



**Bridging the Implementation Gap for Rio+20 Workshop
and
Open Side Event to the
High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
2-3 July 2014
UN Secretariat North Lawn Building Room 6, New York**

Rio+20 was held in Rio de Janeiro June 2012 focusing on a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for sustainable development. Governments agreed to establish a new High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development. Rio+20 proposed that the forum, amongst other things, provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue, stocktaking, and reviewing progress towards sustainable development. The Green Economy Joint Program funded by the Netherlands and executed by UNDP, UNEP and UN DESA assisted developing countries in preparing for Rio+20 and is continuing to support country-level implementation. In 2013 related workshops have been held by UNDESA on Sustainable Energy Access, Transitioning to Sustainable Water Management, Mainstreaming Sustainable Development in National Strategies upon which this workshop will draw participants and experience.

UNEP, ILO, UNIDO and UNITAR created the Partnership for Action on Green Economy –PAGE to meet the growing demands from countries seeking to develop and implement national green economy strategies. Building on the existing initiatives and expertise of UN agencies, PAGE offers countries a range of integrated services and tools to facilitate their national green economy plans and actions. The recent PAGE conference in Dubai also serves as a source of ideas and knowledge.

UNDESA is organizing this workshop and side event with financial support from the Netherlands to facilitate exchange of experience and lessons learned on green growth and economy 2-3 July 2014 along side the preparatory meetings of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, New York.

The concept of green growth and green economy are interpreted differently in a variety of both sectoral and national contexts. Common desirable characteristics are increased investment in infrastructure and resource conservation providing decent jobs and long lasting environmental social and economic benefits. A huge gap remains to be bridged by scaling up successful approaches and avoiding obstacles. Cross learning between countries will assist in raising the capacity for implementation.

The workshop will cluster around interlinked water-energy-food issues where multiple benefits can be generated including job creation, economic growth and social inclusion. The workshop will build on Sustainable Energy for All, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water, and the Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forums.

Holding a workshop during the Forum on Sustainable Development 2nd-3rd July is designed to bring as many voices, non-government organizations, government and private sector to a workshop that results in sharing of experiences, exposes the findings and develops awareness and common understanding that can be communicated to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development through a Lunch and Side Event on the second day.

Session Theme and Objectives

The overall theme/question addressed by the session is “How can green economy approaches help reduce poverty, inequality, and vulnerabilities while ensuring environmental sustainability?” The sessions are highlighting multi-benefit opportunities across the energy, food and water nexus. Drawing from interaction among panelists and participants, the session has the following objectives:

- Share state-of-the art knowledge, good practices, and identify successful cases for replication
- Identify key actions, finance mechanisms, partnerships and institutional arrangements for implementation
- Explore measures for scaling up learning and knowledge sharing

In addressing the overall theme and objectives, the session is guided by the following questions:

1. What are good practices for integrating environmental concerns into development planning, policy making and financing in ways that ensure environmental sustainability while enhancing social protection and economic growth?
2. What are some of the tools or institutional approaches that countries have deployed to ensure that poor communities and households are engaging in and benefiting from inclusive green economy approaches?
3. What integrated approaches are available for green economy-oriented interventions to create jobs, raise productivity and incomes of the poor?

Wednesday 2 nd July	
Workshop Agenda Room 6 North Lawn Building, UN Secretariat	
9:00 -- 9:30	<i>Registration</i>
9:30 – 11:00	<p>Opening – George Bouma, Senior Policy Advisor at United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, and Ndey-Isatou Njie, Chief Water Energy and Capacity Development Branch, UNDESA</p> <p>Outline for the Workshop – Thomas Hamlin, Inter-Regional Adviser on Energy and Transport</p> <p>Progress and Pledges on Green Economy since Rio+20 – Elliott Harris Director of the New York Office, UNEP</p> <p>Green Economy Tools and Finance – David O’Connor, Chief, and Wei Liu, Sustainable Development Officer, Policy Analysis Branch UN DESA</p> <p>Civil Society Perspectives – Oliver Greenfield, Convener of the Green Economy Council</p>
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>

