



SUSTAINABILITY AT THE INTERSECTION OF TRADE, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

UNCTAD-CITES-OAS

Side event to the Eighth Session of the Open Working Group on
Sustainable Development Goals

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Conference Room E, UN Headquarters, New York

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Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Peru

WELCOMING REMARKS

Good afternoon, I would like to welcome all to the UNCTAD/CITES/OAS side event titled "**Sustainability at the intersection of trade, environment and development**". In particular, I would like to welcome our eminent panellists: H.E. Mr. Fernando Ocampo, Vice Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica; Mr. Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat; and Ms. Arancha González, Executive Director of ITC.

Also I would like to show my deep appreciation the panellist from our UN agencies and other Intergovernmental organisations: Ms. Claudia de Windt of the OAS Secretariat and Mr. Juan Carlos Vasquez from the CITES Secretariat and Mr. Bonapas Onguglo, UNCTAD.

The presence today of these high level speakers and all the interested participants shows the importance of providing a prominent role of **trade** as a tool to enable environmental and wildlife conservation, local economic development and sustainable livelihoods, specially in developing countries.

Sustainable use of wild fauna and flora and other biodiversity goods and services can provide significant opportunities for the development of new markets in a significant number of innovative products and services, including food, cosmetics, fashion design, phytomedicine and eco-tourism services just to mention a few. As a Megabiodiverse country Peru has been at the forefront in seeking conservation and sustainable use in its own biodiversity in its developing strategy by introducing and supporting regional and national capacity building initiatives such as the CITES/ITTO programme on tropical timber for the sound management of mahogany, cedar and other precious timber, Biocomercio Andino, the National BioTrade Programme, Peru Biodiverso, and Prodern. With our vicuna conservation programme, we have a concrete example to share with the world on how to achieve sustainability. An iconic species that were on the brink of extinction in the 70s has recovered and can be used now by local communities living in our Andean mountains. The vicunas produce the finest fibre in the world. All these initiatives focus on identification of priority biodiversity products, value chain support; product and export advice; identification of conservation zones, stakeholder organisation and rural development.

As an indicator of the impact of this support, Peru is already exporting more than 2 million USD on selected biodiversity-based products generated by 69 SMEs working in more than 50'000 hectares of managed land. While these amounts may sound small to many they have a huge impact at the local level employing more than 3500 producers.

With these introductory remarks, I would like to give the floor to our Keynote speaker, H.E. Mr. Fernando Ocampo, Vice Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica.

CLOSING REMARKS

We have had a several views and a deep and fruitful debate on the role of trade as a driver of sustainable development and sustainable use. Several messages have been put forward in the debate. These most relevant are the following:

- Trade should be recognised as a key enabler of future SDGs and targets in a general and integrated manner but also specifically in a potential goal and targets related to biodiversity, wildlife and ecosystem conservation;
- Trade can provide a clear vehicle to promote more sustainable production and consumption patterns as recognised by the Rio + 20 Outcome document;
- Specific targets are needed to ensure that sustainably harvested and produced products and services, such as BioTrade, are mainstreamed into international trade;
- The SDGs should incorporate a clear link between illicit wildlife trafficking and organized crime, peace and security and the economic, social and environmental impacts of such illicit trade;
- SDGs should contain a clear goal or target to eliminate poaching and illegal trade as a threat to wild species and local communities and the rural poor.
- Mechanisms, such as the disclosure of origin and legal source of genetic resources and traditional knowledge in intellectual property applications,

must be introduced in the TRIPS Agreement and WIPO Treaties in order to address concerns regarding “biopiracy and misappropriation”;

Hoping that these conclusions are taken on board and put forward by all stakeholders in the SDG process, I conclude this meeting. I would to thank you all for your active engagement and participation.