



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
20-22 June 2012

Agenda item 10

Outcome of the Conference

Note verbale dated 25 June 2012 from the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has the pleasure to enclose the official reservations and interpretations to the outcome document of the Conference (A/CONF.216/L.1) and kindly requests them to be issued as a document of the Conference.



Annex to the note verbale dated 25 June 2012 from the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

[Original: Spanish]

Reservations and interpretations of the declaration “The future we want” of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

22 June 2012

The Plurinational State of Bolivia wishes to join the consensus on this declaration with the following reservations and interpretations, which we request be reflected in the outcome document of the Conference.

1. Reservations

“Green economy”

The Plurinational State of Bolivia rejects the concept of a “green economy” as a new model and tool for privatizing nature and society the alleged purpose of which is to achieve sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. The Plurinational State of Bolivia therefore reserves its position on all references to “green economy” and any interpretation derived therefrom that could be construed as the commodification of the functions and cycles of nature, payment for environmental services, or means that allow developed countries to evade their commitments and obligations to developing countries, such as provisions for technical, technological and/or financial cooperation, whether with reimbursable or non-reimbursable resources, including such cooperation as may originate with international financial entities for the sustainable development of developing countries.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia upholds and reaffirms, as stated in paragraph 56 of the declaration, that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development, and that countries have the sovereign right to choose their own approaches, visions, models and tools for sustainable development. Bolivia has opted in a sovereign manner for the vision of Living Well through comprehensive development in harmony and balance with Mother Earth, to build an equitable, just society based on solidarity that respects the rights of the original indigenous peasant peoples and of the Bolivian nation.

Bearing in mind the principles of international law, inter alia equal rights, the right of all peoples to self-determination, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the right to development, and within the context of exercising its competences under international law, the Plurinational State of Bolivia understands that means of implementation and flexibilities within the framework of sustainable development are in force, and that there should therefore be no constraints on the diverse approaches, visions, models and tools adopted by Governments to achieve sustainable development and eradication of poverty. At the same time, the Plurinational State of Bolivia believes

that the agencies and programmes of the United Nations system will implement this declaration while respecting the agreement of the Member States and without introducing elements that were not agreed during this Conference.

Energy subsidies

The Plurinational State of Bolivia reserves its position with respect to paragraph 225 of this declaration concerning the rationalizing of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies because that implies restructuring our system of taxation and subsidies and is contrary to the Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, since it would interfere with decisions of a strictly sovereign nature. In addition, implementation of that paragraph might imply imposition, outside interference, potentially binding commitment and external conditionality with respect to international cooperation, which is why it should not be linked in future to the so-called “sustainable development goals”. Moreover, we will not accept any kind of evaluation, monitoring, review or revision of our national energy measures and policies that would impinge on our sovereignty.

Innovative financing mechanisms

The Plurinational State of Bolivia reserves its position on the notion of “innovative financing mechanisms” proposed inter alia in paragraphs 253 and 267 of the declaration, where such mechanisms could involve or be interpreted as sources derived from carbon markets, water markets or water rights, from payment for environmental services or from strategies to commodify the functions and cycles of nature.

2. Interpretations

Food security

In the section entitled “Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture”, the Plurinational State of Bolivia interprets the term “food security” to mean the attainment of food sovereignty in the context of the campaign Eat Well to Live Well; it thereby reiterates the definition used by the Global Forum on Food Sovereignty held in Havana, Cuba, in 2001, which interpreted food sovereignty as “peoples’ right to define their own policies and strategies for the sustainable production, distribution and consumption of food that guarantee the right to food of the entire population, on the basis of small and medium-scale production, respecting their own cultures and the diversity of peasant, fishing and indigenous forms of agricultural production, marketing and management of rural areas, in which women play a fundamental role”.

Technology

With respect to paragraph 272 of the declaration, the Plurinational State of Bolivia interprets the strengthening of scientific and technological capacities as including not only academic and institutional knowledge but also the forms of science, traditional technology, local lore and ancestral knowledge of the original indigenous peasant peoples and of the Bolivian nation within the context of interculturalism and a dialogue of knowledge.