

SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT – “The Global Sustainable Development Report as a bridge between the SDGs and the scientific communities” (29 June 2015)

Mr Chairperson, at the onset kindly allow me to express my country’s appreciation for the efforts put into the 2015 edition of the Global SD Report.

It clearly illustrates that the three pillars of the sustainable development have been considered, along with new and emerging areas, while acknowledging the on-going global and multilateral processes such as the SDGs.

We fully recognise that the SDGs and their implementation will require science to make transformative changes. Science will have to look at the way it works, it communicates, it engages with the citizens, and its relevance to transforming the lives of people through overcoming poverty, inequality and unemployment (the triple challenge faced today by the global citizen). In this way Science must be Transformative, Universal and be much better co-ordinated and integrative.

We agree that with respect to policy development...socio-economic –environmental issues require synergy and thus science is able to bring these elements together to effectively allow policy makers to effect change.

One must remain mindful that there are various other global reporting mechanisms and reports already in place, and therefore we should avoid duplication of efforts and multiplicity of reporting.

We therefore suggest going forward, the Global SD Report should integrate efforts with other global reports such as the Global Environmental Outlook report and regional reports such as the Africa Environmental Outlook report for effectiveness. Our reasoning is that both the GEO & AEO will also look at implementation of the SDGs. I thank you