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PUBLIC-PRIVATE JOINT EFFORTS TOWARDS RIO+20

ROME, 27 OCTOBER 2011

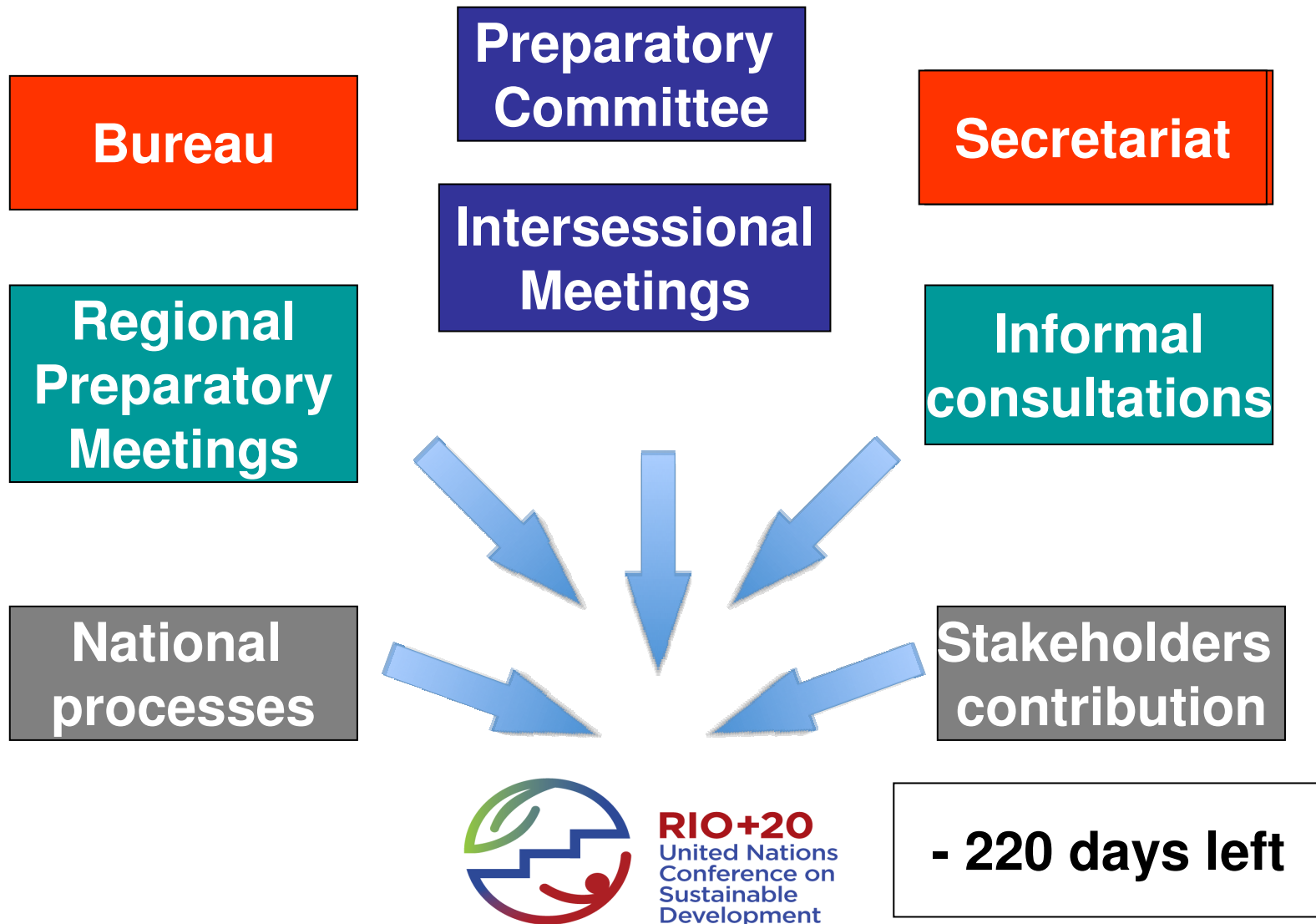
**Rio+20: Setting the Sustainability Agenda
for the Next Decade**

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The Road to Rio+20

What happens next?

- Request for inputs and contributions to Compilation Document (ongoing, deadline 1 Nov 2011)
- Second Intersessional (New York, 15-16 Dec 2011)
- Informal consultations and initial discussions on the zero draft (New York)
- Third Intersessional (New York, 26-27 Mar 2012)
- Informal consultation and negotiations on the zero draft (New York)
- Third PrepCom (Rio de Janeiro, 28-30 May 2012)



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EU common view on the UNCSD

EU Council (Environment) Conclusions (11 June 2010)

welcome the organization of a United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 (UNCSD 2012) and calls for a renewed political commitment to sustainable development;



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EU common view on the UNCSO

EU Council (Environment) Conclusions (10 October 2011)

- **establish the EU expectations and the EU general political position on the two themes of the Conference;**
- **consider that Rio+20 needs to agree on a shared vision for change, able to deliver results within agreed timeframes.**



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EU Council (Environment) Conclusions (10 October 2011)

- **underline that the main operational outcomes of the Rio+20 should include:**
 - **a green economy roadmap with specific goals, objectives and actions at international level;**
 - **a package of reforms, which includes the upgrading of UNEP into a specialized agency;**
- **underline that funding for the implementation of sustainable development policies and actions will have to come from a variety of sources, both public and private.**



EU expectations for the UNCSD (1)

Green Economy Roadmap (structure)

