

Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

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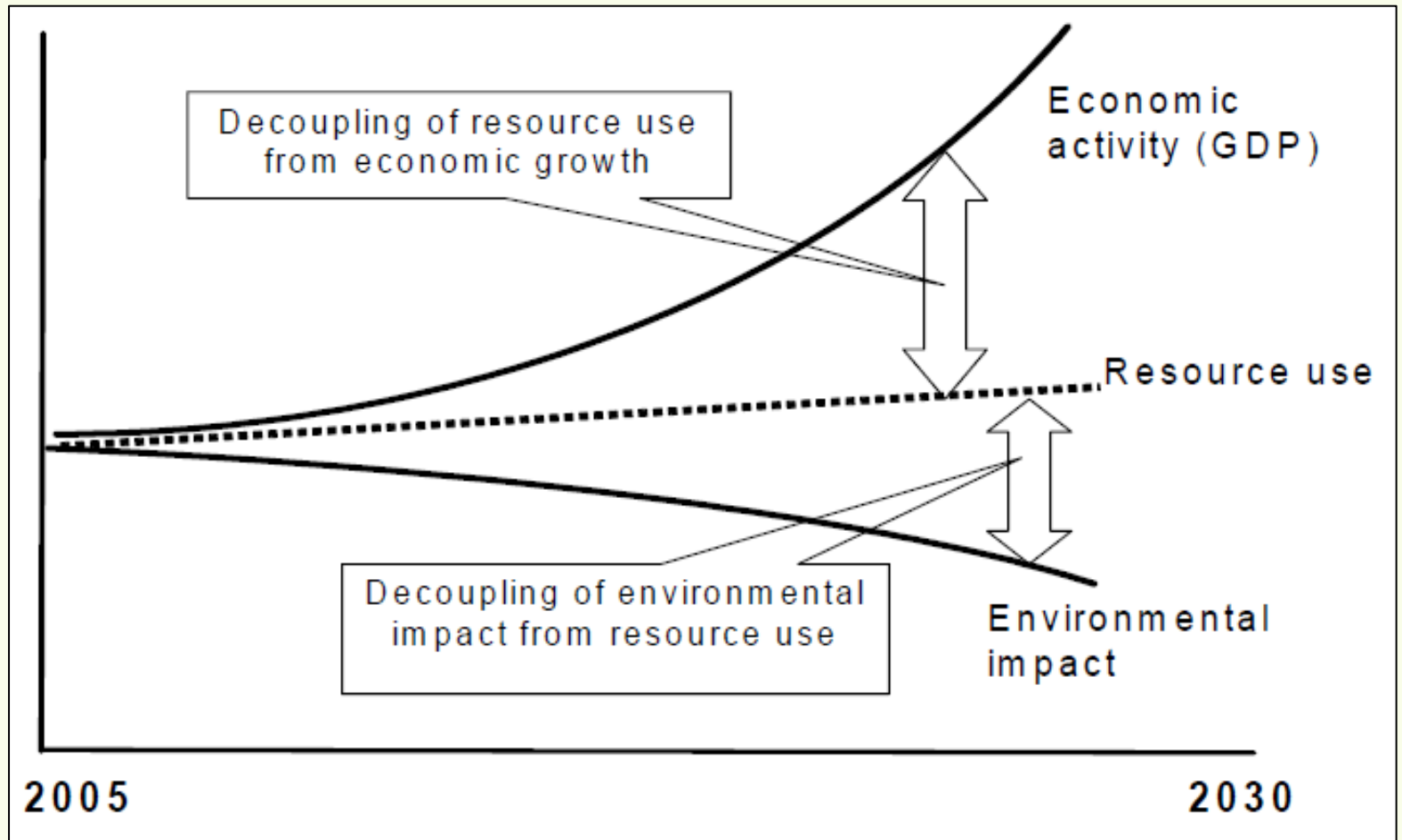


New York, January 2011

One of the fundamental objectives of the green economy is to achieve decoupling between economic performance captured by various indicators starting with GDP on one hand and environmental pressures like emission of harmful substances or consumption of non-renewable resources on the other. The main tool how to achieve decoupling is a substantial increase of resource productivity by systematically diminishing material and energy consumption of products, processes, and services.



