



BRAZIL

Second Committee

General Debate

**Statement by Mr. Sergio Rodrigues dos Santos
Minister Plenipotentiary**

9 October 2012

(Check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Our delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as well as by Chile on behalf of CELAC and would like to add the following comments in its national capacity.

The global economy still faces daunting challenges. Despite some signs of recovery, the prospects of continued recession have increased in the wake of the sovereign debt crises affecting developed countries, particularly in the eurozone. Growth estimates worldwide have been lowered and the global jobs crisis has not receded, mostly affecting young populations and vulnerable groups.

It is important that developed countries find the appropriate mix of fiscal adjustment and stimulus measures. In any event, they should be aware of the negative impacts of expansionary monetary policies on the economies of developing countries. Those measures distort international trade, contribute to high volatility in capital flows and commodity prices and further deepen the global recession. In this context, some developing countries, Brazil among them, have had to resort to legitimate trade defense initiatives, which are in full compliance with their WTO obligations.

In order for economic growth to be sustained, inclusive and equitable, the adoption of sound macroeconomic and fiscal policies must be complemented and reinforced by strong social protection programs with a view to ensuring income distribution, job creation and universal access to basic public services such as health and education. Social policies must be advanced not only for their intrinsic value, but also as an essential tool for reactivating demand and growth.

Mr. Chairman,

The global crisis has already eroded years of development gains, particularly in the poorer countries. We must not allow the continued economic instability to negatively affect international commitments to reduce inequality and eradicate poverty.

At this juncture, it is essential to keep our focus on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. As we enter the final sprint to 2015, we need to step up our efforts towards meeting as many targets as possible as well as reversing the setbacks caused by the crisis.

To that effect, we consider it necessary for the international community to mobilize significant additional financial resources for development, in a stable and predictable manner, particularly to the poorest countries among us. At a time when official development assistance should be expanding strongly to compensate for uncertain private flows, it is disappointing to note the reduction in the level of ODA in 2011.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation also has the potential to contribute significantly towards the global partnership for development, but as a complement - never as a substitute - to official development assistance. In addition, innovative sources of financing can play an important role supplementing traditional sources of financing, notably ODA.

Our collective endeavor in the fight against poverty and inequality cannot be seen in isolation from the urgent need to reform global economic governance structures. The United Nations has a central role to play in this process.

We must ensure that the multilateral financial institutions become more accountable and responsive to the legitimate needs of the developing world. In that regard, we note with concern the slow pace of implementation of the 2010 IMF Governance and Quota Reform as well as the comprehensive review of the quota formula to better reflect the current global economic realities and enhance the voice and representation of developing countries.

At the same time, we should renew our commitment to conclude an ambitious and development-oriented outcome to the WTO Doha Round, thus providing much needed impetus to world growth.

Mr. Chairman,

Rio+20 was a very important step forward in our collective action to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development. The document we adopted - "The Future We Want" - is a solid and important landmark for the international community in mapping the path towards sustainable development. In this process we must be prepared to fulfill our commitments and live up to the measure of the challenges ahead.

Rio reaffirmed the centrality of poverty eradication to sustainable development while recognizing the interlinkages between the three pillars of sustainable development. It recognized the need to further mainstream sustainable development at all levels, and to change unsustainable and promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production. The Outcome Document also reaffirms all the Principles of the Rio Declaration, with a special emphasis on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The Rio outcome document contains several mandates for furthering sustainable development and we must work to implement our commitments in an integrated and coherent manner. The process for establishing a working group on sustainable development goals is currently underway. Given the importance of the SDGs for the post-2015 development agenda, we emphasize the need for a timely constitution of the open working group.

Other areas which require increased effort are the establishment of the High Level Political Forum, the intergovernmental process on options for an effective sustainable development financing strategy, and the facilitation mechanism for the promotion, development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, among the other important outcomes of Rio.

Strategies to achieve the goals set forth in the document will need to be solidly anchored in international cooperation and the mobilization of the agencies, funds and programs of the United Nations to support our efforts at the international, regional and national level. Hence the importance of the recommendations on the need for strengthened institutional frameworks at all levels.

We also reiterate the call contained in the Outcome Document on the General Assembly to further integrate sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to achieve these goals, and in the face of continued global economic crisis, we will need a more coherent, effective and responsive United Nations development system. This means providing the operational activities of the Organization with the necessary tools to better support developing countries in their pursuit of sustainable development and the well-being of their societies.

This year's Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of the General Assembly of UN operational activities for development provides the General Assembly with a timely and much needed opportunity to address head-on the challenges of the current international development cooperation landscape. In so doing, we need to take concrete action to achieve a healthy balance between core and non-core resources.

The continued relevance of the United Nations operational activities for development largely depends on their capacity to be present where their assistance is needed; flexible, so as to better adapt to the specific conditions of each and every developing country; and accountable, so that their actions are coherent with the mandates granted by Member States.

In this context, we highlight the need for reforms in the governance of the United Nations funds and programmes, so as to ensure that programme countries assume leadership and ownership not only over projects but, most importantly, over the management of the United Nations development system.

Brazil is ready to contribute with all UN members with a view to addressing these pressing issues and finding common ground for advancing our common interests.

Thank you.
