

## ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GLOBALLY: EU FOLLOW-UP TO RIO+20

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Your name (first and last name) \* (compulsory)  
Sally Nicholson

In which capacity are you participating in this consultation? \* (compulsory)  
On behalf of an organisation

- as an individual
- on behalf of an organisation

If answering as an individual, please indicate the country where you reside\* (compulsory)

If responding on behalf of an organization, please indicate below which type \*  
(compulsory) and your interest representative ID number:

- national government
- regional government
- local government
- international body (other than EU institution)
- public research institution
- university
- NGO, civil society, environmental group, charity \*
- industrial interest group
- EU scientific project

Name : Sally Nicholson

Interest representative ID number:

EU Transparency Register Number: 1414929419-24

**Organization Represented**

WWF European Policy office, an international environmental non-governmental organisation

and main activities of your company/organization/association:

WWF is a global environmental organisation with over 4 million supporters worldwide. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature. WWF has developed extensive experience of natural resource management and addressing the drivers of environmental degradation as a result of 50 years of field and advocacy activities. The WWF European Policy Office represents WWF to the EU institutions and covers many issues relating to sustainable development such as freshwater, biodiversity, climate change, energy, forests, marine and fisheries management, sustainable production and consumption and international development.

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**Do you agree to the listing of the name of your organization in the report that the Commission will draw up on the results of this public consultation? (Tick the appropriate box)**

YES

# **ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GLOBALLY: EU FOLLOW-UP TO RIO+20**

## **Background**

The Rio+20 world summit was held in Rio de Janeiro in June this year. It followed from previous related UN summits, in Stockholm (1972), Rio de Janeiro (1992) and Johannesburg (2002). The aim of Rio+20 was to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, by assessing progress to date, identifying remaining gaps in the implementation of past commitments and addressing new and emerging challenges<sup>1</sup>.

The Summit's focus was on two intertwined themes: "a Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" and "the institutional framework for sustainable development". After extensive negotiations a Rio+20 Outcome document was agreed upon, with a number of actions and commitments. Even though the outcome was less ambitious than what the EU had aimed for, Rio+20 does offer a number of important opportunities for follow-up at EU and international level.

## **The implications of Rio+20 outcomes for EU policies**

The main outcomes of Rio can be described along five streams:

1. The inclusive Green economy, as an important tool to achieve sustainable development.
2. Action in priority areas, such as poverty eradication, sustainable agriculture, water, sustainable energy, decent work for all, oceans and fisheries, and sustainable consumption and production.
3. Agreement to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. Agreement to develop options on an effective Sustainable Development Financing Strategy.
5. Strengthening the Institutional Framework for sustainable development.

Implementing these outcomes would lead to furthering sustainable development globally, for *all* countries (developed countries, emerging economies and developing countries). The outcomes also have implications for a range of EU policies such as economic, trade, environment, fisheries, energy, agriculture and employment and social policies. Within the EU Rio+20 offers the opportunity to review, revitalize, and re-orient a number of activities that the EU is already pursuing. An example of this is the inclusive Green economy, which is addressed in the EU by the Europe 2020 strategy<sup>2</sup> and by EU development policy.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.uncsd2012.org/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm)

## **The aim of this public consultation**

The European Union needs to prepare for follow-up actions and what next steps have to be taken. Follow-up by the EU level will constitute an important practical step in making sustainable development a reality in the years to come.

The objective of the present public consultation is to provide input to the European Commission for the development of specific actions and measures and for its proposals for EU positions. In particular, it will serve as input to a Communication from the Commission on Rio+20 follow-up, planned for the first half of 2013. The consultation is also a complement to the Public Consultation "Towards a post-2015 development framework"<sup>3</sup>.

The Commission widely engaged with civil society, including by undertaking a public consultation<sup>4</sup> prior to Rio+20, and civil society also made important input during the conference itself. Related consultations include those which took place on the Resource Efficiency roadmap and the recently launched consultation on the 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Plan. The present consultation seeks stakeholder's views on five main areas from the perspective of advancing sustainable development globally. A brief explanation of each is described below, followed by a set of questions. Please try to limit your responses to one page per area. In addition, in the final section there is the opportunity to voice your views on other topics not explicitly mentioned.

## **1. The Inclusive Green Economy**

The Rio+20 Outcome document stated that the inclusive Green economy is an important tool for achieving sustainable development, that can be implemented in a number of different ways by countries in accordance with national priorities. The Green economy can contribute to sustainable growth, help create employment and decent work, contribute to eradicating poverty, while maintain a healthy environment. The document indicated that the implementation of Green economy policies can be a common undertaking by countries that wanted to do so.