Decoupling of resource use from economic growth and environmental impacts



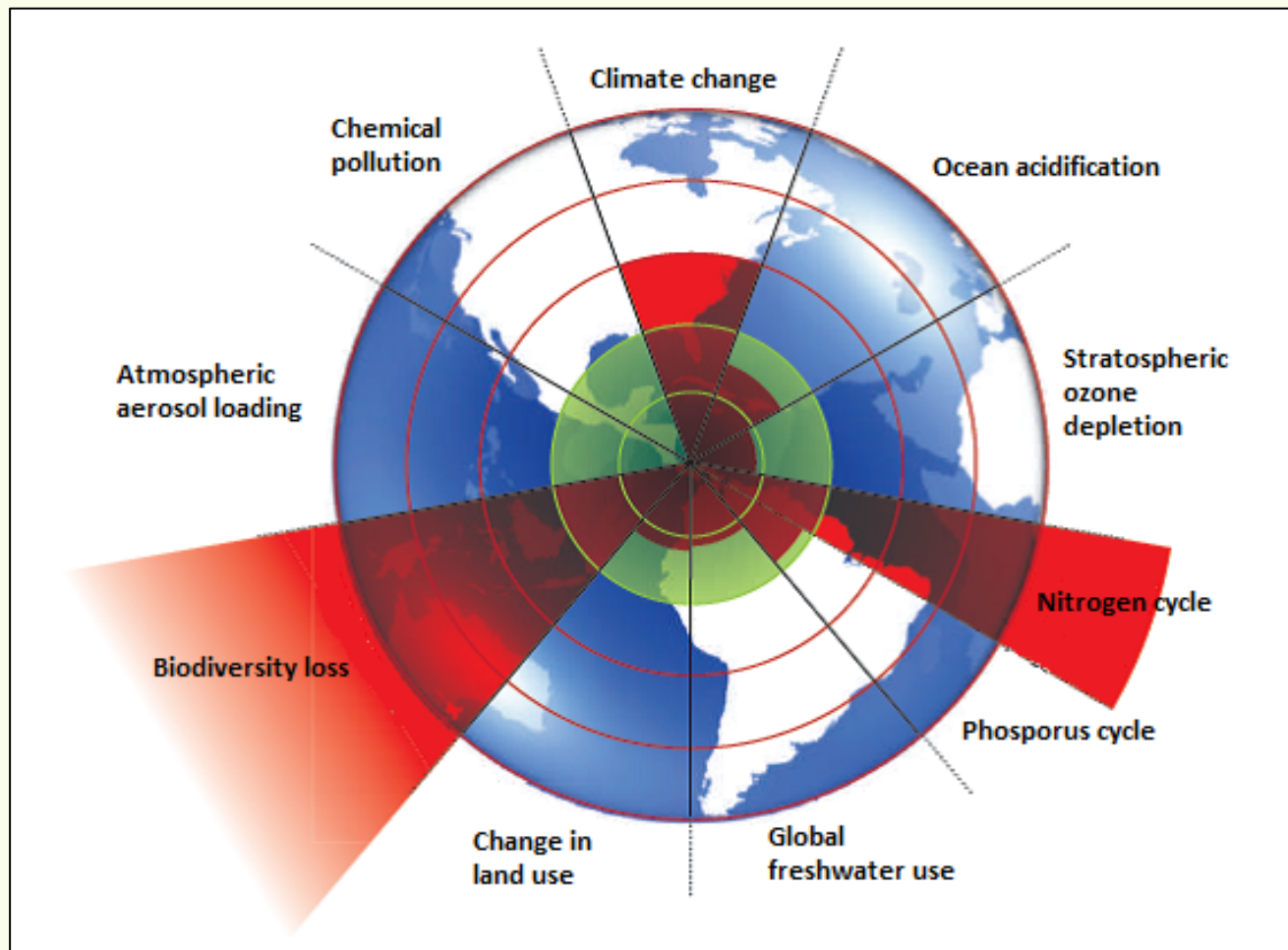
Source: European Commission



Countries should operate within the environmentally safe space demarcated by critical planetary boundaries. This means to observe limits enabling to safeguard planetary life-supporting systems like ozone layer, climate, biodiversity, dispersal of chemicals, land use, or oceans. At the same time, social and economic sustainability must be maintained.



