

9 January 2012

Excellency,

I recall my letter of 30 November 2011 in which I invited all Permanent Representatives to a retreat on the preparations of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20.

I express my appreciation to those Member States that were able to contribute to the success of the retreat, either through the participation of their Permanent Representatives or of their lead negotiators in the Second Preparatory Meeting for Rio+20.

Please find attached, Excellency, my summary of the very fruitful discussions held during the event. I am confident that the retreat has reached its goal of helping ensure a successful forum for discussing the outcome of Rio+20. No doubt some challenges lie ahead of us, but during the retreat I had a clear sense that the Membership is indeed committed to the process. I hope that the circulation of this summary will further contribute to strengthening our collective political will and to keeping the momentum of the negotiations and ultimately contribute to a very successful Rio+20.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser

All Member States and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York

Cc: H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
New York

**Programme of the PGA's Retreat:  
"Paving The Way For A Successful UNCSD (Rio plus 20)"**

**Saturday, 17 December – Sunday, 18 December 2011**

**Venue: Glen Cove Mansion Hotel and Conference Centre, Long Island, New York**

<b>Saturday, 17 December 2011</b>	
2:30 p.m.	Departure from United Nations Headquarters by bus (45 min-1 hour)
<b>Official opening</b>	
4:30 – 5:00 p.m.	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser</b>, President of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Ban Ki-moon</b>, Secretary General of the United Nations</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Sha Zukang</b>, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)</li> <li>- <b>H.E. Mr. Kim Sook</b>, Co-Chair of the Bureau for UNCSD, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations</li> </ul>
<b>Session I</b>	
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	<p><b>Partnerships for Sustainable Development</b></p> <p>Since the Earth Summit in 1992, it has been recognized that sustainable development cannot be achieved by governments alone. It requires a global partnership for development and active participation of all stakeholders in society. Partnerships for sustainable development -- voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives aimed at facilitating and expediting the implementation of sustainable development -- were an important outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). A decade of experience with partnerships has provided valuable lessons to the international community on strengths as well as the shortcomings of partnerships on the ground as implementation mechanisms. The UNCSD Preparatory Process has reaffirmed the importance of partnerships. Rio+20 offers a unique opportunity to reenergize, revitalize and strengthen partnerships to make them even more effective and accountable vehicles for implementation in the future. This session will discuss how to make partnerships and stakeholder involvement even more inclusive and effective.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>What have been the challenges and opportunities in establishing, developing, maintaining and fostering partnerships for the implementation of sustainable development?</i></li> <li>2. <i>What needs to be done to make partnerships more effective?</i></li> <li>3. <i>How can replication and scaling up of partnerships' best practices facilitate mainstreaming of sustainable development?</i></li> <li>4. <i>What will partnerships bring to Rio and what could be the best ways to monitor delivery of commitments made through partnerships?</i></li> <li>5. <i>How can Rio+20 reenergize partnerships and promote a more participatory approach to the implementation of sustainable development?</i></li> </ol> <p><b><u>Moderator :</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr Lazarous Kapambwe</b>, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations and President of ECOSOC.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Panelists :</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Klaus Topfer</b>, Former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Germany.</li> <li>• <b>Professor Jeffrey Sachs</b>, Director, Earth Institute, Columbia University</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Munir Akram</b>, Former Ambassador of Pakistan G77 Chair</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Yiping Zhou</b>, Director, Special Unit for South –South Cooperation, UNDP</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Amir Dossal</b>, Founder, Global Partnerships Forum &amp; Former Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships Director.</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Brice Lalonde</b>, Executive Coordinator Rio+20</li> </ul>
7:30 p.m.	<b>Dinner with Keynote</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Maurice Strong</b>, Former Secretary General of the earth summit RIO 1992</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ashok Khosla</b>, Former Director of UNEP .President, IUCN, Switzerland, Chairman, Development Alternatives, India</li> </ul>
<b>Sunday, 18 December 2011</b>	
<b>Session II</b>	
9:00 – 11:30 a.m.	<b>Envisioning the Rio+20 Outcome</b> <p>Everyone agrees that for this Conference to be meaningful it needs to produce an outcome that goes beyond repeating what other conferences and summits have decided; it needs to chart a new course of action. Principles of sustainable development need to be reaffirmed, but they must also be made operational including through innovative ideas to address gaps in means of implementation. This session will aim to discuss a shared vision of the Conference outcome document and how to make it ambitious, actionable and implementable.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>How can it be assured that commitments are actionable and monitorable?</i></li> <li>2. <i>Should the outcome document contain aspirational global goals? If so, what should they cover and how should they be quantified?</i></li> <li>3. <i>Can sustainable development goals be defined for a number of priority areas such as e.g. energy, water, oceans?</i></li> <li>4. <i>What mechanisms should be considered to monitor progress?</i></li> <li>5. <i>What should be the level of ambition for the Rio+20 outcome (incremental change in business as usual or a paradigm shift in our development models)?</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Moderator :</b>  - <b>Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury</b>, Senior Special Advisor to the President of General Assembly and Former UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative.</p> <p><b>Panelists :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Alicia Barcena</b> , Executive Secretary United Nations Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Michael T. Clark</b> (Ph.D.) Interregional Adviser, UNCTAD.</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Melchiade Bukuru</b>, Liaison Officer, UNCCD</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Barbara Adams</b>, Senior Fellow, Global Policy Forum and Member of the Board Social Watch</li> </ul>
11:30 am – 12:00 (noon)	<b>Closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Sha Zukang</b>, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser</b>, President of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly</li> </ul>
12:00 (noon)	Lunch
3:00 pm	Departure by bus for UN Headquarters in New York

