

Dear colleagues,

Please find hereby some preliminary remarks by Brazil.

As a general comment, Brazil does not support the general approach adopted by the background document, which begins in the first paragraph of the Executive Summary with the following sentence: "As populations grow and more people escape poverty and aspire to improve consumption, the linear economic of "take-make-dispose" is burdening an already polluted planet." This idea traces back to some of the neo-malthusian theories of the 1970s, which served as a basis for the report "Limits to Growth". The background document should be faithful to the multilateral conceptual framework of sustainable development. In this sense, Brazil would like to point out that these neo-malthusian approaches have not been incorporated in recent agreed UN documents and actually disregard the general spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable. This neo-malthusian approach may lead to an imbalanced distribution of responsibilities, by putting too much emphasis on population growth and on the increasing purchasing power and consumption of poor populations.

We are convinced that it is important to shift to a sustainable production model, while also tackling current unsustainable consumptions patterns. The conceptual framework agreed to in the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference ("The Future We Want") and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should guide us in those efforts. This framework recognizes that eradicating poverty is the greatest challenge for sustainable development. It also recognizes that we should adopt an integrated approach, which includes achieving both sustainable consumption and productions patters (SDG-12). Thus, Brazil is not comfortable with the argument that escaping poverty implies "burdening an already polluted planet".

Best regards,

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