

**Report of the  
Expert Group Meeting for the Global  
Sustainable Development Report -  
A prototype report, future directions and network  
of scientific contributors**

Dubrovnik, 20-21 October 2013

Hosted by  
Government of Croatia

Organized by  
Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The present document is the report of the expert group meeting entitled “Expert Group Meeting for the Global Sustainable Development Report - A prototype report, future directions and network of scientific contributors”, organized by the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The meeting was held at the Center for Advanced Academic Studies, University of Zagreb, in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 21 to 22 to October 2013.

Additional meeting and background documents/materials are available at:  
<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=442&menu=1621>.

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors of the report and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its senior management.

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## Context and objectives of the meeting

A major outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (or Rio+20) was the decision to establish a universal, intergovernmental high-level political forum (HLPF). This forum is to build on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replace the Commission.

According to the Rio +20 outcome document, the high-level political forum shall follow up on the implementation of sustainable development. The outcome document also stipulates that the forum could, as one of its functions, “strengthen the science-policy interface through review of documentation bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments” as well as to enhance evidence-based decision-making at all levels. This function has been confirmed and mandated in the resolution adopted at the UN General Assembly on the format and organizational aspects of the forum.

The Division for Sustainable Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has worked on a prototype Global Sustainable Development Report, drawing on inputs from a dedicated UN task team constituted on this occasion and reaching out to scientific communities across the world.

The aims of the prototype report are to:

- Map the sustainable development assessments and related processes, provide science digests of issues not contained in assessments, and highlight emerging issues identified by scientists;
- Review sustainable development progress since 1950 versus goals suggested by science and in terms of trends in policy,

institutions and implementation of commitments, and sketch the geography of sustainable development progress;

- Tell the “stories” of future pathways toward sustainable development based on the literature, contrasted against a dynamics-as-usual scenario;
- Discuss investment and technology needs to achieve the future pathways outlined above, provide a status report on the global Rio+20 follow-up processes on the “means of implementation”, and discuss the pros and cons of new measures of progress “beyond GDP” and related means of monitoring;
- Identify lessons learnt and coherent policy menus from national, regional and global case studies of the climate-land-energy-water-development nexus; and
- Conclude with policy issues for consideration.

By the time this expert group meeting was held, the Executive Summary of the prototype report had been issued and distributed to participants.

In this context, the meeting aimed to bring together scientists, policy analysts, planners and other experts involved in sustainable development at the national, regional and sub-regional level in order to see how they can best contribute to the future Global Sustainable Development Report and establish a formal network of scientific contributors that can cooperate and coordinate at the regional and sub-regional level.

Specifically, the meeting was focused on the following issues: (i) assess how the GSDR can reflect regional and sub-regional perspectives, taking the Mediterranean basin as an example; (ii) assess the status of interdisciplinary scientific collaboration in the region, especially on issues of common regional interest; (iii) assess the status of national and regional science-policy dialogues around sustainable development in the region.

A specific focus of the EGM was to discuss the most productive and useful way of involving national, sub-regional and regional scientific communities, policy analysts, planners and other experts into the elaboration of a global assessment report, and how to improve the two-way communication between global and regional/sub-regional assessment processes and related policy making and implementation.

The meeting was organized by the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Government of Croatia. The DSD team had worked with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia to prepare the meeting and select the participants.

In addition to DSD representatives, the meeting gathered 32 participants from countries of the Mediterranean basin, with strong representation from the countries of Western Balkans. Participants (see detailed list in annex 1) were representatives of national, sub-regional and regional scientific communities, policy analysts, planners and other experts, representatives of governments in the Mediterranean region (defined in a broad sense) involved in sustainable development; representatives of relevant international and regional organizations; and representatives from the host government.

The following describes the main issues raised during the meeting. Because some subjects were mentioned in various sessions, we chose to mention issues only once, and therefore the summary here does not necessarily reflect the exact content of each session in the agenda (see Annex 2).

## **Main conclusions of the meeting**

The meeting gave rise to a rich exchange of views. A detailed account of the discussions in each session is presented below. The main conclusions from the meeting are the following:

1) There was general agreement on the fact that regional and sub-regional priorities do differ and do not necessarily reflect global priorities as reflected in international discussions. Therefore, it is important to reflect this diversity when compiling assessments. In addition, the appropriate definition of region and sub-region depends on the issue being addressed.

2) Many participants pointed to weaknesses in national science-policy interfaces in the Mediterranean region broadly defined.

3) There are many regional networks of experts in the region, working on different issues; there also are many frameworks and institutions, including the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Mediterranean Commission on sustainable Development under the Barcelona convention. However, these tend to work in silos and interdisciplinary collaboration is still a challenge. Participants identified a need for enhanced coordination and coherence to avoid duplication and to channel resources in a most efficient and effective way.

