



# Global Civil Society Workshop on the Rio+20 "Zero Draft" and Rights for Sustainability

January 24, 2012  
Church Center for the United Nations



## Rights in the Compilation Document for Rio+20

The following is an overview of rights-based language in the submissions of member states and inter-governmental organizations compiled by the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012. They are organized according to major themes:

- Human rights in general;
- Rights over the access, management, and ownership of natural resources;
- Property and user rights;
- Right to food;
- Right to social services;
- Right to information;
- Women's rights;
- Workers' rights;
- Indigenous Peoples' Rights
- Rights to Self-determination
- Right to development
- Common but Differentiated Responsibility



This background document was prepared by Ibon International for the **Workshop on Rights for Sustainability**<sup>1</sup> to be held at the UN Church Center, New York on January 24, 2012. It is intended as a reference paper for civil society organizations who wish to influence the negotiating positions of members states and promote a rights-based approach to sustainable development as a way of ensuring that inter- and intra-generational equity and justice are central concerns in the reform agenda at Rio+20 and beyond.



Everyone interested in participating in the Rights for Sustainability Initiative may email Paul Quintos [pquintos.ibon@gmail.com](mailto:pquintos.ibon@gmail.com) for more information.



<sup>1</sup> This workshop is organized by Ibon International in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN), People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) and the Center for Environment and Development (CED) with the support of Diakonia-Asia, Both Ends and the World Council of Churches.

## Human Rights

The **European Union (EU) and Member States, Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA), Japan, and Liechtenstein** all called for the respect of human rights.

The **EU and Member States** believe that Rio+20 should include democratic development and respect for human rights to achieve sustainable development at every level and recognize democracy, the rule of law, transparency and accountability as means of meeting social, economic and environmental challenges, as well as the importance of gender equality and the vital role that women have in achieving sustainable development.

For **ECESA**, the persistence of poverty and the continued increase in inequalities are manifestations of the absence of social justice and the resulting lack of equal opportunities, participation and respect for human rights.

Policies aimed at empowering marginalized groups and strengthening the resilience of local communities must be based on the respect of human rights, inclusive participation and non-discrimination.

Economic participation is critical to social inclusion. Green economy policies and measures should include explicit attention to human rights and gender equality in order to avoid negative impacts, particularly on marginalized communities. Green economy policies should address the differentiated needs of those most affected by specific social, economic and environmental problems at the country, region and community level, including indigenous peoples, persons living with disabilities, women, young people, older persons, refugees and internally displaced persons, migrants, persons living in poverty or slums, people living with or at high risk of HIV, and persons belonging to minorities.

**Japan** believes that sustainable development should be promoted with the principle of respect for human rights, as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the achievement of social justice across generations, genders and regions, control of the law, the disclosure of public information to the public, promotion of participation of women, children, youth and other socially vulnerable groups in the policy making processes, the assurance of transparency in policy formulation, implementation, oversight and evaluation, the decentralization of power and local sovereignty.

**Liechtenstein** says that Rio+20 should acknowledge the importance of democracy, good governance and respect for human rights to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions.

For the **World Bank, WHO and ILO**, economic growth must be of high quality and inclusive. It should occur hand in hand with relevant efforts to accelerate progress in global health, gender equality and women's empowerment, the realization of human rights, greater equity, improved access to and quality of social protection, the rule of law, and the fair distribution of the benefits of development. Policies must avoid trade protectionism and negative impacts especially on the poor and vulnerable groups such as refugees and internally displaced persons. These objectives are all key elements of the green economy

approach, and we pledge the support of our organizations to Member States as they engage in this critical and transformational transition.

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** says “it is essential to avoid defining relationships in terms of the “obligations” of some and the “rights” of others—a partnership defined primarily in terms of financing by some, and claims to such financing by others will be doomed to fail”.

The **International Telecommunications Union (ITU)** (in reference to the Arab Spring where ICT was used) sees ICTs as catalysts for social transformation and self-fulfillment, as well as a test of all Member States commitment to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which guarantees freedom to hold and express opinions across all frontiers and all media.

