

PROMOTING A TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

**A Regional Conference on Development Models
and CSO Strategizing Session on Rio+20**

- PROCEEDINGS AND OUTCOMES -

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 **IBON International**
Capacity Development for the People

The Reality of Aid
An Independent Review of Poverty Reduction and Development Assistance



ASIA-PACIFIC RESEARCH NETWORK
People-centered research for effective development work

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INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) will take place in 2012, marking two decades of official international action on sustainable development. In the first Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the international community came to recognize the unequal and unsustainable character of dominant development patterns. At the same time, it committed to take steps towards more equitable and sustainable development, and produced the conventions on climate change, biodiversity, and Agenda 21. Twenty years on, the world finds itself far off track in realizing the vision of Rio, even before the explosion of the multiple financial and economic crises of 2007-08. These recent crises further aggravated the food, energy and climate crises and underscored the urgency of a global shift to alternative development models.

Expanded and sustained participation by civil society in the evolving development discourse leading up to Rio+20 is crucial in this respect. One of the two themes that have been identified by the UN as central to Rio+20 – the need to elaborate the transition to “green economies” as a solution to the problems of escalating ecological destruction and poverty – is proving to be a potentially contentious arena. There are concerns that the green economy agenda could be hijacked by narrow Northern corporatist interests and sidetrack efforts to address the much-more complex social, developmental, and equity issues linked to sustainability in favor of less politically sensitive, market-based and ill-conceived technology fixes; and one-size fits all approaches that constrain the sustainable development prospects for the South. There is, thus, an urgent need for CSOs especially in the global South to effectively engage their own governments on Rio+20 and beyond.

It was in this light that the Asia-Pacific Research Network (APRN), Reality of Aid Asia-Pacific (ROA-AP), and Ibon International organized the Conference Workshop on Rio+20 to:

- Increase the awareness and understanding of CSOs and peoples’ movements in the South of the policy agenda in the UN Conference on Sustainable Development scheduled for May 2012 (also known as Rio+20), particularly the social and development implications of the Rio themes of ‘green economy’ and ‘institutional framework for sustainable development’.
- Bring different CSOs and peoples’ movements in the South into a common discussion to exchange ideas and experiences and develop a common advocacy agenda for Rio+20 and beyond.

- The organizers

Rio+20: History and Current Context
Dr. Vandana Shiva, Navdanya International
(Keynote Address)

Rio was a result of two forces: one, of the environmental movement, without which there would not be pressure to have an Earth summit; and the scientific community that had been doing the work on biodiversity loss, species extinction and human-induced climate change. And whatever and wherever we were creative, wherever we would put an input, it became the international treaty. In terms of biodiversity extinction, what we had as an outcome was the Convention on Biological Diversity. Before Rio leading to



the preparatory committee meetings, my government had asked me to advise them on the convention and I asked them who they were sending as the official negotiator. It was the head of Project Tiger, because for governments at that time biodiversity only meant conservation of big mammals, the old-style conservation, national park management, and I had to tell them how biodiversity is going to be the green oil of the future with genetic manipulation, patenting. In fact, the other big trend of our times was already being shaped in the '80s which was the issue of free trade, which is institutionalized as the World Trade Organization. During that period in the lead up to Rio, the corporations were active (though not aggressively) – they were present trying to influence governments, and influenced the US government enough to prevent President George Bush senior from signing the convention of biological diversity because we managed to put in three very important elements that are still in defense both of people's rights as well as of biodiversity itself. There was an American-inspired draft made on the convention that was only on access to biodiversity, free access to biodiversity for companies that patent the same biodiversity and sell it back to the South. We managed to also put in strong clauses on the sovereignty on the knowledge of indigenous communities which is still a major issue of debate in the convention, and I remember how hard we worked putting Article 19.3 which led to the Cartagena Protocol on Bio-safety and is in a way the international law on bio-safety in the context of genetically-modified organisms.

The UNFCCC was the second legally binding treaty that came out of Rio and here scientists had a much bigger role because while the movements had a sense that the climate was becoming unstable, the signs of it was clearly something only scientists have been looking at. All of these were brought out to the context of sovereign countries agreeing internationally to have legal commitments and responsibilities within the framework of common but differentiated responsibility with the idea that all the historic atmospheric pollution and erosion of biodiversity had been carried out by rich industrialized countries. Two important products that came out of the Rio principle were absolutely

path-breaking in law and we use them very intensely at the national level in India. The entire biodiversity protocol comes out of the idea of precautionary principle -- you might not know the full result, but in the absence of complete knowledge you are on the side of caution not on the side of risk. The other was the polluters-must-pay which led to the liability regime.