4) In general, participants were interested in the idea of providing regional and sub-regional highlights for the GSDR. Some participants volunteered to provide written inputs for the GSDR. The GSDR team in DSD will follow up on these offers.

5) Material presented at the expert group meeting can be used for the GSDR to provide concrete illustrations to general points, and highlight the differences in priorities and agendas that exist between the global level and regional and sub-regional levels. This may generate useful lessons for strengthening vertical policy links, a task that has been assigned to the high-level political forum.

6) At the end of the meeting, participants adopted the Dubrovnik declaration, which is a regional perspective on science-policy interface for a sustainable future (see annex 3). The Government of Croatia has since requested that the Declaration be circulated as an official UN document for the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

Monday, October 21

## Opening remarks

The meeting was opened by Ms. Vesna Batistić Kos, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Global Issues of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia.

Irena Zubcevic (UN-DESA) welcomed participants and thanked the Government of Croatia and the organizing team in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for hosting the meeting.

As a Croatian representative in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Nancy Butijer, Head, Division for Economic Multilateral Relations, Economic and Social Issues, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, presented the latest developments in this area.

## Session 1: Introduction

David Le Blanc (UN-DESA) provided an overview of the Rio+20 follow-up landscape in the UN, which provides the context for the GSDR. He outlined some of the milestones of the political process leading to the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the mandates of the high-level political forum, focusing on the strengthening of the science-policy interface.

Alex Roehrl (UN-DESA) presented the expectations of the meeting and provided an overview of the approach taken for the Global Sustainable Development Report and recalled elements of the Executive Summary that had been sent to participants, after which participants introduced themselves.

## Session 2: Prototype Global Sustainable Development Report

During this session Alex Roehrl presented the prototype GSDR report, including contributors, existing assessments, original work done, emerging issues identified by science to be

considered by policy makers; results of the UN crowd-sourcing exercise; and key messages of the report.

Other questions for discussion during the meeting were then introduced:

- Remaining gaps and scope for contribution of regional and sub-regional scientific networks;
- Role of the report in advancing sustainable development at all levels;
- Scope and methodology for future reports.

## Session 3: Regional perspectives on sustainable development

This session explored the status of the science-policy interaction around sustainable development in the region. The discussion was organized in two groups to facilitate discussions, with a report back to the plenary at the end of the session. The discussion highlighted the following points.

A general theme that cut across the various sessions of the meeting was the relevance of the concept of “region” for sustainable development policy priorities. First, there was general agreement on the fact that regional and sub-regional priorities do differ and do not necessarily reflect global priorities as reflected in international discussions. Therefore, it is important to reflect this diversity when compiling assessments. Second, the appropriate definition of region and sub-region depends on the issue being addressed. In the context of this particular meeting, many countries felt that the Mediterranean basin was the relevant “region” for the discussion of many topics of interests. For other topics, other regional definitions (e.g. the Western Balkans) were seen as more appropriate. For still other issues, other concepts not necessarily coinciding with countries (e.g. river basins) are appropriate. The divide between developed and developing countries around the Mediterranean basin is still present, and this has implication for common sustainable development strategies, policies and plans. It was

also mentioned that the Mediterranean region does not coincide with UN regions, which results in practical issues ranging from compilation of comparable data to the reflection of Mediterranean priorities in regional and global policy agendas. Some participants summarized this discussion by pushing forward the idea of “regional flexibility”.

The Mediterranean region was presented as a laboratory for scientific collaboration and science-policy interface. The Mediterranean Action Plan under the Barcelona convention, which dates from 1975, set an early example of regional strategy for sustainable development. After Johannesburg, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development was created. This framework had important successes, such as the Protocol for integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) under the Barcelona Convention, the first of its kind in the world. However, implementation of sustainable development in the region has in part failed, and suffered from a lack of cooperation between the regional and global levels. The need for a comprehensive evaluation of the achievements of the Barcelona convention covering both scientific and political dimensions and ways for further improvements was mentioned.

Varying priorities among countries and levels of decision were mentioned as a concrete difficulty in advancing sustainable development. First, even though objectives may be shared, because of the variety of contexts in the Mediterranean basin at the national level, “there is not one way of doing things”. Second, European priorities, because they reflect those of many members, do not necessarily coincide with the priorities of any member of sub-regions. For example, it was mentioned that integrated coastal zone management, which is a high priority for many countries in the Mediterranean basin, is not a priority elsewhere in Europe, and this is reflected in European priorities. It was mentioned that these sub-regional differences have created sub-regional networks that do not necessarily interact.

The absence or weak voice of local government and local communities in policy-

making, especially at the regional and global level, was perceived as one of the main barriers to more successful implementation of sustainable development, as those actors are the ones on which the burden of implementation eventually falls and the failure to invite them has resulted in strategies that do not reflect local concerns and priorities. The need to update UN models to allow for greater local participation was seen as important in this regard.

