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Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Raymond **Landveld** (Suriname)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 19 (see A/66/440, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 34th, 36th and 37th meetings, on 10 and 22 November and 1 December 2011. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/66/SR.34, 36 and 37).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/66/L.30 and A/C.2/66/L.59

2. At the 34th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Argentina, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/66/L.30), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/270 A of 20 December 2002 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, as well as its resolutions 64/236 of 24 December 2009 and

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in 11 parts, under the symbol A/66/440 and Add.1-10.



65/152 of 20 December 2010 and all other relevant resolutions on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

“Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (‘Johannesburg Plan of Implementation’), as well as 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 and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

“Recalling further its decision to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in 2012,

“1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

“2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on its second session, and endorses its 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;

“3. *Decides* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be held from 4 to 6 June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and endorses the provisional agenda of the Conference as set forth in annex I to the present resolution;

“4. *Also decides* that the Conference will be held with the participation of Heads of State or Government, and encourages all Member States to be represented at that level;

“5. *Further decides* that the Conference will be composed of six plenary meetings, on the basis of two meetings a day, and four interactive round-table sessions, to be held concurrently with the plenary meetings, except during the opening and closing plenary meetings;

“6. *Decides* that the plenary meetings and the four interactive round-table sessions will be organized in accordance with the proposed organization of work of the Conference set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

“7. *Calls upon* all Member States to continue to actively engage in the preparatory process, and in the Conference itself, with a view to reaching a successful outcome of the Conference;

“8. *Decides* that the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held from 28 to 30 May 2012 in Rio de Janeiro;

“9. *Requests* that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, the costs for providing interpretation and other conference services in support of the preparatory process, including the negotiating process of the draft outcome document, should be met; resources already allocated for the twentieth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development should constitute an integral part of the required resources;

“10. *Reiterates its request* that the Secretary-General continue to provide all appropriate support to the work of the Conference and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, in order to address the objective and the two themes of the Conference;

“11. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments and all relevant stakeholders, including the regional commissions, United Nations organizations and bodies, other relevant intergovernmental and regional organizations, international financial institutions and major groups involved in sustainable development, to participate fully and effectively at all levels and to provide ideas and proposals reflecting their experiences and lessons learned as a contribution to the preparatory process of the Conference, as agreed in the preparatory process by Member States;

“12. *Encourages* Governments to continue to be actively involved and to coordinate inputs from all national agencies responsible for economic development, social development and environmental management into their national preparations for the Conference;

“13. *Reiterates* the importance of support by the United Nations development system, as appropriate, to national preparations for the Conference, upon the request of national authorities;

“14. *Urges* developed countries and international and bilateral donors to provide contributions to the trust fund of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the Conference, requests the Secretary-General to make further efforts to use the limited resources in the trust fund in an efficient and effective way in order to enhance the active participation of representatives from developing countries in the negotiating preparatory process of the Conference and in the Conference itself, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General, when using the resources of the trust fund, to prioritize the coverage of economy class air tickets and daily subsistence and terminal expenses;

“15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the outcome of the United Nations Conference of Sustainable Development to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item sustainable development, the sub-item entitled ‘Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development’, taking into account the outcome of the Conference.

“Annex I

“Provisional agenda for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 4 to 6 June 2012)

- “1. Opening of the Conference.
- “2. Election of the President.
- “3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
- “4. Adoption of the agenda of the Conference.
- “5. Election of officers other than the President.
- “6. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee, and other organizational matters.
- “7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
- “8. General debate.
- “9. Reports of the round tables.
- “10. Outcome of the Conference.
- “11. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
- “12. Closure of the Conference.

“Annex II

“Proposed organization of work of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 4 to 6 June 2012)

- “1. The arrangements set out below have been formulated on the basis of General Assembly resolution 64/236.
- “2. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 4 to 6 June 2012.

“I. Organization of work

“A

“Plenary meetings

- “3. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will consist of a total of six high-level plenary meetings, as follows:

Monday, 4 June 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 5 June 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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

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

“4. The list of speakers for the plenary meetings will be established by drawing of lots, in accordance with the customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by other heads of delegation. Statements will be limited to five minutes. Other than for Member States, the list of speakers will be closed on Monday, 9 April 2012.

