

# **Statement by the Scientific and Technological Community**

**Presented by Gisbert Glaser, International Council for Science (ICSU)**

## **Initial Consultation on the Zero Draft of the Rio+20 Outcome Document**

**New York, 25-27 January 2012**

Mr. Chair,

The Scientific and Technological Community worldwide welcomes the Zero Draft. It is a starting point. However, the final outcome document must be much more ambitious. It must include more concrete commitments which are really commensurate with the urgent need to move humanity to a sustainable path of development. It must include much stronger commitments to bring about the transformational changes needed to eradicate poverty and to bridge the development divide between the North and the South, while respecting planetary boundaries. Paragraph 11 should include an explicit reference to planetary boundaries.

Planet Under Pressure – New Knowledge Towards Solutions is the theme of a major science and policy conference with participants from all regions of the world, to be held in London at the end of March. You are all invited to attend this unique event.

We welcome paragraphs 52 and 53 on scientific assessments of the state of the planet and on strengthening the science-policy interface.

However, the Zero Draft should become much stronger on initiating new, unprecedented efforts and commitments of harnessing science, technology and innovation through international cooperation, including for capacity building in developing countries. Our community is proposing language and seeks the support of governments for significantly improving the outcome document to this end, both in Section III on the Green Economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development, and in Section V - C in the paragraphs on science and technology.

One concrete proposal which we had made earlier calls for Rio+20 to launch an inclusive process to establish a global mechanism for international scientific collaboration, coordinated research on major sustainable development challenges, and capacity-building in developing countries. This should build on existing scientific cooperation bodies, such as my own, the International Council for Science (ICSU) and UNESCO. The EU had made a similar proposal in its written submission.

We urge governments to consider our proposed amendments to the Zero Draft in the forthcoming negotiations of the outcome document, as a much stronger science and technology base will be fundamental for moving away from “business as usual” in sustainable development. Rio+20 must chart a truly different course. Thank you.