

COSTA RICA

Questionnaire on the scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report

Disclaimer: This is an informal translation of the original submission in Spanish language

Scope

1. In your opinion, what should be the scope of future editions of a global report on sustainable development, in terms of assessment of topics, geographic coverage, time horizon and scientific knowledge?

- a) The focal issues must be all contained in Agenda XXI to present a comprehensive overview of the sustainable development agenda , emphasizing those issues that will ultimately be part of the SDGs and the Post 2015 development agenda, including the follow up of the Rio +20 outcome (the future we want).
- b) Moreover, and although it seems ambitious, it would be advisable to have an analysis of the contribution of the various multilateral agreements and specialized agencies of the United Nations related to the fulfilment of the MDGs and the Sustainable Development agenda , including technical and financial assistance provided to countries.
- c) The geographical coverage should be universal to be consistent with the principles and SDGs. Regional analysis can also be a valuable tool. Each country must also prepare its national report under a uniform methodology that allows comparability of information.
- d) Comprehensive reports should be prepared at least every five years, with biennial progress reports to be submitted prior to the meetings of the High Level Policy Forum.
- e) Monitoring indicators of sustainable development issues should be based as far as possible on rigorously scrutinized scientific information and under uniformed terms.
- f) A separate analysis of the efficiency of the institutional framework (HLPF, DESA , ECOSOC , GA) in monitoring the agreed agenda.

2. What are the key priority issues at the national, regional and global levels you would like to see reflected in the global report?

The global priority issues should be those incorporated in the framework of the SDGs and Post 2015 Development Agenda, as they reflect the will of the international community. Issues of regional priority should be defined in each of the regions and those of national priority must define according to each country's national development strategies. The Ministry of Planning of Costa Rica (MIDEPLAN) considers it important to include information related to the differences between territories within a country reflecting disparities in the level of development with such indicators as poverty, the income level and employment, education, health, access to communication technologies, among others. MIDEPLAN also considered important to showcase evidence in the deterioration and irrational exploitation of natural resources in each territory of a country. For example, in the case of Costa Rica this is reflected in disparities in levels of development between the peripheral regions (covering the borderlands and coasts), with respect to the central region containing the greater metropolitan area where human and financial resources are concentrated.

3. Should the report have a role in identifying new and emerging issues? If so, how would these issues be identified?

Yes, because the circumstances are changing. Each country must identify its emerging priority issues - guided by the concentration of development opportunities for countries as well as the major issues that they are confronted. Then, these issues should be agreed during the regular meetings of the High Level Political Forum.

4. Should the report inform on past and future trends, on lessons learned policies, and / or reporting scientific findings that indicate potential areas for political action?

a) The analysis of past trends should focus on identifying the barriers for meeting those goals. Future trends should focus on identifying actions to resolve or address the barriers identified as indicated above.

b) Lessons learned should be an integral part of the report, and should be the basis for the analysis of global action and improvements on the performance of the various actors in the pursuit of agreed objectives and goals. Lessons learned should cover both successful and unsuccessful cases, and incorporate the institutional and political dimension, not only impacts. Cases should be national in nature to the extent possible, and in particular consider the creation of innovative financing mechanisms.

c) Without a doubt the scientific knowledge must be the foundation, coupled with the political will to identify areas that require concerted action and to redirect those contrary to what the new scientific knowledge indicates.

5. Should the report be part of the monitoring framework and accountability to the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda?

a) yes obviously.

6. What should be the frequency of the report? (eg, annual, every X years)

Comprehensive reports should be prepared at least every five years, with biennial progress reports to be submitted prior to the meetings of the High Level Policy Forum.

Methodology

7. How should the preparation of the Global Report be organized? Around the focus areas of the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs.

How should the thematic priority of a particular edition be decided? How should the process of preparation be? Through dialogues in the framework of the High Level Political Forum, the participation of the relevant United Nations agencies, regional consultations and contributions of civil society, through appropriate and transparent consultation processes.

Who should be involved in this process and how? Agencies of the United Nations and their technical programs under their substantive responsibilities as well as governments and civil society, by establishing joint working groups.

8. What scientific principles and methods should be used in the preparation of future editions of the report?

- a) Universality
- b) Uniformity
- c) Comparability
- d) Up-to-date and latest information
- e) Transparency
- f) Robust scientific evidence
- g) Alignment or contributions to the development or strengthening of public policies.

9. What would be the best way to organize national and regional contributions to the global report?

Each country must prepare a National Report which should feed into regional reports, with technical and financial support from relevant organizations.

Would it be useful to have a network of national and regional focal points and regular consultations with them? Yes. Additionally, in each country a special committee comprised of the institutions most directly related to the implementation of the sustainable development agenda must be established.

10. What concrete steps would you propose to involve scientists in your country and your region in the global report? A mechanism for information on potential candidates should be established under clear criteria for participation and quality of proponents; request voluntary participation of stakeholders.

Which institutions, communities or networks should be mobilized? All sectors and major groups identified in Agenda XXI.

Should a scientific advisory group be established? Yes, it must be a mix of representatives from governments, the UN system and representatives of civil society, including academic institutions, as above.

11. Should a consultative process be instituted in all countries to prepare for a national sustainable development report? Yes.

If the answer is yes, how? By government directive, incorporating both public entities and relevant sectors of civil society consistent with the groups identified in Agenda XXI.

12. How should the global report inform the work of the High Level Political Forum? As one more elements that strengthens the enabling policy role that is expected from the Forum.

By Agenda setting? The Agenda shall be agreed by the Forum; the analysis should assess the level of compliance with the agenda.

Providing a scientific analysis on issues of the agenda of the High Level Political Forum? The analysis should be to support policies, consistent with the role that the Forum is expected to play, which is not necessarily scientific.

In a supplementary analysis of the implementation of decisions? The analysis of the implementation of decisions taken should be an integral part of the report; decisions not only taken by the Forum, but also those taken in the Conventions.