Furthering the inclusive Green economy needs to be considered at three contexts:

1. action within the EU as a direct contribution to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy,
2. collaboration with developed countries and emerging economies, and
3. cooperation with developing countries, as part of development cooperation policy in particular as a means of eradicating poverty.

Likewise, a range of policy approaches are needed to stimulate the inclusive Green economy, and these may best apply in different ways in the above three contexts. Policies can include the removal of barriers or the creation of enabling conditions and may include:

- taxes and pricing systems
- improving the functioning of markets
- effective regulation

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<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/towards\\_post-2015-development-framework\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/towards_post-2015-development-framework_en.htm)

<sup>4</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/un\\_2012.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/un_2012.htm)

- a favourable environment for trade
- phasing out policy distortions such as harmful subsidies
- encouraging innovation
- appropriate labour policies and decent job creation
- green skills development

The inclusive Green economy can also be promoted through the development and application of appropriate indicators that measure progress beyond GDP. It can also be encouraged through a range of public private partnerships with aim of advancing business engagement and performance along social and environmental dimensions, and encouraging investment. Corporate social responsibility and sustainable consumption and production are also important elements.

### ***Questions:***

1. ***What policy tools do you think are the most effective and need to be put into place to stimulate the transformation to the inclusive Green economy within the EU? How should this complement the Europe 2020 strategy and/or its implementation?***

#### **Climate and Energy Targets:**

Between the current climate and energy package of EU legislation that runs until 2020, and the EU's long term goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% by 2050, there exists little policy certainty to encourage potential investors in energy efficiency, renewable energy, or other decarbonisation options. There is a particularly urgent need to develop a policy framework for the post 2020 period which is now only one investment cycle away.

#### **Policy shift for green jobs**

EU sectoral regulations, policies, norms, standards: to mainstream best practices, technologies and services on greenhouse gas emissions and energy and resource consumption.

An EU strategy for all high impact sectors – industry as the primary sector but also several services sectors (notably financial services, transport, etc) - to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies and shift them to eco-innovation support.

A clear focus within EU industrial policy on the clean technology sector with a target to expand the European clean technology market about 30% every year until a mass market has developed.

Mainstream and make Green Public Procurement mandatory, based on best practices available and develop guidance, training, capacity building to support this. Green public procurement can also encourage nascent and innovative technologies to be brought to scale.

#### **Taxation**

Green taxation is also a must at a national level but with EU scrutiny to ensure a common level playing field.

### **Financing**

An EU strategy to leverage private funding in order to reach the required scale of investment finance, using more ambitious and new financial vehicles (e.g. energy efficiency bonds, climate bonds) and based on EU budget subsidies, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and European Investment Bank (EIB) activities, etc.

### **Ecosystem accounting**

Environment and environmental services need to be valued and accounted for in our economic calculations. Ecosystems should be accounted for at EU level as well as in national accounting and reporting systems. There are several ongoing processes which could be coordinated and form the basis of ecosystems accounting in Europe including the activity on target 2 of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, the Environmental Accounting Regulation (691/2011), the implementation of the actions of the EC Communication on “Beyond GDP” from 2009, and/or the work of the EEA on an experimental module on ecosystems accounting.

This should also feed into the ongoing processes at UN level, eg by UNDESA.

## ***2. What policy tools do you think are the most effective and need to be put into place to as part of the EUs interactions with developed countries, emerging economies, and with developing countries? How should this complement EU external policies and their implementation?***

The EU can support sustainable development in other parts of the world through the implementation of an environmental integration strategy, for its external actions, including in its development policy and programming. The environmental mainstreaming strategy should include, inter alia, assessments of climate change impacts and measures for mitigation and adaptation as well as biodiversity, freshwater and ocean management and other natural resource issues. The strategy should be monitored against agreed indicators and progress reported at the same time as the mid-term reviews. Capacity building programmes in partner countries for the use of strategic environmental assessments and other tools would be part of the strategy.

Improved environmental governance can be encouraged through transparency initiatives, perhaps extending the FLEGT concept to other resources such as fisheries. Governance is a major element of the EU’s development policy “Agenda for Change. Civil society is an important actor in governance initiatives and their roles as watchdogs, information providers, and holding the relevant authorities to account can be strengthened further.

The proposed new programme on global public goods and challenges in the Development Cooperation Instrument provides an excellent opportunity to go beyond mainstreaming or integration, to pursue multi-stakeholder programmes which specifically address

environmental and sustainable development issues in innovative ways, bringing added value and impact beyond the geographical partnerships.