## **President of the General Assembly's Retreat "Paving the Way for a Successful Rio plus 20"**

The President of the General Assembly (PGA), H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al Nasser, held a two day retreat on "Paving the Way for a Successful Rio plus 20" on 17 and 18 December 2011 at the Glen Cove Mansion in Long Island, New York. The purpose of the retreat was to bring together some of the key negotiators and actors in the preparatory work on Rio plus 20 and discuss two broad issues: 1) Partnerships for Sustainable Development and: 2) Envisioning the Rio plus 20 Outcome. For a complete list of Key Note speakers, panelists and the retreat programme please see Annex.

### **Summary of Opening Session**

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The retreat was officially opened by the PGA, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the USG for UNDESA and Conference Secretary General and the Co-Chair of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for Rio plus 20

#### **H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the General Assembly**

The multi-faceted yet interconnected crises facing the world today – including global economic uncertainty, energy and food insecurity, famine and desertification, disasters and rising greenhouse gas emissions – make success at the Rio+20 conference critically important. Water, energy, and food, interlinked and interdependent, represent the bloodstream for any economy and are central to efforts to alleviate poverty. Green Economy in the context of poverty eradication should give equal focus to all three pillars of sustainable development and integration of these pillars for a council on sustainable development would be key.

There is an urgent need for renewed international action on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. Rio+20 should be viewed as an opportunity to give effect to a new vision – one based on a concrete programme of action for addressing gaps in means of implementation and addressing new and emerging challenges. Integration, coherence and implementation are the cornerstone of the conference outcome, which should be ambitious and action-oriented, with a results-oriented programme of action that includes clear timeframes and specific targets.

Rio+20 is a real opportunity to broker genuine international partnerships for achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To that end, it is important to recognize the contributions of South-South cooperation as an invaluable complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. It is also important to have concrete global partnerships between Governments on one hand, and between Governments, business and civil society on the other hand. Sustainable development is a pathway to wealth creation, employment, economic growth, global sustainability, social cohesion, political stability and global peace and security. The benefits of sustainable development must be extended to people of all countries and Rio+20 has the potential to give meaning to the achievement of the hopes of future generations.

**Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations**

Progress on sustainable development has been slow, with business as usual proving resistant to change. Despite the challenges remaining, Rio is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address and overcome these challenges.

Partnerships are extremely important. While governments remain in the driver's seat when it comes to making policy decisions, establishing frameworks and creating an enabling environment, we cannot tackle this vast agenda without the engagement of business, non-governmental organizations, the scientific community and others.

