



New York, 22 January 2013

Excellency,

As indicated in the letter of the President of the General Assembly No. 8894 of 18 December 2012, we have been appointed as co-facilitators of the negotiation process to define the format and organizational modalities of the High-level political forum that will have to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development of ECOSOC, as decided in the outcome document of the “Rio+20” Conference.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/203, asked that these consultations start in January 2013 and aim to conclude by May 2013.

As Co-Facilitators, it is our intention to facilitate these consultations in an open, transparent and inclusive manner consistent with the Outcome Document of the Rio+20 conference.

For this purpose, we intend to conduct a series of informal consultations, which will begin with an open-ended informal meeting on **Wednesday, 30 January 2013, from 10.00 to 13.00, in Conference Room 2 (NLB)**.

The objective of this first meeting will be to allow Member States to express their initial views on the main issues concerning the format and the organizational modalities of the High-level political forum. To promote an orderly and effective discussion, we would be grateful if the participating delegations could focus their interventions on the points highlighted in the attached paper. However, views on any other point that delegations may wish to raise will be equally welcome.

After the first open-ended meeting, our intention is to hold separate informal consultations to deepen our understanding of the positions expressed by delegations. The outcome of these separate consultations will then be shared in another open-ended informal meeting, to ensure that the process remains fully open, transparent and inclusive.

At an appropriate time, elements for a draft resolution will be introduced by the two co-facilitators and subsequently negotiated through open-ended informal meetings.

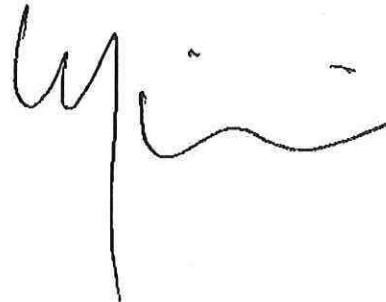
Please find also enclosed, for your convenience, the relevant excerpt of the outcome document of the “Rio+20” Conference.

We look forward to an active participation and to a productive and lively discussion.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Brazil  
to the United Nations




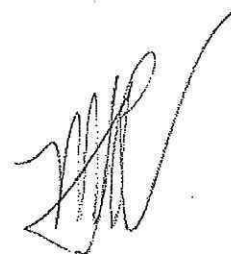
Cesare Maria Ragolini  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative of Italy  
to the United Nations

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers  
to the United Nations  
New York

**Process on the format and organizational modalities  
of the High level political forum (HLPF)**

**Main points of discussion**

- Institutional format; positioning of the Forum within the UN system and its institutional relation with other UN organs and bodies; related procedural rules.
- Timing, periodicity, duration of meetings and related preparatory process
- Level of participation
- Modalities of participation of UN agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant multilateral institutions and treaty bodies
- Modalities of enhanced consultative role and participation of Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders
- Nature of outcomes of the Forum

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**Extracts of the Rio+20 outcome document  
High-level political forum**

84. We decide to establish a universal, intergovernmental, high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission. The high-level political forum shall follow up on the implementation of sustainable development and should avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner.

85. The high-level forum could:

- (a) Provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development;
- (b) Enhance integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels;
- (c) Provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development;
- (d) Have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges;
- (e) Follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments contained in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the outcome of the present Conference and, as appropriate, relevant outcomes of other United Nations summits and conferences, including the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 29 as well as their respective means of implementation;
- (f) Encourage high-level system-wide participation of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and invite to participate, as appropriate, other relevant multilateral financial and trade institutions and treaty bodies, within their respective mandates and in accordance with United Nations rules and provisions;
- (g) Improve cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on sustainable development programmes and policies;
- (h) Promote transparency and implementation by further enhancing the consultative role and participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to better make use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions;
- (i) Promote the sharing of best practices and experiences relating to the implementation of sustainable development and, on a voluntary basis, facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned;
- (j) Promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies;
- (k) Strengthen the science-policy interface through review of documentation, bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments;
- (l) Enhance evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contribute to strengthening ongoing capacity-building for data collection and analysis in developing countries.

86. We decide to launch an intergovernmental and open, transparent and inclusive negotiation process under the General Assembly to define the format and organizational aspects of the high-

level forum, with the aim of convening the first high-level forum at the beginning of the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly. We will also consider the need for promoting intergenerational solidarity for the achievement of sustainable development, taking into account the needs of future generations, including by inviting the Secretary-General to present a report on this issue.