In addition, the EU can strengthen its work on policy coherence for development to assess, at a country level, the potential impacts of all its policies, domestic and international, on the rest of the world and take necessary steps to ensure it is promoting sustainable development – not undermining it. Some welcome steps have already been taken in this regard but the tools for, and implementation of, policy coherence for development could be used more consistently through all of the EU services and institutions.

Environmental integration and policy coherence for development are both obligations within the Treaty of Lisbon.

### ***3. What policies need to be put into place to further encourage and engage EU business and stakeholders?***

The above mentioned proposals (in Q1) would further encourage business action. The basic premise is to realign economic incentives to favour sustainable practices.

Binding targets are fundamental to drive innovation and new business models on greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, energy savings but also on resource efficiency, water, land use, biodiversity and waste.

EU sectoral regulations, policies, norms, standards will also drive change and innovation. There may be a need for further complementary guidance, training, capacity building, especially to support SMEs.

Within an EU strategy to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies and shift them to eco-innovation, support is important to help businesses innovate more quickly and move from incremental to radical innovation in as many sectors as possible.

Mainstream and make Green Public Procurement mandatory, based on best practices available and develop guidance, training, capacity building.

An EU strategy to leverage private funding in order to reach the required scale.

An EU initiative to support the development of new business models, services and products – with a specific focus on the role of SMEs.

An EU requirement for company reporting including indicators on greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energies, energy savings and resource efficiency: water, land use, biodiversity, waste. Such reports should be publicly available.

In addition, for consumers:

A well-resourced and long-term campaign is needed at EU level to increase the understanding and awareness of consumers in order to trigger the changes in consumption patterns and behaviour and to make energy and resource-saving behaviour the norm.

#### ***4. What specific actions could be foreseen in this area? How could such actions contribute to growth and jobs?***

A study for WWF<sup>5</sup> has shown that as it stands, a €1 billion investment in Natura 2000 can create 29,000 jobs where the same investment in CAP will only create 6,200 jobs.

A €1 billion targeted investment could also create approximately 52,700 jobs in renewable energies or 25,900 in the energy savings sectors (mainly construction).

A recent study illustrates that if we allow fish stocks to recover, just 10 years from now in 2022, we could start seeing huge benefits compared to continuing past trends: EU fishermen could land an additional 2.8 million tons of sustainably caught fish - an increase of around 80%, the fisheries sector could generate an extra income of €2.1 billion per year - around 80% more and across the EU, income per fisherman could be up to 50% higher on average than it is today.<sup>6</sup>

Financial institutions should make more capital available to cleantech companies and cleantech adopters. Public money may be used for leverage (for example through the European Investment Bank) and innovative ways pursued to attract capital markets for infrastructure.

Create a stable framework for investors which includes a clear strategy, long term and medium targets, ambitious regulations and long term and stable incentives (resource taxation, subsidies).

Full involvement of DG Enterprise in supporting an inclusive and green economy in Europe as well as in terms of their external activities in support of European private sector interests to ensure consistency and coherence with green economy objectives and overall sustainable development objectives.

- develop ambitious regulation (including mandatory targets) in energy efficiency to reduce energy dependency and create local jobs

- Expand the use of green public procurement, including mandatory requirements over time. Improve consistency of procurement criteria amongst EU member states to promote highest possible standards and good practice.

## **2. Action in Priority Areas**

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<sup>5</sup> [http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/green\\_jobs\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://awsassets.panda.org/downloads/green_jobs_full_report.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.wwf.eu/what\\_we\\_do/fisheries/publications\\_fisheries/?206569/Socio-economic-benefits-of-a-bold-EU-Fisheries-reform](http://www.wwf.eu/what_we_do/fisheries/publications_fisheries/?206569/Socio-economic-benefits-of-a-bold-EU-Fisheries-reform)



The Rio+20 Outcome document contains a large number of actions in the section "Framework for action and follow-up". These will address in practice specific themes of the Green economy in the context of sustainable development:

- Poverty eradication
- Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture
- Water and sanitation
- Energy
- Sustainable tourism
- Sustainable transport and sustainable cities and human settlements
- Health and population
- Promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all, and social protection
- Oceans and seas
- Small island developing states
- Least developed countries and landlocked least developed countries
- Africa and regional efforts
- Disaster risk reduction
- Climate change
- Forests
- Biodiversity
- Desertification, land degradation and drought
- Mountains
- Chemicals and waste
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Mining
- Education
- Gender equality and women's empowerment

Following the request of the European Council<sup>7</sup>, the EU did propose goals and targets to advance the transition to the Green economy in key areas, which are essential for social and economic development.

