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2ND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING UN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Statement on the Objectives of the Conference by Switzerland

delivered by Daniel Ziegerer, Acting Head of Section Global Affairs, International Affairs Division, Swiss Federal Office for the

Let me start by thanking the bureau and the secretariat for all the hard work undertaken in preparation for this second meeting of the PrepCom. The Secretary General's report and the Synthesis report provide a solid basis for our discussions at this meeting.
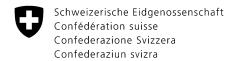
Sustainable development is a fundamental concept for Switzerland. In fact, in the Swiss Federal Constitution sustainable development is even listed as one of the national objectives. It goes without saying, that sustainable development can only be achieved through joint efforts by the international community.

With the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 we agreed at the first Rio conference on a set of principles and a comprehensive programme for advancing towards a sustainable future. Yet nearly twenty years later, we must acknowledge we have still a very long way ahead of us.

The principal objective of the UNCSD, which is to renew the commitment at the highest political level, is therefore very pertinent. The vision of a sustainable development needs to be centre stage again and the UNCSD is a good opportunity for doing so.

We are convinced that the two main conference themes on which we agreed will permit us to bring sustainable development back on the political agenda of our leaders. We therefore second those voices mentioned in paragraph 51 of the synthesis report that state that the UNCSD should focus on the already designated topics of the institutional framework for sustainable development and Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. With regard to those two topics, Switzerland is fully committed to a substantive outcome of UNCSD that provides an added value for the international community.

In order to achieve a meaningful outcome on the institutional framework for sustainable development, we think it is very important to clearly differentiate between governance issues in each of the pillars of sustainable development and governance for sustainable development in a horizontal manner.

As mentioned in paragraph 20 of the synthesis report, good environmental governance is among the highest common priorities for accelerating progress towards sustainable development. Less than two weeks ago, all of us jointly agreed at the UNEP Governing Council on the need to initiate at this PrepCom a full analysis of the financial, structural and legal implications and comparative advantages of the different options identified in the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome. We are looking forward to this analysis which will enable us to have informed discussions about IEG within the UNCSD process in its consideration of the institutional framework for sustainable development.

In order to bring us forward towards a green economy, Switzerland is convinced that collective action at the international level is needed. We believe that we need to make progress on two levels, one being the policy and the other the operational level. An internationally agreed Road Map for Green Economy that addresses these two levels, as mentioned in paragraph 79 of the Synthesis Report, would therefore be a useful and practical outcome of the UNCSD.

The UNCSD preparatory process should profit from the valuable contributions of the various specialized processes and from the important work of core actors. The Regional Preparatory meetings, the Report of the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, the Global Ministerial Environment Forum in 2012 and the 5th Global Environment Outlook will all provide valuable contributions that should feed into the preparations and the outcome of the UNCSD.

Mr. Chairman, let me conclude by stressing once more that Switzerland is committed to a substantive outcome of the UNCSD. We are looking forward to fruitful discussions during this 2nd PrepCom Meeting.