The Rio+20 outcome is a chance for a course correction and a vehicle for bringing together, in an integrated manner, the key issues of poverty, climate change, food security, health, water, energy, oceans, fisheries, gender empowerment and the future of the world's young people.

There is need for high-level political commitment not just at the Conference but at the implementation stage. There is wide agreement that the UN Environment Programme should be strengthened, but this is just one element of what must be a broader solution. Sustainable development cannot be left to environment agencies or ministers alone and must instead bring in all relevant actors, covering all three pillars of sustainable development.

While there are some concerns amongst developing countries regarding the green economy, there is growing willingness to work together toward this goal. There is a need for a platform or mechanism for capacity building and sharing experiences. There is also growing support for defining sustainable development goals to complement the MDGs and help define the post-2015 development agenda. The MDGs must be the starting point of any post-2015 discussion and long-term strategies should encompass the overlapping challenges of sustainability.

Rio+20 will need a strong outcome that includes clear commitments and a plan of action as well as concrete deliverables. Despite today's economic uncertainty, we must hold true to our solemn pact with the least developed countries and the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. With many democratic transitions currently underway, there is hope that Rio+20 will herald another transformation – a definitive, irreversible and much-needed move towards a more sustainable path for all.

***Mr. Sha Zukang***, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the UN and Conference Secretary-General

Rio+20's achievements will be owned not just by Governments but by the myriad partners working towards its success. Effective implementation of the Rio+20 outcome will require multi-stakeholder engagement including governments and decisions made in the private sector, in the workplace, on the farm, among local authorities, in the choices of consumers and in society at large.

The frequent mentions of partnerships in submissions to the compilation text reflect strong support for partnerships as a means to share experiences and lessons learned as well as vehicles for participatory approaches. A transition to green economy has been recognized as a tool for

achieving sustainable development. Many have called for more integrated and broader sustainable development goals with concrete timelines, milestones and implementation actors.

Decisions at Rio+20 can make a difference to the fate of future generations. Governments should rise to the occasion, show renewed political commitment and translate that commitment into concrete actions and timely delivery.

**H.E. Mr. Kim Sook**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN and Co-chair of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the UNCS D

While the views and positions expressed during the recent Intersessional were diverse and varied, the absence of mutual exclusivity was an encouraging signal for future negotiation on the outcome document. There is broad consensus among most of the delegations that the final outcome should be brief and focused with renewed, strong political commitment accompanied by concrete action plans. Rio+20 offers a critical opportunity for making substantial progress on sustainable development and, thus, efforts must focus on forging a win-win partnership that goes beyond local, political, and sectoral interests to what is truly good for the world's future. All parties will have to take on a broad, long-term perspective and cooperate to ensure the lasting success of Rio+20.

### **Keynote speakers**

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**Mr. Maurice Strong**, Former Secretary General of the Stockholm Conference in 1972 and Environment and Development Conference in Rio 1992, emphasized that he views Rio+20 as another significant milestone on the road from Stockholm through the 1992 Earth Summit to a sustainable future for humanity. Rio+20 takes place at a time when political priorities are focused on the immediate issues of economic and financial crises and accompanying political turbulence in much of the world. Over all, conditions are not nearly as conducive to progress in renewal of the momentum generated by the Earth Summit in 1992 or in implementation of the agreements reached there and at subsequent fora. There has been progress since 1992 in the understanding of and commitment to sustainable development and in the number of examples of positive progress in applying it. But, overall the implementation has been lacking and the gap between rich and poor in all countries is widening and this is not sustainable. Rio+20 must agree on specific measures to make nations accountable for implementation of their commitments while introducing some innovative means of contributing to this. For this, means of implementation are essential and a new financial mechanism designed to give people who have most of the world's money a means to participate in financing of sustainable development could be done by the issuance of "Earth Bonds" which the investment community would market broadly. Capital realized through the sale of Earth Bonds would be used to finance sustainable development projects. He concluded by underlying the importance of making Rio+20 as visible as possible to citizens across the globe and urged the involvement of all stakeholders.

