

Rio+20

Brazilian Organizing Committee

United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development

Rio de Janeiro, June 13-22, 2012

Rio+20: *How far have we come*

Stockholm 1972

- The Stockholm Conference, held 40 years ago, was the first major step toward overcoming environmental problems. Prior to Stockholm, it was commonly believed that natural resources were unlimited and that the Earth could withstand the impact of any human action. Only after Stockholm's **United Nations Conference on the Human Environment** did environmental issues become part of the international political agenda.
- Rising levels of water and air pollution, the threat of extinction of flora and fauna, and increasingly common environmental disasters, such as the one that occurred at the Russian nuclear facility of Chelyabinsk in 1957 (and contaminated about 250,000 people) helped develop new environmental awareness among civil society and Government and rallied them together to organize the Stockholm Conference. In the Swedish capital **June 5** was established as **World Environment Day**. The principles that have guided environmental policy in most countries were also established at the Stockholm Conference.

Rio+20: *How far have we come*

Earth Summit 1992

- The 1992 **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development**, or **Earth Summit**, was the largest event to have ever been held by the United Nations. Delegates from 172 countries and 108 Heads of State, in addition to 10,000 journalists and representatives of 1,400 NGOs attended the event at Riocentro. In addition, members of 7,000 NGOs and a large number of residents of Rio de Janeiro, as well as civilians from other Brazilian cities and other parts of the world got together at the Global Forum, held at *Aterro do Flamengo*.
- The Rio Summit consolidated the concept of **sustainable development**, proposed by the 1987 report “Our Common Future,” which had sought to overcome the apparent conflict between development and environmental protection.
- The decision-making context of the 1992 Earth Summit resulted in the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**, the **Convention on Biological Diversity**, the **Statement of Forest Principles**, the **Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**, and **Agenda 21**. Two years later, the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification** was signed. The 1992 Earth Summit represented a turning point in international discussions on sustainable development.

Rio+20: *How far have we come*

Rio+10

- In 2002 the United Nations decided to hold a conference in South Africa to mark the tenth anniversary of the 1992 Earth Summit, analyze the results previously achieved and determine the way forward to implementing the agreements. The **World Summit on Sustainable Development** brought over 100 Heads of State to Johannesburg and reaffirming goals related to poverty eradication, health promotion, expansion of water and sewer services, biodiversity protection, and proper disposal of toxic and non-toxic waste.
- Topics such as *renewable energy* and *corporate environmental responsibility* were addressed, as was the need for all social actors to join forces in promoting sustainable development.

Outcomes of the Earth Summit (Rio-92)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP) Kyoto Protocol *Meeting of the Parties (CMP)*

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Kyoto Protocol meet annually to discuss ways to advance the debate on the provisions of the Convention and its Protocol and their implementation:

- COP I – Berlin (1995)
- COP II – Geneva (1996)
- COP III – Kyoto (1997): the **Kyoto Protocol** is adopted
- COP IV – Buenos Aires (1998)
- COP V – Bonn (1999)
- COP VI – the Hague and Bonn (2000)
- COP VII – Marrakesh (2001)
- COP VIII – New Delhi (2002)
- COP IX – Milan (2003)
- COP X – Buenos Aires (2004)
- COP XI/CMP I – Montreal (2005): the **Kyoto Protocol** takes effect
- COP XII/CMP II – Nairobi (2006)
- COP XIII/CMP III – Bali (2007): **Bali Road Map** is adopted
- COP XIV/CMP IV – Poznan (2008)
- COP XV/CMP V – Copenhagen (2009)
- COP XVI/CMP VI – Cancun (2010): the **Cancun Agreements** are adopted
- COP XVII/CMP VII – Durban (2011): it is decided that the **second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol** will begin on January 1, 2013. The **Durban Platform for Enhanced Action** is launched.

Outcomes of the Earth Summit (Rio-92)

Convention on Biological Diversity

- The convention relates conservation to the sustainable use of biological resources based on three pillars:
 - 1) **conservation of biological diversity**
 - 2) **sustainable use of its components**
 - 3) **equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources**
- The convention took effect on December 29, 1993, 90 days after the 30th ratification.

Conference of the Parties (COPs)

- **COP I – Nassau (1994)**
- **COP II – Jakarta (1995)**
- **COP III – Buenos Aires (1996)**
- **COP IV – Bratislava (1998)**
- **COP V – Nairobi (2000)**
- **COP VI – the Hague (2002)**
- **COP VII – Kuala Lumpur (2004)**
- **COP VIII – Curitiba (2006)**
- **COP IX – Bonn (2008)**
- **COP X – Nagoya (2010):** approval of the *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits* and the *Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*.

