

Oral statement by the Secretariat in connection with draft  
resolution A/C.2/66/L.59, entitled "Implementation of Agenda  
21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21  
and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable  
Development"

1. This oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8 of draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.59 and paragraphs 3, 8 and 9 of its Annex II, the General Assembly would:

(a) Take note of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on its second session, and endorse decision 2/1, entitled "Process for the preparation of the draft outcome document for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development", as contained in Chapter VI of that report;

(b) Decide that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be held from 20 to 22 June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and recommend for adoption by the Conference the provisional agenda of the Conference as set forth in annex I to the present resolution;

(c) Decide that the Conference will be composed of six plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and four high level round-table sessions, to be held in concurrence with the plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing plenary meetings;

(d) Also decide that the Conference shall be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

(e) Decide that the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held from 13 to 15 June 2012 in Rio De Janeiro;

(f) The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will consist of a total of six high-level plenary meetings, as follows:

Wednesday, 20 June 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, 21 June 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 22 June 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Evening sessions may be held if required. All plenary meetings will be held at RioCentro Exhibition and Convention Center;

(g) A Main Committee, established in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Conference, will meet, if necessary, in parallel with plenary meetings except during the opening and closing

sessions. The Main Committee would be seized with finalizing any outstanding matters; and

(h) The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will hold four high-level round-table sessions in parallel with the plenary sessions, as follows:

Wednesday, 20 June 2012, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, 21 June 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

Friday, 22 June 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Further, decision 2/1 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on "Process for the preparation of the draft outcome document for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development" recommends the Bureau to convene a three-day meeting in January 2012, for the purposes of having discussions on the zero draft of the outcome document, and to set aside one full week for negotiations in each of the months of February, March and April 2012, ensuring that all these meetings are informal informals and, as such, are to be accommodated within existing resources.

3. In accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the third session of the Preparatory Committee should be held in New York, the established headquarters of the body. However, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the same resolution, United Nations bodies may hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory has agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary-General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved. Accordingly, the decision to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the third session of the Preparatory Committee in June 2012 requires that the Government of Brazil, the host government, to reimburse to the United Nations the actual additional costs directly or indirectly incurred as a result of the change in venue of the Conference and the Third Preparatory Committee Meeting from New York in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

4. As regards decision 2/1 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be endorsed by operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that a total of 36 meetings would be provided with interpretation service in all six languages in January, February, March and April of 2012 for the discussions and negotiations on the zero draft of the outcome document.

5. As regards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil in accordance with operative paragraph 3, 5 and 6 of the draft resolution and its annex II, it is envisaged that a total of fifteen meetings, comprising six plenary meetings, four high level round-table sessions and five meetings of the Main Committee, would be provided with interpretation service in all six languages and documentation services to process twelve documents with a total estimated 78,000 words into all six languages.

6. As regards the third session of the Preparatory Committee to be held from 13 to 15 June 2012 in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil in accordance with operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that a total of six meetings would be held with interpretation service in all six languages and documentation services to process three documents with a total estimated 18,700 words into all six languages.

7. In total, should General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, requirements would arise for interpretation services in all six languages for a total of 57 meetings and related documentation services to process fifteen documents with a total estimated 96,700 words into all six languages, as enumerated in paragraphs 4 to 6 above.

8. It shall be noted that in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, provisions have been included under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management to provide both interpretation and documentation services in 2012 for the third session of the Preparatory Committee (six meetings) and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (six meetings). In addition, the envisaged conference workload for the Commission on Sustainable Development in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, is 80 meetings, or 40 meetings per year. Further, it is recalled that in paragraph 25(c) of resolution 64/236, the General Assembly decided that the Commission (on Sustainable Development) will postpone its multi-year programme of work for one year (in 2012). As such, budgetary provisions to service 40 meetings and related documentation for the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2012 previously included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 could be redeployed and available for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process. Consequently, total budgetary provisions included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 could cover the requirements for 52 meetings and related documentation.

9. The above analysis shows a shortfall in resources for five meetings or eight meetings, if three possible plenary evening sessions were required in accordance with paragraph 3 of Annex II on the organization of work for the plenary meetings, between the service requirements for 57 meetings or 60 meetings with the inclusion of three plenary evening sessions as compared with the budgetary provision available for 52 meetings in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. It is determined that the Secretary-General will make every effort to cover the shortfall within existing resources through more efficient use of resources available, inter alia, potential savings achievable from the PaperSmart initiative to be implemented for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its preparatory process.

10. With regard to text of "within existing resources" contained in decision 2/1 of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, attention is drawn to the provisions of section IV of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 64/243 of 24 December 2009 in which the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with the responsibilities for administrative and

budgetary matters, and reaffirmed the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

11. In conclusion, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.59, no additional requirements would arise for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 as a result of the absorption efforts made by the Secretary-General and on the understanding that the Government of Brazil will defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243.