

Scope

1. In your view, what should be the scope of future editions of the Global Sustainable Development Report, in terms of issue focus, geographic coverage, time horizon, and scientific knowledge?

In order to strengthen the interface between science and policy for sustainable development, it is important that the Report provide decision makers with scientific knowledge in an easily comprehensible manner. It should summarize scientific knowledge with a focus on global issues to be discussed at the HLPF. As for the time horizon, a long term perspective – approximately 20-30 years – is appropriate.

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

Priority should be placed on the issues dealt with by the SDGs. In particular, it is desirable to gain scientific knowledge about long-term population trends, water resources, impacts on ecosystems such as the ocean.

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

Since the HLPF will consider new and emerging issues on sustainable development, the Report should, if necessary, be able to identify them. It is especially important to consider issues that are not fully recognized by the current international community. However, in order to prevent the Report from becoming a list of agenda items, and thus diverging from the HLPF, it should extract and specify the truly necessary issues, based on cogent scientific analysis conducted by other institutions or intergovernmental processes.

4. Should it report on past and future trends, report on policy lessons-learnt, and/or report on scientific findings indicating potential areas for policy action?

As long as due consideration is paid to making the Report easily comprehensible, it would be meaningful to address these elements in it.

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

The monitoring and accountability framework for SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda is to be discussed later.

6. What should be the periodicity of the report? (e.g., yearly, every x years)

With a view toward strengthening the science/policy interface, it is meaningful to utilize the Report as a scientific input to the HLPF. One suggestion is to publish the report once every four years on the occasion of the HLPF summit held in as many years. The periodicity should not be so short so as to effectively utilize the regular surveys published by various institutions and forums.

Methodology

7. How should the preparation of the global report be organized? How should the thematic focus of a given edition be decided? What would a preparation process look like? Who should be involved and how?

The scientific analysis conducted by various institutions, including UN organizations and intergovernmental fora, should be utilized in the report's preparation. In order to assure the transparency and fairness of the process, it is desirable to provide opportunities for governments and other stakeholders to submit their comments during the process.

8. Which principles and scientific methods should be employed in preparation of future editions of the global report?

The Report should be based on various sources, avoiding excessive dependence on particular surveys or information. In addition, in order to address various complex and interlinked sustainable development challenges, it is important that an integrated approach toward the natural, social and human sciences be considered. (This integrated approach is called "Sustainability Science", and it was introduced as a concept in UNESCO's Medium Term Strategy (2014-2021) (37C/4) and Programme and Budget (37C/5).

9. What would be the best way to organize national and regional contributions to the global report? Would a network of national and regional focal points and regular consultations with them be useful?

Taking into account the various initiatives to strengthen the science/policy interface in areas relating to sustainable development is important to use information gained through the existing networks and frameworks. New focal points or regular dialogues are not necessary. MDGs progress reports already cover a large number of countries and are worth referring to in terms of national level contributions. In addition, the importance of international scientific projects driven by intergovernmental organization such as UNESCO should be further stressed.

10. What concrete steps do you propose to involve scientists from your country and region in

the global report? Which institutions, communities or networks should be mobilized? Should a scientific advisory group be constituted?

It is important to recognize and cooperate with the existing initiatives in science community, such as the UN Secretary-General's Science Advisory Board and Future Earth, which is an international research initiative towards sustainable development. We should also utilize the existing institutions and networks.

11. Should all countries institute a national sustainable development report process? If so, how?

The process should utilize scientific analysis conducted by other institutions or intergovernmental process, and therefore, it is not necessary to establish another process just to develop national reports in each country. However, this is not meant discourage or prevent other countries from launching their own initiatives.

12. How should the report inform the work of the High-Level Political Forum? In agenda setting? In providing scientific analysis of issues on the HLPF agenda? In follow-up analysis of implementation of decisions taken?

The Report should play a role in providing the HLPF with scientific knowledge in an easily comprehensible way so as to strengthen science and policy interface. In this regard, it could be utilized by the HLPF for setting its agenda as a source of scientific analysis.