



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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**STATEMENT BY**

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**Ministerial Dialogue on Moving towards sustainable development: Expectations for Rio  
+20**

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In addition to what Commissioner Potocnik already stated on behalf of the European Union, I would like to add the following points:

Finland's main goal is to revive the spirit and legacy of Rio.

All three dimensions of sustainable development – environmental, economic and social – are interdependent and should be considered on equal terms.

The outcome of the Rio+20 should be a clear and concrete political declaration.

Finland regards sustainable use of natural resources as a foundation for economic prosperity. Sustainable forestry management and food production could boost economic growth, promote employment and reduce emissions in developing countries. Investments in resource-efficiency, renewable resources, ecosystem services and clean technology are needed to ensure that economic assets are available for future generations.

Likewise, improving water management and sanitation could bring along health benefits, thus improving the living standards of especially women and children in countries and areas of extreme poverty.

The impact of subsidies on sustainable economic growth should be explored, even when subsidies are well-meaning and motivated by environmental concerns. Efficient markets can help to achieve the best possible environmental outcome only if environmental externalities are included in the prices of goods and services.

Democracy and rule of law, human rights and equality as well as good governance should be included in all its domains. Investing in social development with emphasis on social justice, education and health, is important to countries at all stages of economic development. Millennium Goals could perhaps result in Rio as Sustainable Development Goals.

Reaching good results in Rio next year requires lot of work from all of us. I sincerely hope that Rio+20 will be a success. Finland will work intensively to that end.

Thank you!