Outcomes of the Earth Summit (Rio-92)

Rio Declaration

- Established important principles to promote cooperation among countries and segments of society as well as to foster a better understanding of sustainable development and related issues such as minority participation and peace promotion.
- “**Principle 1**: human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.”

Agenda 21

- A planning instrument for the creation of sustainable societies in various geographic contexts, combining methods of environmental protection, social justice, and economic efficiency.
- To monitor the implementation of the Agenda, the United Nations created the **Commission on Sustainable Development**, which is also responsible for monitoring projects related to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The Rio Declaration established 27 non-binding legal principles of environmental protection and sustainable development.

Outcomes of the Earth Summit (Rio-92)

Forest Principles

- Guarantees states the sovereign right to use their forests in a sustainable manner, in accordance with their development needs.
- **In 1995 the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests** was created, followed by the **Intergovernmental Forum on Forests in 1997**. They culminated in the United Nations Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) creation of the **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in 2000**. The goal is to promote management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this cause.
- **Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests**: adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, after the 7th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF7). It seeks to strengthen commitments to managing all types of forests sustainably, to increase the contribution of forests in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to provide a framework for national and international cooperation.

Earth Charter

- As an outcome of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, an **international civil society initiative** was launched **in 1994** with the purpose of drafting the Earth Charter, which articulates fundamental values and useful principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful society in the 21st century.

Rio+20: *Topics and Debates*

- The term “sustainable development” was presented in the 1987 report “Our Common Future,” which was guided by an approach to development **“that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”**
- Sustainable development comprises three interrelated pillars: **the social pillar, the economic pillar, and the environmental pillar.**
- Just as it occurred at the 1992 Earth Summit, expectations of thinking about the future are once more held for the Rio+20. In addition to reflecting on the measures adopted since 1992, it is expected that key guidelines for carrying out sustainable development over the next 20 years are established.

Rio+20: *Topics and Debates*

- Rio+20 has the potential to be the **most important international political event in the coming years**. It will be a conference on sustainable development, which addresses its economic, social, and environmental dimensions.
- The objective of the conference, as defined by Resolution 64/236 of the United Nations General Assembly, is “**to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing the progress to date**” and “**addressing new and emerging challenges.**”
- The United Nations has chosen the following themes for the conference:
 - **a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.**
 - **the institutional framework for sustainable development.**

Rio+20: *Topics and Debates*

- In regard to the theme of a “**green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication**,” the international community is challenged to conceptualize a new model of development that is environmentally responsible, socially just, and economically viable. A “green economy,” in this regard, should be a tool for sustainable development. Brazil offers to moderate these discussions, since debates about the topic are still in their initial stages.
- In regard to the “**institutional framework** for sustainable development,” there should be a discussion of the need to strengthen multilateralism as a legitimate tool for solving global problems. The goal is to achieve increased coherence among international institutions whose work relates to the social, economic, and environmental pillars of development.

Rio+20: *The Road to the Conference (2010-2012)*

- **May 2010:** [1st Preparatory Committee Meeting](#)
- **Jan 2011:** [1st Intersessional Meeting of the Preparatory Committee](#)
- **Mar 2011:** [2nd Preparatory Committee Meeting](#)
- **Nov 1, 2011:** deadline for member states, international organizations, and civil society to submit their contributions to the United Nations.
- **Sept-Dec 2011: Regional Preparatory Meetings**
 - Latin America and Caribbean – SEPTEMBER
 - Africa – OCTOBER
 - Arab countries – OCTOBER
 - Asia and Pacific – OCTOBER
 - Europe – DECEMBER

Rio+20: *The Road to the Conference (2010-2012)*

- **Dec 2011:** 2nd Intersessional Meeting of the Preparatory Committee: guidelines for the “zero draft” of the outcome document
- **Jan-Feb 2012:** informal consultations on the draft of the outcome document
- **Mar 2012:** 3rd Intersessional Meeting of the Preparatory Committee
- **Mar-Apr 2012:** informal consultations on the draft of the outcome document
- **May 2012:** informal consultations on the draft of the outcome document

Rio+20: *The Road to the Conference (2010-2012)*

Rio+20 Conference

Program

- *3rd Preparatory Committee Meeting*
 - **June 13-15:** government representatives meet to negotiate the outcome document to be adopted at the conference.
- *Civil Society events*
 - **June 16-19:** dialogues with civil society on sustainability.
- *High-Level Segment*
 - **June 20-22:** attendance by Heads of State and Government of United Nations member countries;
 - adoption of the conference outcome document.