

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?
 - *focus on cross-cutting/multi-disciplinary issues/drivers, such as the food-water-energy nexus, where there may be a greater need to ensure the appropriate linkage between the socio-economic, cultural and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;*
 - *geographic coverage should be global to regional scales – noting that there will be an impact of aggregation and that while the policies may be set at larger regional or even global scales, the implementation will have to be at smaller national scale; the time horizon should be now and the next 20 to 50 years, where are we and where are we headed;*
 - *scientific knowledge in support of the above, e.g. on progress in getting the dividends of a productive right blend of hard and soft sciences leading to actionable information, products and services.*
 - *sustainable development or sustainability critically depends on existence and ability to implement corresponding governance decisions. Thus the Report could review existing mechanisms in support of sustainability and highlight their advances or failures, from nations to regions, at any time scale.*
2. What are the key national, regional and global priority issues that you would like to see reflected in the global report?
 - *those which have such an embedded space but also time multi-scale dimensions, which are probably the most difficult to conceptualize and to represent through both theoretical and modelling approaches, such as the influence of the ocean acidification on food security and biodiversity (there are other priority examples which could be worth identifying, for example climate change and related natural disasters and progress in climate change adaptation and disaster resilience)*
 - *Preparing societies to be resilient to the adverse impacts of weather, climate and water through planning, preparing, mitigating and adapting at all levels from local to national and regional. Garnering support at global level from rich and developed nations to help set in place systems and structures to help poor and less developed nations will be essential to achieve this.*
3. Should the report have a role in identifying new and emerging issues? If so, how to identify these issues?
 - *As a global objective of sustainable development and poverty eradication is to strengthen the implementation of human rights and rule of law with a view to decrease inequalities and inequities, the report should pay specific attention to the evolution or even revolution in technologies – in a very broad sense – that have the potential to increase the divide between the beneficiaries and the left-behinds if no safeguard and strong internationally agreed public policies are put in place For instance ensuring equitable access to vital information for saving lives and economic prosperity and growth by everyone and everywhere may be a case at hand.*
 - *correlation of consumption patterns (including per capita) and variables describing sustainability or lack thereof. One possibility is to look at standard set of "planetary boundaries" for environmental variables but social variables should be reviewed as well. Such issues can be identified through dedicated assessments to be developed at request by corresponding science communities, e.g. the ones that are being formed by the Future Earth.*
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?
 - *The latter report should be informed by the two former ones. The use of climate services in policy and decision-making, which currently matures with the implementation of the Global Framework for Climates Services (GFCS) would be a candidate.*
 - *Integration of assessments of assessments could provide scope for deepening some issues, for example special joint report of IPCC and IPBES to examine impacts of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services.*

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

Comment: If the content of the Report does not originate in corresponding networks, it will send a confusing message and will undermine the support for monitoring.

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

The two questions may have to be considered together. In view of the effort a comprehensive report on SD would need, it would be advisable to have a multi-year cycle for such a full report, making it available prior to major decisions made, for instance for the HLPF sessions every four years, while monitoring and accountability could be reported on a yearly basis, with a shorter and focused analysis of quick wins and desirable corrections of the course of actions and with a view to nourish the full report. However, it may depend on the period necessary to identify and confirm any trends in the data/information.

Methodology

Lessons learnt from the cycle of IPCC reports and the way they inform such processes such as the UNFCCC could be informative. It may be advisable to first use the current setting of the HLPF and the adopted feeding through the ECOSOC and learn from it, before venturing into the definition and implementation of new processes starting from scratch.

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?

Focus of the report should correspond to the nature of major decisions to be made.

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

IPCC reference above works here, too: policy relevant but not policy prescriptive - objectivity is the most important principle, no qualitative judgments allowable. Use of likelihood approach employed in IPCC Assessment Reports, with certain modifications, may be advisable. Account of uncertainty is strongly desirable.

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?

Science and means of monitoring are not yet in place. Design of such a system warrants special research. Development of such reporting system if it is efficient would mean much more than the Report. Easy solutions like focal points may be not optimal. This could be the topic of the first report as it requires engagement and commitment.

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?

National points of contact for Global Change Programs can serve as seeds. Emerging Future Earth is meant to provide science-based approaches to creation of such networks. Existing networks in GEC Programs (IHDP, IGBP, WCRP, APN, IAI) can be consulted.

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

Design should come first. Such complicated issues cannot be decided based on a questionnaire. They need comprehensive research.

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?

Agenda setting – yes. Proposing decisions which are science based. Follow-up analysis - yes.