

LETTER OF VITÓRIA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

I. Introduction:

Since the RIO-92 Conference, many proposals have been discussed and formulated with an increasing scientific knowledge about the real planetary condition concerning the risks in the depletion of the capacity of supports to life, if we continue to maintain our current way of production, transportation, consumption, and post-consumption.

From this knowledge, and with a greater sensibility of world public opinion to the theme, especially stemming from the ever growing catastrophes due to global climate changes, many agreements and protocols were signed by some countries and rejected by others. However, our societies have kept with few or no change in the developmental models. From this, comes the importance of the RIO+20 Conference, in which decisions are to focus on the action necessary to be taken, and no longer only on intention.

The city of Vitória agrees that it is relevant to search the interlocution with local instances, governmental or not, in the RIO+20, and to be united to the global movement of sustainable cities, recognizing its capacity to have influence in the decisions made at the Conference. We hope that the results, both non-reached and neglected by countries, have not yet adhered to the previous treaties and conventions that have been charged.

Vitória is a capital with reduced dimensions (99km²) and reaches, in a great part of its territory (around 40%), significant fragments of the Mata Atlântica and associated ecosystems, such as mangrove reefs, and shoals are protected as Conservation Unities. The city also has big green areas and 16 urban parks for leisure and recreational use by the population. Being a seaside town, with mountains, plains, beaches, bays, and coves, Vitória is very vulnerable to climate changes, mainly because it is occupied in grounded areas of seas, mangroves, and slopes. Its location and geography have been influenced by the development of seaside ports in its sector, and resultantly, its economy has historically been directed to exterior commerce and made it dependent upon regional, national, and international relations. Due to its economical dynamism and its central location in metropolitan area, with circa 1.5 million people, the city is constantly seeking to improve the quality of life and the environmental, economic, social, and cultural sustainability.

The promotion and continuous improvement of the quality of life in the City of Vitória, and the rescue of its natural heritage must be prioritized by the Public Administration, by the private sector, by the organized civil society and by its citizens. We are tasked to rethink the strategies for the conservation and preservation of our natural and human environment in which the city is inserted,

developing policies for generating work and income distribution, that eradicate misery and maintain the environmental balance, in order for people live in a city that promotes peace and preserves nature for all generations, present and future as well. To improve living conditions on the planet, it is necessary to review, in our city, the ways of life, and the habits and attitudes, adopting the motto: think globally and act locally.

In order to contribute with the global mobilization of local instances for the recovery of safe conditions to the continued maintenance of life on the planet, we fully recognize the necessity to rethink and change the way we live in our cities and in the way we present our expectations and attitudes at the Rio+20 Conference, from which we expect referrals which will lead us to actions, and which will lead us to experiment and to embrace innovative ways of production, transportation, consumption, and post-consumption.

II – Our Contributions:

1. **The city of Vitória-ES** believes that to achieve sustainable development, among other actions, constant democratization of environmental areas management is essential, with the application of autonomy by those agencies and councils, thereby strengthening the implementation of the “Sistema Nacional de Meio Ambiente – SISNAMA” (environmental national system), increasing in municipalities, the foundations of sustainability: thereby being and becoming economically viable, socially fair, environmentally appropriate and culturally accepted, integrated to regional actions and to global tendencies, respecting the autonomy and the sovereignty of the cities in relation to the right of its citizens to a balanced environment. The consolidation of SISNAMA will provide centralization and leadership to the of municipalities, according to the powers conferred by law LC 140/2011, which demands installation of national and state tripartite commissions, structured capacity of state and municipal agencies by IBAMA and the transfer of federal resources to its structure and functioning, so that it can fully assume its new and previous responsibilities. We propose the adoption, in SISNAMA, of a financial sustainability strategy, similar to the ones already consecrated in SUS (Unique Health System) and SUAS (Unique Social Assistance System).

2. **The city of Vitória-ES** opines that, as to an appropriate treatment of sustainability questions, in an intersectoral way, it is necessary to create and operate, in a transversal way, Sustainable Development Councils in the three spheres of government, and in the institutional organization to maintain global sustainability, as in UN, that establishes direct relation between Global Development Council and Local Sustainable Development Councils.

3. **The city of Vitória-ES** claims and undertakes to do its part in order for environmental education to be treated as a fundamental factor in the construction of sustainable societies. It is through this environmental education that children, the youth, young people, and adults will identify with the concepts of what it is to belong and to be responsible for their own actions on the planet, articulating knowledge to review their attitudes and values.

