



**2ND PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING UN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

Statement on Green Economy by Switzerland

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The transformation towards greener economies all over the world is key to achieving a more sustainable future. Business models that lead to the destruction of our planet's natural resources weaken the basis for long-term prosperity. There will be no healthy economic future, if we do not manage to find ways for better integrating environmental and economic interests.

Green Economy is not a new idea. What is new is the unique opportunity that the UNCED provides for taking decisions that will accelerate the shift towards a green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development.

On this path, the Green Economy Report that was launched by UNEP two weeks ago at the UNEP Governing Council in Nairobi certainly is a milestone. First, the report brings much needed conceptual clarity. This will be extremely helpful in our endeavor to develop a better common understanding of the concept of a Green Economy.

Second, the key findings of the Green Economy Report are obviously of tremendous importance for our further deliberations. It for example provides convincing evidence that there is no "trade-off" between economic progress and environmental sustainability if a longer-term perspective is taken and wealth is measured in all relevant dimensions.

In our consideration of Green Economy we should also draw from the groundwork and experience of other relevant global activities and reports such as for example the OECD Strategy on Green Growth, as far as applicable both in a developed and developing country context. Likewise, it is important to take into account the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development because the agri-food chain should be an important element of a green economy in order to achieve global food security and sustainable food production and consumption.



In order to avoid that Green Economy is perceived only as a theoretical construct, we need to identify best-practices and implement concrete measures, while ensuring prosperity, poverty eradication and social justice.

At the national level in Switzerland, the two ministries in charge of economic and environmental affairs have therefore joined efforts and have developed a governmental action plan on green economy. The Swiss action plan on Green Economy identifies six fields of action which we believe have a great potential for bringing us closer towards a green economy. Amongst the fields of action are for example the promotion of clean technologies, the development of better information for consumers about the environmental impact of products as well as an ecological tax reform.

Switzerland is convinced that collective action at the international level is needed. As my delegation has stated already at the first PrepCom, we think that one of the main outcomes of the UNCSD should therefore be an international Green Economy Road Map.

This Green Economy Road Map should reflect progress on two levels, one being the policy and the other the operational level. At the policy level, the Green Economy Road Map needs to contain a common vision, common goals, common strategies as well as concrete targets timelines for the transformation towards a green economy. The vision, goals and strategies should build on the Rio Principles such as Principle 16 about the internalization of environmental costs which remain highly relevant until today. The strategies can build on the range of possible policies, instruments and measures identified in the UNEP Green Economy Report.

At the operational level, the Green Economy Road Map needs to bring together best practices and tools for example in form of an e-book or a platform that will help us to put the common vision and goals into practice. An ambitious 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production to be launched later this year at the 19th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development will be an important building block in this regard.

Mr. Chair, my government is convinced that by adopting an ambitious Green Economy Road Map the UNCSD can take a large step on the path towards sustainability.