Going back a bit, we were already asking for an institutional framework. We say fragmented treaties cannot be a system of governance. You need a framework that pulls it all together whether it is the Montreal Protocol on the Ozone Layer Depletion or the Convention on Desertification or the two Rio treaties. The argument constantly used for us, however is, "Sorry we have no money. We cannot at this point create new institutions". That was 1992. In three years, a new institution was created for trade – the World Trade Organization – which showed very clearly that when governments had a will they could create institutional structures, and where they don't have the will they can make all kinds of excuses.

In the period between Rio and today, both the framework of thought of neo-liberal economics and the WTO structure have had a very big impact of undermining Rio. Trade became higher than everything else, whether it is social security or ecological protection - everything could and had to be sacrificed for more trade translated into issues; and indicators of growth, sovereignty and democracy was sacrificed and environmental protection and sustainable development have been severely compromised. With the WTO rules, basically corporate power and commercial interests had all limits removed. Free trade was nothing but deregulated commerce and deregulated commerce means you just do not control the greed factor. India and China are very clear examples of these changes. In India, there is the emergence of huge oligarchs where a hundred people today control 1/3 of our giant economy of 1.2 billion people. And that has also made a shift and a difference to how we got an access. Not only is sovereignty being undermined in terms of international trade but the most significant aspect is the mutation of our states from being somewhat public to corporate states. This means that while in Rio the South was negotiating with the reluctant North because the North was more captive to corporate interests, today most of the Southern governments are in fact beating the North in working for corporate interests. We have seen that in the case of India where recently this year the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants had a meeting. I remember how easy it used to be to provide inputs to the Indian government and have it as a leader in the climate negotiations, in the biodiversity negotiations. Today it is India that is blocking the ban on endosulfan, despite the studies by the government itself, despite the fact that a thousand people have died and 9,000 have been crippled. The government just keeps saying (a) there's no proof of harm, and (b) there's no alternative, both of which are totally false.

As free trade became a higher logic and higher imperative than the outcomes of Rio, there was also a momentum to start undermining the Rio treaties. There has been a huge attempt to take the Convention on Biological Diversity back to the original idea of access rather than the rights of people. The worst of course is what we have seen happen to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change where probably the largest ever mobilization for an environmental agreement took place in Copenhagen - a hundred thousand people on the streets, more governments and heads of state participating than have ever on any environmental issue - and yet President Obama went to the

Chinese meeting room where the group of four – India, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa were meeting and signed a Copenhagen accord to undo the legally binding treaty. And the interesting thing is while the negotiators were still negotiating, having a press conference, and announcing the Copenhagen Accord, there was Evo Morales the President of Bolivia saying “we were not here to negotiate the rights of the polluters – we were here to negotiate the rights of the Earth and the people. And I’m going to call a conference” which he did last year and out of that conference came the Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth. And out of that conference came something that should be a very important tool for all movements – the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth. The idea is just like after the war and the abuses during the war, the UN Declaration on Human Rights was created. We now need to have a Universal Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth and it needs to move in civil society and slowly it needs to be brought to the international governance regime through the United Nations.

There was another aspect of a momentum created in the wrong direction through the free trade processes – and it basically was the philosophy that everything is a commodity and everything is for sale. That is why when we organized to stop WTO in Seattle, our slogan was “our world is not for sale”, and that is now the network Our World is Not For Sale. We have seen in this period huge attempts at the privatization of water and intense movements to stop it and my guess is about 90% of water privatization projects have been stopped by people’s movements. We have seen the patenting of life, genes, seeds, and I started Navdanya to deal with that challenge. One of the things we need to strategize about is how rapidly one company Monsanto is moving by corrupting governments. They were courting Indonesia bribing 1.7500 thousand rupees for BT cotton. We managed to stop the BT Eggplant in India but I know that they are pushing in Bangladesh, Philippines; that they are intensely and aggressively promoting the BT cotton in Pakistan, where India has added in some bilateral agreement a whole paragraph on BT cotton to facilitate the spread of BT cotton in Pakistan.