**Mr. Ashok Khosla**, Former Director of UNEP, President, IUCN, Switzerland, Chairman, Development Alternatives, India, highlighted that the world is extremely inequitable, where the problem of "affluenza" affects the top few percent of the world's population whereas the problem of "povertitis" affects the rest. Consumption of those who use too much must be reduced, whereas consumption of those who use too little must be increased. Poverty must be

eradicated with a low ecological footprint. Countries face 3 fundamental choices in their development path. If countries aim for a “copycat” approach, we will end up with destruction of nature. If we switch to renewable energy and increase energy efficiency i.e. the “piggyback” approach, we can reduce the use of resources by a factor of 4. If we adopt a new mindset of national happiness instead of national economic growth i.e. the “leapfrog” approach, we can save resources by a factor of 10. Currently, global systems are growing exponentially. The “copycat” and “piggyback” approaches are not sufficient to manage this growth. We need to apply the “leapfrog” approach using disruptive interventions in order to attain sustainable development.

## **Summary of Session I: Partnerships for Sustainable Development**

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**H.E. Mr. Lazarous Kapambwe**, Permanent Representative of Zambia to the UN and President of ECOSOC moderated the session and began with the concept that partnerships presuppose that we are equals and have a common destiny.

**H.E. Mr. Munir Akram**, Former Ambassador of Pakistan and G77 Chair noted the wide range of actors involved in partnerships for sustainable development, including Governments, intergovernmental organizations, private companies, civil society, and media. He noted that they are all participants in formulating and bringing consensus on issues and are being instrumental for implementation. There is a need for these partnerships, with different actors at different levels of participation, to work together towards agreement and implementation. He stressed that Rio+20 is not only about planet, but also about the people. He highlighted five key issues that will be crucial for the success of Rio+20: (1) *Growth*: in order to break out of poverty, the poorest countries will need to grow by at least 8 per cent per year; (2) *Energy*: there is need for a consensus on the matrix of energy for the next two or three decades, including efficient use of fossil fuels and increased renewable energy use; (3) *Finance*: support from the international community for developing countries; (4) *Technology*: developing countries will need commitment that they will be able to acquire necessary technology; and (5) *Implementation*: there must be means of implementation and all parties must be accountable.

**Mr. Yiping Zhou**, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation highlighted the potential of Southern countries in contributing to the success of Rio+20 through South-South cooperation. He stressed the importance of bringing developed countries into that equation for more inclusive, triangular and effective partnerships. He urged that solutions-based partnerships are key and highlighted the Special Unit’s commitment to making the Rio+20 Conference carbon free through the Unit’s carbon offset mechanism. He concluded by stating his confidence that partnerships can and need to work in order to increase efficiency in implementation.

**Mr. Brice Lalonde**, Executive-Coordinator Rio+20 emphasized that sustainable development cannot be achieved by Governments alone. He noted, however, that many partnerships have suffered from a significant lack of reporting and accountability. He stressed that, while partnerships are important, partnerships alone cannot be the only outcome of Rio. He explained that we also need mandates and agreements. In addition, he urged that partnerships should be complementary to international agreements and will require framework to be successful.

**Mr. Amir Dossal**, Founder, Global Partnerships Forum and former Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships observed that one main stakeholder is often missing in discussions of partnerships: the private sector. He identified sovereign wealth funds as one key, untapped source for partnerships. He highlighted the strong investment capacity of the private sector and urged robust and proactive use of the partnership forum as a platform. He suggested that Rio+20 should bring together all stakeholders, including the private sector to address seven priority areas. He noted that the principles already exist to establish these partnerships, giving member states, private sector and non-state actors a role to play. He also emphasized the need to increase awareness of the upcoming Rio+20 Conference beyond governments and the UN system using social media.

**Mr. Klaus Topfer**, Former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Germany stressed the importance of implementation, noting that it was a key for the credibility of our efforts. He stated that non-state actors are becoming increasingly relevant and will be even more so in the future, particularly in light of technology and other vehicles that mobilize their participation. He noted that the onset of the “urban millennium” – characterized by most of the world’s population living in cities – has generated many successful city partnerships that can be significant forces in advancing sustainable development. He stressed the importance of taking partnerships seriously and emphasized the importance of structure, transparency, monitoring and accountability of partnerships going forward.