11:30 – 13:00	<p><i>Session: Access and Clean Energy Services Country Success Stories and Lessons Learned with an emphasis on multi-benefit approaches</i></p> <p>Chairperson: George Bouma, UNDP</p> <p>Bioenergy Policy Development and Practice – Kwabena Otu Danquah, Ghana Energy Commission</p> <p>Renewable Energy and Energy Access policy – Evans Maturu Kenya Mission to the UN on behalf of Eng. Isaac Kiva, Director of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy & Petroleum, Kenya</p> <p>Financing Efficient Urban Transport Systems – Erin Franke, Finance Director, Centro Transporte Sustentable Mexico</p>
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch Break (catered)</i>
14:00 – 15:30	<p><i>Session: Ecosystems and Integrated Approaches</i></p> <p>Chairperson: Jane Stewart, Director, ILO New York</p> <p>Micro-financing gender and small scale enterprises – Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman Palli Karma - Sahayak Foundation and Chairman, Dhaka School of Economics, Bangladesh</p> <p>Sustainable Pathways – protected areas, renewable energy and water benefits – Fitzmaurice Christian, Environment Division, Antigua and Barbuda</p> <p>Ecosystems Management and Employment – Tlou Ramaru, Senior Policy Advisor: International Sustainable Development and Trade Cooperation Department of Environmental Affairs , South Africa - (tbc)</p>
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Break</i>
16:00 – 17:00	<p><i>Session: Global Lessons Learned</i></p> <p>Chairperson: Jane Stewart</p> <p>Poverty and Green Economy opportunities – Tim Scott, Bureau of Policy Development, UNDP</p> <p>Global Green Growth Institute/ Green Growth Knowledge Platform - TBC</p>
17:00	<i>Adjourn</i>

<p>Thursday July 3rd 2014</p> <p>Workshop Agenda Room 6 North Lawn Building, UN Secretariat</p>	
9:00 – 10:30	<p><i>Session: Coping with Water Scarcity and Integrated Water Resource Management</i></p> <p>Chair: Ndey-Isatou Njie UN-Water, UNDESA</p> <p>Quenching energy's thirst for water: Main messages from the 2014 United Nations World Water Development Report – Ana Persic, Science Specialist UNESCO Office in New York</p> <p>Preliminary advances of the methodology of Ecuador's water account and Green GDP as an indicator of sustainability – Franco Carvajal, Economist Ministry of Environment, Ecuador</p>
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Break</i>
11:00 – 12:15	<p><i>Continuation</i></p> <p>Coping with water scarcity and integrated water management in Tunisia – Dr. Slah Nasri, Bureau of planning and hydraulic equilibrium, Ministry of Agriculture, Tunisia</p> <p>Strengthening national capacities to apply Integrated Water-Energy-Food Security Planning to National Development Strategies, Hadram Al Fayez, Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation Jordan</p>
	Key Messages from the Workshop – Thomas Hamlin UNDESA and Tim Scott UNDP
12:15	<i>Move to Side Event Lunch venue at Vienna Café upper level</i>



Invitation to a Light Lunch and Side Event
Bridging the Implementation Gap on Decent Jobs, Economic Growth and Infrastructure

12:30 – 14:45 on 3rd July 2014

UN Secretariat, Room 6 North Lawn Building, New York

Rio+20 was held in Rio de Janeiro June 2012 focusing on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development. Governments agreed in Rio to establish a new high level political forum for sustainable development. Rio+20 proposed that the forum, amongst other things, provide a dynamic platform for regular dialogue, stocktaking, and reviewing progress towards sustainable development. The Green Economy Joint Program funded by the Netherlands and executed by UNDP, UNEP and UN DESA assisted developing countries in preparing for Rio+20 and is continuing to support country-level implementation.

The concept of green growth and green economy are interpreted differently in a variety of both sectorial and national contexts. Common desirable characteristics are increased investment in infrastructure, resource conservation, providing decent jobs and long lasting environmental social benefits. A huge gap remains to be bridged by scaling up successful approaches and avoiding obstacles. Cross learning between countries will assist in raising the capacity for implementation.

UNDESA is organizing this side event with financial support from the Netherlands to facilitate exchange of experience and lessons learned on green growth and economy on 2nd - 3rd July 2014 alongside the preparatory meetings of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York.

12:30 - 13:15	Lunch catered in the hallway second floor by Austria Cafe
13:15 – 14:15	Opening Remarks: Aafke Ariaans, Assistant to the Economic and Political Sections at Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN (tbc) Chair: Elliott Harris, Director of the New York Office UNEP Update on the Sustainable Development Goals – Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development; Green Economy Progress and Partnerships – Ministers responsible for Sustainable Development (Africa)
14:15 – 15:00	<i>Closing remarks</i>

15:00 – 18:00 HLPF Conference Room, Secretariat Building “Shaping the forum for beyond 2015”