### ***Questions:***

***5. Which key areas do you think are the most important and should be given the highest priority (for the EU/at global level)? Please give reasons for your choices.***

All of these issues are important. Some are sectorial and can be targeted specifically while others such as climate, disaster risk reduction, gender equality require targeted action but are also cross-cutting.

To help narrow down the list, the EU should obviously focus on what can best be done at a European wide level or through EU joint action. At the same time, the EU should of course contribute to the international processes for the different sectors and priorities whether through engagement and implementation of international conventions or through the new UN processes for the development of a post 2015 framework and sustainable development goals.

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<sup>7</sup> Conclusions of the European Council, 1-2 March 2012 (article 28), and Environment Council Conclusions, 12 March 2012 (articles 17, 18).

1. Climate change/energy use because together they make up around half of EU's footprint. Two priorities on this issue are: boosting energy savings and renewable energies / phasing out fossil fuel and nuclear energies.
2. Biodiversity and ecosystem services because EU action for biodiversity protection is insufficient. The implementation of the current EU 2020 Biodiversity strategy needs to be strengthened to achieve the new 2020 target. Moreover, the EU's impact on biodiversity outside Europe continues to increase. There is major potential to make progress through follow up to the outcomes of CBD COP 11 and through the alignment of EU policies to the CBD Strategic Plan 2020.
3. Sustainable consumption and production: The EU should immediately tackle issues of sustainable consumption and production, going beyond resource efficiency, to address actual consumption levels, whether through, for example, tax measures or regulation. Taking action to address its "footprint" at home in terms of its excessive demands for natural resources from elsewhere will show that it is "walking the talk".
4. Sustainable agriculture because agriculture uses half of the land area of EU, EU agriculture is still primarily unsustainable and is increasingly dependent on high impact imports from Southern countries (soy, palm oil, etc).
5. Fisheries and marine because EU is one of the biggest fishing nations and one of the biggest consumers of seafood in the world. The decisions taken in the EU on fisheries and general marine management have a tremendous impact, because EU is acting as one entity thus able to influence the decision making process more efficiently. Also the EU is often perceived as one of the more progressive players in terms of conservation and sustainability of marine resources, thus it is important that we use this opportunity to improve the regional and global systems in place.

6. *Are there specific ways in which an area needs to be followed up (within the EU/at global level)? Should the EU promote and enter into partnerships for action and if so, in which area specifically? Are there specific barriers to implement actions in a given area? What could be done to overcome these barriers?*

**Answer (max 200 words):**

### **Marine and fisheries**

The EU already contributes significantly already to fisheries and marine issues locally, regionally and globally through active engagement in different fisheries management for a (Regional Advisory Councils, Fisheries Partnership Agreements, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, etc). These channels can be appropriate vehicles for promoting

change, although engagement could be improved further based on the highest standards used domestically and lessons learned. EU should be bold and active in asserting the best available knowledge, ensuring respect for local priorities and needs, ensuring human rights and promoting the highest standards for natural resources protection.

### **Corporate Sustainability reporting**

The Rio+20 outcome document is weak on the issue of global standards for corporate sustainability reporting, but the EU has an opportunity here to work with the private sector and civil society in strengthening current initiatives, improve consistency in reporting and make early moves towards a common global framework.

### **Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

In its external relations and development cooperation, the EU can bring a particular added value through supporting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in order to secure essential ecosystem functions and natural capital as a basis for green economy development.

There are already national plans underway in the Mekong region, parts of Indonesia, and some African countries, for example Mozambique, to steer economic development in the direction of green economies. The EU could establish joint learning platforms to share ideas and experience from different regions.

**7. *Do you think it is useful for the EU to develop targets to drive the inclusive Green economy? If so, what aspects do you think should be covered and how should economic, social and environmental aspects be addressed?***

### **Answer (max 200 words):**

Targets are fundamental to set the level of ambition and to enable monitoring and reporting. However, they also require complementary guidance on how they should be pursued with time-bound road maps and indicators. Ideally targets should be designed to deal with several inter-related issues – for example, greenhouse gas emissions reduced through measures that also include environmental and social safeguards.

