

2009/Turkma/DE/12057

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and with reference to the letter dated 6 March 2009, has the honour to present below Turkey's views regarding the possibility of convening a high-level event on sustainable development to assist the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General requested in resolution 63/212 of the General Assembly.

Sustainable development is one of the key issues in the activities of the United Nations system and has cross-cutting implications in a number of areas, including economics and environment. Recent energy and food crises, as well as the current economic and financial crises have made sustainable development even more relevant for the United Nations system and its membership, especially with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Turkey believes that sustainable development is a core of all global development agendas and the United Nations should make every effort to address all its aspects in all its terms of policy options and implementation. Focusing on constraints and obstacles in implementation which hinder the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals is essential in these efforts. Follow-up of commitments is crucial.

In this regard, the Commission on Sustainable Development plays an important role as a forum to discuss cross-cutting issues in the development agenda of the United Nations. The work of the Commission should be fully supported.

In light of the above, Turkey deems the convening of a high-level event on sustainable development appropriate and useful to take stock of both best practices and obstacles in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

However, Turkey believes that in view of the increasing number of high-level events for the follow-up of major United Nations conferences, the objectives of such an event should be carefully determined in a result-oriented manner in order to ensure its success. It should be designed to complement and bring value added to the ongoing discussion and activities on sustainable development within the United Nations system as well as at the regional and national levels.

The Director-General of the United Nations University has used in itself this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 29 May 2009