**Mr. Jeffrey Sachs**, Director, Earth Institute, Columbia University and Special SG Adviser on MDGs, emphasized the need to add a dimension of scale and quantification to the problems we are facing. He urged that the sustainability problem of today can be solved only through massive technological changes in decades ahead, particularly in the areas energy, transportation and food. He identified three critical areas in need of funding: energy, agriculture and urban planning and layout (including transportation). He also identified significant challenges facing the green economy: (1) *Swimming Upstream*: Fossil fuels, despite their devastating environmental effects, are still the quickest and cheapest means of energy. There is need to determine the scale of alternatives needed and the timetable necessary to meet nature’s needs; (2) *Time Horizon*: this energy shift will have to be pursued in a meaningful way for the next 40 or 50 years; (3) a profound *absence of global leadership* on this issue; (4) a *lack of critical pathways* for success: success will require technical know-how, honest costing, and accurate time frames, all of which can only result from partnerships with those in possession of technical competence (such as engineers, chief technology officers, etc); (4) a *lack of funding*: low income countries need significant financial resources and the necessary investment is unlikely to be provided by the private sector. To that end, Mr. Sachs stressed the importance of acknowledging that the green economy is not a boon, but a cost. He stressed that we bear this cost, however, to avoid a larger cost. He discussed the positive benefit of setting goals, noting that while the MDGs were not faced with the same level of competing interests facing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the MDGs’ success shows that setting goals with benchmarks can be effective. Finally, he noted that the Earth Summit was an unbelievable success in terms of international law, having generated three excellent treaties. Unfortunately, he noted, not one of those treaties has been implemented. He urged that, in order for Rio+20 to achieve tangible success, partnerships are

needed as the highest priority to identify technology and ecologically functional/practical pathways.

**During the discussions**, energy was viewed as a key issue for Rio+20, particularly in regards to the green economy. Participants discussed continued reliance on fossil fuels and powerful interests involved in sustaining their use. Noting the harmful impacts of current energy use, participants discussed the importance of utilizing timelines based on nature and discussed how to reach needed partnerships in the energy sector. Participants discussed the comparatively high costs of green energy, noting that low carbon energy is not yet cost competitive with fossil fuels on a large scale and expressing concern about the dearth of cost-competitive, scalable alternatives. Participants noted, however, that while the energy may be more expensive today, it was important to forge ahead with our efforts and make the learning curve a possibility. Participants stressed the need to promote and facilitate the transfer of technology to developing countries, which was noted as being very difficult under existing frameworks. Participants expressed hope that partnerships could be used to finance the transfer of green technologies.

Discussions also addressed the issue of financing, particularly for energy and the green economy. Several participants stressed the need to increase official development assistance (ODA), noting that many commitments related to ODA had not been honoured. While ODA was viewed as an important source of financing, several participants stressed the importance of leveraging the private sector and discussed the need to attract positive private sector investment in the green economies of poorer countries, particularly in light of the costs involved. Some participants cautioned, however, that while there is frequently belief that the private sector can generate success in sustainable development, that belief did not often come to pass on the ground and, oftentimes, there were negative effects as well. Participants stressed the importance of countries and global policies setting frameworks both to attract private sector investment and to ensure that the resulting investment is positive.

Some participants also suggested innovative financing mechanisms including creation of a global human sustainable development credit system (which would act as a sustainable development NASDAQ, listing public rather than private investment opportunities) and the implementation of a national levy on countries' greenhouse gas emissions.

Several participants expressed concern with growing inequality between and within countries. They stressed the importance of not simply discussing social equality, but economic equality as well, urging the pursuit of poverty eradication as a means of eliminating inequalities.

Several participants also stressed the importance of Africa in sustainable development, noting the major challenges the continent faces and urging that sustainable development issues also be viewed from the point of view of Africa. Partnerships were seen as key to helping Africa build capacity to grow from its resources. Participants also highlighted the important role of regional mechanisms in partnerships with Africa, noting Africa's development of several strategic partnerships and use of NEPAD as a regional framework

Participants discussed a wide range of partnerships, noting their importance not just for implementation, but for dialogue and policy formation as well. Participants encouraged

inclusive partnerships, particularly those taking into account the needs and concerns of the poorest countries and the most vulnerable populations. One participant highlighted city partnerships, noting the friends group of cities. Participants also discussed the important role of South-South partnerships and urged for such partnerships to be encouraged at Rio+20, noting that developing countries can develop sustainable development strategies, generate successful solutions and encourage investment from the private sector. Participants discussed the need for partnerships to be based on respect and true participation and also noted the importance of accountability and implementable ideas. Several participants cautioned that partnerships should be viewed as something to help generate action, but not the action itself. They stressed that partnerships should not be viewed as a substitute for responsibility of Governments, but instead as complement to that responsibility.

