

**Statement by H.E. Mrs. Rovana Plumb,
Minister of Environment and Forests of Romania at the Fifth Plenary Meeting,
during the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20),
22 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would firstly like to thank our generous hosts for the excellent organization of the Rio+20 Summit and for making us feel at home in the beautiful Rio de Janeiro.

This Conference and its outcome are based on over twenty years of consultation and international cooperation on Environment and Sustainable Development. The preparatory process was complex, the negotiations a challenge, as countries, groups of countries, international organizations, the civil society, all stakeholders tried to align diverse approaches and views on “The Future We Want” to design for ourselves and for our children.

Sustainable development requires a continuous adaptation of the society and of the economy. It requires a well balanced approach, in order to allow for a better management of potential future crises.

Romania considers that both themes of Rio+20 are of equal importance. Achieving Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication could lead to the effective decoupling of economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation, which is a key requirement for achieving sustainable development. The world is ready to move towards sustainable development, and the inclusive green economy is a central pathway to achieve this.

The Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development is crucial to the effective implementation of the sustainable development agenda we agreed upon, at global, regional and national levels.

Romania welcomes the launching of the process on Sustainable Development Goals, that we consider a necessary complement to the Millennium Development Agenda, as well as a basis for the global post - 2015 development agenda. In order to transform our vision into concrete action, we need to further develop measurable goals and targets with concrete timelines, as well as mechanisms for assessing the progress we make in the implementation of sustainable development.

We should not forget that the core of sustainable development is human development and progress. We should be fully aware of the importance of women and young people in advancing our societies on a sustainable development path.

Romania recognizes the utmost importance of women's equal rights and opportunities. We support prioritizing measures to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in all spheres of our societies, including their full participation in decision-making and management at all levels.

As decision makers, we should actively encourage our governments to create jobs in restoring and managing natural resources and ecosystems. We should stimulate the private sector to contribute to decent work and green jobs creation for both women and men, and particularly for the youth.

We should promote the exchange of information and knowledge on green jobs and related skills and to facilitate the integration of relevant data into national economic and employment policies.

Romania, who has been actively involved in the field of sustainable development, including by chairing the works of the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development in 2011, is committed to accomplish the outcomes of Rio+20.

Romania recognizes the key role of the business and consumer communities, trade unions, civil society and media and considers that all stakeholders should be active and focus on our common efforts towards achieving inclusive green economy leading to a sustainable future.

By acting on linkages of social and economic pillars, by improving the quality of life, by using natural resources in a sustainable manner and by promoting a healthy environment, we will all succeed in preserving Earth's life-support systems for present and future.

We should not forget that it is our chance to design the future of the next generations, and we have the responsibility to continue and improve the process for the coming years.

We need to assume this responsibility, and to have a strong will to do so.

We have to cooperate on our common goals for building the "Future We Want".

I thank you.