“5. The opening plenary meeting, on the morning of Monday, 4 June 2012, will begin with the formal opening of the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, followed by the election of the President of the Conference. Opening statements will be made by the President of the Conference, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Conference. The meeting will also consider all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and the agenda, the election of officers other than the President, the establishment of the Main Committee, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference.

“6. At the beginning of the plenary meeting on the afternoon of Monday, 4 June 2012, the President of the Economic and Social Council will be invited to make a statement. The plenary meeting will also hear statements from each of the nine major groups, which will be limited to three minutes.

“7. The closing plenary meeting, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 6 June 2012, is expected to conclude with the adoption of the outcome document and the report of the Conference.

“B

“Main Committee

“8. The Main Committee will be established according to the rules of procedure of the Conference. It is proposed that the Main Committee meet, if necessary, in parallel with the plenary meetings except during the opening and closing meetings. The Main Committee will be seized with finalizing any outstanding matters.

“C

“High-level round tables

“9. The Conference on Sustainable Development will hold four interactive round-table sessions in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Monday, 4 June 2012, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 5 June 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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

“10. The four round-table sessions will have a common theme ‘Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference’.

“11. Each round table will have two Co-Chairs and a Rapporteur, to be appointed by the President of the Conference from among the Heads of State or Government and ministers attending the Conference, in accordance with the

principle of equitable geographical distribution and taking into account invitations for nominations to be extended to the chairs of regional groups.

“12. The outcomes of the round tables should be reflected in the summaries of the Rapporteurs, which should be submitted to the closing plenary meeting of the Conference and included in the final report of the Conference.

“13. The four round-table sessions will have 70 seats each: up to 50 for Government delegations and 20 for other participants, including representatives of observers, entities of the United Nations system and other accredited intergovernmental organizations and major groups. Member States are encouraged to be represented at the round tables at the highest possible level. Participants will be invited by the Secretariat to sign up for participation in one of the round tables in advance of the Conference, bearing in mind the total number of participants outlined above. The opening of the inscription for participation in the round tables will be announced in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

“14. Any given State, observer, entity of the United Nations system or other accredited intergovernmental organization or representative of a major group may participate in only one of the round tables. Each participant may be accompanied by one adviser.

“15. The list of participants in each round-table session will be made available prior to the meeting.

“16. The proceedings of the round tables will be telecast in an ‘overflow room’ that will be open to the media and all other accredited participants.

“II. Credentials of representatives to the Conference: appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

“17. A Credentials Committee will be appointed according to the rules of procedure of the Conference.

“III. Participants

“A

“Member States and observers

“18. The Conference, including the plenary and informal meetings, will be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, as well as intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate as observers in the sessions and work of all international conferences convened under its auspices, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

“B

“Institutional stakeholders

“19. Other relevant intergovernmental organizations that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as relevant organizations of the United

Nations system, may participate in the deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

“20. In addition, interested intergovernmental organizations that were not accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development or to the Commission on Sustainable Development may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure. Online registration and accreditation forms will be available at the Conference website (<http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>).

“C

“Major groups

“21. Major groups that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and those that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to participate in the deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

“22. In addition, interested major groups that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or were not accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development or to the Commission on Sustainable Development may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure.

“IV. Secretariat

“23. As defined in General Assembly resolution 64/236, the Secretary-General of the Conference will serve as focal point within the Secretariat of the United Nations for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the host country authorities.

“V. Documentation

“24. The official documentation of the Conference will include documents issued before, during and after the Conference.

“25. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.

“26. Summaries of the plenary meetings and high-level round-table discussions should also be included in the report of the Conference.

“VI. Organization of parallel meetings and other events of the Conference

“27. Parallel meetings and other events, including a partnership forum and learning centres, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and the round tables if they are held in the main building. The partnership forum and learning centres will constitute an official part of the Conference. Interpretation for such meetings will be provided on an as available basis.

“VII. Side events

“28. Special events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to sustainable development will be organized by Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and accredited institutional and non-institutional stakeholders for the benefit of the participants in the Conference. The calendar of those events will be made available at the Conference website, cited above.

“VIII. Media coverage

“29. Press materials will be prepared by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for journalists covering the Conference. In addition, regular press releases will be issued on the results of plenary meetings, round tables and other events. All relevant documentation will be made available electronically at the Conference website.