## **Summary of Session II: Envisioning the Rio+20 Outcome**

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**H.E. Mr. Anwarul Chowdhury**, Ambassador, Senior Special Advisor to the President of General Assembly moderated the session and underlined the importance of forward looking and actionable outcome document from Rio+20.

**Ms. Alicia Barcena**, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean\_ pointed out that over the past 2 decades, the world went through 2 parallel tracks. Globalization, governed by financial capitalism and the application of the Washington Consensus, resulted in a period where the public sphere was undermined and unregulated market took over. At the same time, the Earth Summit unleashed the normative decade of the United Nations (environment, gender, population), which culminated with the 2000 Millennium Summit and the MDGs. Despite the convergence of multiple crises (such as finance, climate change, illegal crime, food scarcity), markets won, and the state and public policies lost. Public capabilities must be restored to change the equilibrium between state, market and society. Aspirational goals of Rio+20 should be based on equality, not equity. MDGs should be scaled up, and SDGs have to be agreed and they need to be measurable. There should be non-conditional funding mechanisms to support SIDS and Land Locked countries. ECOSOC needs to be reformed by reducing the number of Members and by establishing much stronger linkages with BWI and WTO, which may require minor amendments to the UN Charter. The Trusteeship Council should be modified to become a global sustainability accountability forum, which includes Major Groups. Regional Commissions should become regional ECOSOCs and link UN regional bodies to non-UN bodies. UNEP should be upgraded to a specialized agency.

**Mr. Michael Clark**, Interregional Adviser, UNCTAD suggested that globalization has been finance driven and therefore, systemic problems can only be solved by resolving the issue of finance. We need to think differently about how we do knowledge sharing, which is essentially technology transfer. The private sector brings enormous baggage and cannot create conditions of its own existence. Commercial (public state-owned enterprises) may be the solution. Without a global carbon price, financing will come down to loans from multilateral development banks. He suggested the New Terms of Trade need to be repositioned. A firm level commercial approach to technology sharing should be adopted. We should have an open ended plurilateral convention with a critical mass to achieve market scale. A new mechanism under the Green Climate Fund should be established to raise funds to acquire licensing rights for relevant technologies and

provide no cost access until commercial viability is attained. A regionalized infrastructure for knowledge development and experience sharing (similar to CGIAR) should be built. Regional and national financing capabilities should be strengthened by retaking national banking and regional development banking.

**Ms. Barbara Adams**, Senior Fellow, Global Policy Forum and Member of the Board, Social Watch, highlighted lessons from MDGs, where the development agenda was continuously narrowed, because instead of expanding the agenda, MDGs became the development agenda. She stressed the importance of universal applicability of SDGs. Voluntary universal periodic review (like those of the Human Rights Council) is a good approach and should be applied to a Sustainable Development Council. At Rio+20, a paradigm shift is needed, along with integration and rebalancing of the 3 pillars by making the economic pillar more accountable to social and environment decisions. ODA needs to increase, both in quantity and quality. A universal social protection floor should be established, as well as a financial transactions tax. Gender issues should be mainstreamed. Partnership is an important part of implementation as it provides accountability and self-monitoring mechanisms.

**Mr. Melchiade Bukuru**, Head of the UNCCD Liaison Office at the UN Headquarters in New York pointed out that land degradation is still absent and not included in the priority areas, yet all activities are carried out on land. Without addressing land degradation, we face drought, and water scarcity as well as food insecurity. A mindset change is needed, by investing in land to tackle climate change, biodiversity, deforestation, poverty and food security. The outcome of Rio+20 should include land degradation neutrality goal. We should use existing mechanism such as UNCCD rather than reinventing the wheel. Pro-poor policies must be implemented to help the forgotten billion and empower them to make sustainable land use, agriculture, food security and forestry as the cornerstone for poverty eradication.