**Canada** endorses and promotes the widely-recognized international CSR performance guidelines such as the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights; and the creation of the Office of the Extractive Sector CSR Counselor.

### **Rights over the access, management, and ownership of natural resources**

The **G77+China, India**, and the **Pacific Islands** asserted their sovereign right to their nation's resources. The **G77+China** recognized the ‘sovereign right of countries over their natural resources and ensuring that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.’ **India** stated that countries should have the “sovereign right to exploit their own natural resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental requirements and natural resource endowments.” The **Pacific Small Islands Developing States** said that coastal developing states have sovereign rights over the natural resources of their exclusive economic zones.

**Rome-based agencies: FAO, IFAD, WFP and Biodiversity International** and the **UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)** recognized that smallholder farmers, particularly women, need strengthened rights over the natural resources they depend on.

**EU and Member States, Kenya, and Jamaica** have all expressed that people have the right to a healthy environment.

The **EU and Member States** stated that “democracy, transparency, good governance and accountability are essential means of meeting social, economic and environmental challenges and protecting people's right to live in a healthy environment, in dignity, and free from hunger and from fear of violence, oppression and injustice.”

**Kenya** has a new constitution which included in its bill of rights the right of the people to a clean and healthy environment which should be protected for the benefit of the present and future generations. It also provides that land must be used and managed in a manner that is sustainable.

**Jamaica** stated that an effective regulatory framework which binds the Government and the people including constitutional and legislative reform which emphasizes each citizen's right to a healthy environment incorporating environmental considerations into decision-making processes such as national policies should be created.

The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** wants a rights-based approach to good governance, conservation and natural resource management, including the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice) to advance open, inclusive, transparent decision-making and promote accountability at all levels. A rights-based approach to environmental governance, which protects the rights of the weakest and most vulnerable and enforces responsibilities for sustainability, is also needed. According to the IUCN, the States have the obligation to underpin the rights-based approach.

### **Property and User Rights**

The **UN Development Programme (UNDP)**, **UN Environment Management Group (EMG)**, and **Nepal** all called for the clear and well-defined property rights.

The **UNDP** wants clear land and property rights to ensure poor people will not lose their access and rights to use land and resources. Securing the resource rights of the poor people also provide important incentives for local ecosystem management and sustainability of local initiatives. According to the UNDP, women's property rights with respect to access to capital and natural assets and their participation in the economic and investment decision-making process should be strengthened.

The **UN EMG** sees the establishment and enforcement of well-defined property rights as key to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.

For **Nepal**, property rights must be clearly defined to enable and encourage true individual and collective stakeholders to use natural resources sustainably. Nepal also wants to ensure the access and property rights for communities in mountains especially women, indigenous communities and marginalized groups.

The enforcement of property rights is included in the plans of the government of **Albania** to remove all the obstacles to private sector participation.

**Switzerland** wants to access and benefit sharing and promote property rights as a reward and compensations to communities for the conservation and provision of ecosystem services.

The **Collaborative Partnership on Forests** wants the forest management rights devolved to local communities that know their forests—and that have a vested interest in the decisions being made.

The **World Bank** is exploring for an Ocean Initiative with the world's premier ocean-focused organizations to combine knowledge with finance for workable solutions to meet country demands for improved marine resource management. Their clients are seeking catalytic funding to move towards a rights-based fisheries management.

The **IUCN** wants a rights-based approach to environmental governance, conservation and natural resource management which protects the rights of the weakest and most vulnerable and enforces responsibilities for sustainability.

**Bolivia** protested the establishment of market mechanisms because these will generate new forms of property rights over the functions of nature that will be in the hands of investors. According to Bolivia, the establishment of property rights over the capacity of forests to capture carbon dioxide is in conflict with the sovereign rights of States and the indigenous peoples that live in forests.

**Switzerland, USA, Japan, ECLAC, and UN EMG** called for the *promotion and protection of intellectual property rights.*

**Switzerland** considers the protection of intellectual property rights, including a legal framework enabling the protection of collective rights for geographical indications as a tool to attain a sustainable agro-food system.

The **USA** is committed to stimulating developments in science and innovation through the use of incentive systems; investments in education, the workforce, and basic research; and promoting innovative, open, and competitive markets, supported by strong protection for intellectual property rights.

