



Rio +20, held from 13 to 22 June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, marks the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio-92) and helped to define the sustainable development agenda for the coming decades.

The Conference had two main themes:

Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,

And the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Key points and conclusions

Green economy policies: it is an important tool to advance toward sustainable development and should not impose rigid rules, but to respect the national sovereignty. Policies must not constitute discrimination or a veiled restriction on international trade.

They should also help to reduce the technological gap between developed and developing countries and each country can choose an appropriate approach.

Key points and conclusions

Global governance of sustainable development: the text decides to "strengthen the institutional framework." The Commission on Sustainable Development is replaced by a "high-level intergovernmental forum".

The role of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) will be strengthened and valorized as the authority to leadership in global environmental issues, with the resources provided and representing all members of the United Nations.

Thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues :

Poverty eradication, food security, water, energy, tourism, health, oceans, climate change, consumption, biodiversity and sustainable production, education, gender equality and women empowerment, promotion of full and productive employment and decent work and social protection for all, among others.

Sustainable development objectives:

Along the lines of the Millennium Development Goals, the Summit resolved to establish a transparent and inclusive intergovernmental process to develop sustainable development goals (ODS) to be agreed by the UN General Assembly.

A working group of 30 people will be created until the next UN General Assembly in September, and will present its proposals in 2013 for compliance from 2015.

For further information:

http://www.rio20.gov.br/sobre_a_rio_mais_20.html