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CENTRE**

Statement by the South Centre

First United Nations Environment Assembly of the UNEP

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Ministerial plenary on the theme “Sustainable development goals and the post 2015 development agenda, including sustainable consumption and production” – 26 June 2014

Thank you Madam Chair,
Distinguished Ministers,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Madame Chair,

The South Centre, an intergovernmental organization of developing countries welcomes the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the UNEP.

As an intergovernmental policy research institution for developing countries, The South Centre has been working since its establishment in 1994 on many development-related issues, seeking to highlight developing countries’ perspectives on these issues in many multilateral forums as part of our mandate. While many developing countries have made major strides in recent years in their development, the promotion of sustainable economic and social development continues to be a primary and overriding objective for many developing countries.

It is in this context that the South Centre believes that the process for the identification of Sustainable Development Goals, and the process for the post-2015 development agenda, should be looked at. The creation of an enhanced, strengthened, and supportive international policy environment for North-South cooperation, complemented by South-South cooperation, and consistent with long-standing commitments from the developed countries to support the development objectives of developing countries, should be a key objective in both of these processes.

In this regard, Madam Chair, we would like to highlight few points:

First, both processes should not simply extend MDGs, or reformulate the goals, but focus instead on global systemic reforms to remove main impediments to development and secure an accommodating international environment for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries.

Second, since the goals will be applied to all countries, the Rio principles and particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) must be applied in a central way when formulating the goals and targets so that developing countries can benefit from the new goals in an equitable and inclusive way.

Third, it should be recognized that many developing countries continue to lack the resources needed to adequately address issues under the three pillars of sustainable development, such as environmental protection, social development, and economic growth, in a manner that would allow them to meet all three pillars in manner that advances sustainable development. Such resources should be provided through an enhanced global partnership for development, in which the provision of the means of implementation to developing countries will be a key component.

Fourth, a strong and clearly-defined Global Partnership for Development should be a key outcome of the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda. Through this global partnership, developing countries should be assisted by developed countries through the provision of finance and technology as well as institution building and capacity building, in implementing any national level SDGs that might be defined. The modalities for this should be worked in concrete ways and included as an integral part of each of the proposed 17 SDGs. Additionally, such global partnership should also focus on achieving systemic reforms in various global policy regimes such as in multilateral trade and finance, in order to create an improved international policy environment that will be fully supportive of developing countries' sustainable development needs and priorities.

Finally, we welcome the inclusion of sustainable consumption and production as one of the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, encouraging a shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, particularly in developed countries, will be a key element in achieving sustainable development. Developed countries must provide leadership in the process of changing the set of values towards a truly global sustainable society as well stated by Brazils earlier this morning. In this context, we also welcome Brazil's

announcement of financing activities in developing countries in the context of the implementation of the 10 Year Framework Programme of SCP.

In conclusion, Madam Chair, the South Centre looks forward to contributing further in order to make the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda the way through which inclusive sustainable development can be achieved in all countries, particularly developing countries, for the benefit of all humanity in both South and North.

Thank you.

The South Centre is an intergovernmental organization of developing countries supporting their efforts and providing expertise to promote their common interests in the international arena. The South Centre was established by an Intergovernmental Agreement, which came into force on 31 July 1995. Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.

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