**Mr. Ashok Khosla** illustrated in more details and with more examples his remarks as a keynote speaker.

**During discussions**, one participant pointed out that the world is divided into under-developed countries and over-developed countries. The world needs to focus on the rich in poor countries and the poor in rich countries. For developing countries, it is most important to continue their development beyond feeding the hungry. The rich will also have to change towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production. Participants agreed that the world is failing on the environment and economic fronts. Market is important, but it alone will not solve the problem, and neither will naming, shaming and blaming. Public state capacity must be restored. The initiative by Colombia and Guatemala on SDGs was praised. Numerous participants agreed that SDGs should include land. If land degradation is ignored, the problems of cities will not be solved.

Finance and resource mobilization is central. Implementation, measuring progress and accountability are very important issues. Partnerships are complementary to government, rather than replacing it. In particular, partnerships with technologists and industrialist are considered very important for technology transfer.

Creating a new SD Council is the simplest solution, but may not necessarily be what is needed, which is to reform ECOSOC (such as reducing Members and strengthening ECOSOC on economics). There is agreement on the need to strengthen synergy with regional non-UN bodies. It was pointed out that strengthening UNEP alone is not enough. We should work on UN reform on environment, rather than just focusing on UNEP. In addition, UNEP and UNDP need to clarify their respective roles at different levels. The UN system as a whole must be able to deliver as one at the country level. Rio+20 can make it a beginning of a paradigm shift and facilitate the direction where countries need to move with a forward looking and inspiring vision about the future. One participant expressed his hope that people under occupation will be included in the Rio+20 outcome.

### **Summary of Closing Remarks**

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#### **Mr Sha Zukang**

Partnerships have served us best when there has been collaboration across all levels, the pooling of skills and resources, and the creation of new technical and financing solutions. When used effectively, partnerships have created innovative solutions to overcoming critical sustainable development challenges.

We need to strengthen accountability at Rio, by setting an action framework, by providing a platform for exchange of experiences, and, through close review, monitoring and peer review. Political commitment for sustainable development must be renewed at Rio. Governments can lead but they cannot act alone. They depend on the support of stakeholders who share a common vision of the future we all want. A high level of ambition is desired, along with a paradigm shift in our development model.

The Conference must find effective means and actions to implement what we agreed 20 years ago so as to translate our words into deeds, commitments into actions. This means a strong framework for action to address existing and emerging challenges. The principles of sustainable development must also be reaffirmed.

Many ideas have been put forward, including priority areas for action, a green economy roadmap and toolkit, sustainable development goals, and various proposals for strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development, including a Sustainable Development Council.

Agreements must be reached at Rio+20 in order to guide us towards a sustainable world.

#### **H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**

Supporting sustainable development requires integrated solutions, a critical pathway, a global partnership, South-South and triangular cooperation, and broad public participation.

There is a strong sense to work toward strengthening partnerships to make them more accountable, transparent and reflective of specific realities on the ground. The creation of a platform at the Conference for announcing concrete partnership initiatives by all stakeholders, including private sector actors, is gaining traction.

Implementation in the past 20 years has proven difficult and many commitments, including the MDGs, remain largely unfulfilled. Implementation relies on the availability, accessibility and timely provision of adequate means, through both domestic and international efforts. Financing is also required for development and national capacity-building efforts.

The special need and vulnerability of certain group of countries, such as LDCs, Africa and Small Islands, is emphasized. Monitoring implementation, through for example setting up timelines, benchmarks and SDGs, can be an important vehicle to move forward the implementation, in particular, empowering women and gender equality.

Innovative ideas being proposed include increasing the social protection, a zero net land degradation goal, establishing a new mechanism for access to technology under a green fund (UNFCCC), rights based approach and a new fiscal policy. Despite some divergent views on certain issues, there is strong willingness to listen to each other and determination to work together to advance a common objective and vision to make Rio +20 a success.

It is also important not to forget the development needs, the right to sustainable development, of people around the world are struggling for their freedom self-determination and under foreign occupation.