**Japan** sees the need to protect IPR to facilitate investments in Green technological innovations such as smart-grid system, heat pumps, solar power generation, geothermal power generation, ecological housing, energy-saving electric appliances, light-emitting diodes (LED) lighting, technologies for appropriate resource management and the 3Rs, global observation and climate change projection, and data integration and analysis

**Singapore** wants governments to promote policies and programs that are favorable to business and technology transfer provided that IPR and patents and safeguarded.

The **WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of intellectual property rights** (TRIPS) provides a framework for applying the intellectual property system to promote access to and dissemination of green technologies, and provides policy space to promote the public interest in sectors of vital importance to socio-economic and technological development, as well as specific incentives for technology transfer and exclusions of environmentally-damaging technologies from IP protection. The framework specifically provides for measures to promote the public interest in sectors of importance to socio-economic development, directs the IP system to promote technological innovation and the transfer and dissemination of technology, provides for exclusions from patent protection on grounds of prejudice to the environment, and specifies possible exceptions from IP rights in the public interest.

The **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** called for “the promotion of a global intellectual property rights regime that facilitates the transfer of such technologies, in keeping with the commitments undertaken by each country”;

The **UN EMG** called on the UN organizations to provide practical tools that will support IPR and critical complementary know-how to enable the transfer, adaptation, and widespread use and dissemination of green technologies.

**Nepal** expressed its concern over the prohibitive costs of technologies under the IPR. According to Nepal, appropriate mechanisms are urgently required to ensure affordable access to appropriate technologies for developing countries and for providing necessary technical and financial support for establishing technology research and development centers in LDCs for developing, adapting and transferring technologies suitable to their contexts, priorities and needs.

**Brazil** recognizes the international protection of IPR provided for primarily in the Trade Related Aspects of intellectual property rights Agreement of the World Trade Organization. Brazil also recognizes that in some cases intellectual property can create barriers to the dissemination and transfer of clean or socially relevant technologies, such as medicines.

**Egypt** on the other hand pointed out that the barriers created based on IPR are hindering the transfer of the needed technologies to developing countries.

**Ecuador, Paraguay, and Cuba** called for the removal of the barriers created by IPR in the transfer of technology.

For **Ecuador**, one of the main challenges is the waiving of IPR to technologies, particularly those aimed at safeguarding human rights and the rights of nature, as well as combating climate change. Therefore, it is important to ensure that developing countries have access to new and environmentally appropriate technologies, through: (1) transfer of technology, which requires the removal of barriers; (2) provision of new and additional financial resources; and (3) capacity-building.

**Cuba** wants to avoid the barriers created by IPR to ensure the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.

**Paraguay** called for the removal of the barriers created by IPR to promote the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge, to facilitate the genuine transfer of nature-friendly technologies between developed and developing countries, and to establish an effective mechanism for technology transfer.

**Bolivia** on the other hand declared that all forms of IPR over life should be abolished as IPR over genes, microorganisms and other forms of life are a threat to food sovereignty, biodiversity, access to medicine and other elements that are essential for the survival of low-income populations.

## **Right to Food**

The *right to food* is recognized by the **G77+China, EU and Member States, Brazil, Japan, and Paraguay.**

The **G77+China** recognized that agricultural development and food security need to be prioritized to fulfill the right to food and proper nutrition. According to the group, this must be done by eliminating barriers that distort international trade as well as by promoting local food production by small farmers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and rural communities, and, where appropriate, by practices that contribute to stability of food prices and domestic markets, and regulation of food prices to meet social needs.

The **EU and Member states** aims to strengthen cooperation of International Organizations dealing with the issue of food security and support, inter alia implementation of the 2004 Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security.

**Brazil** wants to consolidate the right to food. At the international level, Brazil's food and nutrition security strategy consists of two dimensions: structural and humanitarian. The structural dimension seeks to promote the food and nutrition security model successfully adopted in Brazil's socioeconomic programs (land reform, rural development, credit, infrastructure, technical assistance, insurance, storage, minimum price policies, commercialization, agro ecological systems, and others), with social participation in their formulation, execution, follow-up, and evaluation. Through the humanitarian component, Brazil aims to contribute to ensure food security for populations in other countries, in particular through food donations, always at the formal request and by consent of the recipient State.