Planetary boundaries: A safe operating space for humanity



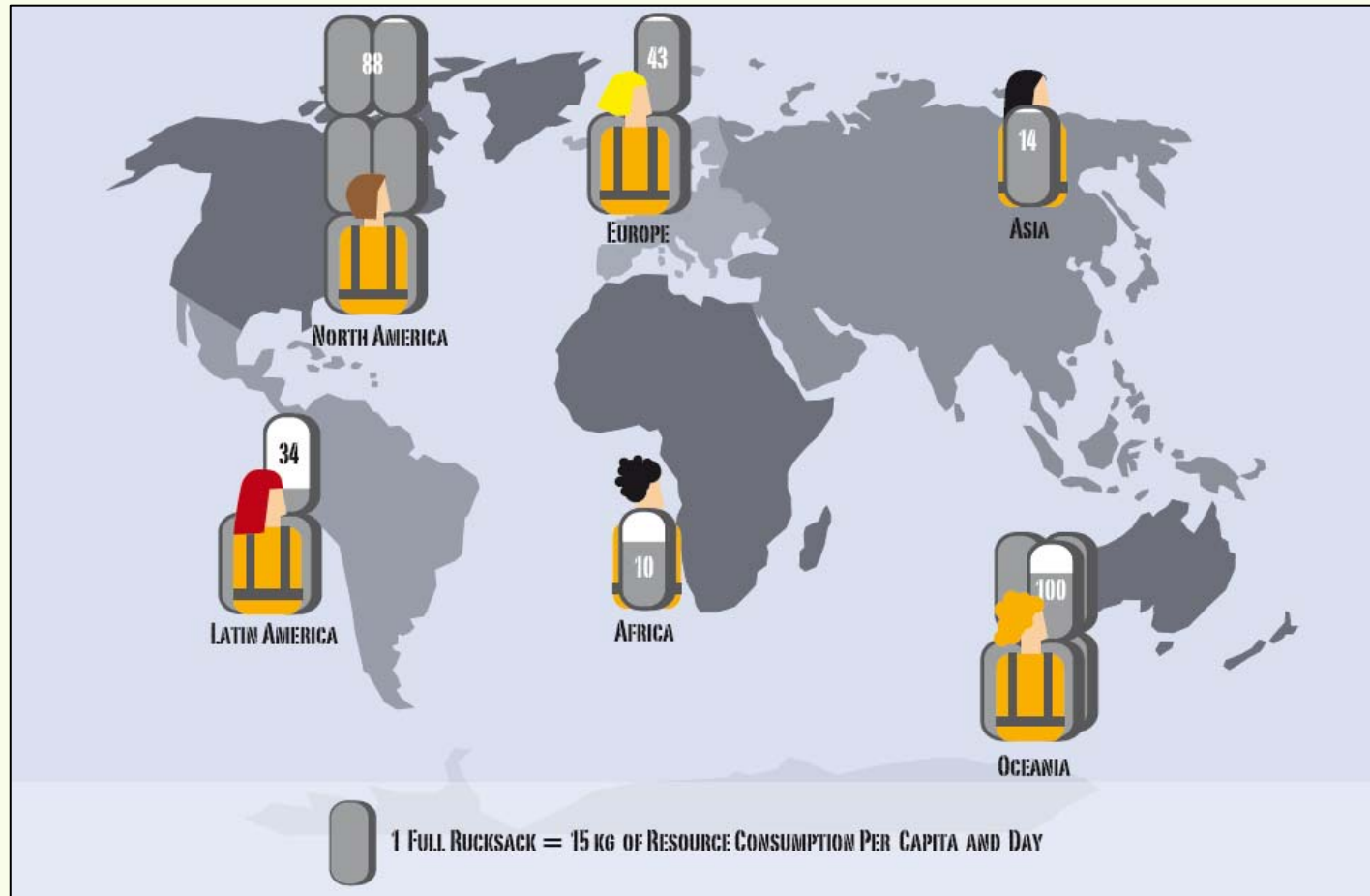
Source: Nature



Green economy must incorporate a good social policy that could bring the benefits of the new economy not only to the rich but also to the poor. That means, first of all, diminishing differences of income among social groups. Among other priorities I would stress decetralization, use of local and traditional knowledge, and support for individual and local initiatives. In the end, success of transition to green economy depend on people and their genuine embracement of the concept.



