



United Nations System  
Chief Executives Board for Coordination



**RIO+20**  
United Nations Conference  
on Sustainable Development

## **United Nations System: Together for the Future We Want**

**Friday, 22 June 2012, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**RioCentro, Temporary Pavilion, Room T-2**

### ***Summary of Discussion***

“You can count on the UN. The UN is your UN, we are serving you, serving the people.” With those words, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon kicked-off a 90 minute tour-de-force of statements of purpose and commitments for action of the UN system to deliver on the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference and to make lasting progress towards greater sustainability, equality and well-being for all the world’s people. At the standing room event, the Secretary-General was joined by nearly 20 leaders of the UN to highlight their joint efforts to best support all countries and their peoples in making sustainable development a reality.

Throughout the moderated discussion, UN leaders highlighted innovative ideas, vast expertise and experience in working in multistakeholder partnerships to put the world on a more sustainable development path. The Chief Executives agreed that the UN system provided a unique platform and immense knowledge depository for countries to learn from one another when devising their own strategies for tackling sustainable development challenges. The UN system stood ready to support countries in this complex task by offering novel and comprehensive solutions to address contemporary challenges.

Many speakers identified issues related to the green economy and inclusive growth, vulnerable human populations, sectoral initiatives on energy, water, food, social security systems and social protection floor schemes, as well as natural capital accounting as key areas of joint work of the UN system. Working with and empowering young people, supporting social justice and protecting human rights were likewise seen as important areas for action. Climate change was identified as the biggest threat to sustainable development, and many UN leaders took the opportunity to emphasize its impact and dire consequences for many of the world’s people.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Zukang Sha, Secretary-General of the Conference, reminded the meeting that “we have come a long way, but the hard work has just begun in follow-up and implementation.” The UN system has a pivotal role to play in turning political commitments into coherent and coordinated action on the ground. By working as one family, the whole is stronger than the sum of its parts, and the UN system will make a real difference in the lives of the people it is serving.