During the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development that commenced in 2005, **Japan** offered a proposal to reaffirm the importance of addressing water issues globally, the direction of food rights for independent countries, including developing countries, as extended by the United Nations General Assembly's "Resolution on the right to food," the FAO World Food Summit, and the World Food Security Committee, and the necessity of education, human resource development, and technology transfers.

**Paraguay** on the other hand said that states must ensure their peoples' right to food by strengthening food sovereignty, which promotes: (a) food production by peasants, indigenous peoples and small farmers; (b) access for family and community growers to land, water, seeds, credit and other inputs; (c) development of food production, distribution and marketing undertakings that discourage hoarding and promote stable food prices in the internal market by restraining speculative practices and the destruction of local production; (d) consuming only what is necessary and giving preference to locally grown produce; (e) practices that help to restore harmony with nature, avoiding further desertification, deforestation and destruction of biological diversity; (f) promoting the use of locally produced seeds and traditional know-how. Food growing and marketing must be regulated by society and cannot be left to the influence of market forces.

## **Right to Social Services (Health, Education, Water, etc.)**

The right to various social services is recognized by several countries and political groups.

The **Holy See** acknowledges the right of all people to basic resources such as air, water, land, safe sanitation and shelter.

**Bolivia** said that all people should have the right to water, education, health, transportation, energy, sanitation, and proper nutrition.

The **Inter-Parliamentary Union** sees the green economy as a useful concept that needs to be compatible with the larger policy framework that must underpin the sustainable development agenda for poverty eradication. This includes policies that aim at achieving full employment, guaranteeing basic rights to health, education and livelihood,

The **UN Interagency Committee for the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (IAC DESD)**, **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **Japan** recognize the right to education. **IAC DESD** sees the implementation of the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as an inter-sectoral endeavour that can advance the rights, health and well-being of current and future generations.

**Japan** says that a global society where everyone receives education as a fundamental human right is necessary for the implementation of the Rio Declaration. Japan aims to achieve the goal through educational activities for people in every life stage, such as school education, social education, and lifelong learning. It is necessary to promote the above mentioned education in formal, non-formal and informal education through collaborative partnerships between public agencies and NGOs. It is also necessary to significantly increase opportunities for children and youth to express their views and findings in national and local policy making as well as at international conferences. An example of how a child can learn ESD is that recognizing the linkage between local and global issues, a child will carry out such actions that embody the idea of thinking globally and acting locally.

Meanwhile, the **ADB** sees PPP as important in fulfilling the rights to education for all particularly the poor in East Asia and the Pacific.

The **G77+ China, United Nations SG's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Switzerland, Australia, Japan, and Bolivia** all support the right to water and sanitation.

The **UNSGAB** says that all the dimensions of the human right to water and sanitation: safety, availability, accessibility, acceptability, affordability, should be implemented.



The **G77+CHINA** underlines the importance of the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. The group also recognizes the critical importance of water resources for sustainable development, including poverty and hunger eradication, public health, food security, hydropower, agricultural and rural development.

The **UNICEF** considers the Young Child Survival and Development (YCSD) is the first right of the child. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is a central component of YCSD programming, due to the impact of WASH interventions on child survival and development. According to UNICEF, adequate sanitation, hand washing with soap, and household water treatment, have respective impacts on diarrhoeal reduction of 36%, 48% and 47%.

**Switzerland** wants a human-right based approach to water in ensuring sustainable water management and use in securing water supply.

**Japan** recognizes water and sanitation as basic human rights of all people and represents the basic infrastructure for gender equality, education, and preventing epidemics. However, there are many countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia where the outlook indicates difficulty in attaining the MDGs. Japan plans to create a financial scheme to resolve water issues. This financial scheme will support international contributions from private companies in the water sector and promote the management of water and sewerage services in cooperation with private companies and local governments. Continuous human resources and technological support for the field of operation and management, promotion of small-scale projects such as sector loan projects, and flexible and enterprising suggestions with political initiatives, which are beyond the sector borderlines, are required. In addition, as the experiences of other countries show, problems have occurred because of the privatization of water services, and thus, securing water should be considered a fundamental human right.

