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19th Session of the
Commission on Sustainable Development
(CSD 19)

Ministerial Dialogue
**Moving towards Sustainable Development:
Expectations from Rio+20**

Swiss Statement

presented by
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Mr Chair

The principal objective of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development is to renew the commitment for sustainable development at the highest political level. Switzerland is convinced that focusing on the two main conference themes - Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as well as the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development - will permit us to move sustainable development back to the top of the agenda of today's leaders.

What we are expecting from Rio+20 are therefore mainly two things: Firstly, we are expecting an ambitious outcome that lays out the framework and the path for greening our economies. Secondly, we are expecting an agreement on how to render the institutional framework for sustainable development more efficient and more effective.

Green Economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development

Green Economy is not a new idea. What is new is the unique opportunity that the UNCS D provides for taking decisions that will accelerate the shift towards a Green Economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development. As Switzerland has stated already at the first UNCS D PrepCom, we are therefore advocating for that one of the main outcomes of the conference should be an international **Green Economy Road Map**.

This Green Economy Road Map should reflect progress on two levels, one being the strategic policy and the other the operational level: At the strategic policy level, the Green Economy Road Map needs to contain a common vision, principles and goals as well as concrete targets and a timeline for the transformation towards a green economy.

At the operational level, the Green Economy Road Map needs to contain a range of possible policies, instruments and measures that will help each country to reach the agreed goals and targets. An ambitious 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10 YFP on SCP) agreed upon at this session of the CSD will be one of the cornerstones of the operational level of the Green Economy Road Map.

Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

The discussions on the institutional framework for sustainable development will not only face the challenge to take decisions on how to improve the institutional setup but provide answers on how implementation of Agenda 21, the JPOI and other relevant decisions for sustainable development can be fostered. We will therefore have to focus specifically on the questions of monitoring, evaluation and accountability.

One building block of enhancing governance for sustainable development could be the introduction of a peer review mechanism, in order to take stock, discuss and capi-

talize on different states' efforts and experiences on their pathway to sustainable development. Peer reviews would allow assessing actions undertaken for implementing sustainable development at the national level. A country's policies and measures would be reviewed by other countries and possibly also by representatives from the civil society. Such a system would also serve as an incentive for identifying further areas of cooperation for speeding up implementation.

Establishing clear sets of goals, targets and indicators for all areas of sustainable development could be another promising way for improving accountability in the future. Let me in this context welcome UNEP's work in compiling the global environmental goals to which the international community has agreed so far. This important work can be an excellent basis for further work on goals, targets and indicators in the area of the environment. We hope that UNEP uses its work in this field as a significant contribution to the Rio+20 conference.

Besides concrete decisions for improving sustainable development governance, the UNCSD 2012 will also provide the unique opportunity for strengthening the governance framework in all dimensions of sustainability. In particular, we are expecting that the conference will deliver an ambitious and effective reform package for strengthening International Environmental Governance.

Conclusion

Mr. Chair, Switzerland is committed to an outcome from the UNCSD 19 that has an added value. The concise political outcome that we are looking for should renew the international commitment for sustainable development by agreeing on concrete steps forward in order to shift towards a Green Economy and to improving the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Thank you, Mr Chair.