



MISIÓN PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO

**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Yanerit Morgan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, on the Second Session for the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development**

New York, 7 March 2011.

*Check against delivery*

Good afternoon Mr. Co-Chair,

Thank you very much Mr. Co-chair for the opportunity to exchange points of view on this item related with objectives of Rio+20. I'll follow the order of the question for discussion, summarizing my intervention since a complete and detailed answer to the questions for discussion will be distributed. Mr. Co-chair,

The main Mexican strategy in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, including the promotion of their services, has been the establishment of a system of protected natural areas. Different protection schemes have been developed and some economic instruments implemented, the most known one is the payment for environmental services.

In energy, Mexico has seriously stepped up actions for improving energy performance. Lately there have been larger investments in renewable sources of energy, such as wind power, and the promotion and adoption of energy efficient equipment for homes and industries.

Regarding water, a constant effort has been made in real pricing to promote the sustainable use of this resource. However, there are many measures in place as our country has large areas – mainly in the arid north – with serious problems of scarcity that could be worsened with the impacts of climate change.

The following three factors converge for triggering actions regarding sustainable development: first, Mexico is a country highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, so mitigation and adaptation measures are unavoidable and urgent; second, we are a Megadiverse country hosting amazing biological diversity richness, therefore the Mexican environmental public policies place a priority in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and third, the Mexican territory has its water resources concentrated in the southern territories, leaving the northern part, representing the two thirds of the country, with several water scarcity problems.

Mr. Co-chair,

Our vulnerability to the climate change's effects, our short term economic priorities and the weak of law enforcement are the main emerging issues and challenges that pose serious threat to sustainable development in Mexico.

In regarding question three, wider and deeper efforts in environmental education at all levels are need, including strengthening the links among scientific research, education, and policy. We need to increase investments in sound science research and sustainable technologies development and emphasize transparency in information sharing and decision making.

Mr. Co-chair,

The UNCSD is an opportunity to mainstream corporate social and environmental responsibility in private sector decision making, to promote effective environmental sustainability actions, such as phase out environmentally harmful subsidies, freeing up resources to support sustainable development goals, and to scale up investment in green sectors, putting in place policy frameworks to encourage more active private financial sector involvement.

Mr. Co-chair,

When economic and environmental goals converge, an economic crisis could stress the need to address short term requirements despite the risk to jeopardize natural resources, as well as open the risk of social restless which could delegitimize the whole concept of sustainable development.

That's why achieving sustainable development requires government intervention targeted to address externalities and market failures existing characteristics of environmental goods and services as well as accelerating innovation and managing the transition towards a green economy.

Thank you