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Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

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**67th Session of the General Assembly, Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (g): Sustainable development**

Report of the 12th special session of the UNEP Governing Council

**Statement on behalf of Ms Amina Mohamed
UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNEP Deputy Executive Director
UN Headquarters, New York, 7-8 November 2012**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to deliver this statement on behalf of the UNEP Deputy Executive Director, Ms Amina Mohamed, just over four months after the landmark United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20.

It is a special honour to be able to present the report of the UNEP Governing Council, on the results of its 12th special session held in Nairobi, Kenya, in February this year, as contained in document **A/67/25**.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce the Secretary-General's latest report on the oil slick on Lebanese shores as contained in document **A/67/341**.

That report, prepared by UNEP and UNDP, provides an update on the progress of the implementation of a series of General Assembly resolutions adopted since the Assembly's 61st session in 2006.

As per paragraph 6 of last year's resolution 66/192, the report also explores the value of the experience of the United Nations Compensation Commission in terms of defining environmental damage in a case such as the present oil slick, in measuring and quantifying the damage sustained and in determining the amount of compensation payable in respect of it.

Mr. Chairman,

The 12th special session of UNEP's Governing Council met in February this year – four months before the “Rio+20” Conference. It also was an occasion to mark UNEP's 40th anniversary.

The Governing Council considered a range of issues and adopted a series of decisions which contributed to the success of the Rio +20 Conference. They vary from how best to bridge the environmental data gaps in the world and chemicals financing to the 10-Year Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP).

They also addressed UNEP's relationship with the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that it administers; enhanced coordination across the United Nations system; and international environmental governance. These are all issues that were captured in the Rio outcome document – **The Future We Want**.

Mr Chairman,

The Rio+20 outcomes are now subject to a variety of processes. Some, such as the request contained in para 88 on the strengthening and upgrading of UNEP, and the operationalization of the 10YFP, are already before the Second Committee.

In terms of para 88, the Rio+20 outcome, which was endorsed by GA resolution 66/288, is specific in inviting the General Assembly, at this session, to adopt a resolution strengthening and upgrading UNEP.

Para 226, which deals with the 10YFP, is awaiting your action in designating a member state body to which, as the Secretariat of the framework, we will report; and also establishing a small board as provided for in Rio +20 conference document **A/CONF.216/5**.

In line with the Rio+20 outcome, we are enhancing our partnerships with Governments, the UN system, civil society, local authorities and business in those areas that are ripe for fast action. One such area relates to para 47, which provides for corporate sustainability reporting.

UNEP, through its Finance Initiative and relationship with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), has been supporting corporate sustainability reporting since the 1992 Earth Summit. With the support of UNEP and GRI, a Group of Friends of paragraph 47 aim to bring more nations on board and deliver a roadmap by the end of the year.

Rio+20 gave, in para 66, the green light to multilateral work on the inclusive green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

It called on the UN system to respond to the requests of countries to develop the concept of an inclusive green economy further, and to respond in partnership with others to specific country requests and needs.

The inclusive green economy will be elaborated as a series of nationally led processes and an exchange of ideas across the international community where nations learn from one another in order to realize sustainable development and contribute to poverty eradication.

UNEP, together with partners in the UN system, is building upon the existing green economy advisory services that are supporting over 20 developing countries across sectors of relevance to them – be it agriculture, transport or the built environment.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by again referring to one aspect of para 88 on UNEP. That is the need to promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including the Global Environment Outlook, to support informed decision-making.

The fifth and most recent edition of GEO, issued in early June, was one of UNEP's major contributions to Rio+20.

The report cautioned that if humanity did not urgently change its ways, several critical thresholds might be exceeded, beyond which abrupt and generally irreversible changes to the life-support functions of the planet could occur.

These can be in the area of climate change, biodiversity loss, the spread of degraded lands, to the threats being faced by our oceans and freshwater sources.

We believe that Rio+20 marked a fresh sense of understanding that sustainable development without environmental and social improvement is unsustainable.

UNEP, with the tools and resources envisaged in Rio, stands ready to assist the international community in building upon the Rio+20 momentum.

Thank you for your attention.