Regarding scientific knowledge, it was mentioned that there was a bias from political institutions towards peer-reviewed knowledge, which excluded important fields of knowledge from so-called “scientific” networks. This is on top of an inherent difficulty in interdisciplinary communication.

It was mentioned that there is no “sustainable development scientific community” in the region, with only sporadic cooperation on specific projects, mostly under the aegis of Europe. It was felt that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had fared better than scientists in creating regional and sub-regional networks. UNESCO was mentioned for its brokering function regarding science and education.

Many participants said that at the national level, progress on interdisciplinary assessments had been unequal and often less advanced than at the regional level. At the national level, small country size was perceived to result in small size of scientific communities and “discontinuities” in scientific expertise. This is compounded by “asymmetric concentration” of scientists, with some issues being heavily studied, while others of seemingly greater importance are not.

Many “knowledge brokerage projects” exist in the region. They face two challenges. They tend to involve the same set of characters, with few exchanges among them; and they tend to focus on the short term and not mention the trade-offs inherent to sustainable development.

Scientific evidence is something politicians have to use – knowing that they eventually make the decisions. Bottom-up (science) and top-down (policy) approaches have to meet somewhere. At the same time, the short-term horizon of

politicians and political cycles was mentioned as an impediment to a sound science-policy interface, and as a factor that the science community needs to take into account when presenting the scientific evidence to a political audience.

Coming to implementation, the absence of greater regional collaboration on topics such as waste management was mentioned as surprising, whereas for other topics, the differences in economic development across Mediterranean countries were seen as an impediment to collaboration, linked with broader geopolitical difficulties. In that context, the example of the Mediterranean water strategy, which has not been approved, was mentioned. Linking regional and national policy priorities was perceived as an issue in many countries, as was the tendency to equal sustainable development only with environment.

In summary, the situation seems to be one of coexistence of many issue-based networks (both scientific and policy-concerned) that do not communicate or work in an interdisciplinary fashion. Support to these networks, which is based on sectors or disciplines, tends to reinforce this tendency. More cross-sectoral collaboration would be needed to reflect existing cross-sectoral development policies, for example sustainable consumption and production and integrated coastal zone management.

#### **Session 4: Highlights on some regional “hot topics”**

This session discussed topics of high interest in the region. The objective was to identify top common priority issues in the region, and how they differ from global concerns as identified in the UN debates on sustainable development.

To kick off the discussion, short presentations were delivered on various topics, by Marcus Hametner (Use of SD indicators in the region: status, results), Lucien Chabason and Alessandro Galli (Addressing issues relevant to

the sustainable development in the Mediterranean), Ana-Maria Boromisa and Natalija Koprivanac (Regional economic integration), Michele Biasutti and Magali Outters (Equity, employment and social issues including sustainable consumption and production patterns), Nenad Smodlaka, Željka Škaričić and Thomais Vlachogianni (Oceans and seas/Integrated coastal management), Raymond Saner, Jelena Knežević and Emilio D’Alessio (Tourism and culture), Ornela Shoshi and Charalambos Hajipakkos (Climate, land, energy, water nexus). The presentations are available on the meeting webpage (see page ii).

Only a few highlights from the discussion are reflected below. Some of the material presented in that session is reflected elsewhere in this report.

Managing marine environment in the Adriatic region was highlighted as a complex issue, as it involves nature, people, the economy, and different cultures. It should be addressed using the ecosystem approach, in order to analyse ecosystems from all these aspects – in an integrated, rather than sectoral, fashion. This has not been satisfactorily done until now. In the Adriatic region, capacity building efforts started several decades ago, yet a focus on society and the economy is still missing.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is an example that can be featured in the GSDR, because the region is at the frontier in this area. ICZM should be seen as a process at the service of sustainable development. Its implementation should be based on visions for coastal zones. The example of ICZM can be used in the GSDR to emphasize the critical importance of integration (vertical and horizontal). The region could share experience and good practices on ICZM from the Mediterranean region from pioneering initiatives and institutions like the integrated coastal management protocol.

Another practical example of need for cross-sectoral integration is how to create adequate buffer zones for urbanization on the coast.

Reducing marine litter is an important issue for the region that has gained momentum (at the EU level, in the Mediterranean regional action soon to be adopted, and at Rio+20). The need is

for more coordinated approaches, awareness raising and education; it is also important to develop a notion of co-responsibility.

Linking tourism and green economy is possible, but it needs policy coordination across ministries involved at different levels of tourism value chains. In this sector, making policy inclusive, coherent and relevant, is more important than creating new legislative instruments.

Taking the case of historic cities and sustainable tourism, we have to switch from “re-creating a better past” (see the re-created Venice in Las Vegas), to looking realistically at the future. The challenge is how to update cities without losing their unique specificities. The main question is how to create forward-looking scenarios in the context of a broad urban transition, taking into account current capacities constraints as well as trends, including ones difficult to foresee (e.g. the massive rise of cruise tourism in the Mediterranean in past decades)?

