



Brasília, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

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**NOTE TO THE FILE**

**Subject: Preparatory project for the immediate implementation of actions in the light of the legacy of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio +20, including the immediate setting up of the Rio+Center and its initial operational plan for the period from 2013**

As a major and concrete legacy of the Rio+20 Conference, the Brazilian Government announced the creation of the World Center for Sustainable Development (hereinafter Rio+Center) at a ceremony on the 22nd of June, where Her Excellency Izabella Teixeira, Brazil's Minister for the Environment (hereinafter MMA), and the UNDP Administrator signed a letter of intent to establish an international Center based in Rio de Janeiro, with the mission to be one of the main reference Center for promoting sustainable development worldwide. The concept of the Center Rio Plus is based on the important message by President Dilma Roussef that social, environmental, and economic progress can be integrated to make a more sustainable future, which is totally in line with the strategy "Triple Wins for Sustainable Development", launched by UNDP prior to the Rio+20 Conference.

The Rio+ Center aims at bringing together a broad international consortium of partners, consisting of government agencies, United Nations agencies, local governments (including the state government and municipality of Rio de Janeiro), NGOs, universities, think-tanks and the private sector. The Center has 25 initial partners at national level. The next step includes building partnerships at international level, resource mobilization, stakeholder outreach, convening activities and connecting with existing networks, institutions, universities, civil society organizations and think tanks.

Since the Rio+20 Conference, a support project has been designed by UNDP in conjunction with the Brazilian Government – by means of the Department of Environment and Energy of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil (hereinafter MRE) – with the aim of promoting joint action between the UNDP, the Brazilian government and other stakeholders for implementation of actions in the light of the legacy of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio +20, including the immediate setting up of the Rio+Center and its initial operational plan for the period from 2013 to 2015.

The budget for such a project (estimated in US\$4.5 million) corresponds to the remaining budget of the contributions made to the UNDP by the partners for the organization of the Rio+20 Conference, under their respective sponsorship agreements and/or third party cost sharing agreements signed with this agency. Given that the objective of the support project is the implementation of actions in the light of the legacy of the Conference, including the immediate setting up of the Rio+Center, it is more than natural that the remaining budget of these contributions are channeled to this project.



The draft support project was initially submitted to the Brazilian government in September 2012. Nevertheless, since then the Legal Unit of the MRE has been analyzing the project and its approval by national instances is pending.

Meanwhile, many steps have been taken for the practical implementation of the Centre. Firstly, Ambassador André Correa do Lago, Head of the Department of Environment and Energy of the MRE, called a meeting with the initial partners of the Centre on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013, when a preliminary programme of activities was approved with the consensus of the partners. Secondly, given that the letter of intent of 22 June 2013 stated that "until its future headquarters are established the Rio+ Centre shall temporarily function from facilities made available by the Alberto Luiz Coimbra Institute of Graduate Studies and Research in Engineering at the Campus of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (COPPE/UFRJ), in the "Ilha do Fundão", all the logistics arrangements have been taken for the opening of the office on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Thirdly, as a proof of UNDP's commitment to the Center, UNDP/HQ launched last year a recruitment process for a Center Manager (P6) and a Policy Advisor (P5) to be based in Rio de Janeiro. The selection process was successfully completed (Mr. Romulo Paes and Ms. Layla Saad were respectively hired) and the Centre Manager has already initiated its activities on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013. Last but not the least, it has been announced by the Minister of Environment of Brazil an international seminar, with high-level participation, in the occasion of the Environment Week and the celebration of the First Anniversary of the Rio+20 Conference, which will be promoted by the MMA and the Rio+Centre. Therefore, there is a general perception that the political momentum might be lost if the Centre is not launched in the coming weeks.

Given the urgency of the initial activities of the Rio+Centre, the need of expenditures related to them (including equipment), the delay in the approval of the support project by the Brazilian government, the special circumstances that the funds available are yet deposited in the UNDP/Brazil office, the expectation of the partners, and taking into consideration the other circumstances presented above, we decided to put in place a preparatory project as an answer to urgent needs while the project is being analyzed and approval by all national instances. The preparatory assistance will allow for the implementation of initial actions in the light of the legacy of the Rio +20 Conference, including the immediate setting up of the Rio+Center and its initial operational plan for the period from 2013. This preparatory project will have a budget of US\$1.2 million, which corresponds to the remaining budget of the contributions made to the UNDP by the partners (more specifically by the BNDES) for the organization of the Rio+20 Conference. The expenditures under this preparatory project, which should be seen as an anticipation of expenses incurred, will be deducted from the budget of the support project as soon as it is finally approved by the Brazilian government.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Oste', is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature is another handwritten mark, possibly initials 'Je'.