



BRAZIL

Powerful and Innovative Approaches for Financing Development

**Commons: Social Solidarity Economies, Shared Societies,
Cooperatives, the Internet**

**Statement by
*Counsellor Maurício Fávero***

10 February 2015

(Please check against delivery)

Good afternoon to all. Let me thank you, Lisinka, for convening this timely event and also the distinguished panelists whose enriching perspectives I listened to.

Cooperatives - the theme of today's event - makes me think of how such an old form of social organization can actually exhibit a much contemporary characteristic as they are organized in network, as much as that is the characteristic of internet. That networking aspect is what makes cooperatives, as much as the internet, such a marvelous tool for development.

Universal access to the Internet will certainly be at the core when we talk about a more sustainable future. But building a more sustainable world in all its dimensions (social, economic, and environmental) will simply not be feasible unless we substantially change our patterns of production and consumption. For us to succeed in this enterprise, we need a fundamental change of paradigm from one of unlimited production for profit, to a new paradigm based on sustainable patterns of production and consumption. We will still have to live with the old paradigm for some time in a transition where the United Nations should play a role in supporting increasing alignment of those old paradigms with more sustainable patterns.

At the same time, as the world's population continues to grow and urbanization intensifies, people are going to live increasingly closer to each other, and will have less living space in the world's big cities. This creates challenges but also new opportunities for sharing, and brings another essential aspect of sustainable production and consumption to the spotlight, which is efficiency in the use of goods and services. This is where the sharing economy can make a significant difference, as we have listened from the various speakers this afternoon.

Universal access to the Internet is one critical tool that should be made more fully at our disposal as we seek to implement the commitments of the post-2015 development agenda, the 17 goals and 169 targets of sustainable development. Internet access is key in mobilizing resources to finance sustainable development, particularly when related to

Science, Technology, Innovation and Capacity Building. As we all know, information and communications technologies in general are an indispensable enabler for sustainable development. The transformative role they play in the promotion of economic growth and creation of opportunities for business is very obvious in developed countries, where access is cheaper and widespread, and even in some developing countries, where new developments have made mobile phones and other Internet platforms affordable, with tremendously beneficial economic impact.

However, the social and economic gains stemming from their phenomenal global expansion still elude the poorest populations of the world, who are precisely the ones who could benefit from it the most.

The current year offers three negotiating follow-up process which can enable us to be more proactive and move from rhetoric to action: (i) the first one relates to how we will integrate ICTs into the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda; (ii) the second is connected with the preparatory process for the Third Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3) and the mobilization of domestic and international resources for development; and (iii) the third process refers to the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10), which will address the digital divide and the governance reform of the internet.

In the Rio+20 outcome document, member-States agreed that it is essential to work towards improved access to ICTs, especially broadband networks and services, and to bridge the digital divide. International cooperation for capacity building and technology transfer will be vital in this regard. Development cooperation partners must view cooperation in ICTs as an investment rather than a cost, as this investment will empower the populations of developing countries and enhance their own ability to mobilize resources for sustainable development, making them less dependent on development cooperation, which has not provided the needed predictability and stability.

Access to the internet can be instrumental for social inclusion, empowerment of farmers and rural populations, access to finance, and in promoting the freedom of expression and improving health and education. In terms of the sharing economy, there are several ideas going round right now on the need to set up United Nations platforms, collective platforms for sharing - from the Secretary-General's proposal on an Online Platform to arrangements for a mechanism of dissemination and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, to a Technology Bank to the Least Developed Countries, among other initiatives.

As such, it is crucial that access to ICTs in general, and the internet in particular, is mainstreamed and up-scaled throughout the goals proposed by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, including the SDG 17 itself on means of implementation. Present references to ICTs in just four out of the 17 SDGs do not do justice to the critical role played by these technologies.

In the preparatory process for the Third Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3), to take place in July, in Addis Ababa, there is an emerging understanding on the importance to underscore the critical role played by ICTs as a means of delivering sustainable development. In this sense, the discussion of an innovative chapter on "Science, Technology, Innovation and Capacity Building" seems to point to the increasing recognition of ICTs as an enabler of inclusive and sustained economic growth, social justice and environmental sustainability. We hope we are able to adopt a stand-alone chapter on STI and capacity building in Addis, so as to more fully support the structural and systemic impact of ICTs on development, inasmuch as FfD process currently does when it deals with trade, debt, global governance and other systemic issues.

In addition to the post-2015 development agenda and the FfD processes, the General Assembly will have an opportunity in December this year to raise the profile of ICTs and the internet as a catalyzing means of addressing the digital and technological divide within and between countries, as it will engage in the ten-year review of implementation

of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10). The commitments of Tunez Agenda that relate to enhanced cooperation with developing countries are precisely the ones where there has been fewer progress. As stated in the Tunez Agenda, which the General Assembly has committed to fully implement, we must focus our attention on measures to enhance the involvement of the UN in overcoming the lack of effective financial mechanisms to support the development of ICTs, especially its infrastructure.

Within the context of WSIS+10, the General Assembly will have to ensure that the Internet and cyberspace are used as tools at the service of sustainable development, including through addressing the present shortcomings in the internet governance structures. The development of an open, inclusive, diverse and development-oriented information society, with the internet at its core, depends on the establishment of democratic decision-making processes which, through enhanced global coordination in the intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder levels, can ensure that the web continue to be free, secure and equitable for all.

The current asymmetric structures that concentrate power in the hands of small number of states and corporations will not provide the necessary space for the interest of developing countries to be considered and will most likely exacerbate the current trend of the digital divide to grow not only in terms of differences in access, but also in relation to the quality of access. Internet governance can no longer be treated merely as a technical matter under the supervision of non-governmental organizations such as ICANN and IANA Cyberspace and the technology to disseminate access to it must be kept public, affordable, accessible, and accountable to democratic global governance and the rule of law.

Brazil believes that we must abandon the false dichotomy of having to choose either multilateralism or multistakeholderism as governance frameworks for internet. We expect that the Tenth Internet Governance Forum, to take place in João Pessoa, in Brazil, in

november this year, can contribute with new perspectives to the upcoming review of the WSIS+10.

Widespread access to an open, inclusive, democratic and development-oriented internet is a pre-requisite for the flourishing of a successful sharing economy. Only then will we be able to fully realize the cross-cutting potential of the internet as a game-changer in the way people live their lives and prosper.

Thank you.