There is a risk with an approach to sustainable development that would be limited to trying to make every sector “sustainable” on its own and each international institution offering its own “product”. Integration is different from a collection of mainstreaming exercises. Systemic approaches are needed. In addition, more emphasis needs to be put on behaviour change.

The “silo” approach is also manifest in overlaps among instruments that translate into inconsistent approaches. For example, discussions in WTO on environmental goods and services are not formally linked with multilateral environmental agreement.

Regarding the climate, land, energy and water nexus, the issues should be addressed in an integrated manner, but are almost always dealt with separately. Therefore, it would be important to identify whether some countries have succeeded in achieving this integration, and how they have done it in order to increase inter-ministerial cooperation both at the country and regional levels.

Sustainable development indicators are an integral part of sustainable development policies. Indicators and monitoring systems that go beyond official statistics are important. In this respect, the GSDR could illustrate the usefulness of clear and simple indicators to explain what sustainable development is, and use composite indicators to highlight trade-offs and multiple objectives.

Now that integration receives higher priority and more funding, in many cases appropriate monitoring systems seem not so complex to implement nor too costly. International organizations could help on this.

**Tuesday, October 22**

## **Session 5: Regional and sub-regional contributions to a Global Sustainable Development Report**

This session explored ways of enriching a global sustainable development report with inputs and perspectives from the region on a longer term basis. The discussion was organized in two groups to facilitate discussions, with a report back to the plenary at the end of the session. The specific questions posed by the organizers to participants can be found in annex 2.

Starting from science and observation systems, Nenad Smodlaka gave the example of the observation of marine ecosystems, for which there is a global network and regional networks as well (for example, for the Adriatic sea). He presented how the indicators used by the different networks had evolved over time in response to emerging issues. He mentioned cases where data had been collected though not systematically monitored, until new issues created the need for indicators based on those, highlighting that this was an example of flexibility and adaptiveness that should be built in observation systems, with the inherent uncertainty of the long term in mind.

There are many frameworks, action plans and institutions relevant to sustainable development in the region, including the Mediterranean Action Plan and the Mediterranean Commission on

Sustainable Development (MCSDD) under the Barcelona Convention, as well as national and regional sectoral and national frameworks. Those are not always consistent among them. In addition, there global forums or institutions whose work is relevant to regions, such as the World Economic forum, UN agencies such as UNCTAD, the World Bank, OECD, the WTO, other institutions working on common regional issues (security, migrations, etc.).

This is mirrored by a proliferation of networks of experts in the region, working on different issues. Along with networks of experts or practitioners following the regional frameworks and instruments, there also are many topic-based networks (for example on rural development, cultural diversity, the European network of sustainable development councils, etc.). However, these tend to work in silos and interdisciplinary collaboration is still a challenge.

At the broadest level, in his intervention Lucien Chabason mentioned the need to reassess our way of thinking sustainable development for the Mediterranean, based on recent developments. The current framework for advancing sustainable development in the Mediterranean has been the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), whose approach was initially centred on the environment, with strong focus on natural resources. There was a deficit of expertise on dimensions such as governance, equity and macro-economic issues. Since the MAP was revised, problems have come from financial and economic sides in developed countries of the basin, and from governance issues in developing countries. Both are not well reflected in MAP. In summary, he proposed that the past vision for sustainable development in the Mediterranean was perhaps too limited in scope, and this would need addressing. Other participants mentioned that systemic thinking is still absent from regional strategies and would need to be brought in to reflect the interdependence that characterize sustainable development.

Many participants echoed this need to broaden science-policy interaction and better

integrate economic and social concerns and expertise in work being done by different networks, especially those focusing on environmental issues.

Most participants therefore saw the way forward in finding practical ways to make these networks collaborate better and strengthen coordination, rather than creating new networks. Clear common roadmaps were mentioned as a practical way to achieve this. In the case of MAP and the MCSDD, cooperation with UNECE, OCEMO, FEMIS, EEA and CEDARE was seen as important, to produce joint analysis and give equal attention to all relevant sectors. Other saw possibilities in creating or extending networks such as among universities in the region.

Many participants pointed to weaknesses in national science-policy interfaces in the region. Some mentioned the competition among scientific institutions and networks to provide advice to politicians, and the need for more flexibility and dialogue in this regard.

Finally, fragmentation is also present in the political landscape, with lack of inter-ministerial collaboration on cross-cutting issues. This seems to be one of the main factors preventing the move from well-identified problems in the region to solutions. For example, it was mentioned that the work on sustainable consumption and production envisioned in the MAP needed wide-ranging collaboration across ministries, civil society and the private sector, and that so far difficulty in achieving such collaboration had made concrete change in behaviours elusive. The same is observed for education on sustainable development.

