

10th Session of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals

31 March - 04 April, 2014

Cluster 5 - Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns; Climate Change;

Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements

3 April, 2014

Statement by Brazil and Nicaragua

Brazil and Nicaragua fully support the statement made by Bolivia on behalf of the G77 and China and would like to make the following additional comments.

[SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS]

Sustainable consumption and production is central to the transformational dimension of our work.

We need to get to the core of the issue: all production is consumption-driven. The most effective way - perhaps the only effective way - to address the current unsustainable patterns of consumption and production is to change the consumerist and wasteful life-styles created and largely adopted by developed countries.

In the Rio+20 Conference, Member States acknowledged that "*all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead*". This quotation from the 10 Year Framework Programme recognizes the differentiated responsibilities of developed nations, as a matter of justice and fairness, in the promotion of Sustainable Consumption and Production around the world.

Bearing this in mind, Nicaragua and Brazil have the following comments about focus area 14.

The use of the term "*industrialized societies*" in the chapeau of the section is inappropriate as it has no consensual meaning and does not reflect the agreements on the subject. Both the Rio+20 Conference and the 10 Year Framework on SCP use the term "*developed countries*". We therefore urge the co-chairs to substitute "industrialized societies" with "developed countries".

Items "g" and "h" should be brought to the top of the section and become items "a" and "b", respectively, as a way to recognize that changes in life-styles play a central role in promoting SCP.

Item "h", which, as we understand it, should be the new item "b", should deliver a stronger message, as follows: *"providing social, economic and environmental sustainability information on products and services to encourage consumers, especially in developed countries, to adopt sustainable life-styles"*

Introduce a new item "c" with the following wording: fostering collaboration with the private sector, especially from the creative economy area, to raise the awareness towards the importance of sustainable life-styles.

Current Item "a" should read as follows: *"Significantly improving energy efficiency and materials productivity. The rate of improvement must be proportional to the consumption per capita."*

Current item "b" could be changed to: *"sustainable supply chains, with special attention to global cross-border supply chains of multi-national companies"*

Item "c" should read: *"preventing, reducing, recycling and reusing waste, in accordance with waste production per capita"*.

Finally, Item "f" must recognize the importance of providing sustainability to existing buildings. It should read as follows: *"Sustainable buildings and construction, with special attention to the retro-fitting of existing buildings in developed countries"*.

[CLIMATE CHANGE]

Mr. Co-chair,

On Area 15, our first comment it should be entitled, quite clearly, "climate change", instead of "climate". The term "*climate*" refers solely to mere atmospheric observation. We should use the expression "*climate change*" instead, which reflects the human interference that causes additional variability on the natural climate system. "*Climate change*" is part of the very name of the UNFCCC. **As a matter of fact, it would seem more**

coherent to mainstream climate change aspects into each SDG as appropriate instead of devising a stand-alone goal.

Nicaragua and Brazil wish to express our serious concern with the proposed text for this topic.

We stress, Mr. Co-chair, the existing consensus in this Group to negotiate within the boundaries of the UNFCCC. Our work on climate change should strengthen the ongoing processes under the Convention. They cannot undermine the rules and principles of the international regime on climate change.

In this connection, the expression "*Regard must be paid to the UNFCCC*" is unacceptable. This group does not have the mandate to prejudge the results of the UNFCCC. The Open Working Group on SDGs is not supposed to jeopardize the integrity the agreements under UNFCCC nor should it overlap and trample the negotiating ongoing negotiating processes under the Convention. The chapeau of the focus area must reflect that.

The chapeau must also reflect that the agreements under UNFCCC must be fair, effective and balanced, be based on the principle of CBDR and limit the increase of global average temperature in order to achieve the ultimate objective of the convention. The term "strong", currently used to qualify future agreements under UNFCCC, does not have precise meaning and also needs to be altered.

For Nicaragua and Brazil, a more adequate formulation for the chapeau would be as follows: "*Climate change poses the gravest threat to sustainable development and poverty eradication. All considerations **related to this issue** must be crafted in accordance with the agreements under the UNFCCC and its principles and provisions, including equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and support greater ambition in the ongoing negotiations towards a fair, effective and balanced agreement in 2015*".

Mr. Co-chair,

The discussions about the criteria that should be used to define what is an "*equitable reduction in greenhouse gas emissions*" have just started under UNFCCC. Any mention to "*equitable reduction*" must therefore be deleted from the text, as its meaning is yet to be agreed upon.

Another aspect of the UNFCCC negotiations that need to guide the elaboration of **climate change-related considerations in the SDGs** is the necessary balance between actions towards adaptation, mitigation and MOI. With these objectives in mind, we propose to merge Items "a" and "b", which would read as follows:

"Combating climate change and promoting adaptation to its adverse effects through the implementation of policies and measures at national, regional and international levels consistent with existing and future commitments under the UNFCCC".

Also seeking to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation, we propose to add *"and preparedness to its adverse effects"* at the end of item "f";

In order to make the proposed items adequately consistent with CBDR, we suggest to add *"especially in developed countries"* at the end of item "c";

[SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS]

Mr. Co-chair,

In the Rio+20 Conference, we agreed that cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies. We recognized the need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements and committed to work towards improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions so that all people have access to basic services, housing and mobility.

Also, the text does not address the question of the social and economic drivers of urban fragmentation which, according to UN-Habitat, constitute strong impediments to the achievement sustainable cities. We do not believe that item "h" appropriately captures this aspect, including as regards the reference to "personal security".

In light of these considerations, Nicaragua and Brazil propose that item "h" be replaced by the following formulations:

- *"Implement public policies to prevent and address geographical segregation based on income or social position and avoid urban fragmentation".*

- *"Create public and private spaces to foster interaction between and integration of different social groups while promoting cultural diversity"*

Nicaragua and Brazil also believe, Mr. Co-chair, that we should change the wording of item "a" so as **to appropriately address the issue of housing without stigmatizing slums.** The item could simply read: *"Provide adequate and affordable housing, infrastructure and basic services"*.

Finally, Item "g" can be enhanced through the following new language: *"Promote sustainable urban planning encompassing economic, social and environmental sustainability, intensified rural-urban interaction and social cohesion"*.