

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador KIM Sook**

**For the Retreat for Permanent Representatives on  
UNCSD(Rio+20)**

**Friday, 30 September**

**Greentree, Manhasset, Long Island**

**<Check against Delivery>**

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Dr. Werner Puschra,  
Under-Secretary General Mr. Sha Zukang,  
Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to join you today for this meaningful event. With only eight months left before the world meets in Rio, this retreat offers us a timely opportunity to share our views on Rio+20. I would like to thank the organizer, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung New York Office, for taking this important initiative.

**<Introduction>**

Rio+20 comes at a time when the urgency of the world's developmental and environmental crises is well recognized. Quite simply, without making a fundamental shift to sustainable development, we can no longer hope for a better future. The multiple crises confronting us, such as climate change, energy, and food insecurity are desperate calls and warnings to change the prevailing patterns of growth, with their heavy toll on the environment.

The objective of Rio+20 is clear: to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, by assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation while addressing new and emerging challenges. As such, Rio+20 promises to be one of the most important conferences of our time, by charting the way forward for global sustainable development.

### <Timeline to Rio+20>

We are planning to prepare a compilation document in November based on the inputs and contributions made by all Member States, UN agencies and major groups. The compilation document is an important text that will provide the main elements of the zero-draft of outcome document. As concerns were raised about possible bias in synthesizing inputs, the Bureau decided to opt for a mere compilation text rather than a synthesis report of all the inputs. Yes, we recognize the problem of the huge volume that this option entails, especially for smaller Member States. The Bureau will continue to engage with the Secretariat to find a way to make sure that the compilation document be easily accessible, yet remain neutral.

We will hold the second intersessional meeting based on this document in mid-December, followed by the Co-Chair's zero draft outcome next January. This zero draft will serve as the basis for negotiations by Member States in the next few months. Then in May, we will hold the third and final Prepcom before Rio+20 convenes in early June. This timeline demonstrates how much work needs to be done in order to ensure a successful outcome in Rio.

Along with other members of the Bureau and Conference Secretariat, I will do my best to guide the preparatory process in a transparent and inclusive manner. I look forward to your support and cooperation in this regard.

### **<Rio+20 Outcome>**

The key questions that we must now grapple with are “what constitutes a successful outcome and how do we achieve it?” First, we need to develop a common understanding of what the world expects from Rio+20. In 1992, the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 were produced and sustainable development was set as the new paradigm for development. Now in 2012, we must complete the work we started two decades ago with a strong political commitment and a practical programme of action that addresses new challenges and gaps that have since emerged.

As the background note for this retreat highlights, we need to move from concepts to actions, from abstract to concrete. During the first and second Prepcom meetings, we made notable progress on the two themes of the conference. The initiatives taken by the Group of Friends and the President of the General Assembly during the 65<sup>th</sup> session promoted a better understanding of “green economy” as a pathway to achieving sustainable development.

We also had an opportunity to discuss in depth “the institutional framework for sustainable development” (IFSD) at the Solo High-level Dialogue, as well as at the other relevant meetings in Rio and Beijing. In

the coming weeks, further discussions on specific topics related to Rio+20 will take place, including in New Delhi, Oslo and Monaco.

### <Green economy>

We must build on this momentum. On green economy, we need to move beyond debating its definition to establishing a specific, action-oriented programme. There is a broad consensus that we need a roadmap to make green economy happen on the ground, in a country-tailored manner. I applaud those pioneering countries who are successfully working to implement green economy such as Brazil, China, Denmark, Gabon, Germany, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, to name a few.

In a world where most economic activities are closely linked with pollution and resource inefficiency, green economy provides an alternative development model by making the economy work for the environment. Let's call it double dividend. We must maximize the opportunities and benefits of green economy through effective public policies that promote social equity. This is triple dividend.

Transitioning to green economy will be a huge challenge for all of us; in particular, for developing countries. Because developing countries will be the hardest hit from rising oil prices and the food and energy crises, creating green economy is not only an urgent task, but also a critical strategy for coping with these demands.

The international community should build strategic partnerships between developing and developed countries and between public and private

sectors, to provide financial and technological support to developing countries, while also addressing the concerns of possible green protectionism and new conditionality.

### **<IFSD>**

The other theme of the conference – the institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD) – seeks to strengthen the integration, coordination and coherence of the three pillars of sustainable development.

Although a good institutional framework does not guarantee implementation, a bad institutional framework is doomed to implementation failure. In this regard, effective institutions at local, national, regional and global levels are critical in order for us to advance green economy and sustainable development.

I welcome the various options on the table on IFSD, ranging from reforming UNEP, ECOSOC and CSD to establishing a Sustainable Development Council. In particular, institutional mechanisms to facilitate financial assistance and technology transfer to developing countries have a huge stake to bear for the success of Rio+20. I look forward to a constructive discussion on these important issues.

### **<Conclusion>**

We simply must not waste the historic opportunity offered by Rio+20. The international community needs to reaffirm its strong political commitment to sustainable development and agree on concrete and practical action plans to transition to green economy and strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development.

We must also remember that the 1992 Rio Earth Summit was successful because Agenda 21 became a broad-based people's agenda. It is important that all stakeholders, including governments, local communities, and civil society, actively participate in the Rio+20 preparatory process.

In all cases of successful global cooperation, it was committed leadership and partnership that made the difference, not money or technology or grand rhetoric. With developed countries leading by example and developing countries making best efforts within their respective capabilities, we can together pave the way for a more sustainable future. We should act not for the narrow interest of individual states, but for the common good of mankind and our future generations.

Thank you for your attention.

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