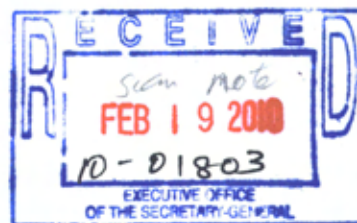


DESA

✓ UN/WHO/HFI



Note to the Chef de Cabinet

**Meeting held between USG of DESA and the Permanent Representative of Brazil
to the United Nations**

Please find attached the notes of my meeting with H.E. Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN, which was held on 11 February 2010.

It would be appreciated if you could bring this to the Secretary-General's attention.

沙祖康

Sha Zukang
17 February 2010

cc: Deputy Chef de Cabinet

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**Notes of the Meeting between Mr. Sha, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and H. E. Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti,
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations**

New York, 11 February 2010

Present

DESA

Mr. Sha Zukang, USG of DESA
Mr. Tariq Banuri, DSD/DESA
Mr. Aslam Chaudhry, DSD/DESA
Ms. Birgitte Alvarez-Rivero, DSD/DESA

Brazil

H.E. Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti
Mr. Paulo Jose Chiarelli Vicente de
Azevedo, First Secretary

Main points for action

- Focal points from DESA/DSD and the Mission of Brazil to proceed with collaboration on UNCSD preparations.

Summary of discussions on United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Mr. Sha welcomed Ms. Viotti and this opportunity to begin collaboration between DESA and the host country Brazil. He stressed that while 2012 seemed at some distance much work needed to be completed to ensure a substantively and politically successful outcome. **Ms. Viotti** shared Mr. Sha's view, noting that work had already begun in Brazil to mobilize relevant ministries and set-up the structures which would support UNCSD preparations substantively and logistically.

Vision

Mr. Sha noted that UNCSD presented an important opportunity to assess progress achieved since Rio and to unite all countries behind a renewed strong commitment to sustainable development. He asked the views of Brazil on the vision and expectations for UNCSD, and what would constitute a successful outcome. A number of international events are planned between now and mid 2012, such as UNFCCC COP16, MDG 2010 and CBD reviews; Mauritius +5 review, as well as sessions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development. It would be important to build on these events in support of UNCSD.

Ms. Viotti in agreeing with Mr. Sha added that Brazil was eager to recreate the spirit of Rio, in which not only had the agendas of environment and development been brought together but a new vision of international cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnership had been created. Progress on implementation of Agenda 21 had been mixed and Rio+20 therefore represented an opportunity for a new beginning where all actors could actively

engage in an inclusive and consultative process in order to create a shared understanding of the challenges, identify practical solutions, and renew global commitment to sustainable development. While stocktaking was necessary to identify challenges and gaps it would be important to have a forward looking approach. The green economy would be one initiative to explore further as long as the focus remained on developing ideas and partnerships which allowed for win-win situations. In particular the areas of technology development and renewable energy were interesting, but also as a result of the financial crisis, the scope for public policy. Brazil's vision was of a Member State driven process to shape the final outcome, which might include a Plan of Action or "set of actions".

Bureau

Mr. Sha expressed his own complete commitment and that of DESA to support the process with the hope of achieving a strong and consensus outcome. He referred to his experience with inter-governmental experiences in which success depended invariably on a combination four elements: commitment and clear vision of the host country, solid background work by a professional and experienced secretariat, a strong Bureau for providing strategic guidance on both substantive and procedural matters, and a capable and neutral chair who could rally all countries around a shared purpose. A number of high-ranking country representatives had expressed interest in joining the Bureau and it would be important to facilitate and speed up the nomination process so that informal sharing of views could begin on the agenda for PrepCom.1.

Ms. Viotti agreed with Mr. Sha and noted that progress on nominations had been slow in the Latin American and Caribbean Group. She proposed to work with members of the regional group to speed up the nominations process, and also to initiate broader consultations on the chairmanship of the Bureau. She also agreed that it would be important for the Bureau to take ownership of the vision for UNCSD, possibly by focusing on it in the first informal Bureau meeting. She proposed to consult with her capital to determine whether Brazil could contribute a short vision paper to initiate such a conversation.

UNCSD Secretariat and Collaboration

Mr. Sha offered the full support of DESA to the UNCSD process and stressed his intentions to work closely with Brazil, the Bureau, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to mobilize Member States and the UN-system in effective and successful preparations for the Conference. **Ms. Viotti and he** agreed that collaboration should begin immediately between focal points in DESA and the Mission of Brazil, in particular on preparations for the first PrepCom, and for the host country agreement for 2012.

Within DESA, **Mr. Sha** designated Tariq Banuri, Director of DSD and Aslam Chaudhry, Chief of the Global Policy Branch, DSD as the UNCSD focal points. For Brazil, contacts would be with Minister Maria Teresa Mesquita Pessoa supported by Paulo Jose Chiarelli Vicente de Azevedo, First Secretary.

Ms. Viotti offered her strong support to DESA's role as Secretariat for UNCSD given the experience of the Department and background of staff who had worked on sustainable development processes since Rio. She agreed with **Mr. Sha** that Member States should drive the preparatory process entirely supported by an un-biased secretariat. Such a process was necessary to ensure the appropriate use of other inputs, such as contribution of outside experts, eminent panel(s), or a Brundtland+2 type process. **Mr. Sha** thanked **Ms. Viotti** for her support and agreed with her view that Member States should drive the entire process, supported by a New York based Bureau and Secretariat. He would strongly resist minimizing the role of DESA in the secretariat.

With regard to input from international experts, **Mr. Banuri** mentioned the Sustainable Development Knowledge Partnership, an initiative of CSD17 for engaging high-level international research institutions, networks, and experts in support of the inter-governmental process on sustainable development. This partnership would be very helpful in providing analysis and inputs for the UNCSD process.

Financing

Mr. Sha noted that while some provisions for UNCSD preparations had been made through the regular budget, the preparatory process and UNCSD itself would require significant additional financial resources, roughly estimated at 5 million dollars. However, this would also depend on the venue and contributions by the host country. In reply to **Ms. Viotti's** question on the main budget items, **Mr. Banuri** and **Mr. Chaudhry** noted four areas: 1. Travel of developing country participants and major groups representatives; 2. Integrated substantive analysis 3. Consensus-building activities, including expert group meetings, seminars and briefings. 4. Regional preparatory meetings.

Mr. Banuri also mentioned that while foundations and donors were interested in supporting preparatory activities for UNCSD, they wished to be reassured that the proposed activities were consistent with Brazil's vision and expectations. The short vision document as well as the decisions of the Bureau on this subject would be critical for mobilizing the requisite level of financial support.

Mr. Sha concluded by thanking Ambassador Viotti for her time, and reiterating DESA's commitment to supporting the UNCSD process towards the realization of Brazil's vision. He expressed the hope that with the early completion of the Bureau, key decisions would begin to be made so that a work programme and fundraising strategy could be developed.