- **International actions in specific key areas**
 - **Cross cutting actions (SCP; indicators complementing GDP; research and scientific cooperation; innovative finance and subsidies)**
 - **Capacity development scheme for voluntary country-specific actions**
-



EU expectations for the UNCSD (2)

Green Economy Roadmap (objectives)

- 1. To address key environmental, economic and social challenges in an integrated way**
- 2. To ensure sustainable economic growth without depleting the environmental resources or lowering jobs standards and conditions**
- 3. To stimulate markets establishing adequate conditions, both in the form of regulatory and market-based instruments, including fiscal measures and the gradual elimination of harmful subsidies. The implementation of the Roadmap lies upon Governments but also on stakeholders, in particular the private sector. It is important that we build together this Roadmap**



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EU expectations for the UNCSD (3)

International Framework for Sustainable Development (principles)

- Better co-ordination and coherence among the UN organizations responsible for sustainable development;
- Global sustainable development governance reform to be pursued as a combination of options, among which:
 - Mainstreaming of Sustainable development issues into UN General Assembly agenda;
 - Reform of ECOSOC ;
 - Improvement of CSD;
 - Establishment of a Sustainable Development Council;
 - Inter-agency improvement.



EU expectations for the UNCSD (4)

International Framework for Sustainable Development (principles)

- Reinforcing the architecture for sustainable development governance at the global level will also require reinforcing the environmental pillar in a balanced manner;
- The 2005 EU Council Conclusions support ‘the establishment of a UN agency for the environment, based on UNEP, with a revised and strengthened mandate, supported by stable, adequate and predictable financial contributions and operating on an equal footing with other UN specialized agencies [...]’



EU expectations for the UNCSD (5)

- 1. Well-functioning global markets need well functioning multilateral institutions: there is a clear and strong linkage between the improvement of IFSD and a successful transition to a green economy and to a broader SD;**
- 2. There is a need to ensure strong engagement in and coherence with the activities of the business sector and the International Financial Institutions.**
- 3. From a business perspective it would be crucial that the future IFSD contains more space for the involvement of stakeholders, in particular the private sector. How can we mainstream the work of the Global Compact into a reformed UN system for SD?**



The role of business sector (1)

- **There have been unprecedented changes in the overall business environment in the last 20 years.**
- **Sustainability concerns have moved progressively to the forefront, driven by concerns about costs and security of supply but also by a growing recognition of the opportunities arising from new management systems.**
- **The challenges of sustainability and the opportunities offered by green economy are increasingly mainstreamed as business strategy issues, although the objective is far from being reached and many companies are not sufficiently engaged.**



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The role of business sector (2)

There are many indicators signaling the change in business attitudes:

- Development of business models and strategies specifically built on sustainability challenges and opportunities;**
- Interest in technologies and management approaches built around sustainable development considerations;**



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The role of business sector (3)

- **Identification of adequate responses to consumers' concern;**
- **Development and use of corporate social and environmental responsibility standards;**
- **Growth of sustainability or 'non-financial reporting' on the social and environmental aspects (such as GRI; ISO26000);**
- **Emergence of business associations and multi-stakeholder coalitions around sustainability themes.**
- **How can Rio support these initiatives as to replicate theme globally and transform them in a business as usual?**



Business sector and Governments (1)

- **The business sector requires Governments to assume their responsibilities in building a clear regulatory framework;**
- **In order for private investments to be profitable, a proper use of economic and fiscal incentives, taxation, subsidy reform and market instruments has to be made;**
- **Private investments (which are the driving force for economic growth) should be routed through appropriate economic policy guidelines and the establishment of right enabling conditions.**
- **Governments in Rio should provide the above mentioned signals, if we want the Conference to succeed. What are the most appropriate ones in the mind of the private sector?**



Business sector and Governments (2)

- **A stronger involvement of the business sector in the implementation and follow-up of Rio+20 outcomes can be achieved also by launching sustainable development initiatives, networks and innovative public-private partnerships at all levels**
- **The added value of partnerships/initiatives lies a more flexible bottom up approach that can take into account all the efforts already put in place**
- **Partnerships should provide long term programs, ensuring at the same time capacity building and transfer of technology**
- **Technology transfer will be crucial at Rio, what mechanisms could be envisaged to attain this while respecting IPRs?**



Business sector and Governments (3)

- **The WSSD recognized ‘Type 2’ partnerships/initiatives as a tool to achieve the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals.**
- **Interest in partnerships has been decreasing, although their substantial contribution to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments is still recognized;**
- **Currently 348 Partnerships are listed in the UN-DESA Database, some of which are still on going.**
- **These kind of initiatives, which can take advantage of the experience carried out by GRI and Global Compact, should be taken into account and brought in the context of the ongoing Rio preparatory process and outcome.**



Concluding remarks (1)

- **The key role of the business sector in the transition to sustainable development has been already recognized (Rio Declaration; Agenda 21 Chapter 30; Johannesburg Declaration) but needs to be further enhanced in Rio+20;**
- **A joint approach between traditional donors, emerging economies, international financial institutions (IFIs) and enterprises is needed;**
- **Public-private partnerships, which include the involvement of business sector for leveraging resources, can contribute to advance sustainable development.**



Concluding remarks (2)

- **Rio+20 can further strengthen the cooperation between IFIs, business sector and the UN agencies, especially in the area of policy making and implementation;**
- **Rio+20 can recognize the importance of the business sector in bridging implementation gaps and in contributing to policy making at national, sub-regional and regional level;**
- **Rio+20 can provide a potentially historic opportunity to consider and make progress on many of these issues: as a recognised Major Group, Business and Industry will actively participate and can give a substantial contribution to the implementation phase.**



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Thank you

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