General Assembly Meeting convened by the PGA
on the Experts' Report on Financing Sustainable Development
- Remarks by Brazil -

(New York, 8 December 2014)

Mr. President,

The delegation of Brazil thanks you for convening this special session in time for a resolution to be adopted today, which shall contain the views and statements of Member States on the contents of the report of the Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing and the recommended policy options contained therein.

The following remarks are made in Brazil's national capacity as a complement to the G-77 and China position, to which we fully adhere.

As we prepare for the third Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3), in Addis Ababa, in July of 2015, we must consider the Committee of Experts document as an input in support of discussions. It is not, however, an expression of consensus of the United Nations membership, for the simple reason that it was not an agreed intergovernmental outcome. In fact, members of the Committee worked mostly in their personal technical capacity, not in representation of the official position of countries.

The report contents are mixed: We can agree with some analysis and recommendations, but we disagree with others.

Positively, the report has not ignored the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities of Developed and Developing countries and their respective capabilities (CBDR). This is in keeping with OP247 of the Rio+20 outcome document, The Future We Want, which underscores that SDGs are “(...) universally applicable to all countries, while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities”.

Experts have duly recognized the complimentary role of South-South cooperation to North-South cooperation, in accordance with the Nairobi outcome (2009), endorsed by the GA resolution 64/222. And we appreciate reference to Decision 18/1 of the High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, whose recommendations strengthen South-South cooperation within the UN System and contribute to implementing the post-2015 development agenda.
An opportunity was lost, however, for the report to build upon issues on which we believe common ground was and still remains possible. I refer in particular to the outstanding mandates of the Rio+20 outcome document related to the Sustainable Development Goals (GA resolution 68/309) and to possible arrangements on a *Technology Facilitation Mechanism* for the development, dissemination and transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies (GA resolution 68/310).

The Committee of Expert's report predates the outcome of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with its 17 goals and 169 targets, subsequently considered and adopted by the General Assembly as the main basis for mainstreaming the SDGs into the Post-2015 Development Agenda (Res. 68/309).

It is now clear to us that financing the Post-2015 Development Agenda will basically amount to financing the set of SDG goals and targets as per the outcome of the OWG. We need to clarify the Means of Implementation for all goals, transversally, and for Goal 17 in particular, starting with ODA, but not limiting ourselves to it. The Monterrey/Doha framework must be updated for this ambitious, transformational and universal endeavor, that is thematically much broader than the MDGs and different in nature.

The task at hand is to pair the Monterrey/Doha framework to the Rio+20 vision for sustainable development. We need to realign international financing for development to meet the overarching goals of poverty reduction, fighting inequality and promoting growth that is socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

In its attempt to establish a hierarchical relationship between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as illustrated in Figures 5 and 6 of the report, the suggested concept of Global Public Goods (GPGs) does not provide enough conceptual clarity or operational functionality to assist us with the mobilization of resources, and therefore we would consider premature to endorse it in FfD3. There is an inherent lack of precision that will need to be addressed if in the future we would like to revisit the issue, because GPGs are a never-before discussed or defined concept in the UN at the intergovernmental level, and the experts themselves did not provide us with an explanation of the term that we could consider working with.

In order to effectively contribute to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, the Addis process should focus on the SDGs, which are clear, concrete and self-explanatory, and better translate the holistic definition of sustainable development that was extensively laid out in all detail and at the highest level in the Rio+20 Conference.

It must be said that by prioritizing climate change over other dimensions, GPGs contradict the decision in 2012 to establish poverty eradication as “the greatest global
challenge facing the world today”. Poverty eradication and fighting inequality were placed at the forefront of sustainable development, alongside other important agreed objectives as changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production with developed countries taking the lead, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development.

The road to Addis Ababa is not an exercise in mobilizing resources for financing climate change activities. Climate change has its own track under the UNFCCC, with new commitments expected to be agreed in Paris by the end of 2015. Climate finance, as a result, must continue to be accounted for as new and additional resources in relation to those agreed upon under the Monterrey/Doha framework. FfD3 is an exercise in mobilizing resources for a broader “package” of objectives related to the three dimensions of sustainable development, articulated in a set of SDGs and targets, raging from poverty eradication, to combating inequality, to promoting education, health and gender balance.

Climate change is only one of 17 goals in the report of the OWG-SDGs, in fact singled out with an asterisk stating that the UNFCCC is the premier forum for dealing with climate change issues. On the technology side, however, there is opportunity to draw greater attention to adaptation finance and financing transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies, including through Intellectual Property and TRIPS flexibilities as enablers of access to clean and environmentally sound technologies for sustainable development and accelerators of more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Any attempt to re-write the Monterrey/Doha framework will be counterproductive, since all Member States generally accept it as the given conceptual framework for FfD3. In this regard, the structure provided by the report of the experts, and reflected in the co-facilitators' roadmap, must be adjusted to support an outcome document in July 2015 more closely reflecting and resembling the six fundamental chapters of the Monterrey/Doha outcome documents, its overall structure and table of content.

We are particularly concerned that the experts have attached far greater importance to reform and mobilization of resources at the domestic level, including through partnerships and blended finance, than to international trade and systemic issues that in our view are truly the key enablers of sustainable development.

The prescriptive nature of more than 100 options for policy makers is retrograde and out of step with the current trend of recognizing national ownership, local participatory democratic processes and policy space as effective national sustainable development strategies. This has been demonstrated over and over again during the 2008-2009 international financial and economic crisis and its aftermath, including in developed countries.
The private sector is not a panacea for sustainable development in the absence of stronger national institutions, policies and programs and international cooperation for capacity building and adequate regulatory framework. The strategic role of public policies and the positive macroeconomic impact of social policies and conditioned cash-transfer programs in developing countries have shown the effectiveness of a more multi-faceted approach to addressing development challenges.

The experts gave us little to work with in terms of a Monterrey-Doha-Addis follow-up process: an issue that is highlight in paragraphs 68-73 of the Monterrey Declaration, under its third section entitled “Staying engaged”. The preparatory process must provide room for constructive discussions on a clear UN institutional follow-up mechanism - the only major UN conference still devoid of one -, as well as an indispensable framework of accountability to UN Member States of actions taken in partnership with the private sector. As Members States, we cannot seriously conceive of the UN scaling-up its partnerships with private entities in financing for sustainable development without an effective framework of accountability, which currently simply does not exist.

In contrast with the OWG on the SDGs, the Committee of Experts did not allow for significant participation of civil society and other stakeholders in its deliberations. This needs to be corrected in the preparatory process for FfD3, as well as at the Conference, so as to ensure sufficient attention is paid to the social, human rights and environmental dimensions of sustainable development that non-governmental groups cater for. Civil society must be ensured effective equality of participation in comparison with the business sector, because we are dealing with different constituencies, very asymmetrical in their respective capacities to influence, to access decision-making and to self-finance.

Mr. President,

Let me thank you again for giving us today this opportunity. My delegation reiterates its commitment to working in close cooperation with all delegations, civil society and other partners, as we today set this important foundation in our preparatory process towards crafting effective means of implementation of an ambitious, transformational and universal post-2015 development agenda.

Thank you.