A green and inclusive economy should be seen as an integrated approach to address the problems that often arise from a sectorial approach. Innovative solutions can take into account all aspects (environmental, social, economic) of the problem. Environmental sustainability is important because, as we have seen from experience, when ecosystems fail, there is no future for economic activity and the negative social impact is usually irreversible. For example, in fisheries, if we overexploit fish stocks the consequences are dire for all: business stops, environment suffers, people lose jobs and income, etc.

Inside Europe, work is needed to make sure vulnerable people are not penalised but are supported through the process of transition (notably through targeted subsidies, tax exemptions, education, training, etc).

**8. *What additional tools and indicators for the measurement of progress should be applied?***

**For the EU**

**At high level:**

- 4 footprint indicators on land, water, carbon and materials plus a biodiversity indicator. The most robust one in EU is the “Conservation Status of Habitats and Species of Community Importance”

**At thematic level:**

- Biodiversity: use the 4 indicators ‘Biocapacity and ecosystems services’ / ‘IUCN Red List’ / ‘Living Planet Index’ / ‘Protected Area coverage’

- Water: use the 2 indicators “Water Fragmentation and Flow Regulation” / indicator of aquatic ecosystems health (‘good status’)

- Marine Strategy Framework Directive

- Food and Agriculture: use the indicators ‘Area under organic farming’ / ‘Food waste’

- Energy: energy savings / renewable energy

- Number of green jobs

- Include well-being (e.g. Eurostat, “Core sets of Well Being Drivers”)

A review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy should take place with a view to updating it, incorporating the outcomes of Rio+20 (and other relevant processes) and incorporating measures and indicators such as the ones above.

**3. Sustainable Development Goals**

The Rio+20 Outcome document outlined key principles for developing SDGs. It is stated that the SDGs should reflect all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) in a balanced way; and that they should be action-oriented, concise, easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, and that they should be guided by the Rio Outcome document. The Rio+20 Outcome document also states that the SDGs need to be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015, and that the process to establish SDGs needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes for the post-2015 development agenda.

It is important to underline the universal character of the SDGs. They must simultaneously respond to the need to have global goals for all countries and the need for a specific development focus.

The EU will have to set up a process to establish its position on the scope, nature and specifics of the SDGs. This should take into account the EU 2020 targets and those being further pursued under the resource efficiency flagship, as well as the proposals for priority areas and cross cutting themes made by the EU in the run up to Rio+20. It will also be important to ensure that goals should be consistent with internationally agreed goals, such as on biodiversity, climate and social aspects.

**Questions:**

**9. In your opinion, what specific themes or topics should SDGs cover? In what way could the EU build on existing or proposed goals and targets?**

<b>Answer (max 200 words):</b>
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<p>There should be one global development framework from 2015, thus integrating proposed sustainable development goals with the follow up to the current Millennium Development Goals. Otherwise, there is a risk that efforts to achieve the goals will be fractured and diluted. That said, the progress that has been made in delivering the Millennium Development Goals should not be ignored, but lessons learned and built upon for the future framework.</p>
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<p>Global goals that include environmental sustainability could, for example, look at fish stock status and status of marine environment. Indicators would allow monitoring of the situation in invaluable marine resources and would provide data and perspective on the dependence of society on marine ecosystem services. Indicators could be specific enough to forewarn about upcoming dangers and further build on existing data and information that spans in some places more than a century.</p>
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<p>Energy (including access to energy for the poor, investment in renewable energy for the future and greater efforts in energy efficiency) is another important area which is not covered</p>
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by other international processes. Energy targets could be combined with targets on water management, land degradation and food security, as suggested in the European Report on Development 2012, thus operationalising the so-called WEL nexus (water-energy-land).

The CBD's Strategic Plan 2011-2020 also provides a number of targets and indicators which could be used to design a global goal addressing the need to secure biodiversity and ecosystem services for the long term health and benefit of people and the planet.

(See WWF's submission to UN thematic consultation on environmental sustainability in a post 2015 framework for more suggestions on integrated global goals)<sup>8</sup>

***10. What form and structure should SDGs have? How should economic, social, and environmental dimensions, as well as the inter-linkages between them be addressed?***

**Answer (max 200 words):**

The global goals should seek to deliver prosperity and wellbeing through an integrated approach that acknowledges synergies between the environmental, developmental and human rights challenges. The goals should create opportunities to promote equitable development through environmentally sound policies and through an integrated approach, to expose and resolve potential trade-offs. The framework should also look to improve equality in and between countries – acknowledging good governance and the rule of law (including respect for human rights) as fundamental for sustainable development.

The goals should build on the many existing relevant international agreements such as the Millennium Declaration, the Rio Principles, the outcomes of Johannesburg in 2002, the Rio+20 outcome document and the CBD Aichi targets.

