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**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

### **Statement submitted by Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* E/2012/100.



## Statement

### **Green jobs and decent work: a way forward towards more sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals**

As outlined by the Millennium Development Goals, our world is currently facing a handful of key challenges that need to be dealt with in order to secure a minimum level of global prosperity. These issues are multifaceted and must be addressed simultaneously. While there has been some progress made towards the attainment of the Goals, comprehensive policy frameworks that deal with poverty eradication through job creation and the associated challenge of environmental degradation remain elusive. The promotion of productive capacity, employment and decent work is crucial to poverty eradication for inclusive, sustainable and equitable development. The present submission focuses on green jobs and decent work for more sustainable development and on improving productive capacity while simultaneously moving towards environmental sustainability.

First, it is unquestioned that there is a need to further promote productive capacity. While measures should be taken to create jobs, these measures should be done within the context of environmental sustainability. In this regard, green jobs that provide decent work are an optimal solution. No universal definition of “green jobs” has emerged throughout practice and literature; however, one can broadly state that a green job is a job that helps to reduce the effects of climate change and other challenges through the adaptation of existing jobs. Green jobs must also constitute decent work, according to the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization. Thus, job creation and the increase of productive capacity should be linked with environmental sustainability. Green and decent work provides a solution where productive capacity and environmental sustainability may be integrated.

Second, work processes must also be considered when creating green jobs. As value and production chains adjust to green jobs and green production, upstream or downstream jobs will also be affected. In an interconnected world, increased demand for sustainable production in one State or within a region of a State will create green employment opportunities for another State or region through production and value chains and vice versa. Thus, the larger effects of green employment must be taken into consideration.

Third, the physical environment in which work is completed must also be taken into consideration. The physical places where green jobs are being performed may also be “greened”. Energy efficiency improvements in buildings have been earmarked as one of the most cost-effective and beneficial ways in which greenhouse gas emissions may be reduced. Investing in energy efficient improvements in innovative ways in many cases will be cost-efficient in the longer term and promote environmental sustainability.

Last, a strong commitment to environmental sustainability may adversely affect certain jobs. However, just transition policy frameworks may counter the adverse effects that a joint commitment to productive capacity and environmental sustainability may have.

In conclusion, the interlinked challenges that our world is currently dealing with may be met through innovative ideas that provide multifaceted solutions to the challenges. Through the implementation of strong job creation schemes linked with environmental sustainability, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability may be addressed together.

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