4. **The city of Vitória-ES** believes that media must assume the responsibility to publicize actions and information that does contribute to global sustainability. Communication, especially that of a massive nature, has to be encouraged to function as another fundamental factor to create and maintain sustainable development and the making of an innovative culture in favor of sustainable attitudes, promoting the dissemination of better sustainability practices and of those that present imminent risks to the carrying capacity of environmental depletion.

5. **The city of Vitória-ES** recognizes that since Rio 92 there has been an environmental consciousness and an educational dissemination, especially developed by including themes, such as ecology in the national curriculum, by scientific discoveries about the biosphere limit in absorbing impacts and by the fear that the current developmental model causes catastrophes. This consciousness had little reflection in behavioral changes, mainly in the consumption mode. So, it is clear that there is the need for change in society's posture as related to the amount and what is consumed, because the consumer is the most powerful social actor to value sustainable products and reject the non-sustainable ones. It is therefore the responsibility of governments to implement mechanisms that ensure transparency to consumer related consumption levels and natural resources, such as energy and the generation of greenhouse gases, since production up and until post-consumption, and to encourage local production acquisition, permitting, as well, job and income generation. Additionally, it is up to governments to reverse logistic implementation, attributing culpability to each agent for its contribution in the production-consumption-disposal chain. The government must also implement tax measures to subsidize green products and to externalize low sustainability production costs, thereby economically stimulating sustainable consumption and deconstructing the logic by which doing right is made expensive.

6. **The city of Vitória-ES** proposes that the Rio+20 Conference should establish a PACT FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES, involving the creation of a fund destined to finance research projects, extension activities and actions directed to adapt cities to social, environmental, and economical scenarios, due to climate changes. To do so, it is necessary that the governments create trade barriers to lower sustainability products, formulate joint strategies to externalize environmental costs of such products, and to create economic incentives to develop sustainable production. It is equally relevant to link the sharing, between countries and cities, of better technologies and

metodologies for cleaner production, without costs to developing and lesser so, to developed countries.

7. **The city of Vitória-ES** agrees with the proposals and ratifies the adherence to “SUSTAINABLE CITIES” Program, which offers those certain tools to society in order to signal to its governors, the future it wants, and demonstrates those tools to monitor the performance of the city, in search of sustainability.

8. **The city of Vitória-ES** agrees that the UN supports and encourages the constitution of national and regional policies with the formation of trained staff in the integrated and sustainability of local development, with particular attention to its specificities. The city of Vitória-ES also agrees that the UN, from this, adopts and implements, on a global scale, local systems of social, environmental, political, economical, and cultural indicators, which aptly measure the quality of life in the cities of the world, allowing local people to participate and evaluate sustainability policies implemented in each city and throughout all of the world’s cities.

9. **The city of Vitória-ES** agrees that the UN create open and multilingual platforms to provide information about sustainability, integrating national and international communication systems. The city of Vitória intends to participate in this platform, contributing any and all information necessary to permit a democratic and sustainable process of development and in which the actors should be involved and informed about how to:

- a) evolve in sectorial law policies of habitation and the right of a city, with sustainable buildings, in the context of safe urban spaces; eliminate poverty; promote social inclusion and health through physical and sports-like activities; reduce inequality; and stimulate technology innovation, together with participatory and democratic management and governance;
- b) ensure broad access to education, sport and cultural for children, teenagers and young people, promoting professional formation, personal development and reflection capacities about values that guide life in a society, with nature preservation and recuperation;
- c) ensure wider access for the elderly, the disabled and those with reduced mobility and other minorities in sports, culture, education, health and use of public spaces, in a general manner;
- d) improve financial mechanisms, subsidies and institutional arrangements to reduce and supplant deficits and ensure inclusion and access to the development and maintenance of healthy cities;
- e) decentralize energetic management, establish guidelines and local legislation that encourage the use of renewable energy and progressive gains of energetic efficiency; develop policies to encourage reduction of energy use based on petroleum and coal, encourage adoption of cleaner fuels, prioritizing its use in public mass transportation, also encouraging the use of bicycles with the construction of efficient cycling networks, and establish emission limits of pollutants that attempts, gradually, to reach the indices recommended by the World Health Organization.