**Australia** says the Rio+20 outcomes should include commitments to improving water access and water use efficiency at a national level, particularly for food production, through domestic institutional and regulatory reforms addressing water planning, and information, and developing markets in water access rights.

While recognizing that all living things have the right to water, **Bolivia** also stressed that water also has a right. **Bolivia** calls on all States and peoples worldwide to work together in solidarity to ensure that loss of vegetation, deforestation, the pollution of the atmosphere and contamination are prevented from continuing to alter the hydrological cycle.

### **Right to Access to Information**

The **IUCN** declared that the rights-based approach (and Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration) includes rights, to ensure that procedures designed to provide access to information, public participation and administrative proceedings are respected and properly implemented.

**Switzerland** believes that strengthening the right to access to information, building civil society capacity to exercise this right, as well as clarifying governments' duties to proactively disclose information will improve participation of civil society.

**Ghana** is in the process of passing the Right to Information Bill and the Whistle Blower's Bill which will ensure transparency and accountability in governance and consequently reduce corruption. This will ensure efficient use of resources and make available more resources for sustainable development. According to Ghana, there is freedom of expression in Ghana as enshrined in the constitution and people now have the right within the mandate of the law to voice out their feelings without fear of arrest.

The New Forestry Development Law and Community Forestry Laws of **Liberia** have slowed illegal logging in the country. **Liberia** has implemented community forestry laws, including implementation of the community right to know Act designed to include indigenous people and forest communities.

**Bolivia** extended the right to know to the citizens' right to have to have proper information about what they consume, the way their food is produced and its origin.

### **Women's Rights**

**Australia** said that the advancement of women's rights should put emphasis on the land and property rights, access to education and training; access to capital; sexual and reproductive health; freedom from gender-based violence; and full participation in economic and political decision-making.

**Norway** also sees ensuring equal rights for women by implementing user rights, to land, water, soil and equal access to credit, extension services, as well as to other inputs.

The **UN Women** say that to promote women's agency and their rights, women's movement and their advocacy at the global and the regional level must be encouraged and supported. Their role, contribution and participation in international fora, including in governance bodies and negotiating fora must be ensured. Similarly, women's community-based and grass-roots initiatives should be supported by enhancing their access to economic, financial and environmental resources (for example, land and credit), and ensuring their voice and participation in decision-making at all levels and various processes.

### **Workers' Rights**

**ECESA** recognized that long-term sustainability cannot be achieved based on social transfers alone. It must be based on the ability of policies to leverage opportunities for productive employment and decent work for all. Policies that focus on the promotion of decent work and extension of social protection while preventing the erosion of respect for workers' rights and strengthening social dialogue are necessary. Investment in social protection and social services

alongside the pursuit of active labour market policies is critical to make a green economy feasible and to seize the benefits for sustainable development.

For the **Philippines**, green economy should promote green, sustainable and decent jobs that are compliant with living standards. A just transition to green jobs would mean that the transition process has to be inclusive of all stakeholders — protecting workers' rights and ensuring that employment and social cost of the transition are shared by all. In addition, international support on trainings and courses on green skills and competencies of workers, particularly those in the brown industries, should be provided. Further, green economy should facilitate the development of green livelihood and entrepreneurship by engaging the informal sector of industries to truly contribute to poverty reduction, social development and a better environment for all.

The **EU and Member States** say that poor people who are more dependent on local natural resources and ecosystem services should have a vital role in a green economy which promotes decent work with effective respect for fundamental principles, rights at work, social development, full freely chosen and productive employment for both women and men and combats child labour and forced labour by taking into account the implementation of the International Labour Standards and the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a fair Globalization with a view to integrating social development through global sustainable development.

### **Indigenous Peoples' Rights**

**Bolivia, Paraguay and Guatemala** all called for application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The three countries all believe that the respect for the rights of the IP and the implementation of the UNDRIP is a pre-requisite to sustainable development.