The whole privatization of the air through pollution, emissions trading, and carbon trading - the record before us shows it has not reduced pollution at all but has created billions for the polluters. Both the law on patenting and emissions trading have ended up rewarding the polluter. If the Rio principles were the polluters should pay, the free trade principles and commodification principles boil down to the polluter gets paid. This is shown in the case of Percy Schmeiser whose field was contaminated by Monsanto’s GM Canola, was even sued by Monsanto saying that “my genes are in your field, therefore you’re a thief” (but will call you a polluter if your genes are in their field) to the tune of USD 200,000. Mittal who is now the biggest steel player in the world made per year a billion pounds out of the trade emission schemes of Europe.

Looking back at this process is important because we are going to be discussing the green economy and within the preparatory process of the Rio+20 there is already a huge contestation, because there is an attempt to define green economy as the ultimate commodification of nature, the ecological services of forests through REDD and REDD+, the commodification of water and hydrological systems, attempted commodification of carbon-absorbing capacities of soils. So not only are you taking resources and commodifying them, you are now taking ecological processes and their functions and

trading these and that has huge implications on how those resources get managed, how ecosystems get transformed. In this commodification of forest ecological services what we are going to have is increased plantations, GM trees saying they perform better. And before you know it there will be no space left for either nature or the communities that depend on nature and the earth's ecosystems.

The issue of foreign direct investments has gained such power. In 1997 we had the structural adjustments for the tigers and dragons of Southeast Asia. That was when the big steel plant of Korea, Posco, was privatized. We have done an analysis because Posco was trying to arrive in India and big battles are taking place on the ground. When you do the analysis, you will see that of the USD12 billion dollar investment, Koreans actually have a minority share compared to Wall Street firms that brought down the world economy who have a majority share and Warren Buffett who has a 5% share. So we basically got the rise of corporations who have no home, no accountability, no responsibility anywhere. And their appropriation of state power is so intense and we should not undermine it even while we look towards Rio+20. We must look very intimately into what is happening in our own countries everywhere such as but not just the marginalization of the environmental movement. If Rio was the result of the power of the environmental movements, Rio+20 is taking place in the context of most governments criminalizing ecological activists and activists working in defense of their resources – be it their land, or their forests, or their minerals. Just yesterday they killed Shehla Masood, an activist in Bhopal. We have got hominist launching a Green Hunt basically in the tribal areas deploying the army because tribes are fighting back saying 'you can't destroy our forests'. They have just arrested one of the leading anti-corruption campaigners and if you were watching the TV you will have noticed yesterday people are so angry with the rising tendency towards dictatorship and fascism.

So we have challenges at local levels – and that is the defense of people's rights and local democracy. We have national level challenges as governments are defending a model of economy that we can see failing across the world. Look at the streets of Greece, at the Arab uprisings, at Spain where the M15 movements are not leaving the squares. David Cameron thinks the riots of London are because of bad moral behavior while people know it is about economic injustice. How much can you disenfranchise large sections of society and expect no result? Something will happen and you do not know and can't predict what is going to happen.

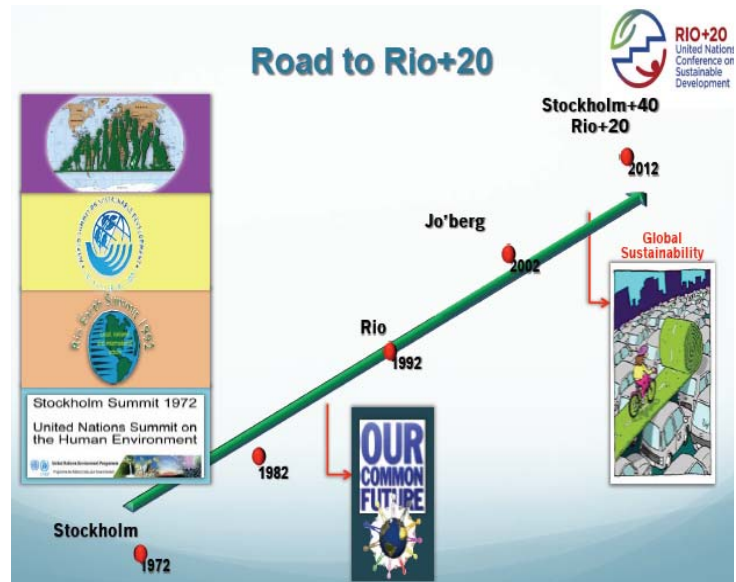
At this point, our challenge at the international level is twofold for Rio+20– the first is to defend the gains of Rio very strongly. Do not let backtracking of the commitments made at Rio whether it means the principles of Rio or in the legally binding treaties; the second and where our strength lies is to evolve alternative frameworks both for economy and for how to evolve sustainable development models which are nature-centered, earth-centered, people-centered. We need much more because the governments have no will and capacity to do it. Corporations absolutely have no capacity outside putting out green ads. They can't be green. So we have a contest as we enter these final few months before Rio+20, an intense debate on what the green economy will look like. Will it be the green of life, forest and earth? Or the green of greed of money and finance? It is our vigilance, creativity, solidarity that is the only thing available to challenge the pseudo green and put forward the real green agenda.

