

Questionnaire on Scope and Methodology of a Global Sustainable Development Report

I. 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 terms of issue focus:

- Poverty eradication,
- Inclusive growth,
- Sustainable management of natural resources (water, energy, biodiversity, land use and soil protection etc.),
- Sustainable consumption and production,
- Terrestrial and marine ecosystems management,
- Climate change (implications, adaptation and mitigation measures etc.),
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG),
- International cooperation for sustainable development (technical and financial),
- Technology transfer from developed to developing countries.

In terms of geographic coverage:

All countries and regions. This will help evaluating and comparing efforts being done in different countries and regions. This will also allow highlighting national and regional sustainable development priorities and make use of new technologies and approaches developed in various countries.

In terms of time horizon:

It is recommended to have a global sustainable development report every 5 years.

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

The national, regional and global priority issues that should be reflected in the global report are:

- Poverty eradication and wealth creation,
- Combating hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition,
- Access to safe water supply and adequate sanitation facilities,
- Access to quality education and health services,
- Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women,
- Enhancement of equitable and universal access to social services and social protection,
- Promotion of sustainable and inclusive economic growth,
- Reduction of vulnerability and strengthening of resilience to the impacts of climate change,
- Creation of decent employment opportunities,
- Enhancement of infrastructure development.

- Improvement of access to affordable and sustainable energy,
- Combating land degradation, desertification, drought and deforestation,
- Promotion of sustainable water resource management,
- Ensuring access to, and transfer of environmentally sound, technologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation,
- Fostering peace and security.

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

The report should have a role in identifying new and emerging issues. These issues could be identified by scientists and experts based on existing assessments that analyze past trends and future options and pathways towards sustainable development.

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

Yes, it should report on future trends, policy lessons learnt and scientific findings indicating potential areas for policy action. This will play a vital role in giving a voice to people living in poverty, who include disproportionate numbers of women, children, people with disabilities, indigenous and local communities and members of other marginalized groups.

Policy lessons learnt could be very important for other countries to put in place and initiate processes towards sustainable development and make efforts for achieving sustainable development goals.

Scientific findings will be very crucial in identifying new areas and indicators and will allow putting in place and implementing action plans.

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

The Rio+20 Summit offered a new opportunity to address sustainable development issues. This Conference called for the development of an agreed set of Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including indicators to monitor progress. Global goals cannot themselves resolve complex and high-stakes challenges. But if well designed, targeted and measurable, they can make a substantial contribution to global collaboration on sustainable development. The global sustainable development report could contribute to the monitoring and accountability process for the sustainable development goals and the post 2015 development agenda.

6. What should the periodicity of the report?

It is recommended to have a periodicity of five years for the global sustainable development report.

II. 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 preparation of the global report should be organized through engaging scientists, experts, governments and civil society in undertaking analysis and assessments of trends and progress in the implementation of sustainable development and putting forward best

practices, emerging challenges and cross-sectorial analysis of sustainable development issues.

The global report can offer a practical way of thinking about the challenges and breaking it down into distinct sets of issues. The resource implications of different poverty reduction objectives are very different, and this should be reflected in new goals. The success or failure of all goals will ultimately depend on national level action. But some issues require little of the global community apart from resources or knowledge transfer, while others require far more in the way of reduced resource use in order to allow for increased consumption among the poorest.

In addition, there are some common global challenges which need to be addressed if human progress everywhere is to be maintained, and which could, potentially, be addressed in a new agreement if the politics allows. These distinctions should be reflected in a new agreement. Framed in the right way and with sufficient political support behind it, this way could define a whole new global approach to human progress, one which is appropriate both to the realities of global politics and of the challenges we face.

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

The future editions of the global report could be based on the following guiding principles:

- Representation, facilitation/clarity and transparency: The global report clearly defines the priorities and sustainable development objectives and accountable to the public on key indicators to measure progress and adjust shooting if necessary.
- Leadership by example: The global report should reflect the key environmental leadership element and mobilize scientists, politicians, civil society to defend major sustainable development problems and encourage others in their circle of influence to do the same.
- Continuous improvement: The global report could be continuously improved by experiences and new scientific methods.

Some of the scientific methods that could be employed in the preparation of future editions of global reports are:

- Statistical analysis and evaluation of past and future trends.
- Sustainable development assessments by using indicators.

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 useful?

The best way to organize national and regional contributions to the global sustainable development report would be through a process combining research, analysis and consultations. Creating a network of national and regional focal points and conducting regular consultations with them could be very useful in this process. These focal points will play a very important role in coordinating with relevant stakeholders and taking in consideration their views, interests, inputs and contributions to the global sustainable development report. The focal points will work closely with stakeholders and partners to improve the quality of these contributions while promoting the exchange of ideas, solutions and best practices.

10. What concrete steps do you propose to involve scientists from your country and region in the global report? Which institutions communities or network should be mobilized? Should a scientific advisory group be constituted?

Step 1: Preparation of Terms of Reference:

Consultation with stakeholders in the development of terms of reference for the preparation of a document on the first report by a team of international experts and support the process.

Step 2: Expertise and consultations:

This step was based on the principle of dialogue, exchange and joint identification of strategic priorities and objectives to be achieved. Working sessions should be organized with various departments and institutions on the inclusion of sustainable development in the various sectorial strategies and cross-cutting issues. Meetings with the departments concerned with territorial approaches to improve the consultation process for the development of the global report should also be organized to take into consideration the views and interests of these stakeholders. The first draft of the report will be sent to all departments and institutions for advice and enrichment. An improved edition of the document will be prepared taking into account the comments and recommendations of the various parties consulted.

Step 3: Consultation through an expanded steering committee:

A steering committee fairly representative of actors of sustainable development. For this representation, we should involve stakeholders in the process of national and regional government (ministerial department and regional councils), professional organizations and non-governmental organizations including those active in the fields of sustainable development and the environment and to revise the document to better meet the aspirations of the people regarding the right of all regions and equitable development of all the right to a healthy environment.

Some of the institutions, communities and networks that should be mobilized:

- Universities and research institutions involved in sustainable development issues.
- National and regional scientific communities and associations.

The constitution of a scientific advisory group could be very useful in guiding the preparation of such reports.

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

Absolutely, all countries should institute national sustainable development report processes. This could be conducted through:

- Regular assessments taking into account national priorities and involving relevant stakeholders.
- Provide data and information from scientific institutions and networks.
- Science-policy and inter-ministerial dialogues.
- Creation of an advisory group to guide the preparation of the national report.
- Establish national sustainable development goals and indicators.

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 the implementation of decision taken?

A truly universal effort: Goals and targets should offer clear guidance on the actions. The global report should call for action and commitment to change for countries and development actors.

A knowledge-based and inclusive process: The process must be knowledge-based and inclusive. It must balance equitable political engagement with expertise and perspectives from science to business.

Forward looking: The process must be visionary, anticipating the challenges not just now but in coming decades.

Integrated, objective-oriented and solution-focused: Goals should not treat the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development as separate ‘pillars’, each requiring its own set of discrete goals. In an integrated approach, progress on one goal should contribute to rather than undermine progress on others. Goals also must integrate governance factors that can affect outcomes, such as rights, participatory decision making, accountability, and policy coherence.

Adaptable to different contexts: Although goals should have universal applicability, their implementation frameworks must reflect the specificities of different places and situations, and the range of scales at which actions must be taken.