**Japan** called for the respect of the UNDRIP. Its House of Representatives and House of Councilors in 2008 recognized the Ainu people as an indigenous people in Japan. A report issued in 2011 by the Experts Committee on Approaches to Ainu Policy, which was set up by the Japanese government in 2009, stated, "Future Ainu policy should be developed based on the recognition that the Ainu people are an indigenous people and that the government bears a deep responsibility to promote their culture, and grounded in the Constitution of Japan—the supreme law of the nation—and the meaning of the UN DRIP as a general guideline for policy approaches to indigenous peoples."

**Japan** is also calling for a rights-based approach to poverty alleviation that includes the rights of indigenous peoples; their own original rights stipulated in UNDRIP. Japan sees poverty not just a problem of low income, but a problem of deprivation of social and political rights, and all the stakeholders need to play a role in guaranteeing the rights of vulnerable groups of people.

For **Nepal**, the proven people-centered, sustainable, and green development interventions should consider the rights of indigenous people and local communities to land and other natural resources. This would also require national commitments to enacting appropriate legal and policy frameworks.

The **Philippines** reiterates that strategies towards green economy as well as efforts to “green” technology, policies and institutions must consider the social dimension, including biocultural diversity and heritage. In particular, indigenous peoples should be considered in policy and decision-making processes to protect their biocultural rights. Green economy is envisioned to be a people-centered development paradigm that promotes the people’s role as steward of the natural resources and as owners of the country’s domain, thus ensuring sustainability.

### **Right to Self-Determination**

The **G77+China** and **Uganda** uphold the *right to self determination*.

**Uganda** believes in the right of nation states to self determination and in the principles people-centered development. Uganda is calling for the reaffirmation of the principles of the Paris declaration on aid effectiveness and those of the Accra Agenda for Action and is urging the conference to expedite support for the establishment and promotion of National Councils for Sustainable Development.

The **G77+China** reaffirms the need to take further effective measures to remove obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and must be combated and eliminated. People under foreign occupation must be protected in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law.

### **Right to development**

**G77+ China, Liechtenstein, China, Turkey, India, Serbia, and Bolivia** all called reaffirmed the *right to development* of all nations. The **G77+China** identified the right to development as “some of the critical gaps to be fulfilled in order to achieve sustainable development.

**Liechtenstein** considered the right to development as “an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. Rio+20 should remind governments of their core responsibility to guarantee and promote this comprehensive right to development for their people.”

**China** pointed out that the right of countries to choose independently their modes of sustainable development should be respected because their differing development stages and national conditions.

For **Turkey**, the right to development is necessary to equitably meet the environmental needs of present and future generations.

**India** recognized the right to development and the need for poverty eradication and economic growth in developing countries.

**Serbia** said that the rights of countries to pursue their own sustainable development paths should be respected.

**Bolivia** urged that developing countries should realize their right to development that follows paths and paradigms different from the unsustainable practices of developed countries to prevent ecological collapse.

**Egypt** and **Venezuela** both asserted the sovereign right of countries to determine their path of development. **Egypt** said “countries should have the sovereign right to determine their development path and their model of green economy/ growth and ensure their policy space.” **Venezuela** stated that “the sovereign right of the States to direct their development policies according to their national priorities must be ratified, on the basis of Principle 2 and 3 of the Rio Declaration of 1992. In this framework, the compliance with the multilateral environmental framework-agreements is essential.”

**Egypt** likewise wants the rights-based approach to sustainable development to carry a special place in upcoming discussions. According to Egypt, there is a need for a paradigm shift, beyond the focus on achieving economic growth to address the manner in which the fruits of such growth are equitably distributed; lifting people from poverty, providing them with needed jobs, social safety nets, and social protection in general.

The **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)** wants a rights-based approach to population policies along with a more inclusive greener economic growth to promote sustainable development. Without these comprehensive policies, efforts to cater for growing populations and raising economic output will lead to dangerous degradation and depletion of natural resources, affecting the climate, land, forests, ground water and oceans, and generating greater challenges in regard to energy production.

