-building, in particular through expanding international cooperation for water-related vocational training at all levels";

In this regard, Brazil and Nicaragua reaffirm that the references to means of implementation are crucial for the universal scope of the sustainable development goals, in accordance with different historical responsibilities and capacities of developed and developing countries.

I thank you, Mr. Co-chair.