

Questionnaire on Global Sustainable Development Report – CDP Response

A. 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?

The report should deliver a comprehensive evaluation of global and regional progress towards sustainable development. The report should cover all three dimensions/pillars of sustainable development. The analytical focus should be on the interaction between the three dimensions, clarifying also whether and where there are priorities among the dimensions and associated goals. In order to focus on interlinkages, cross-cutting issues such as technology and innovation could play a prominent role in the analysis.

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

A wide range of priorities could be considered, including: employment, equality (income, gender, health, education, energy consumption and material consumption), poverty, job creation, income trends, environment (biodiversity, desertification, land use change, GHG emissions, adaptation to climate change). There are different views by scientists on the precise degree, causes and impact of the climate changes. There is need to have some judgment on this issue and it would be desirable for the Report to address this question. In many countries, facing rapid aging, how to build a (inter-generation wise) sustainable welfare system has rise as a key issue. Accordingly the allocation of resources between future and current generations is a difficulty policy issue, which calls for a need to in-depth study.

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

The report should indeed identify new and emerging issues. This could be one of the tasks of the scientists involved in the report. Expert surveys (covering both scientists and policy makers) and country-based surveys of the general public could be useful tools in the identification of trends.

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?

It is important that the report covers past trends and any policy lessons learnt. Future trends, scientific findings indicating areas requiring policy actions as well as policies themselves could also be covered.

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

Yes, the report should to be an important part of the accountability framework for SDGs.

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

A general report could be published every three (or four) years. Indices based on the SDGs could be updated on an annual (or bi-annual) basis.

B. 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?

Two approaches are worth exploring. One is to follow the IPCC approach. The report would be developed every three (or four) years by scientists of different countries. The scientists could either be chosen by governments or, in order to ensure diversity in viewpoints, by the secretariat of the Report. In this regard, a report every 3 to 4 years developed by scientists of different countries. Scientist are chosen either by the governments or by a secretariat of the GSDR in order to open space for those scientists that are not well seen by their governments but represent an important input to the report.

A second approach would be that each country is asked to provide its own national sustainable development report. The United Nations Secretariat would then identify key issues, concerns and priorities of each of the country and synthesize the findings into a global report. Regional institutions could play an intermediary role by preparing regional reports.

Generally, a decision on the methodology of the report requires further discussion. The CDP will consider its possible involvements in the GSDR process at its upcoming plenary session.