Securing the health of ecosystems and maintaining natural capital provide the basis for economies, livelihoods and societies to build on and will also ensure that development options are left open for future generations.

For example, providing access to water and sanitation for all requires well-managed freshwater and related ecosystems, and an integrated policy approach to water, energy, food security, land-use planning, agriculture and climate change adaptation. Food security requires healthy fish stocks, reduced marine and freshwater pollution, the maintenance of biodiversity, sustainable and low input agriculture, functioning ecosystems and adaptation to climate change as well as support to smallholder farmers, land tenure, access to markets, promotion of traditional knowledge and fair trade regimes.

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/sustainability>

***11. How can it be best ensured that SDGs and their monitoring are science based?***

**Answer (max 200 words):**

Future global goals must recognise planetary boundaries and how to secure human development and wellbeing within the limits of those boundaries. However, indicators will not necessarily be only natural science-based because they will also be addressing human rights, equality, poverty eradication and social justice.

Future global goals can include science-based goals and science based indicators which are designed in a way to facilitate assessment, understanding and monitoring. For example, for fish stock assessment most of the systems are already in place in developed countries but their implementation requires close monitoring. The EU could play a role in improving these systems domestically and contributing to the establishment of better systems in developing countries and high seas.

Indicators may also be process indicators, for example, in issues of governance of natural resources, participation, enabling conditions, equitable access to resources and ecosystem services. However they should also be outcome-based. The critical factor is that governments can be held accountable by their citizens for nationally-relevant targets which contribute to global targets or goals. Public information and reporting encourage citizen involvement in not only holding their governments to account but also in the establishment of “stretching” and credible targets.

It will be important to have indicators that are clear and comparable at the international level, particularly since there may be different targets adopted according to country context.

***12. How can one make sure that the SDGs will be relevant and will act as a stimulus to all countries (developed, emerging, developing)? How will they contribute to mobilizing action?***

**Answer (max 200 words):**

The future global goals (one set of goals) should be universal but allow for differentiated and nationally relevant targets to take into account different contexts and stages of development. The targets should add up to a coherent global approach. For example, developed countries may tackle issues of resource efficiency, waste, footprint, etc, while least developed countries aim to deliver on improving access to resources and governance and management of those resources. This would also help spur innovation in green jobs.

Public involvement at the national and local level through consultations, awareness - raising, education, information provision, CSO networks and local authorities will contribute to mobilising action. If citizens have been involved in discussions and are knowledgeable on the targets their governments have set, then they are able to call on the governments (and local governments) to deliver and hold them to account.

***13. In what way should the SDGs relate to stimulating the inclusive Green economy?***

**Answer (max 200 words):**

Policies and actions to stimulate an inclusive green economy, including policies and actions which are developed at a national or regional level according to the context and circumstances, will be among the means of implementation of globally agreed goals. Green economy approaches will not be the only policies required – for example, there will also need to be specific policy approaches to ensure global goals also deliver on human rights, equality and poverty eradication.

***14. How do you see the relationship of SDGs to future goals following up on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are likely to be developed under the post 2015 development agenda?***

There must be one set of global goals or one global development framework post 2015 which incorporates plans for sustainable development goals as well as plans for follow up to the Millennium development goals. This is a once in a generation opportunity to tackle environment and development challenges together and avoid the traditional silo traps.

Environmental sustainability is a necessary component of development and reducing inequality (see UN Human Development Report 2012). Natural resources and the services they provide are the foundation for human development but these services are declining while the pressure on them increases. In addition, climate change will exacerbate this, undermining development benefits and gains made over the last few decades – unless there are great investments in mitigation and adaptation.

The implications of ignoring these links between environmental sustainability and human development are global but the impacts on the poorest or most marginalised are disproportionate. Manifestations of these impacts may include: lack of access to resources (food, water, land, energy); insecure livelihoods, conflict over shared or limited resources, vulnerability to shocks and disasters, health problems, migration and environmental refugees.

A new comprehensive global and sustainable development framework should address the drivers of poverty, inequality and environmental degradation. In some cases, these drivers are the same, including around issues of governance, thus addressing drivers can facilitate an integrated development/environment approach.

**4. Financing Strategy for sustainable development**



The Rio+20 Outcome document underlined Means of Implementation as crucial to achieving sustainable development. It established an intergovernmental process under the UN General Assembly to produce options for a sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of financial resources and their effective use. Such a strategy should promote a single comprehensive approach to development financing, building on the Financing for Development agenda<sup>9</sup> and promote an integrated approach to the various global financing processes, including Rio+20, climate change and biodiversity financing.

