Position paper

Country: Brazil

Committee: United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Agenda: Ensuring Sustainable Consumption and Production



One of the greatest global challenges is to integrate environmental sustainability with economic growth and welfare by decoupling environmental degradation from economic growth and doing more with less. Resource decoupling and impact decoupling are needed to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns and to make the transition towards a greener and more socially inclusive global economy.

On 28 October 2018, the Brazilian voters chose a new president, Jair Bolsonaro, who has raised unprecedented concerns after suggesting radical changes that will undermine sustainability policies. Potential changes include reducing environmental licensing requirements, relaxing control over toxic agrochemicals and withdrawing from the Paris Agreement on climate change. Importantly, the Environment Ministry will be merged with the Ministry of Agriculture, likely led by a person close to the agribusiness lobby. These changes will occur in a country where 145 environmental activists were killed since 2015, attacks against environmental agency officials increased recently, and banners and events at universities were intervened by authorities just days before the final election round. For some commentators the future of sustainability in Brazil looks dire.

Now, the **Brazilian Forest Policy** aims at the continuous and sustainable production of forest goods and services, conservation of biological diversity and of the vital processes associated to forest ecosystems, and improvement in the quality of life of the Brazilian people. The **National Policy for the Environmental Management of Solid Wastes**, currently being concluded, proposes as fundamental principles, in order of importance: the non-generation of wastes; the minimization of wastes, reutilization, recycling, appropriate treatment and final disposal of wastes. This Policy is already producing positive results in several Brazilian States and Municipalities, which have adopted its principles. The National Environment Council is reviewing procedures for collecting and disposal of used batteries and for the co-processing of wastes that may be used to replace raw materials or fuel in clinker kilns for cement production.

Brazil is currently a mixed bag when it comes to investments in clean technology; however, some promising signs of an emerging clean technology industry are apparent. The country promoted the legislation of clean technology, such as that which involves providing land charge discounts for water recycling, waste reduction or renewable energy use. Not all countries have established such bold goals as Brazil. In 2020, Brazil was the third country that had more trees, 302 billion. As the delegate of Brazil my opinion is we can open access the importance of nature and the life without clean environment to people by publishing articles and by sharing powerful speeches and can promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities. So let’s build recovery plans that will reverse current trends and change our consumption and production patterns towards a more sustainable future.

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