In order to trigger move to action, some participants mentioned the need to make the economic case for sustainable development, for example by putting clear price tags on inaction or show the costs of unsustainable trends.

## **Session 6: Follow-up and contribution to future Global Sustainable Development Reports**

In this session, inputs on the GSDR from previous sessions were put together. Questions regarding the GSDR encompassed the following: What would be the niche and audience for a GSDR? How will the GSDR approach the regional dimension, how will UN regional commissions be involved, will there be regional/sub-regional reports? How will it approach dimensions such as governance, gender, peace and security? Which policy actions will the GSDR trigger?

In turn, recommendations for the GSDR included the following. The GSDR should take a strong interdisciplinary perspective. It should be an assessment of assessments, and it should assess the capacity of regions to produce information on sustainable development. It should focus on problem solving, taking concrete issues as starting points. Integration (both vertical and horizontal) is key. The GSDR needs to act as a catalyst toward integrated Climate – Land – Energy-Water strategies. The GSDR could share good practices on ICZM from the Mediterranean region.

It was mentioned that the GSDR could provide a global entry point for many existing regional initiatives that already have regional policy impact. There is need for extending

cooperation with a wider network of scientific communities and involve them at the global level.

As rapporteur, Albin Keuc presented a summary of all the proposals for options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the regional and sub-regional levels (see presentation on the meeting webpage).

At the end of the meeting, participants adopted the Dubrovnik declaration, which is a regional perspective on science-policy interface for a sustainable future. The declaration calls on national governments to facilitate science-policy dialogues and promote a stronger institutionalized science-policy interface at the national level, and to provide enhanced support to scientific networks in the region by working on common priorities for the region and regularly engage in discussions with all relevant actors, state and non-state within and across countries. It also calls on the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, to integrate regional and sub-regional perspectives in their analytical and policy work, technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, to provide support to regional scientific networks and interdisciplinary exchanges targeted at building integrated visions and sustainable development strategies at the national level, in order to facilitate intra-regional capacity building. The integral text of the declaration is in annex 3.

## Annex 1: Meeting participants

Diana Achimescu	Adviser for European Affairs, General Directorate for Sustainable Development, Control and Green Investments Programs, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Bucharest, Romania
Atwa Hussien Ahmed Atwa	Head of the Technical Secretariat for Sustainable Development, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), Cairo, Egypt
Vesna Batistić Kos	Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Global Issues of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Croatia
Michele Biasutti	Department of Education, Faculty of Psychology, University of Padua, Italy
Ana-Maria Boromisa	Institute for Development and International Relations, Zagreb, Croatia
Dalija Budiša	Senior Advisor, Division for Economic Multilateral Relations, Economic and Social Issues, Directorate for UN, Global Issues and International Organizations, Directorate-General for Multilateral Affairs and Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia
Nancy Butijer	Head, Division for Economic Multilateral Relations, Economic and Social Issues, Directorate for UN, Global Issues and International Organizations, Directorate-General for Multilateral Affairs and Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia
Lucien Chabason	Senior Adviser, Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales, Paris, France
Maria Cortes-Puch	Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Madrid, Spain
Emilio D'Alessio	President, Associazione Agende 21 Locali Italiane, Ancona, Italy
Alessandro Galli	Senior Scientist and Director, Mediterranean-MENA Program, Global Footprint Network, Geneva, Switzerland
Charalambos Hajipakkos	Senior Environment Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Cyprus
Markus Hametner,	Institute for Managing Sustainability, Vienna University of Economics and Business
Hachim Kennou	Director, Mediterranean Water Institute, Marseille, France
Albin Keuc	Gaja, Sustainable Development Association, Postojna, Slovenia
Jelena Knežević	Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development Steering Committee member, Adviser to the Minister for the Environment, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Podgorica, Montenegro
Natalija Koprivanac	Department for Polymer Engineering and Organic Chemical Technology, Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, University of Zagreb, Croatia
Tarik Kupusović	Director, Hydro Engineering Institute. Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
David Le Blanc	Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Headquarters, New York, USA
Marijana Mance Kowalsky	First Secretary, Division for Economic Multilateral Relations, Economic and Social Issues, Directorate for UN, Global Issues and International Organizations, Directorate-General for Multilateral