“30. The plenary meetings and round tables, as well as press conferences, will be broadcast live to the media area. A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.”

3. At its 37th meeting, on 1 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development” (A/C.2/66/L.59), submitted by the Rapporteur on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.30.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.59.

5. Also at the 37th meeting, the representative of Brazil, in his capacity as facilitator of the draft resolution, orally corrected operative paragraph 16 of the draft resolution by inserting the word “voluntary” before the words “trust fund for the Conference”.

6. At the same meeting, the representative of France read out corrections to the French text of draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.59 (see A/C.2/66/SR.37).

7. Also at the 37th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.59, as orally corrected (see para. 16).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Argentina, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (see A/C.2/66/SR.37).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.30 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft decision A/C.2/66/L.52

10. At its 36th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Contribution of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development” (A/C.2/66/L.52), submitted by the Bureau of the Committee.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.
12. Also at the 36th meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/66/L.52 (see para. 17, draft decision I).

C. Draft decision A/C.2/66/L.53

13. At its 36th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled “Arrangements for accreditation and participation in the preparatory process and in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups” (A/C.2/66/L.53), submitted by the Bureau of the Committee.
14. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.
15. Also at the 36th meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/6/L.53 (see para. 17, draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 56/226 of 24 December 2001, 57/253 and 57/270 A of 20 December 2002 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, as well as its resolutions 64/236 of 24 December 2009 and 65/152 of 20 December 2010 and all other relevant resolutions on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹ Agenda 21,² the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”),⁵ as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,⁶ 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 Consensus⁷ and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁸

Recalling further its decision to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in 2012,⁹

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁰
2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on its second session,¹¹ and

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁶ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁷ Resolution 63/239, annex.

⁸ See resolution 65/1.

⁹ See resolution 64/236, para. 20.

¹⁰ A/66/287.

¹¹ A/CONF.216/PC/9.

endorses its 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;

3. *Decides* that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be held from 20 to 22 June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and recommends for adoption by the Conference the provisional agenda of the Conference as set forth in annex I to the present resolution;

4. *Encourages* Member States to be represented at the Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State or Government;

5. *Decides* 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;

6. *Also decides* that the Conference shall be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in annex II to the present resolution;

7. *Notes* the need to expedite the process for conclusion of the draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference as early as possible in 2012 and, in this regard, notes the decision of the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee to initiate informal consultations on this matter to be concluded in a timely manner;

8. *Calls upon* all Member States to continue to actively engage in the preparatory process, and in the Conference itself, with a view to reaching a successful outcome of the Conference;

9. *Decides* that the third session of the Preparatory Committee will be held from 13 to 15 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro;

10. *Strongly encourages* Member States to conclude negotiations on the draft outcome document at the third session of the Preparatory Committee;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to continue to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself and to ensure inter-agency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objective and the two themes of the Conference can be addressed;

12. *Invites* Member States, observers and all relevant stakeholders, including the regional commissions, United Nations organizations and bodies, other relevant intergovernmental and regional organizations, international financial institutions and major groups involved in sustainable development, to participate fully and effectively in the Conference and to provide ideas and proposals reflecting their experiences and lessons learned as a contribution to the preparatory process of the Conference, as agreed in the preparatory process by Member States;

13. *Encourages* Governments, in their national preparations for the Conference, to continue to actively involve and to coordinate inputs from all national agencies responsible for economic development, social development and environmental protection;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of the support of the United Nations development system, as appropriate, for national preparations for the Conference, upon the request of national authorities;

15. *Reiterates its deep concern* that the resources available in the Commission on Sustainable Development voluntary trust fund are insufficient to fund the participation of representatives from developing countries, as well as representatives of major groups, in the meetings of the preparatory process of the Conference and in the Conference itself;

16. *Urges* international and bilateral donors and other countries and entities in a position to do so to provide contributions to the Commission voluntary trust fund for the Conference in a timely manner and requests the Secretary-General to make further efforts to use the limited resources in the trust fund in an efficient, effective and transparent manner in order to enhance the active participation of representatives from developing countries in the preparatory process of the Conference (comprising the remaining intersessional meetings, informal negotiations and the third session of the Preparatory Committee), and in the Conference itself, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General, when using the resources of the trust fund, to prioritize the coverage of economy-class air tickets, daily subsistence and terminal expenses;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development", taking into account the outcome of the Conference.

