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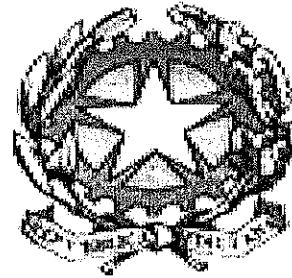
Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from the co-facilitators H.E. Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Permanent Representative of Brazil and H.E. Mr. Cesare Maria Ragaglini, Permanent Representative of Italy dated 2 May 2013, attaching the zero-draft of the resolution on 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 paragraph 84 of the outcome document of the "Rio+20" Conference.

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


Dejan Sahovic
Officer-in-Charge

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



New York, 2 May 2013

Excellency,

As anticipated at the informal informal consultation of April 23, we would like to submit the enclosed zero-draft of the resolution on 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 paragraph 84 of the outcome document of the "Rio+20" Conference.

In elaborating the draft we have been guided by the objective of finding a possible common denominator among the various views, taking into account all juridical and procedural constraints. In this spirit, the text builds on the non-exhaustive elements previously circulated and tries to capture, as much as possible, comments and inputs subsequently provided by delegations during the consultation process.

As far as the modalities of the enhanced consultative role and participation of Major Groups are concerned, we included a "placeholder", as we feel the need for a more focused discussion and for some specific proposal by delegations, in addition to the inputs received by the Major Groups themselves.

Considering the fast approaching deadline of the end of May, we would like to convene the next "informal informal" meeting for **Tuesday, 14 May, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, and from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Please check the Journal for the venue.** The purpose of the meeting will be to introduce the zero-draft and to allow for an exchange of views on the text.

We look forward to a focused, constructive and pragmatic consultation.

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

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

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

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

Format and organizational modalities of the high-level political forum

(2 May 2013)

The General Assembly,

PP1 *Recalling* its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012 by which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”;

PP2 *Recalling* in particular the decision contained in paragraph 84 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to establish a universal, intergovernmental high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences and modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission;

PP3 *Recalling also* its resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012, particularly its paragraph 3 on the high level political forum;

PP4 *Recalling* the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,

PP5 *Recalling further* the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.;

PP6 *Also recalling* the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, the political declaration on Africa’s development needs and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development;

PP7 *Also recalling* all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
(PP 4-7 from Para. 16, The Future We Want)

OP1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary General on the lessons learned from the CSD;

OP2. *Decides* that the high-level political forum will meet at the level of Heads of State and Government and at the level of Ministers and will be prepared by a Senior Officials Meeting, in accordance with the provisions set out below;

OP3. *Stresses* that, consistent with its universal character, all meetings of the high-level political forum and of the Senior Officials Meeting will be open to all Member States of the United Nations and States members of Specialized Agencies;

OP4. *Underlines* that, taking into account its universal character, the high-level political forum and the senior officials meetings will operate on the basis of consensus;

OP5. *Decides* that the Heads of State and Government Meetings of the high-level political forum will:

- a) be convened every three years by the President of the General Assembly and under the auspices of the General Assembly for a period of up to two days, preferably at the beginning of the General Assembly session,
- b) be chaired by the President of the General Assembly,
- c) provide political leadership, guidance, and recommendations for sustainable development, also on the basis of the global sustainable development report, and enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels (85 a, b, k),
- d) result in a concise political declaration, to be subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly;

OP6. *Decides also* that the inaugural Heads of State and Government meeting of the forum will be held during the opening of the 68th Session of the UNGA and that the second meeting, on an exceptional basis, will be held at the opening of the 70th Session of the UNGA (2015), and subsequent meetings will take place every three years;

OP7. *Decides* that the Ministerial Meetings of the High-Level Political Forum will:

- a) be convened annually by the President of the Economic and Social Council, as a special ministerial meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC and for a period of up to 3 days, preferably during the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council,
- b) be chaired by the President of ECOSOC,
- c) follow-up and review progress in the implementation of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, improve cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on sustainable development programmes and policies, 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 and promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies; (85 c, g, i, j),
- d) take into account the outcomes of the Development Cooperation Forum and the National Voluntary Presentations of the Annual Ministerial Review,
- e) result in a Ministerial declaration, to be subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council;

OP8. *Decides* further that the forum will not meet at the level of Ministers in years when it meets at the level of Heads of State and Government;

OP 9. *Decides* also that the first Ministerial Meeting of the HLPF will be held in 2014;

OP 10. *Decides* that a Senior Officials Meeting will:

- a) be convened annually, for a period of up to ten working days, to prepare the high-level political forum meetings,
- b) be held, for the preparation of the ministerial meetings of the forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, and chaired by two co-facilitators appointed by the President of the Council;
- c) be held, for the preparation of the Heads of State and Government meetings, under the auspices of the General Assembly and chaired by two co-facilitators appointed by the President of the General Assembly;
- d) result, in both cases, in a report to be submitted for consideration by the Ministerial or the Heads of State and Government Meeting, as applicable;

OP 11. *Decides* that all meetings convened under the auspices of the General Assembly will operate under the rules of procedure of the committees General Assembly, as applicable, provided that this is not in contradiction with the present resolution, and that all meetings convened under the auspices of the ECOSOC will operate under the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of ECOSOC, as applicable, provided that this is not in contradiction with the present resolution;

OP 12. *Underlines* that the arrangement established by the Economic and Social Council for the Commission on Sustainable Development in Council decision 1995/201 of 8 February 1995 will apply to the meetings of the forum and the Senior Officials Meeting held under the auspices of ECOSOC, and that the arrangement established by GA resolution 65/276 of 10 May 2011 will apply to the meetings of the forum and the Senior Officials Meeting held under the auspices of the GA;

OP 13. *Decides* that the meetings of Forum and of the Senior Officials Meeting will devote suitable time to discuss the sustainable development of the Small Island Developing States, the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries and Africa, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments;

OP 14. *Encourages* Member States to ensure that their participation in the ministerial sessions of the Forum and Senior Officials Meeting reflects the integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development from their national perspective;

OP 15. *Decides* that the forum will be informed by annual regional preparatory meetings, which should take place before the Senior Officials Meeting, be organized by the United Nations regional commissions and involve also relevant regional entities and Major Groups;

OP 16. *Stresses* that the forum will be open to Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders, based on arrangements and practices observed by the Commission on Sustainable Development, including Economic and Social Council resolutions 1993/215 and 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, as well as on the following modalities of the further enhanced consultative role and participation of Major Groups: [PLACEHOLDER]; (85 h)

OP 17. *Stresses* that the forum and the Senior Officials Meeting will be open to the participation, as observers, of high-level participants from UN agencies, funds and programs, other relevant multilateral financial and trade institutions and treaty bodies;

OP 18. *Emphasizes* that the forum shall provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development and that the agenda of all meetings of the HLPF will be focused, while allowing flexibility to address new and emerging issues; (85 e)

OP 19. *Decides* that the forum will enhance 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, as well as enhance evidence-based decision-making at all levels by strengthening ongoing capacity-building for data collection and analysis in developing countries (85 k, l);

OP 20. *Decides* that the forum will follow-up on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, once they have been adopted by the General Assembly in the context of the post-2015 Development Agenda;

OP 21. *Further decides* that the Senior Officials Meeting will receive the reports from the board and the secretariat of the ten-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production as elaborated in the ten-year framework of programmes;

OP 22. *Decides* that the Forum and the Senior Officials Meeting will be serviced by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the UN Secretariat in close cooperation with all relevant entities of the United Nations system and, in this regard, *invites* the UN system to support the Forum and the Senior Officials Meeting, within their respective areas of expertise and mandates, and, to this end, requests the Secretary-General to establish an inter-agency support group involving the UN system, multilateral financial and trade institutions, the Rio conventions and other treaty bodies and other relevant international organizations;

OP 23. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in proposing future United Nations programme budgets, to include provisions for the meetings, activities of and secretariat support for the Forum and of the Senior Officials Meeting, building on the existing resources for the Commission on Sustainable Development;

OP 24. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to carry over all the remaining funds from the CSD Trust Fund to a voluntary Trust Fund of the Forum, in order to facilitate participation of developing countries, least developed countries and representatives of major groups in the work of the Forum and to support the forum's preparations, and, in this regard, *invites* Member States, financial institutions and other organizations to contribute to the voluntary trust fund of the Forum.

OP 25. *Decides* that travel expenses for one representative of each Least Developed Countries will be paid from the United Nations regular budget for participation to all meetings of the forum and the Senior Officials Meeting;

OP 26. *Decides* that the meetings of the Forum and the Senior Officials Meeting will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, unless otherwise decided;

OP 27. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council abolish the CSD effective from the conclusion of the last session of the Commission, pursuant to GA resolution 67/203 of 21 December 2012;

OP 28. *Decides* to review the organization and functioning modalities of the HLPF at its seventy-third session, unless otherwise decided;

OP 29. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly of the 68th session to convene the inaugural Heads of State and Government meeting of the Forum at the beginning of the 68th session, for the duration of one day, and *decides* that, on an extraordinary basis and only for the purpose of this meeting, the outcome will consist of a President's Summary.