	Affairs and Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia
Franck Lauwers	Senior Environment Protection Officer, Multilateral Affairs Team, EU and Multilateral Affairs Unit, Director's Office, Environment Protection Directorate, Malta Environment & Planning Authority, Floriana, Malta
Marina Marković	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Podgorica, Montenegro
Tuncay Neyisci	Environmental Chemistry, ESD, Akdeniz University, Antalya Turkey
Magali Outters	Regional Activity Center for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) , SWITCH Med regional policy component, United Nations Environment Programme - Mediterranean Action Plan, Regional Centre Under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Barcelona, Spain
Lidija Pavić Rogošić	Director, ODRAZ (NGO), Zagreb, Croatia
Gayane Poghosyan	Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of RA
Richard A. Roehrl	Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Headquarters, New York, USA
Raymond Saner	Director, Center for Socio-economic Development, Geneva Professor Basel University
Nenad Smodlaka	Institute 'Rudjer Bošković', Rovinj, Croatia
Željka Škaričić	Director, Regional Activity Center for the Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC), Split, Croatia
Ornela Shoshi	Head, Unit of Environmental Impact Assessment, Directory of Environmental Protection, Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development Focal Point, Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Water Administration, Albania
Asaf Tzachor	Senior coordinator, Strategic planning and sustainability, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Jerusalem, Israel
Thomais Vlachogianni	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), Athens, Greece
Irena Zubčević	Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Headquarters, New York, USA

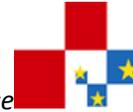
## Annex 2: Meeting agenda

Center for Advanced Academic Studies, University of Zagreb

Dubrovnik, Croatia, 21-22 October 2013



Hosted by the Government of Croatia and supported by Center of Excellence



Day One - 21 October 2013	
8:30 – 9:00	<i>Registration*</i>
9:00 – 9:20	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome by the Host Government (<b>Vesna Batistić Kos</b>)</li> <li>• Welcome by the United Nations (<b>Irena Zubcevic</b>)</li> <li>• Opening statement: Towards Sustainable Development Goals (<b>Nancy Butijer</b>)</li> </ul>
9:20 – 10:00	<p><b>Session 1: Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Irena Zubcevic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Global Sustainable Development Report in the context of Rio+20 follow-up (<b>David Le Blanc</b>)</li> <li>• Context and expectations of the meeting (<b>Alex Roehrl</b>)</li> <li>• Tour de table of participants</li> </ul>
10:15 – 11:00	<p><b>Session 2: Prototype Global Sustainable Development Report</b></p> <p><b>Chair: David Le Blanc</b></p> <p><b>Introduction:</b></p> <p>Presentation of the prototype report: contributors, existing assessments, original work; emerging Issues identified by science to be considered policy makers; results of the UN crowd-sourcing exercise; key messages of the report (<b>Alex Roehrl, UN-DESA</b>)</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope and methodology for future reports</li> <li>• Remaining gaps and scope for contribution of regional and sub-regional scientific networks</li> <li>• Role of the report in advancing sustainable development at all levels</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:15 – 12:30 Breakout into two groups	<p><b>Session 3: Regional perspectives on sustainable development</b></p> <p><i>This session will explore the status of the science-policy interaction around sustainable development in the region. The plenary will be broken into two groups to facilitate discussions and the chair will report back to the plenary</i></p>

\* Registration will be in front of the Big Hall at the ground floor (right from the main entrance)

<p>12:30 – 13:00 plenary</p>	<p><b>Chair of the plenary: Alex Roehrl</b>  <b>Chair of Group 1: David Le Blanc</b>  <b>Chair of Group 2: Irena Zubcevic</b>  <i>Chairs of the groups will report back to the plenary</i></p> <p>Do regional scientists identify a “sustainable development” scientific community in the region?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Are there organized communities and networks? On sectoral or interdisciplinary basis? What is the extent of trans-national collaboration at the scientist level?</i></li> <li>• <i>Have these communities been able to impact decision-making?</i></li> <li>• <i>How do these communities relate to those in other regions and at the global level?</i></li> </ul> <p>What is the status of assessments for sustainable development in the region?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What are the respective roles of scientists, policy analysts and Governments?</i></li> <li>• <i>What is the scope and perspective of these reports?</i></li> <li>• <i>What impact have they had on decision-making?</i></li> <li>• <i>What are the main gaps in coverage, methodology, etc.</i></li> </ul> <p>What are top priority issues in the region, and how do they differ from global concerns as identified in the UN debate and by crowdsourcing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Existing review of scientific communities’ concerns in the region?</i></li> <li>• <i>Do they correspond to those highlighted in European, international debates?</i></li> <li>• <i>What strategies, policy actions are suggested?</i></li> </ul>
<p>13:00 – 14:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lunch Break</i></p>
<p>14:00 – 15:45</p>	<p><b><u>Session 4: Highlights on some regional “hot topics”</u></b>  <b>Chair: Marijana Mance Kowalsky</b>  <i>This session will discuss topics of high interest in this region. Short presentations will be delivered by participants to kick off the discussion.</i></p> <p><b>1) <i>Use of SD indicators in the region: status, results</i></b>  Presenter: <b>Marcus Hametner</b></p> <p><b>2) <i>Addressing issues relevant to the sustainable development in the Mediterranean</i></b>  Presenters: <b>Lucien Chabason, Alessandro Galli</b></p> <p><b>3) <i>Regional economic integration</i></b>  Presenters:  <b>Ana-Maria Boromisa, Natalija Koprivanac</b></p> <p><b>4) <i>Equity, employment and social issues including sustainable consumption and production patterns</i></b>  Presenters:  <b>Michele Biasutti, Magali Outters</b></p>