10. The city of Vitória-ES supports the implementation of urban mobility projects, with low carbon emission, and the construction of bike paths and lanes, such as the installation of bicycle mobile stations;

11. The city of Vitória-ES recognizes the different ways of life and societal cultures, and proposes the creation of public policies to value and preserve sociodiversity, with special attention to traditional people and community, to solidarity and creative economy and to ecobusiness;

12. The city of Vitória-ES proposes a strong performance in order to adapt to climate changes, with the reduction in vulnerabilities and potential damage, prioritizing those measures that search, prevently, the protection of human life that brings cobenefits to the public health and to the conservation of the world's natural resources, as essential to life maintenance, in all of its forms; additionally, proposes, as well, integrated strategies between federal entities to those finalities that can be implemented as structural measures to prevent and reduce existent impacts in what concerns the increase in potential flooding and landslides;

13. The city of Vitória-ES agrees that structural policies of water resources, solid waste, biodiversity and forestry be democratized in the decision making process, with committed participation of Union, States and Cities and of an organized civil society, through social control, contributing and monitoring guidelines, goals and actions, emphasizing sustainable development, without setbacks, with preservation of natural and cultural heritage, which must be made part and parcel of and in our developmental model basis;

14. The city of Vitória-ES agrees to enable participation of neighboring communities and of those internal to natural environments, making this participation fundamental in space management through and by the accumulation of knowledge and the logic of collective action.

15. The city of Vitória-ES proposes that the UN spread and stimulate adhesion of cities to a sustainable shopping model by public agencies, as a management tool of sustainable development, and as a basis for the new green economy, as a theme for priority in the Rio+20 Conference discussions. Proposes, as well, that there are incentives to be given to big private corporations in order they adopt this model;

16. The city of Vitória-ES is committed to create a Municipal Sustainability Subsecretary, having as its main focus of work, together with other municipal secretaries, the development of a technological research poll with an emphasis in sustainability, low carbon projects, sustainable

transportation, implementation of reverse logistics and selective collection throughout the municipality;

17. **The city of Vitória-ES** is concerned with and about Food Security as it relates to starvation, to chemical contamination and to reducing production due to climate events. So, the city of Vitória requires urgent measures to establish world-wide strategies of communication of chemical contamination risks, to be evidenced in food labels and in points of fresh food sale. The city also requests ampliation of *Food and Agriculture Organization* – FAO – actions in collection and distribution of healthy and non genetically modified food to underfed populations; encouragement and support of research about the effects over time of using those foods for people and animals that consume it; and that global policies be proposed that favor sustainable family farming, access to land, to means of production and to native seeds preservation, with foundings and resources for ecological and balanced agriculture;

18. **The city of Vitória-ES** ratifies the terms of the “Letter from Municipalities for Sustainable Development” (“Carta dos Municípios pelo Desenvolvimento Sustentável”), which establishes agreements of organized Municipal Administrations of Mayors’ National Front (“Frente Nacional de Prefeitos”) – FNP – and supports the ANAMMA proposal in favor of SISNAMA strengthening, especially related to financing that ensures their autonomy, as occurs with SUS and SUAS;

19. **The city of Vitória-ES** agrees with the propositions in the document “Brazil’s contributions to Rio+20”, mainly with the participation of non governmental actors in multilateral processes (P8) and Water Governance (P9);

20. **The city of Vitória-ES** recognizes and supports the 20 Goals of Strategical Plan 2011-2020 agreed during COP 10 of Biodiversity Convention, known as Aichi’s Goals, and undertakes in pursuit of municipal strategies in order they be achieved;

21. **The city of Vitória-ES** recognizes the importance of Units of Conservation creation in critical areas and/or geographically more restricted, and the undertakings in adoption of actions and public policies to mitigate the impact of human activities in such areas;

22. **The city of Vitória-ES** proposes the discussion, formulation, and implementation of integrated public policies, actions, projects, and programs at Espírito Santo coast, especially to "Banco de Abrolhos" area and Vitoria-Trindade Chain. The city of Vitoria supports actions that contribute to the establishment of marine protected areas, according to the Map “Priority Areas to Conservation, Sustainable Use and Sharing of Brazilian Biodiversity Benefits” (“Áreas Prioritárias

para a Conservação, Utilização Sustentável e Repartição de Benefícios da Biodiversidade Brasileira”) – PROBIO/MMA – and with Goals of Convention about Biological Diversity of the UN;

23. **The city of Vitória-ES** recognizes the landscape as a presupposition to local and regional sustainable societies, of multidimensional focus and to the aggregation of values, and supports the principles of national and international documents, from which Brazil is a signatory, related to landscape protection;

24. **The city of Vitória-ES** requests the observation of all of the above contributions and supports, in a general manner, the zero draft presented by the UN to the Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20, *The Future We Want*, especially in propositions of local governments interest.