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Outcome of the Conference

**Letter dated 18 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of
Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of
the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development**

I enclose herewith a document entitled “A 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns” (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, under agenda item 10.

(Signed) Maria Luiza **Ribeiro Viotti**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

A 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns

1. In order to achieve the goals and objectives defined in chapter 3 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)^a on sustainable consumption and production, a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns covering the period 2012-2022, based on Agenda 21,^b the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development^c and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, should have the following vision, objectives and goals:

(a) Fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development. All countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead and with all countries benefiting from the process, taking into account the Rio principles, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Governments, relevant international organizations, the private sector and all major groups should play an active role in changing unsustainable consumption and production patterns;

(b) Support for regional and national initiatives is necessary to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in order to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate, decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation by improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste. All countries should take action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries, through mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries;

(c) The 10-year framework should affirm a common vision that:

(i) Supports sustainable, inclusive and equitable global growth, poverty eradication and shared prosperity;

(ii) Addresses basic needs and brings a better quality of life;

^a *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

^b *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

^c *Ibid.*, annex I.

- (iii) Enhances the ability to meet the needs of future generations and conserves, protects and restores the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems;
- (iv) Promotes gender equality and the active participation of groups including, inter alia, women, children and youth, indigenous peoples and those living in the most vulnerable situations;
- (v) Reduces the use of hazardous materials and toxic chemicals and the generation of wastes, such as non-biodegradable materials and the emission of pollutants;
- (vi) Protects natural resources and promotes a more efficient use of natural resources, products and recovered materials;
- (vii) Promotes life cycle approaches, including resource efficiency and sustainable use of resources, as well as science-based and traditional knowledge-based approaches, cradle to cradle and the 3R concept (reduce, reuse and recycle) and other related methodologies, as appropriate;
- (viii) Promotes the creation of new economic opportunities for all countries, with particular attention to developing countries;
- (ix) Promotes a competitive, inclusive economy delivering full and productive employment and decent work for all and fostering efficient social protection systems;
- (x) Serves as a tool to support the implementation of global sustainable development commitments, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of targets and goals agreed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

Common values

2. In order to reach the vision, objectives and goals outlined above:

(a) The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns should be flexible so as to respect different levels of development and capacities and national ownership of each country's development strategies, priorities and policies, and to enable the inclusion of new and emerging issues, with developed countries taking the lead in implementing measures to achieve more sustainable patterns of consumption and production;

(b) The 10-year framework should draw on valuable aspects of such experiences as the Marrakech Process, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management^d and national cleaner production centres. The ongoing activities of the Marrakech Process, such as the task forces, should be considered for integration into the structure of the 10-year framework of programmes;

(c) The 10-year framework should take into account the Rio principles as they relate to sustainable consumption and production;

^d See the report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annexes I-III.

(d) The 10-year framework should not constitute a call for new constraints with respect to international development financing and official development assistance;

(e) Efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production should not be applied in a manner that would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination between countries where the same conditions prevail, or a disguised restriction on international trade, and should otherwise be in accordance with the provisions of agreements under the World Trade Organization;

(f) Efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production should be pursued in a manner that supports new market development opportunities for products and technologies, in particular from developing countries;

(g) Methodologies and approaches under the 10-year framework should take into account the specific circumstances of countries and productive systems;

(h) The 10-year framework should reduce fragmentation and support synergies between the responses to various economic, environmental and social challenges in activities related to sustainable consumption and production, as well as in the implementation of global sustainable development commitments, including the Millennium Development Goals and multilateral environmental agreements, while avoiding duplication of existing international and regional initiatives, keeping in mind the progress made and challenges remaining;

(i) The 10-year framework should support the integration of sustainable consumption and production into sustainable development policies, programmes and strategies, as appropriate, including, where applicable, into poverty reduction strategies.