	<p>For each topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Is this a policy priority in your country?</i></li> <li>• <i>Are regional scientists, politicians collaborating on this?</i></li> <li>• <i>What message could be highlighted in a GSDR on this?</i></li> <li>• <i>How could messages from a GSDR be used at the national level to advance this topic?</i></li> <li>• <i>What would be the needs of the region in terms of trans-national collaboration, capacity building, etc.?</i></li> </ul>
15:45 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	<p><b><u>Session 4: Highlights on some regional “hot topics” (continued)</u></b>  <b>Chair: Hachim Kennou</b>  <i>This session will discuss topics of high interest in this region. Short presentations will be delivered by participants to kick off the discussion.</i></p> <p><b>5) Oceans and seas/Integrated coastal management</b>  Presenters: <b>Nenad Smodlaka, Željka Škaričić, Thomais Vlachogianni</b></p> <p><b>Tourism and culture</b>  Presenters: <b>Raymond Saner, Jelena Knežević, Emilio D’Alessio</b></p> <p><b>6) Climate, land, energy, water (CLEW) nexus</b>  Presenters: <b>Ornela Shoshi, Charalambos Hajipakkos</b></p> <p>For each topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Is this a policy priority in your country?</i></li> <li>• <i>Are regional scientists, politicians collaborating on this?</i></li> <li>• <i>What message could be highlighted in a GSDR on this?</i></li> <li>• <i>How could messages from a GSDR be used at the national level to advance this topic?</i></li> <li>• <i>What would be the needs of the region in terms of trans-national collaboration, capacity building, etc.?</i></li> </ul>
<b>Day Two - 22 October 2013</b>	
9:00 – 9:30	Conclusion by the chairs recapping regional priorities identified in session 4 and possibly some other ones ( <b>Hachim Kennou</b> and <b>Marijana Mance Kowalsky</b> )
9:30 – 12:00 Breakout into two groups	<p><b><u>Session 5: Regional and sub-regional contributions to a Global Sustainable Development report</u></b>  <i>This session will explore ways of enriching a global SD report with inputs and perspectives from the region on a longer term basis</i></p>
12:00 – 13:00 plenary	<p><b>Chair of the plenary: Dr. Atwa Hussien Ahmed Atwa</b>  <b>Chair of Group 1: David Le Blanc</b>  <b>Chair of Group 2: Irena Zubcevic</b>  <i>Chairs of the groups will report back to the plenary</i></p>

<p><i>Coffee break</i></p> <p>11:00 – 11:15</p>	<p>How could regional and sub-regional networks engage with the GSDR process?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Need/ interest for engagement from this region on a regular basis? What form, what topics, what deliverables?</i></li> <li>• <i>Does it make more sense for participants to engage in a regional version of the report? If so, is the proposed structure for the GSDR adapted to the region?</i></li> <li>• <i>How could global level lessons / regional lessons be made useful to national and regional science-policy dialogues?</i></li> </ul> <p>Is there an interest for expanding the crowdsourcing that was done for the prototype report to the region?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Identification of focal points for different languages</i></li> <li>• <i>Modalities for consolidation, reporting</i></li> </ul> <p>Is there a need for more formal or informal networks of exchange on SD issues at the regional/ sub-regional level? How could existing networks be better mobilized?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What deliverables could be delivered by existing networks based on existing knowledge at the national level?</i></li> <li>• <i>Where do new networks make sense?</i></li> <li>• <i>How can existing or new networks be supported (e.g. by EU, others)?</i></li> </ul>
<p>13:00 – 14:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lunch Break</i></p>
<p>14:00-16:00</p>	<p><b>Session 6: Follow-up and contribution to future Global Sustainable Development Reports</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Alex Roehrl</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on Dubrovnik Declaration (<b>Marijana Mance Kowalsky</b>)</li> <li>• Recapitulation of proposed contribution for the current Report (<b>David Le Blanc</b> and <b>Irena Zubcevic</b>)</li> <li>• Proposal from previous sessions on concrete steps to involve regional and sub-regional level scientists and civil society in future Global Sustainable Development Reports (<b>Lidija Pavić-Rogošić</b> and <b>Tuncay Neyisci</b>)</li> <li>• Presentation of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the regional and sub-regional levels (<b>Tarik Kupusović</b> and <b>Albin Keuc</b>)</li> </ul>
<p>16:00 – 16:30</p>	<p><b>Adoption of Dubrovnik Declaration and closing of the meeting</b></p>

