

SPEECH FOR THE UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNEP

**“Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015  
Development Agenda, including Sustainable  
Consumption and Production”  
HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT**

Madam Chair,

This is a moving moment for me. We are gathered here for this historical occasion to set in motion UNEA. A little over two years ago, we had concluded the preparatory process of RIO+20 with an agreement on less than 40% of the outcome document. There was a lot of uncertainty concerning the role UNEP would play in the new institutional arrangement for sustainable development and environmental governance.

We are proud of the role Brazil played in contributing to build the bridges that were required to reach the necessary and welcomed consensus that allowed us to strengthen the international environmental governance, to strengthen UNEP and a year later to agree on the setting in place of UNEA as a robust governing body for UNEP.

Brazil intends to maintain its firm commitment to provide UNEA and UNEP with all the conditions to ensure that this Programme perform diligently and efficiently the role the international community agreed as provided for in paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 outcome.

Beyond being the voice for the global environment, we must ensure that UNEP performs in this new phase the strategic function of promoting the environmental dimension of sustainable development, as the whole United Nations system adjusts to the sustainability paradigm, in the context of the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

This requires, in my view, more than an innovative political approach. It requires an inclusive attitude in regard to our societies and to the various stakeholders involved and should take into consideration their multiple perspectives.

This attitude should be based on a firm determination to maintain an open and constructive dialogue.

An important issue we must collectively address is how will UNEP play the crucial political role of providing support to the negotiations and convergence processes involving societies of such a diverse nature, societies that are in search of a vision of the future beyond the identification of tendencies. It seems clear to us that UNEP must find these new political avenues under the umbrella of a renovated and invigorated multilateralism.

Global changes cannot be successfully undertaken without a significant shift in the political positions that have traditionally determined relations within institutions and societies. It is key, therefore, to mobilize all key stakeholders towards a fresh perspective: that of inclusive sustainable development.

In this challenging scenario, new avenues and concrete solutions are urgent and necessary. We must collectively agree on a new narrative for UNEP, guided by the Rio Principles.

The environmental agenda can no longer be seen as reactive to development efforts. The environmental issues must be fully incorporated in our development efforts and policy-making. It must be an integral part of economic and social planning.

The processes set in motion in Rio, in particular the definition of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), show the need to think strategically a new global development agenda, that can benefit from a comprehensive set of universal, action-oriented goals and commitments applicable to both developing and

developed countries, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

The transition to a more sustainable development model requires political will from governments, but also businesses, communities, and citizens' engagement. This transition calls for behavioral changes, corporate responsibility and policy instruments that may enable a shift towards more sustainable consumption patterns and changing unsustainable lifestyles, especially on the part of the richest nations and more prosperous layers of society.

We cannot forget, of course, that the definition of SDGs must walk hand-in-hand with the updating of the MDGs. We must conclude the work done so far and renew the commitment with those MDGs that have not yet been fully achieved.

Brazil has been participating actively in the Open Ended Working Group on SDGs and looks forward to achieving a successful outcome of these negotiations and to reach a strong agreement on the Post-2015 Development Agenda articulated on the sustainable development paradigm, under the auspices of the General Assembly.

At the Rio+20 Conference, countries equally set an overarching vision to change unsustainable and promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production so as to ensure that the increased levels of prosperity worldwide and the correlated growth of the human population will not

result in undue pressure on natural resources and ecosystems. The current consumption patterns are drivers for unsustainable production and resource degradation. Priority must be given to the implementation of policies that address waste and distribution as-well as responsible consumption.

SCP patterns should provide new opportunities and means for poverty eradication, improved quality of life, in particular in urban environments, and for enhancing prosperity for all. Developed countries must provide leadership in promoting the shift to SCP patterns. Developing countries should be engaged in this process beyond the social agenda. Together, we must discuss the economic parameters and costs to achieve these goals. Each country, each society will find its own way towards SCP. We are talking about a new set of values towards a truly global society, for a whole and unique Planet.

The adoption of the 10 Year-Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) can be an effective means to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns in both developed and developing countries. Brazil supports its aims of developing, replicating, and scaling up SCP and resource efficiency initiatives, at national and regional levels, as an effective tool to increase the net contribution of economic activities to poverty eradication and sustainable development.

For these reasons, , I would like to announce that Brazil is allocating one million US dollars for UNEP help financing activities in developing countries in the context of the implementation of the 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption And Production.

Madam Chair,

Honorable colleagues,

The three major negotiations converging towards 2015 will only succeed if the international community is ready to take to a new level of cooperation the yet to be fulfilled promise of a new global partnership. This will involve setting in place effective new mechanisms for technological innovation, development and transfer. It will also require the mobilization of new and additional resources necessary to put in practice the economic and social transformations required by the sustainable development model.

It is therefore strategic to tackle, at the political level, the tasks ahead of us.

This is why I propose that UNEA adopt a strong yet concise Ministerial Message. We should acknowledge the need to set in place this renewed global partnership. We should reaffirm our commitment to continue strengthening UNEP as established in paragraph 88 of "The Future We Want". We should also highlight that the principles and agreements reached in Stockholm, Rio, Johannesburg and , more recently, in Rio+20, constitute the basis for national and international sustainable development policies and strategies.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda must address these issues and challenges. We must also recognize the role to

be played by our societies , particularly our youth in building the political momentum for the implementation of the sustainability paradigm.. We must listen to the voices of the new generation. The Future we want is theirs to take.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is the era of sustainability. It is a century that may be either defined by great opportunities or marked by undesired reversions. Sustainability must not be treated as a mere trend, or a passing style.

UNEA provides us with the forum to strengthen the environmental agenda by moving the debate away from a reactive and restrictive mode, towards a more pragmatic and positive approach that incorporates environmental requirements in the decision making process as opportunities for growth, well-fare, prosperity and employment generation.

For this, we, Ministers of the Environment, also need to change. I dare to say we must take this broader approach. This leap forward depends on us. Brazil is ready for this change. Lets make the future we want a reality now.

Let' s do it.