

Joint Position of the UNDG Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism on Human Rights in the Rio+20 Outcome Document

I. Preamble

Para. 2: We reaffirm our determination to free humanity from hunger, fear and want.

Para. 2bis: We also reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies for sustainable development.

II. Renewing Political Commitment

Reaffirming Rio principles and past action plans: Para. 6: We reaffirm that we continue to be guided by the purpose and principles of the Charter of the UN and with full respect for all human rights, including the right to development, and other international law and its principles.

Assessing progress to date and remaining gaps: Para 11: Rising inequalities and discrimination in some parts of the world, limited participation, lack of decent jobs, weak enjoyment of labour rights and fundamental freedoms, are also adversely affecting development gains.

III. Institutional framework for sustainable development

Strengthening/reforming/integrating the three pillars: Para 44: We recognize that strong governance and accountability systems.....

a) Integrate the three pillars of sustainable development and promote the implementation of Agenda 21 and related outcomes, consistent with the principles of universality, democracy, transparency, cost-effectiveness, equality, non-discrimination, participation and accountability, keeping in mind the Rio Principles, in particular common but differentiated responsibilities.

IV. Framework for action and follow up

Priority/Key /thematic/cross-sectoral issues and areas: NEW paragraph (immediately after Para. 104. Gender Equality): Human Rights

We acknowledge that sustainable development can only be achieved in a climate of respect for human rights, including fundamental principles and rights at work. These are enabling rights for any development process. Recent calls, in particular from the youth, for the full respect of human rights, including the right to decent work, must be heeded, and we commit to ensuring full coherence between efforts to advance the green economy and the norms and

standards of the United Nations and its agencies, including all civil, cultural, economic, political, social and labour rights.

We resolve to advance a human rights-based approach to sustainable development, based on the principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment and the rule of law, and to pursue a model of economic growth that is socially and environmentally sustainable, just and equitable, and respectful of all human rights.

Accelerating and measuring progress (between Para. 107 & 108): We commit to evaluating the success of our sustainable development strategies. We will take particular care to prevent and remedy any negative impact on the human rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including through the use of environmental and human rights impact assessments.