Functions

3. The functions of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns should include:

(a) Promotion of the added value of a sustainable consumption and production approach for both developed and developing countries and, in particular, the opportunity to make rapid progress towards social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems through win-win solutions;

(b) Enabling of all relevant stakeholders to share information and tools and to learn and share best practices identified in various regions, including through the Marrakech Process, while recognizing the need to help developing countries in this regard;

(c) Fostering of increased cooperation and networking among all stakeholders, including public-private partnerships;

(d) Supporting the integration of sustainable consumption and production in decision-making at all levels, taking into account its cross-cutting nature, for example through strategic planning and policymaking;

(e) Raising awareness and engaging civil society, with a particular focus on school-system education, in particular among youth, and integrating education for sustainable consumption and production in formal and non-formal education programmes, as appropriate;

(f) Facilitating access to technical assistance, training, financing, technology and capacity-building, in particular for developing countries;

(g) Making use of the scientific and policy knowledge base and relevant international science policy mechanisms;

(h) Supporting the efforts of developing countries to strengthen scientific and technological capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production;

(i) Promoting the engagement of the private sector in efforts to achieve a shift towards sustainable consumption and production, particularly sectors with a high environmental and social impact, including through corporate environmental and social responsibility;

(j) Fostering innovation and new ideas, while increasing recognition of traditional knowledge;

(k) Encouraging the 3R concept through, inter alia, the promotion of repair and maintenance work as an alternative to new products;

(l) In the implementation of programmes, taking into account available information on the root causes of current consumption patterns, as appropriate, and on the costs and benefits related to the implementation of sustainable consumption and production, particularly with regard to the impact on employment and poverty;

(m) Giving international attention to successful national, regional and international initiatives that accelerate a shift to sustainable consumption and production, including initiatives that promote the transfer of technology, on mutually agreed terms, as an incentive for active participation in the 10-year framework, for example by highlighting accomplishments in progress reports.

Organizational structure

4. The organizational structure of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns should have the following elements:

(a) The United Nations Environment Programme should be requested to serve, within its current mandate, as the secretariat of the 10-year framework and in that context to fulfil the following functions:

(i) To cooperate closely with and respond to Member States;

(ii) To collaborate with all relevant United Nations bodies, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Tourism Organization, through an inter-agency coordination group, and with regional entities and commissions, so that there is strong coordination;

- (iii) To foster the active participation of key stakeholders in the 10-year framework;
- (iv) To contribute to the fulfilment of the functions of the 10-year framework of programmes as listed above;
- (v) To maintain a current list of active programmes and initiatives under the 10-year framework of programmes;
- (vi) To organize and service relevant meetings on the 10-year framework of programmes;
- (vii) To prepare reports relevant to the 10-year framework of programmes;
- (viii) To report biennially to the Commission on Sustainable Development on the activities and financial performance of the trust fund for programmes described below;
- (b) A small board should be established with the following responsibilities:
 - (i) Promoting the 10-year framework of programmes;
 - (ii) Guiding the secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes;
 - (iii) Assisting the secretariat in securing funding for sustainable consumption and production, including voluntary contributions to the trust fund for programmes described below;
 - (iv) Overseeing the secretariat's operation of the trust fund and its project approval process to ensure neutrality, objectivity, transparency, accountability and regional balance in the allocation and use of resources from the fund;
 - (v) Reviewing annual progress reports by the secretariat on programmes under the 10-year framework of programmes;
 - (vi) Reporting annually to the Commission on Sustainable Development on the progress of the 10-year framework of programmes;
 - (vii) Convening international and regional meetings;
 - (viii) Guiding preparations for the five-year review of the 10-year framework of programmes;
 - (ix) Inviting representatives of United Nations bodies and major groups to participate in its deliberations;
- (c) The General Assembly should be requested to consider the composition and nomination process of the board by the end of its sixty-seventh session;
- (d) Governments should be invited to designate sustainable consumption and production focal points for engagement with the 10-year framework of programmes, with a view to ensuring contact and coordination with the board and the secretariat; other stakeholders should also be invited to designate sustainable consumption and production focal points in this regard;
- (e) A platform should be developed and maintained to solicit support for the sustainable consumption and production programmes of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as appropriate.

5. The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns should be reviewed at the end of five years to assess benefits, challenges and implementation. This could be done in connection with the Commission on Sustainable Development process.

