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Swiss Statement

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Mr. Chair,

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development next June in Rio will bring sustainability issues back on top of the international agenda. Twenty years ago in Rio, the international community already sketched out a development path which in a holistic manner takes into account the social, economic and environmental dimensions. Long-term development and prosperity for all can be ensured while preserving and making sustainable use of our planet's natural resources. There has been progress while striving for a sustainable development for the benefit of all mankind. However important gaps remain and our development overall still is far from sustainable; too many are left out and we are reaching planetary boundaries.

Therefore, the conference of Rio is timely. It allows renewing our commitment to sustainable development. The thematic agenda related to "Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" and the "Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development" should help us to focus our discussions and to lay the ground for a meaningful outcome. We are committed to contribute actively to the debate and will submit concrete proposals in the Rio+20 process.

Under the agenda item Sustainable Development of the 2nd Committee, we have several important issues to discuss that will directly or indirectly contribute to the Rio+20 process and the conference outcome.

With the resolution related to Agenda 21, it is important to acknowledge the work that has been undertaken on Sustainable Consumption and Production. The Marrakech process ended with CSD-19 without having adopted a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP on SCP), as called for by the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It is of great importance to capitalize on the work undertaken and the experience gained in the Marrakech Process, as well as on UNEP's and other UN entities' expertise on sustainable consumption and production. SCP is key to advancing the transformation of the economy towards a green and sustainable economy. We therefore need to build on the valuable work that has been done in order to get a practical outcome on green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication at the Rio+20 conference.

With regard to the resolution on UNEP, Switzerland considers it important that it underlines the importance of the Nairobi-Helsinki outcome on strengthening international environmental governance. The Nairobi-Helsinki outcome is a vital input for the discussions on strengthening the institutional framework for sustainable development at the Rio+20 conference, which should result in ambitious and concrete reform measures.

The resolution on biodiversity should reflect the fact that the first part of the plenary meeting on IPBES took place in Nairobi and that significant progress was made in a constructive spirit. Switzerland is confident that consensus on the establishment of the platform can be reached during the second meeting in April next year. We consider the call for joint offers from potential host institutions by the plenary as a sensible approach to create the basis for an open and inclusive platform.

Identifying lessons from disaster risk management and taking them into account in policy making can be an important avenue for contributing to sustainable development. The last meeting of UNEP's Governing Council decided to strengthen awareness of and to promote cooperation on the environmental dimensions of natural and man-made disasters. Amongst others, the decision requested closer cooperation of UNEP with ISDR and other actors. Switzerland would therefore welcome a reference to this UNEP GC decision and its implementation in the resolution on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

Switzerland remains committed to fostering sustainable development and is looking forward to both the discussions in the 2nd Committee and in the Rio+20 process.

Thank you.