It is important that financing strategies for sustainable development should consider all possible sources to be mobilized by all types of stakeholders, including by national and international, public and private, financial and non-financial actions. This includes giving due attention to public and private financing schemes, innovative financing, taxation and pricing schemes, regulation, and to the barriers to foreign direct investment, as well as looking at the synergies and overlaps with other policy goals (development, climate change, biodiversity).

On external financing, the strategy should look beyond development aid. There is a need to recognize that the major emerging economies should no longer only be seen as recipients of aid even if they still require institutional and technological capacity building assistance. Relevant international and regional banks such (the IMF, World Bank and other Multilateral Development Banks, such as the EIB) should be involved. Also it should be noted that many of the financing and investment conditions are similar to those for fostering an inclusive Green economy.

### ***Questions:***

***15. What should be the main elements covered in financing strategies for sustainable development? Could, for example, thematic strategies such as the Biodiversity Resource Mobilization Strategy<sup>10</sup> be a useful starting point?***

### **Answer (max 200 words):**

All currently agreed strategies for financing development and environment, as well as the background analysis, are a useful start to save time and not reinvent the wheel. We should aim for an overarching financing strategy for sustainable development, which could include references to existing agreements and plans (such as the Biodiversity Resource Mobilisation Strategy). An overall financing strategy could be part of an expanded “Financing for Development process” (Monterrey plus). Such a consolidated approach avoids risks of gaps and duplication of focused thematic approaches, provides more coordinated, consistent, effective support and helps ensure that the level of ambition is adequate (high enough) to match the challenges. It should also include essential elements to increase and improve the efficiency of resource mobilisation and financing such as policy coherence for development.

At the same time maximum use should be made of existing fora which are exploring and analysing funding sources and mechanisms, for example, the Leading Group on Innovative

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=11654>

Financing for Development, as well as previous studies such as those from the High Level Advisory Group on Climate Finance, the World Bank and G20.

All funding programmes should be developed with appropriate and adequate stakeholder involvement and financial mechanisms should all include strong environmental and social safeguards.

A major opportunity was missed at the Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to strengthen environment integration in overall development cooperation and thus maximise the links between poverty eradication and environment. Although, the final declaration briefly mentions environmental sustainability as a common principle and international commitment, the subsequent list of global indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Busan Partnership entirely omits the issue. The original Paris declaration on Aid effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action included commitments to harmonise and deepen common procedures for environmental assessments and to address the implications of global environmental issues such as climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity.

***16. What are some of the most effective financing and resource mobilisation schemes to date, such as public or private schemes, micro-financing, climate change and biodiversity financing? How can they be scaled up?***

**Answer (max 200**

In terms of **resource mobilisation for biodiversity conservation**, the major source of financing will remain public funding including multilateral, bilateral and domestic resources. Financing mechanisms such as trust funds and payments for ecosystem services are most effective in terms of securing long term finance for natural capital. Finance for sustainable management may be promoted through other mechanisms such as the development and application of standards (e.g Forest Stewardship Council, Marine Stewardship Council) and thus leveraging private sector investment.

In terms of energy, two successful models can be cited: The German feed-in-tariff (FIT) for renewables (RES) for **industrial scale clean development by governments** and the Indian business model of SELCO for **distributed clean energy supply for rural households to overcome energy poverty, a business model**.

The German FIT model and representative for more than 50 other and often different FIT models by other countries provides the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest OECD economy with almost 30% renewable electricity supply, mostly wind and solar, and planned to grow to about 50% by 2025. It has resulted in about 370,000 jobs in the RES industry and supply chain in Germany and contributed to a large decline of manufacturing costs for solar PV and on-shore wind development in particular because of the scale of investments and resulting technology learning such as load factor growth. The FIT in Germany is an annually reviewed scheme by the government of RES technology-specific payments (€/kWh) by all customers set as a premium on monthly electricity prices of households and small businesses to cover the difference of new renewable energy generation costs compared to the still lower costs of nuclear-coal-gas driven grid mix.

