

**Letter from the Green Economy Coalition to 3rd G-20 Summit, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S.A
24-25 September 2009**

The *Green Economy Coalition*¹ acknowledges commitments made in the last G20 “Leaders’ Statement”, the G8 Declaration “Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future” and the OECD “Declaration on Green Growth”, which recognize the opportunities for tackling global financial, environmental and social crises together in transparent and accountable ways.

In our letter to the G20 in April 2009 we urged governments to invest \$750 billion of the \$2.5 trillion stimulus package (about 1% of global GDP) towards building a green economy – one that reduces carbon dependency, addresses poverty, generates good quality and decent jobs, maintains and restores our natural ecosystems, and moves towards sustainable consumption.

We support the progress that has been made in stimulating a low carbon economy through investments in a range of initiatives such as improved rail transportation, water infrastructure, grid expansion and improved building efficiency. However, in many cases there remain large gaps between government declarations and practice.

Many G20 members have not included sufficient green investments in their overall stimulus packages, and the effectiveness of the green stimulus risks being compromised by delays in the allocation of funds. At the end of the first half of 2009, only around 3% of committed green funds had been disbursed.

Overall, the amount allocated to renewable energy falls short of the investment needed to reduce carbon emissions and to keep the rise in global average temperature under two degrees Celsius. Some incentives, such as subsidies to the production and consumption of fossil fuels, are working against efforts to build a sustainable future.

Furthermore, while developing countries did not cause the economic and financial crisis, they have been severely affected by it. Development assistance to poor countries has fallen in real terms over the past decade, and millions more vulnerable people will be trapped in poverty this year because of the recession and the effects of climate change, undermining efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The global economy is rooted in the natural world. Healthy ecosystems provide essential goods and services to the economy such as freshwater, crop-pollination and the storage of carbon. Investing in the restoration and maintenance of our ecological infrastructure – from forests and mangroves to wetlands and river basins – is a cost effective way to counter climate change and climate-proof vulnerable economies.

The *Green Economy Coalition* therefore calls upon the G20 to follow through on its commitments to accelerate the transition to the Green Economy, with urgent and decisive action to:

(1) invest considerably more in clean energy and energy efficiency so as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to create new green jobs as well as a fair process of transforming traditional jobs into sustainable ones, and to generate secure and sustainable access to energy;

(2) honour existing ODA commitments, and mobilize new funds for developing countries through innovative financial mechanisms, and ensure that all financial resources contribute to an inclusive and sustainable recovery in accordance with the priorities of developing countries;

(3) support ongoing efforts to quantify and internalize ecosystem values, such as the G8+5 project *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* (TEEB), and invest in large-scale forest carbon based mitigation measures (such as REDD-Plus) which can help combat climate change, reduce poverty, secure the flow of vital natural services such as freshwater, and conserve biodiversity.

(4) encourage transparency, and secure a robust and visionary deal on climate change in Copenhagen later this year by integrating environment and development as well as business and labour issues to lay the foundations for a prosperous, fair and green economy for the 21st Century.

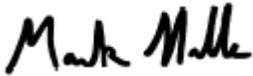
¹ *The Green Economy Coalition was founded in March 2009 in Switzerland and consists of members from the environment, development, business, labour and consumer sectors. It is hosted by IIED, with support from UNEP, WWF International and IUCN. The first Coalition letter was sent to the G20 Summit in London in March 2009.*



Ola Engelmark, Chair, Bellagio Forum for Sustainable Development, and CEO Mistra Foundation



John Evans, General Secretary of the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)



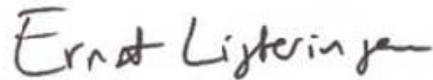
Mark Halle, Executive Director, IISD-Europe



R. Andreas Kraemer, Director, Ecologic Institute



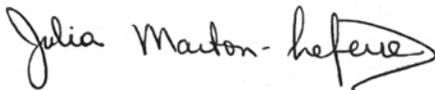
James P. Leape, Director General, WWF International



Ernst Ligteringen, Chief Executive of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)



Joost Martens, Director General, Consumers International (CI)



Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



Professor Alastair McIntosh, Centre for Human Ecology, Scotland



Guy Ryder, General Secretary of The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)



Pavan Sukhdev, Study Leader: The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), & Project Leader: Green Economy Initiative, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



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Jan-Olaf Willums, Chair, Inspire Foundation for Business and Society