Means of implementation

6. The means of implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns should include the following arrangements:

(a) Supporting the implementation of sustainable consumption and production programmes and initiatives in developing countries through adequate financial resources from multiple sources, including donor countries, the international financial institutions, the private sector and other voluntary contributions, transfer of and access to environmentally sound technologies, on mutually agreed terms, and capacity-building, building upon relevant experience such as the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;^e

(b) Inviting the United Nations Environment Programme to establish a trust fund for sustainable consumption and production programmes to mobilize voluntary contributions from multiple sources, including public/donor contributions, the private sector and other sources, including foundations. The trust fund will have the following elements:

(i) The objectives of the trust fund will be to receive and mobilize resources in a stable, sustained and predictable manner to develop sustainable consumption and production programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as appropriate, and to promote the transparent allocation of resources;

(ii) The trust fund will be used to support the implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes in developing countries, such as providing seed money for developing and implementing programme proposals;

(iii) Financing for the trust fund should not be provided at the expense of other high priority sustainable development activities being carried out by United Nations bodies;

(iv) Programme proposals from developing countries to the trust fund should meet the criteria specified below and allocation of the financing should take regional balance into account;

(v) The United Nations Environment Programme, as the secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes, will be invited to act as trustee for the trust fund and to administer the fund;

(vi) Donors, the private sector and others will be encouraged to contribute to the trust fund, once established, providing general support to the 10-year framework of programmes, as well as support to specific programmes and initiatives responding to the national and regional priorities of developing countries;

^e UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

(c) Encouraging Governments, the international financial institutions and other stakeholders, including partnerships for sustainable consumption and production, to provide finance, technology and capacity-building support for implementation of the 10-year framework of programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition through other channels, as appropriate;

(d) Also encouraging the integration of sustainable consumption and production-related programmes and initiatives into Government programmes and existing cooperation activities, as appropriate;

(e) Promoting existing and new programmes that provide various forms of technical and development assistance and capacity-building, taking steps to publicize these opportunities in developing countries;

(f) Facilitating partnerships and capacity-building through the development of professional networks and communities of practice around various sustainable consumption and production-related issues;

(g) Acting as a catalyst for further assistance.

Sustainable consumption and production programmes

7. Sustainable consumption and production programmes included in the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns are voluntary and should be in accordance with the following criteria:

(a) Contribute to meeting the goals and principles of the 10-year framework of programmes, as well as to the three pillars of sustainable development;

(b) Respond to national and regional needs, priorities and circumstances;

(c) Be based on life cycle approaches, including resource efficiency and sustainable use of resources, and related methodologies, including science-based and traditional knowledge-based approaches, cradle to cradle and the 3R concept, as appropriate;

(d) Be based on a solid scientific and policy knowledge base;

(e) Be transparent;

(f) Be consistent with international obligations, including, where applicable, the rules of the World Trade Organization;

(g) Encourage the involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

(h) Consider the use of a mix of efficient instruments such as education, training and data collection, as well as research activities in each programme, as appropriate;

(i) Have established clear objectives and measures of success;

(j) Promote synergies with work in similar areas, in order, inter alia, to promote co-benefits and opportunities to leverage resources towards mutual objectives and minimize duplication of ongoing efforts, including in other international forums;

(k) Be described in a simple common format, covering the programme criteria mentioned above and identifying lead actors.

8. The following flexible, initial and non-exhaustive list is intended to illustrate some possible areas of programme development and to inspire additional efforts to create programmes. It is important to support initiatives and ongoing programmes by developing countries. This indicative list builds on the experience gained through the Marrakech Process, including those areas identified in the regional sustainable consumption and production round tables, strategies and action plans, inter alia:

- (a) Consumer information;
- (b) Sustainable lifestyles and education;
- (c) Sustainable public procurement;
- (d) Sustainable buildings and construction;
- (e) Sustainable tourism, including ecotourism.

9. The secretariat of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns will maintain a list of all programmes, projects and initiatives under the 10-year framework of programmes as a living document, to be updated regularly as new programmes, projects and initiatives join. This list will provide an information tool to help in identifying partners and resources to support particular programmes and initiatives.

10. Programmes can be launched under the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns immediately following registration with the secretariat.
