



Expert Group Meeting on SD21 Sustainable Development Scenarios for the Rio+20 Summit

Organized by United Nations DESA and hosted at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis,
Schlossplatz 1, 2361 Vienna/Laxenburg, Austria, 27-29 June 2011

Annotated Provisional Agenda

27 June:

1. Opening

- (a) Registration
- (b) Welcome statements
- (c) Self-introduction of participants

[Welcome statements by UN-DESA and IIASA..]

2. SD21 Sustainable Development Scenarios: introduction to the initiative and the meeting

[Objective: brief introduction by DESA]

- (a) Rio+20 Summit
- (b) SD21 project and publication
- (c) Expected outcomes of the expert group meeting
- (d) Study on Sustainable Development Scenarios for Rio+20 (SOSD)
- (e) Process, timeline
- (f) Agenda for the remainder of the meeting

[More in-depth material on the scenario initiative will be shared with participants before the meeting.]

3. Stock-taking of past and present SD21 scenario initiatives for Rio+20

[Objective: to share the latest information on relevant global scenario initiatives, to explore synergies, and set the stage for more in-depth discussions in the remainder of the meeting]

- (a) IIASA/GEA scenarios
- (b) OSEMOSSYS open source, open-assumptions scenario process
- (c) SEI/FBDS scenario study on energy access
- (d) PBL's study ("Growing within limits") for the Club of Rome
- (e) IPCC SRES and the new emission scenarios process
- (f) Extreme events and scenarios: "Game Changers" and IPCC-SREX
- (g) Results of various model and scenario comparisons: EMF, IEW, IPCC-RCP, AMPERE, ADAM, MATISSE, AME, RECIPE, IAMC, etc.
- (h) UNEP GEO-5 scenarios
- (i) Other thematic scenarios: UN-Water scenarios, Biodiversity scenarios, Land-use and forestry scenarios, MDG scenarios, etc.

- (j) Other efforts by UN and intergovernmental organizations: IAEA, IRENA, OECD, IEA

[We will try to keep this session as brief as possible. Presenters will be requested to share more in-depth material/papers with participants well before the meeting.]

4. Review of models, SD scenarios, and their impact on decision-making since Rio 1992

[Objective: to exchange perspectives on and define scope and contents of the first part of the scenario study (the “review”)]

- (a) Overall trends and impacts

[What have models been used for? What lessons were learnt from the development of the main families of models? How have models influenced policy-making? What are the main policy areas that are not well covered? What lessons can be learned for the future? DESA and others will report on their review work, for initial feedback by experts.]

- (b) Collection of sustainable development scenarios and meta-analysis

[What kind of meta-analyses have been undertaken? Which gaps should the SD21 study address? Which scenario reporting standards and databases exist? IIASA, PBL, and others will report on related work]

28 June:

5. SD21 scenario development

[Objective: to discuss the overall conceptual framework for the SD21 scenarios, including scenario storylines types of scenarios and the sustainable development “vision”.]

- (a) Types of scenarios, competing approaches
- (b) Scenario clustering and “storylines”, including various sustainable development “visions”
- (c) Realistic endpoints for common scenario specification
- (d) Harmonizing variables and “soft-linking”
- (e) Meta-model
- (f) Sustainable development issues: variables that need to be tracked (minimal set of indicators), variables that can be simulated by a subset of models.
- (g) Policy instruments and interventions

[A major part of the meeting will be spent on this session with in-depth discussions of the overall scenario framework. The “Note on SD21 scenarios” by David le Blanc and R..Alex Roehrl might be a useful starting point. Participants are also encouraged to submit their ideas and comments to the Secretariat before the meeting.]

6. Treatment of risk and extreme scenarios

[Objective: to discuss potential ways of capturing risk and extreme events in the study.]

- (a) Extreme events: climate system, health, geo-engineering, military and social conflicts, etc.
- (b) Approaches: scenarios or meta-analysis

[What type of risks and extreme events or shocks should be considered? How should they be captured? Quantitatively with models, or qualitatively as “stories”? Integrated (e.g., as sensitivity

cases) or in a separate section? Can we have a consistent picture across models? Depending on the interest, session 6 may be held in parallel with parts of session 5 and 7.]

7. Exploring transition paths

[Objective: to make the link with the other parts of SD21 on short-medium term]

- (a) Can we agree on a common thread / reporting grid for all models to describe transition?
- (b) How important is policy sequencing?
- (c) How far can one go in saying something meaningful about the combination of policies that would be needed based on a meta-analysis, or does it have to remain exploratory?
- (d) Evaluating “green economy” policies or “green growth” policies within a long-term framework: can it be done?

[DESA will provide proposals for consideration by the meeting.]

8. Defining the SD21 scenario study

[Objective: to define the scenario study, including a set of normative endpoints for key common variables identified earlier, and a minimum set of questions to be explore (models can examine other questions as well)]

- (a) End date for the exercise
- (b) Endpoint variables and “sustainable” ranges for those variables
- (c) Set of questions to be addressed

[Which indicators would be suitable to define “sustainable” endpoints and could be used by as many models as possible? What are the most important 5-10 questions that all models might try to answer? A proposal by DESA will be considered.]

29 June (morning):

9. Next steps

[Objective: to discuss technical and financial support, cooperation, and outreach, and to agree on next steps for the team.]

- (a) Proposal of “work tracks” by DESA
- (b) Constitution of the writing teams for the work tracks
- (c) Relevant events for outreach and peer-review until Rio+20
- (d) Timeline for next steps
- (e) The scenario process after Rio+20
- (f) Open Discussion

[Next steps include, e.g., the work programme; finalization of the study; upcoming modellers’ meetings; and the life of the SD21 scenario process beyond Rio+20.]

10. Conclusion and farewell