Annex I

Provisional agenda of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20 to 22 June 2012

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda of the Conference.
5. Election of officers other than the President.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies, and other organizational matters.
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

8. General debate.
9. Reports of the round tables.
10. Outcome of the Conference.
11. Adoption of the report of the Conference.
12. Closure of the Conference.

Annex II

Proposed organization of work of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20 to 22 June 2012

1. The arrangements set out below have been formulated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/236.
2. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012.

I. Organization of work

A

Plenary meetings

3. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will consist of a total of six high-level plenary meetings to be held, 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 the Riocentro Exhibition and Convention Center.

4. The list of speakers for the plenary meetings will be established by the drawing of lots, in accordance with the customary protocol that ensures that Heads of State or Government speak first, followed by other heads of delegation. The Holy See, in its capacity as observer State, Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and the European Union, in its capacity as observer, will be included in the list of speakers. Statements will be limited to five minutes. Detailed arrangements will be communicated in a timely manner through a note by the Secretariat, prepared in close consultations with the host country and the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee.

5. The formal opening plenary meeting, to be held during the morning of Wednesday, 20 June 2012, will consider all procedural and organizational matters, including the adoption of the rules of procedure and of the agenda, the election of the President of the Conference, the election of officers, the establishment of a Main Committee, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee and arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference, and other matters. The plenary meeting will also hear statements from the President of the Economic and Social Council and the nine major groups.

6. At the ceremonial opening of the Conference, which will be held on Wednesday, 20 June, during the afternoon plenary meeting, statements will be made by the President of the Conference, the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Conference.

7. The closing plenary meeting, to be held during the afternoon of Friday, 22 June 2012, is expected to conclude with the presentation of the summaries by the Rapporteurs of the high-level round tables and the adoption of the outcome document and the report of the Conference.

B

Main Committee

8. 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 meetings. The Main Committee would be seized with finalizing any outstanding matters.

C

High-level round tables

9. The Conference on Sustainable Development will hold four high-level round-table sessions in parallel with the plenary meetings, as follows:

Wednesday, 20 June 2012: from 4.30 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.

10. The four high-level round-table sessions will have a common theme: "Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference".

11. Each high-level round table will have two Co-Chairs and a Rapporteur, to be appointed by the President of the Conference from among the Heads of State or Government and ministers attending the Conference, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution and taking into account invitations for nominations to be extended to the chairs of regional groups.

12. The outcomes of the round tables should be reflected in the summaries by the Rapporteurs, which should be submitted to the closing plenary meeting of the Conference and included in the final report of the Conference.

13. The four round-table sessions will be interactive and multi-stakeholder in nature, with seventy seats each: up to fifty for Government delegations and at least twenty for other participants, including representatives of observers, entities of the United Nations system and other accredited intergovernmental organizations and major groups. Member States and other participants are encouraged to be represented at the round tables at the highest possible level. Participants will be invited by the Secretariat to sign up for participation in one of the round tables in advance of the Conference, bearing in mind the total number of participants outlined above. The opening of the inscription for participation in the round tables will be announced in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

14. Any given State, observer, entity of the United Nations system or other accredited intergovernmental organization or representative of a major group may participate in only one of the round tables. Each participant may be accompanied by one adviser.

15. The list of participants in each round-table session will be made available prior to the meeting.

16. The proceedings of the round tables will be telecast in an “overflow room” which will be open to the media and all other accredited participants.

II. Credentials of representatives to the Conference: appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

17. A Credentials Committee will be appointed according to the rules of procedure of the Conference.

III. Participants

A

Member States and observers

18. The Conference, including the plenary and informal meetings, will be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations, the Holy See, in its capacity as Observer State, Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and the European Union, in its capacity as observer, as well as intergovernmental organizations and other entities having received a standing invitation from the General Assembly to participate as observers in the sessions and the work of all international conferences convened under its auspices, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

B

Institutional stakeholders

19. Other relevant intergovernmental organizations that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as relevant organizations of the United Nations system, may participate in the deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

20. In addition, interested intergovernmental organizations that were not accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development or to the Commission on Sustainable Development may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure. Online registration and accreditation forms will be available at the Conference website.¹²

C

Major groups

21. Non-governmental organizations and other major groups that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and those that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to participate in the

¹² <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>.

deliberations of the Conference, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference.