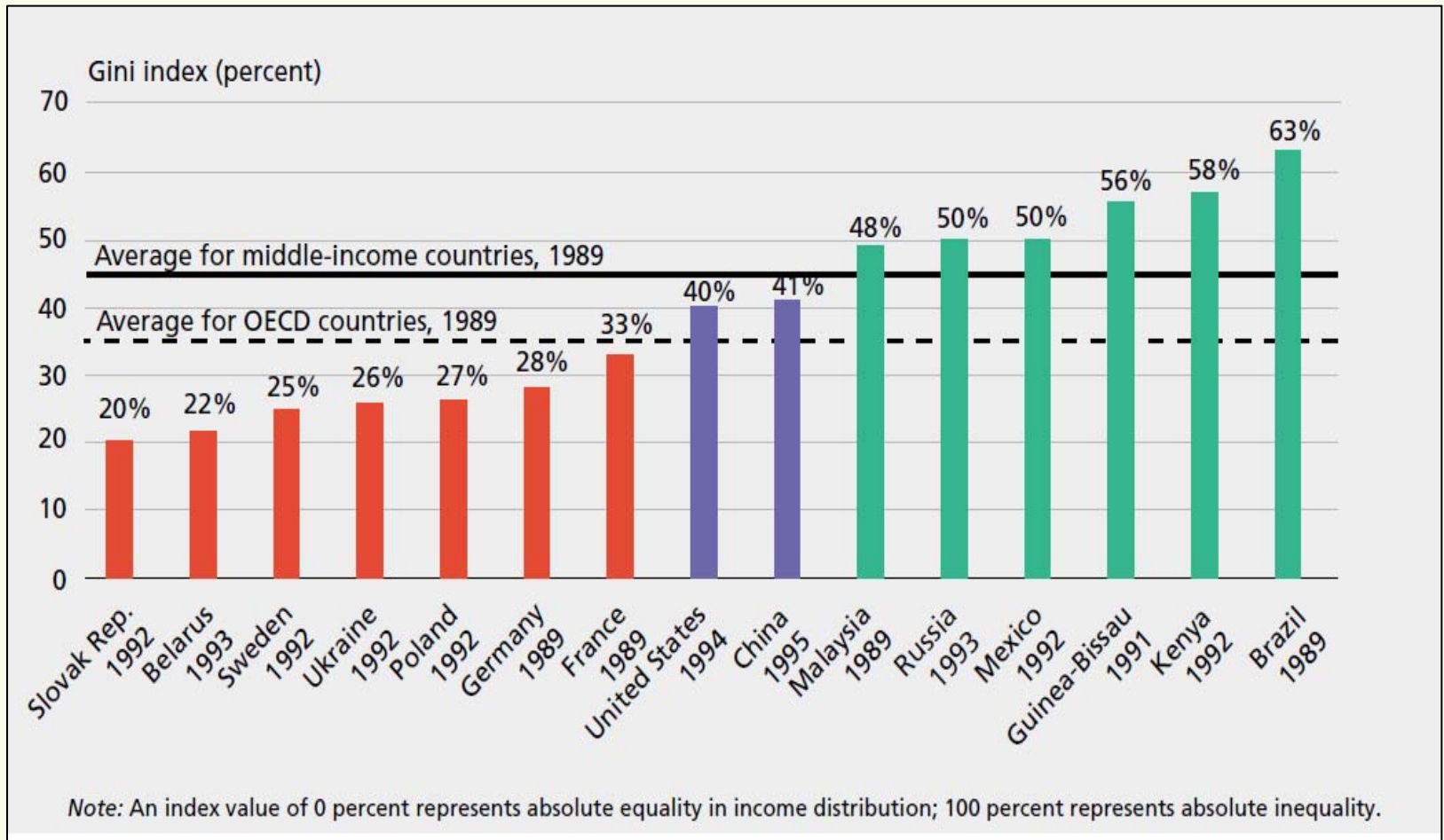
Resource consumption per capita per day, 2000



Source: Giljum et al., 2009



Income inequality in selected countries



Source: The World Bank



Some other issues include the concept of corporate social responsibility should be fully developed and applied. To address corruption properly is essential.

Markets including the global one do not operate in an optimal way if they are not wisely regulated by international consensus. The only solution is continuing discussions and negotiations at the highest political level. Any consensus should be based on trust and not on power.



Thank you for your attention

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