The Rio+20 Secretariat, together with the UN Global Compact and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, has received over 700 Rio+20 voluntary commitments. These commitments were made by all stakeholders, including governments, UN system & IGOs, the private sector, civil society and NGOs. Collectively, these tangible commitments mobilize more than $500 billion in actions towards sustainable development.

“We have designed and established a platform to build voluntary commitments to action. That platform will provide the visibility and transparency to efforts undertaken by the private sector, while enabling social control.”

Dilma Rousseff, President of Brazil and President of the Rio+20 Conference

“I am encouraged by the more than 700 concrete commitments registered at the Conference from governments, business, industry, financial institutions and civil society groups, amongst others.”

Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary General

“This Conference is about implementation. It is about concrete action. The voluntary commitments are a major part of the legacy of this Conference. They complement the official outcome of the Conference.”

Sha Zukang, Rio+20 Conference Secretary General

Among the registered commitments include: planting 100 million trees by 2017; greening 10,000 square km of desert; saving 1 Megawatt-hour of electricity per day; empowering 5,000 women entrepreneurs in green economy businesses in Africa; establishing a Masters programme on sustainable development practice; developing an Environmental Purchasing Policy and Waste Minimization & Management strategy; recycling 800,000 tons per year of PVC by 2020. For the full list of all registered commitments, please click here.

In support of actions on the ground, UNV’s Volunteer Action Counts efforts captured more than 64 million actions by individuals. In the past year, UN Resident Coordinators & Country Teams have also been supporting 88 governments in their Rio+20 National Preparatory processes, and assisting more than 50 countries in sustainable energy efforts such as the Barbados Declaration and Sustainable Energy for All.

The Rio+20 Secretariat wishes to thank all committers for registering their voluntary commitments. These commitments take the world one step closer towards achieving sustainable development. We continue to welcome registrations the rest of 2012. To register, please visit the Rio+20 voluntary commitment website.