The Roadmap to Rio+20 and UNEP perspectives on the Green Economy and IFSD
Wanhua Yang, UNEP

The roadmap to Rio+20

Forty years ago, in 1972 in Stockholm, we recognized the connection between human and nature and created the UNEP. The focus then was on the connection between policy and productive development. A number of activities then succeeded:

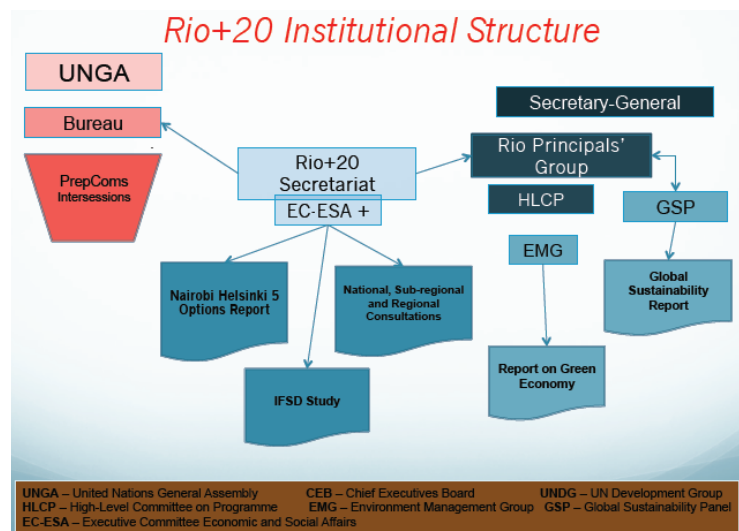
- 1980 – the IUCN formulated the World Conservation Strategy
- 1982 - 48th General Assembly's adoption of the World Charter for Nature
- 1983- the UNGA established independent world commission on environment and development
- 1987- the first time that the sustainable development was proposed
- 1994 – more on the linkages between environment and development
- 2002 –review of implementation and came up with Johannesburg plan of implementation



Ten years after Johannesburg, there is a need to review the implementation of the major outcome of the old World Summit. Per UNGA resolution, Rio+20 is being organized to secure political commitment for sustainable development, assess progress and gaps, and address new and emerging issues, two themes of which are the GE and IFSD.

Structure/arrangement of the Rio+20

1. The UN GA established a secretariat led by a Bureau which has all the regional groups' participation.
2. The Secretariat, led by the General Secretary, has groups on IFSD, GE, and meeting organizations. It also has the Executive Committee on the Economic and Social Affairs which is currently doing studies on international governance 5 Options and on the IFSD;
3. Separately, within the UN there is an Environment Management Group



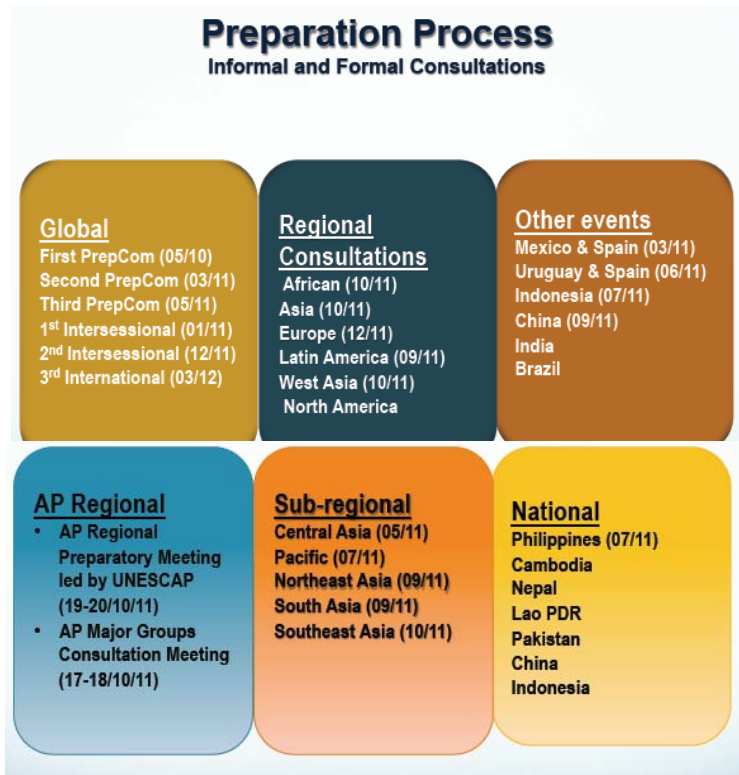
which is doing a report on green economy.