## **Annex 3: Dubrovnik declaration**

### **Dubrovnik Declaration**

#### **Regional perspective on science-policy interface for a sustainable future**

- 1) We, government representatives, experts, scientists and civil society representatives in Europe and the Mediterranean basin<sup>1</sup>, and representatives of international institutions, having met in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on October 21-22, 2013, one year after the Rio+20 Conference, have resolved the following.
- 2) Within the common objective of sustainable development to which we all aspire, each region faces specific challenges. We believe that acceptance of sustainable development as a paradigm and progress towards more sustainable outcomes will best be enabled by a clear recognition of this diversity of challenges and priorities at the regional and sub-regional levels, and a better reflection of these differences in discussions at the global level.
- 3) The Mediterranean, as a cradle of civilizations and a crossroads of cultures, reminds us that development must be designed so as to equitably meet the needs of present generations while preserving the right of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 4) During the meeting, we have identified common challenges for the next decades within our region, which include the following areas: the management and monitoring of our shared Mediterranean Sea, including the pressures imposed on it by various land-based and sea-based activities; regional economic integration and its impacts; equity, employment and social issues; education, including education for sustainable development, tourism and culture; the climate, land, energy, water nexus; and more broadly, sustainable consumption and production.
- 5) We agree that we need, in order to reach the future we want, implementable programmes for sustainable development. We believe that going forward; these will be best addressed through integrated, interdisciplinary approaches. In our region, these include, for example, integrated coastal zone management and sustainable consumption and production policies.
- 6) We acknowledge the important contribution of good governance, rule of law and human rights to sustainable development and we recognize that peace and security are critical for development and a major component of it.

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<sup>1</sup> See the list of participants.

- 7) We consider empowerment of women and girls and a protection of their rights important for sustainable development.
- 8) This need for integrated visions, strategies, planning and decision-making requires well-functioning and healthy science-policy dialogues in our countries. Such dialogues can facilitate cooperation in the collection, management, analysis, use and exchange of scientific information, facilitate the further development of internationally agreed indicators, and support the preparation of science-based advice and the development of policy options.
- 9) We also believe that the pool of scientific knowledge and policy experience in our region could be better utilized to benefit from each other's experiences and work more closely on topics of common interest, in particular those that require trans-national cooperation.
- 10) We commend the efforts of the UN system to improve the science-policy interface for sustainable development in response to the Rio+20 mandate, and in particular the efforts to produce regular Global Sustainable Development Reports that go beyond existing assessments and integrate environmental, social and economic aspects in a way that enables easier evidence-based policy-making. We believe that such reports can contribute to improving evidence-based decision making at all levels, including through the high-level political forum on sustainable development at the global level. We think that, in order for such assessments to be useful at the national and regional levels, future editions of the Global Sustainable Development Report should build on and highlight regional and sub-regional priorities for sustainable development, challenges and potential for collaboration on the science and policy fronts at those geographical levels.

We resolve to work closely together in the coming years to:

- 11) Improve our collaboration and exchanges of ideas on common challenges for the region, including those identified during the meeting, and reach out to other regional networks for that purpose in order to facilitate the implementation of common regional dialogue platform;
- 12) Improve exchanges of ideas and practices among national and regional scientists and policy makers, with a view to promoting interdisciplinary dialogue and cross-fertilization for sounder policy making at the national level;

- 13) Mobilize existing scientific networks in the region to: (i) provide inputs to future editions of the Global Sustainable Development Report produced by the United Nations Secretariat; (ii) ensure that the voice and unique perspective of the region is reflected in global debates on sustainable development; and (iii) transpose the outcomes of global science-policy debates on sustainable development into regionally and nationally relevant frameworks for thinking and action, in order to inform national policy-making and contribute to the implementation of international commitments on sustainable development.

We call on national governments in the region to:

- 14) Facilitate science-policy dialogues and promote a stronger institutionalized science-policy interface at the national level, using national expertise (such as peer reviews, impact assessments, policy evaluations) and promoting interdisciplinary approaches and policy perspectives;
- 15) Provide enhanced support to regional scientific networks working on common priorities for the region, in order to fully utilize the regional pool of expertise.
- 16) Support and strengthen inter-ministerial policy coordination for sustainable development.
- 17) Engage in policy consultations for sustainable development with Major Groups such as economic actors and civil society organizations.
- 18) Regularly engage in consultations with other Government on sustainable development policies.

We further call on the relevant regional and international institutions including the United Nations, in particular through the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, to:

- 19) Fully integrate regional and sub-regional perspectives in their analytical and policy work, technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, for example by examining more systematically the implications for regional and national policy-making of intergovernmental commitments on sustainable development taken at the global level;

- 20) Provide support to regional scientific networks whose work focuses on regional and sub-regional priorities for sustainable development, and to their interaction with policy-makers;
- 21) Provide support to interdisciplinary exchanges targeted at building integrated visions and sustainable development strategies at the national level, in order to facilitate intra-regional capacity building.