

19 May 2010

RIO+20 First Preparatory Committee Meeting, 17-19 May 2010

Institutional Frameworks for Sustainable Development

Business and Industry Major Group

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Institutional frameworks at international, national and local levels should foster sustainable development, and we should not limit our attention to environmental institutions alone.

We should begin with the one organization that is mandated to support implementation of sustainable development actions in connection with Rio and Johannesburg, that is CSD. CSD should be streamlined and strengthened going forward, to ensure that it continues to focus on the priority areas for action towards sustainability, and to ensure it does so in the most efficient and targeted ways. We also believe that the CSD's major group component has been extremely valuable and we would endorse its continuation. The 9 major groups have often been more than the sum of our parts. All stakeholders - including business - have critical roles and responsibilities in this endeavor.

Clustering related processes, and improving efficiencies overall – such as among related treaties and bodies -- makes good sense. Bringing international financial and commercial institutions to the table – such as the World Bank, IFC, IFIs, regional development banks and others would help support our consideration of green economy.

Ensuring substantive business engagement on technical and implementation matters will inform and ground policy decisions and strengthen the effectiveness of implementation in sustainable development. We urge governments to facilitate business engagement in these institutional improvements and recognize voluntary partnerships as effective instruments to help achieve sustainable development at global and local levels.

We believe that efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks should support public private partnerships as a supplement and catalyst for improved implementation towards sustainability.

We should encourage multilateral institutional cooperation on market -and science- and risk-based approaches that are not trade-restrictive, engaging economic institutions as well as environmental and social entities.

Rio+20 should encourage good governance, carefully applied science and technology, international cooperation, and expansion of the global trading system. Governments should build capacity and institutions that support implementation at the national level, and free markets to promote sustainable development and environmental improvement in the context of international commerce.