22. In addition, interested non-governmental organizations and other major groups that are not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or were not accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development or to the Commission on Sustainable Development may apply to the General Assembly for accreditation following the established accreditation procedure.¹³

IV. Secretariat

23. The Secretary-General of the Conference serves as focal point within the Secretariat of the United Nations for providing support to the organization of the Conference, in cooperation with the host country authorities.

V. Documentation

24. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, the official documentation of the Conference will include documents issued before, during and after the Conference.

25. In accordance with the practice followed at previous United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the proceedings and a reportorial account of the work of the Conference and the action taken at the plenary meetings.

26. Summaries of the plenary meetings and high-level round-table discussions should also be included in the report of the Conference.

VI. Organization of parallel meetings and other events of the Conference

27. Parallel meetings and other events, including a partnership forum and learning centres, will be held during the same hours as the plenary meetings and the round tables, if they are held in the main building. The partnership forum and learning centres will constitute an official part of the Conference. Interpretation for such meetings will be provided on an as-available basis.

VII. Side events

28. Special events, including briefings, seminars, workshops and panel discussions on issues related to sustainable development, will be organized by Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and accredited institutional and non-institutional stakeholders for the benefit of the participants in the Conference. Guidelines for organizing special events and the calendar of those events will be made available at the Conference website.¹²

VIII. Media coverage

29. Press materials will be prepared by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for journalists covering the Conference. In addition, regular press releases will be issued on the results of plenary meetings, round tables and other

¹³ See decision 66/___.

events. All relevant documentation will be made available electronically at the Conference website.¹²

30. The plenary meetings and round tables, as well as press conferences, will be broadcast live to the media area. A programme of special media briefings and press conferences will be announced.

17. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Contribution of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly, recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/248 of 27 July 2011, decides to endorse the ministerial declaration of the high level segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests¹ and to transmit it as a contribution of the Forum to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012.

Draft decision II
Arrangements for accreditation and participation in the preparatory process and in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups

The General Assembly decides on the following arrangements for accreditation and participation in the preparatory process and in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups:

1. The major groups that are currently in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council as non-governmental organizations (including those on the Roster through the list of the Commission on Sustainable Development), as well as those that were accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, must inform the secretariat and register to participate. Accredited non-governmental organizations need not register for each preparatory committee meeting separately.

2. Those non-governmental organizations and other major groups currently not in consultative status but wishing to attend and contribute to the Conference may apply to the secretariat for that purpose. The application requires the submission of the following information:

(a) Name of the organization and pertinent contact information, including address and main contact;

(b) Purpose of the organization;

(c) Programmes and activities of the organization in areas relevant to the subject of the Conference indicating in which country or countries they are carried out;

(d) Confirmation of the activities of the organization at the national, regional or international level;

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 22 (E/2011/42), chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I.*

(e) Copies of annual or other reports of the organization, with financial statements and a list of financial sources and contributions, including governmental contributions;

(f) A list of the members of the governing body of the organization and their countries of nationality (for international organizations);

(g) A description of the membership of the organization, indicating the total number of members, the names of organizations that are members and their geographical distribution;

(h) A copy of the constitution and/or by-laws of the organization;

(i) A completed pre-registration form prepared by the Conference secretariat.

3. The deadline for submitting accreditation applications is four months before the start of the Conference. Applications should be submitted to the secretariat. The secretariat, with support from the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service and other relevant United Nations entities, as appropriate, will review the relevance of the work of the applicants on the basis of their background and involvement in sustainable development issues, particularly in the process of follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. If the evaluation shows, on the basis of the information provided, that the applicant organization is competent and its activities relevant to the work of the Conference, the secretariat will make recommendations to the General Assembly for its decision on the accreditation of those non-governmental organizations and other major groups. In cases where such recommendation is not made, the secretariat will make available to the General Assembly the reasons for not doing so and will submit its recommendations at the same time.
