



**BRAZILIAN COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

## **SECOND EU-BRAZIL CIVIL SOCIETY ROUND TABLE**

**Belem, 25-26 January 2010**

### **FINAL DECLARATION**

*The EU-Brazil Civil Society Round Table is a permanent body for dialogue and cooperation between the civil societies of both parties, represented by the Brazilian Council for Economic and Social Development (CDES) and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). It contributes to reinforcing the bilateral relations between Brazil and the European within the scope of the EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership established in 2007.*

*The Round Table met for the second time in Belem, Brazil, on 25-26 January 2010. It examined the following issues: the implementation of international conventions on the environment and the world energy matrix, and the participatory dimension and social equity in the EU and Brazil.*

The Round Table pays tribute to the memory of Dr Zilda Arns, Brazilian member of the Round Table, who died in Haiti on 12 January 2010. Zilda Arns will be remembered for her lifelong commitment to the support of children and the most vulnerable populations. The Round Table extends its homage and solidarity to all the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

The Round Table was honoured by the presence of the Governor of Pará State and of a delegation from the Regional Economic and Social Council of French Guiana. The Round Table accepts the invitation to make a joint visit to the Regional Economic and Social Council of French Guiana with gratitude.

The second meeting of the EU-Brazil Civil Society Round Table has adopted the following recommendations:

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*On international conventions on the environment and the world energy matrix*

The Round Table

1. stresses that global climate change will affect all countries, populations and their economies, in particular the poorest and most vulnerable ones;
2. agrees on the urgency of reaching a global agreement to control and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and supports the proposal to stabilise the increase of the planet's average temperature at a maximum of 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels;
3. considers that the climate conference in Copenhagen was a major disappointment and regrets that no agreement was reached on binding reduction targets, burden-sharing, technology transfer or finance. The Round Table restates its support for the process of international negotiations the basic pillars of which are the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Action Plan;
4. agrees that negotiation regarding climate change should always respect the basic principle that responsibilities are common to all, but differentiated;
5. demands that the world leaders reach a binding agreement in the COP 16 (Mexico, November 2010) and calls on the EU and Brazilian political authorities to take a leading role in these negotiations;
6. calls for the United Nations Environment Programme to define minimum environmental standards to be taken into consideration by multilateral institutions;
7. notes with great concern the rising number of displaced persons as a result of environmental factors which UNHCR estimates will reach 250 million by 2050. It calls on the authorities of Brazil, the European Union and its Member States for a concerted effort and enhanced intergovernmental cooperation to highlight the importance of the problem and to put in place effective policies in mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
8. calls on the EU and Brazil authorities to retain and implement the GHG mitigation proposals that they had adopted before the Copenhagen Conference, namely a 20% reduction of emissions by 2020 by the EU, and a general reduction of emissions up to 38.9% by 2020 for Brazil;
9. highlights the commitment of the Round Table to monitor the implementation of the GHG mitigation measures to which Brazil and the EU committed themselves in the context of the COP 15;

10. welcomes the commitments reached by the EU-Brazil Heads of State to jointly strengthen, fight against biodiversity loss, achieve sustainable and reliable energy supplies, and work together in the context of the International Forum on Biofuels and the Global Bioenergy Partnership;
11. because halting deforestation means also significantly reducing biodiversity loss, welcomes the commitment reached at the third EU-Brazil Summit (Stockholm, 2009) to implement the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity; stresses that functioning democratic rights and a properly working administration are indispensable requisites to develop appropriate strategies to tackle deforestation;
12. welcomes the inclusion on the EU-Brazil Joint Action Plan of a chapter on cooperation to enable the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
13. recommends that the political authorities step up financial, technical and technological cooperation between Brazil and the European Union and between them and islands and African countries, with a view to introducing measures for GHG mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
14. recognises that in order to change the different energy matrices, reduce greenhouse emissions, and achieve better allocation of natural resources, there is a need for new patterns of sustainable production, consumption and distribution. In this context, the Round Table stresses the need to change consumer behaviour to relieve the pressure on natural resources and reduce the generation of waste;
15. recommends that efforts to reach a transition towards a green economy are pursued; in this process it advocates support for entrepreneurship, micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and recommends the creation of green jobs, based on the criteria of decent employment, in areas such as agriculture, forest management, the environment, building, sanitation, transport, urban mobility, recycling, energy efficiency and sources of clean and renewable energy and others;
16. urges that the possibility of internalising external costs be analysed and debated at global level;

***On civil society involvement in environmental issues***

17. local action is needed in the countries concerned; the principles stated by the Declaration on Environment and Development, agreed in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 (Agenda 21), especially concerning the participation, information and public awareness of all concerned citizens, at all levels, in environmental issues, need to be implemented;
18. giving local people a say in the development of their region, as well as recognition of the rights of the indigenous peoples and small-scale and family farmers; to this end, the EU and Brazil should include in its strategic planning appropriate initiatives to support civil society's ownership of actions to be implemented;

19. programmes aimed at enabling civil society's understanding and involvement of environmental challenges ahead should be provided, as no measure for proper involvement of civil society at local or higher level can succeed without adequate capacity building of civil society organisations;
20. the EU-Brazil Civil Society Round Table proposes that it be involved in the sectoral dialogues on the promotion of an environmental partnership for sustainable development within in the EU-Brazil Joint Action Plan, in order to provide a civil society contribution to these matters.

***On the participatory dimension and social equity – preliminary remarks***

The Round Table affirms that

21. the dialogue between the CDES and the EESC about social and civil society participation is an opportunity to think collectively about strengthening democracy and promoting development with equity and social-environmental responsibility; considers that there is considerable scope for pooling experience, developing methodologies and implementing joint actions between the EESC and the CDES;
22. social and territorial equity is a major factor for a sustainable development model that highlights the fact that economic, social and environmental policies are interdependent and mutually reinforcing;
23. the lack of social cohesion is illustrated by poverty and inequality, but also by deficiencies such as lack of access to education and opportunities, inequality before the law, non respect of fundamental rights, racism and discrimination and weak civil, political and social citizenship;
24. In this context, it is particularly important to promote gender equality in economic and social life and in society in general. Specific policies and programmes should be specially aimed at reducing poverty, especially among women and young people as well as promoting their participation;
25. the social consequences of the current economic crisis make it even more compelling to define and promote policies that strengthen social protection, environmental standards and social and civil dialogue;
26. the best way to guarantee a proper contribution from civil society organisations to decision-making is by strengthening and encouraging social dialogue and civil dialogue.

This final declaration will be presented to the Brazilian and EU political authorities and, as provided for in the Joint EU-Brazil Action Plan, conveyed to the next EU-Brazil Summit, to be held in 2010 in Brazil.

The Round Table calls on European and Brazilian authorities to invite the co-chairs of the Round Table to present these recommendations to the EU-Brazil Summit.

The Round Table calls on the Brazilian authorities to adopt the appropriate legislation to ensure the existence and the functioning of the Brazilian Economic and Social Development Council and therefore to guarantee the continuity of the Round Table.

Taking into account the existence of the EU-Brazil Business Summit, the Round Table demands that other economic and social players, in particular workers, be closely connected to the activities of the EU-Brazil Summits.

The Round Table agrees that its third meeting would be held in Belgium in the second half of 2010, the themes for discussion being the participatory dimension and social equity, and food security.

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