### **Common but Differentiated Responsibility**

**UN organizations** (WHO, World Bank, ILO, UNDP, and UN Environment Programme) mentioned CBDR only in their common preamble wherein they “reaffirm[ed] the continuing validity of the principles in the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and of Agenda 21, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities” but made no elaboration on their interpretation of CBDR.

**The EU and member states group** also has a similar approach. It mentioned CBDR only in its rationale of the green economy in the context of SD and poverty eradication. It pointed out that “a number of developed countries have been taking the lead in accordance with the principle of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’” but made no elaboration on how they are doing so.

The **North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)**, **Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE)**, and the **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** only

mentioned that they follow the CBDR principle or that the principle must be honored but did not give details on how they follow/honor the CBDR.

The **IMF** wanted the underscoring of the involved “global commons” to be guided by the principles of CBDR. According to IMF, “global partnership for SD should be built on the principles of CBDR and complementarity of effort—all stakeholders should contribute according to their respective capacities to the achievement by all of the objectives of SD.”

The **G77+China** on the other hand stressed that CBDR should be the guiding principle in the support and financing of the activities of the developing countries, increasing the resources for development including the ODA commitments of developed countries (this should be watched over as ODA almost always come with conditionalities.), and in the creation of effective institutional frameworks and encouraging participation of the major groups and other stakeholders for the implementation of sustainable development agenda. Compliance with the principle of CBDR was also pointed out in the implementation of commitments under the UNFCCC, CBD, and the UNCCD, in what the discussion on “green economy” should contain, in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production patterns, with emphasis on the rational use of nature and its resources, and in the integration of the 3 pillars of sustainable development. G77+China also reaffirmed that the CBDR should be the basis of international cooperation in the area of sustainable development.

The **South Center** stressed the relationship between the environment and development which are the centerpiece of sustainable development enshrined in the Rio principles of precaution, polluters pay, right to development, and the equity principle of CBDR.

All of the 25 countries (out of 75 that submitted) that mentioned CBDR in their submissions called for the adherence to the principle of CBDR in their expectations on the outcomes of the Rio+20.

**Egypt, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Cuba** indicated in their statements the historical responsibility of the developed countries in the ecological and economic problems that the world is now facing.

**Egypt and Peru** demanded that the developed nations take lead in the changing of their unsustainable production and consumption patterns. **Egypt** further declared that clear mechanisms should be established for the implementation of commitments that will take in consideration the principle of CBDR. According to Egypt, agreements and actions should take “a supportive approach towards developing countries and an effective enforcement approach towards development countries”. Egypt also expressed its concern on the many attempts to impose unilateral measures that not only increase the suffering of developing nations but also ignore the principle of CBDR and respective capabilities.

**Brazil** highlighted that developed countries were able to reach their stage of development through an unsustainable economic growth model. Technology transfers and capacity building initiatives should be based on the principle of CBDR.

**Bolivia** and **Paraguay** want the developed countries to pay their historical ecological debt through transfer of financial resources from public sources and socially and ecologically appropriate technologies to developing countries.

**Ecuador** recognized the historical responsibility of developed countries but declared the carbon offset of Net Avoided Emission as consistent with the principle of CBDR.

**Cuba** on the other hand expressed its concern over how industrialized countries want to escape their ecological debt and CBDR through the concept of low carbon development that limits the economic development of developing countries. Moreover, “green economy’ could be used by industrialized countries to create a smoke screen ...to reinterpret some basic principles such as CBDR in their favor.”

Countries such as **India, Switzerland, China, Turkey, South Africa, Chile, Japan, Pakistan, Israel, Thailand, Argentina, and Indonesia** all stressed that CBDR should take into consideration the different levels of development and national circumstances that each of the countries is facing. However, these countries neither demanded the payment of the ecological debt by developed countries nor did they call on them to take lead in the stopping their unsustainable patterns of production and consumption.

**Japan** interpreted the principle of CBDR as not an intention to “divide the international community into the fixed categories of developed and developing countries.” According to Japan, the situation has changed since the Rio Declaration of 1992. Unlike before, the stakeholders have diversified. The role of the private sectors, NGOs, women and the elderly is increasing. Likewise, Japan also believes in polluter-pays principle and the beneficiaries-pay principle.#