The Indian SELCO model represents a regional and successful business model in South and Central India. It is a typical SME with all the economic and social benefits created locally and nationally - not relying on external donors or large banks. SELCO focuses on providing small solar power (PV) and water heating (solar thermal) devices in very poor and rural Indian areas for basic services. The product comes with a charger/battery (for night lighting) and energy efficient bulbs. It demonstrates (<http://www.selco-india.com/>) that the often heard myth of the poor not being 'able to pay' or not 'able to maintain new technologies' is false. SELCO now has served about 150,000 customers in rural India and they themselves they employ about 200 persons in 25 service centers in India. SELCO works with mainly regional rural banks to provide microcredits to the poor to allow for relaxed pay-back times of the purchase of sometimes a few years. A pre-condition in areas where overall income is often less than 1€/day. SELCO also works closely with associated local maintenance centres to guarantee the replacement of broken or dysfunctional equipment within one day even in remote areas. Overall, such a localized SME business model for overcoming energy poverty is a much better approach than relying on large corporations from the OECD entering poor countries and developing large centralized energy-access projects which often only benefit the more wealthy ones and still leave the poor in the dark.

Finally - the agreement of a number of European Member States to go ahead with an enhanced cooperation procedure for a coordinated **Financial Transaction Tax** provides another possible source of financing. The initiative could raise as much as 40 billion euros a year amongst the participating countries. If a proportion of the revenues were to be allocated to support international development, environment and climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, this could provide a long term and predictable source of finance for global sustainable development objectives.

***17. What are the most effective ways of encouraging investment? Where possible, link your replies to questions on the inclusive Green economy.***

The best way to encourage investment is to provide a clear and robust framework to the investor, with at least a mid-term perspective, that will ensure a relatively secure financial return. It implies:

Clear and very ambitious public policies including measurable binding targets (greenhouse gas emissions, % of renewables, etc) – including sectoral policies for the high impact sectors.

A mid-long term to shift mid-long term investments (e.g. in the energy and transport sectors, targets are needed now for 2030 and even 2050).

Where necessary, a financial scheme to develop the area or sector (for example feed in tariffs). However, sectoral support policies should always be embedded in an integrated strategy – for example, feed in tariffs for renewable energy such as hydropower must be cross-checked with objectives for water resource management or biodiversity.

If other sources are not viable or likely, there could be public financial support (public guaranty, tax exemption, credit enhancement, etc) – notably for SMEs, for eco-innovation

Awareness raising and communication on the attractiveness of investing in this or that issue, sector, etc

And see examples above of innovative schemes for scaling up small scale projects.

***18. How should coherence, coordination and non-duplication of efforts be ensured with regard to the Financing for Development process and other relevant processes?***

**Answer (max 200 words):**

See response to question 16.

## **5. Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development**

An important theme of Rio+20 was on furthering the institutional framework for sustainable development. Rio decided to strengthen the functions of UNEP. Rio also decided to establish a High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development. The EU will now have to consider how it can best contribute to implementing this outcome.

***Questions:***

***19. What measures would you see best taken to ensure that the EU effectively contributes to the implementation of these outcomes?***

**Answer (max 200 words):**

The EU can ensure that the High-level Political Forum functions more effectively than the Commission on Sustainable Development. For example, by ensuring that the Forum has the mandate to work on economic, trade, health and security issues that are linked to environmental concerns and make the relevant input to other political fora or UN bodies. The EU could propose that the High Level Political Forum could have a peer review function in terms of reporting on and delivery of global sustainable development objectives and Rio+20 agreements.

The EU could also propose that the HLPF routinely publishes such peer reviews and up to date reports so that civil society and others have an opportunity to review and in accordance with Rio principle 10 on access to information, etc.

The good (almost unique to UN) practices of CSD to enable stakeholder and major groups participation should not be lost in the establishment of a new HLPF but ways found to ensure that dialogue and engagement opportunities are maintained.

***20. Do you think the participation of civil society, social partners, and other stakeholders should be strengthened? If so, how internationally and within the EU?***

**Answer (max 200 words):**

There are many actors engaged in sustainable development – NGOs, trade unions, consumer associations, media, cooperatives, youth groups, private sector, trade associations, development, human rights and environmental organisation, etc and it can be complex to ensure all have the opportunity to participate.

Participation by the different groups of actors should be supported, with resources where necessary, to organise themselves around the process and processes. Involvement can be encouraged and deepened through information and transparency, including early publication of draft documents and opportunities to engage and timely publication of meeting reports, decisions.

Although the concept of a high level representative, or ombudsman, on sustainable development and future generations was not included in the final Rio outcome text, this is nevertheless a concept that could be taken forward at EU level to represent the interests of future stakeholders. Such an ombudsman would work across the Commission and EU institutions and closely with academia and civil society.

#### **Other issues**

You may also outline your views on other issues related to the follow-up to Rio+20 that have not been mentioned above.

**Thank you for your contribution!**