

**Statement of the Minister of the Environment of Brazil, Senator
Marina Silva, during the meeting with the Heads of United
Nations Agencies during the Twelfth Session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development**

Mr. Chairman,

Many issues could be raised on this occasion, particularly given the discussions that have taken place during this session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. For this reason, I should like to focus my intervention on just four points, proposing for each of these considerations for debate, specially by the Agencies' representatives:

- 1) Making cross cutting approach work;
- 2) The need for new approaches to international cooperation;
- 3) Strengthening of partnerships; and
- 4) Universality at the United Nations Agencies.

The first point deals with making the cross cutting approach work;

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation establishes a set of actions for access to water, for expansion of sanitation services and for improving quality human settlements, with the ultimate goal of eradicating poverty. These actions require the integration of public policies and an enhanced coordination of the actions of international

organizations with national policies, thereby avoiding duplication of efforts.

Furthermore, the increasing participation of regional mechanisms creates a new dimension that has led to policy consistency in areas that require joint solutions. I am thinking, for example, of the Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization. There are also cooperation mechanisms that encompass countries from different continents, as the recently negotiated agreement between Brazil, India and South Africa.

One of the lessons learned in dealing with the issues of this CSD is that, be it in their multilateral, regional, national, provincial, municipal or local dimensions, the solutions call for cross cutting analyses and implementation.

So, the first consideration I propose here is: What advances can we expect to proclaim in implementing the cross cutting approach when the very expression "sustainable development" needs to be explained outside the context of environmental issues?

The second point I wish to raise refers to the need for new approaches to international cooperation

During the debates on the central themes of this CSD Session, experiences have been exchanged on the challenges faced, lessons learned, successes and failures. The objective is clear: to meet the agreed goals. The obstacles are also increasingly plain to see. The

strategies, however, are inevitably varied. How can the experiences of one country be suitable for another?

Two answers clearly surfaced in these discussions: the need to strengthen local community participation and the importance of creating effective mechanisms for enabling South-South cooperation.

The focus on local communities is one of the most positive evolutions of the international cooperation agenda, which may lead to more visible results in the short and medium terms. Nevertheless, it could be decreasing the scale of cooperation in general. This is worsened by the notorious reduction of financial resources for environmental cooperation.

With regard to South-South cooperation, there seems to be no doubt as to the positive results that can result from this cooperation model. Therefore, the countries that share similar economic, social and environmental situations are also able to share common solutions for common problems. Nevertheless, the volume of cooperation among developing countries is still small, almost insignificant, despite the intensity with which this idea is propagated.

So I ask the representatives of the agencies: how do you envisage the new paths for international cooperation, both with respect to the conciliation of the priorities established by government authorities at all levels and those of the members of local communities and major groups as to the creation of enabling conditions to strengthen South-South cooperation?

My third point refers to the need to strengthen partnerships

Ambassador Al-Nasser, Permanent Representative of Qatar and Chair of the Group of 77 and China, in his statement at the opening of this CDS Session, mentioned figures that deserve our special attention: according to the report on partnerships of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, 72% of these partnerships receive resources from governments, 18% from intergovernmental organisms and very few partnerships rely on resources from the private sector. Nearly two years after Johannesburg we can say that the expectation that partnerships would help to mobilize resources from new stakeholders did not materialize on a significant scale. Agencies and governments are still the main actors in these partnerships.

In this regard, I should like to ask the representatives of the agencies: what can be done to energize these partnerships and overcome the lack of interest shown by the private partners in providing new and additional resources to projects that contribute in such a concrete and direct way to improving the living conditions of the populations of the developing countries?

Finally, the fourth and last point I raise at this discussion deals with the issue of universality of the United Nations Agencies.

The discussions that have been taking place over these past few days clearly demonstrated the demands of developing countries with regard to international cooperation for sustainable development.

These demands refer mostly to new and additional financial resources and technology transfer.

Developed countries, in their turn, showed that cooperation should be increasingly linked to conditions that ensure the support of societies – and, thus, a greater political commitment – to this cooperation.

The practical result is strengthening of selective agendas, thanks to which the developed countries, instead of going through the specialized agencies – universal in nature – give preference to operational activities in countries that they judge to be deserving of the resources of their contributors. In some case, the agencies, concerned with ensuring their presence in projects they consider to be a priority, seek to adapt themselves to the agendas proposed by the donor countries, although they aren't always the priority projects from the point of view of the beneficiary countries.

So I ask the representatives: is the universal nature of these agencies being challenged or are there formulas to make their action compatible with selective agendas? What happens to the agenda of the countries that receive cooperation given the frailty of their institutions, and who, more often than not, need to absorb the agendas determined outside their governments?

I will now repeat my four questions:

- 1) On making a cross cutting approach work: What advances can we expect to declare in this field when the very expression

sustainable development needs to be explained outside the context of environmental issues?

2) On the new paths for international cooperation: how do the agencies envisage the conciliation of the priorities established by government authorities at all levels with the needs of local communities and the major groups? And how do they see the creation of enabling conditions to strengthen South-South cooperation?

3) On the strengthening of partnerships: what can be done to energize these partnerships and overcome the lack of interest shown by the private partners in providing new and additional resources to projects that contribute in such a concrete and direct way to improve the living conditions of the populations of the developing countries?

4) On the universal nature of the specialized United Nations agencies: is the universal nature of these agencies being challenged or are there formulas to make their action compatible with selective agendas? What happens to the agenda of the countries that receive cooperation given the frailty of their institutions, and who more often than not need to absorb the agendas determined outside their governments?