4. There is also a global sustainable development report panel that produced this global sustainability report.

The preparation process

The whole preparation process includes both formal and informal processes, which include the preparatory committee, the intercessional, and then regional consultations.

In Asia Pacific, the regional prep com will be in Seoul on October 19-20 led by UNESCAP, preceded by the Major Groups meeting on October 17-18. The outcome from this Asia Pacific regional preparatory meeting will be a report on the implementation of the major outcome of the world summit, and at that meeting they will formulate a regional statement on Green Econ, IFSD and also for Rio+20.



Sub-regional consultations: UNEP is also trying to organize in conjunction with the already existing forum to talk about enhancing the understanding of GE and IFSD. At the national level, each country will have its own national preparatory meetings. Currently, almost all countries established their own committee and national consultations

Green Economy

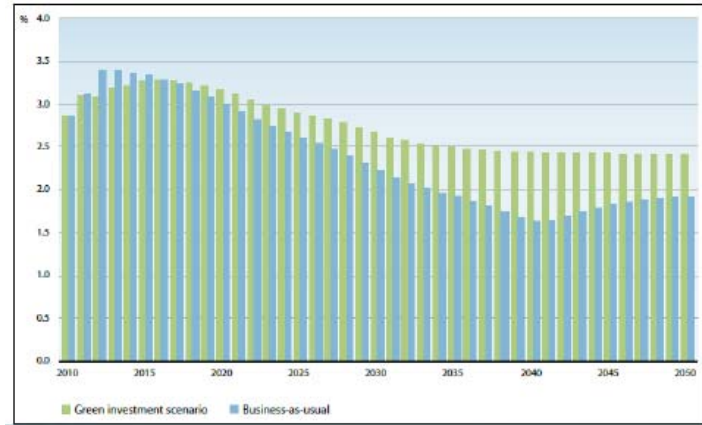
UNEP initiated green economy in 2008 in the light of the multiple crises. The challenge is that right now we are overusing our world bio-capacity starting from late 1980s. We have already reached the world capacity. In around 2002 we were already using 1.2 of the earth so right now we have overburdened mother nature, which makes us need more than one earth. By 2050, we will need four earths and by 2100 we will need five. The main causes:

- polluters do not pay although we have the principle of polluters must pay
- polluters have bad subsidies through fuel, fisheries, or fertilizers
- issue of property rights
- rapid population growth
- lifestyle – the way people consume and produce
- misallocation of capital – investing for rapid economic growth, not long-term green investment.

The green economy's objective is to increase human well-being, social equity and at the same time reduce environmental risk and ecological scarcity. The green economy approach will get capital allocation right, i.e. investing in sustainable infrastructure and protecting natural resources, increase in environmental and social investment, growth income, green jobs, etc.

Projected Results of a Green Economy

Projected trends in annual GDP growth rate (%)



UNEP did a study of how we can make a Green Economy which involved more than 100 scholars for two years to make a calculation of the scenario. It shows that investing 2% (USD 1.3billion/year) of the global GDP to green ten sectors from 2010-2015 will result in higher GDP growth over time and enhance wealth, reduce property inequity and increase natural capital and also create more jobs. This study compared the business as usual (BAU) scenario to the green economy. The BAU will continue the trend, the green scenario will outperform BAU scenario.

How to move to a green economy and inclusive growth?

- mobilize investment – domestic and foreign, public and private investments to targeted areas, areas that have the most opportunity to be green
- stimulate green innovation, incentive etc.
- enabling environment - policy reforms
- Campaigns to promote green lifestyle
- Strengthen south-south cooperation
- integrate international commitments into green economy strategy and actively engage in Rio+20 to achieve the sustainable development proposed a few decades ago

How to measure the progress of green economy and inclusive growth?

- measure the energy efficiency and waste reduction per unit GDP
- Income/ jobs from environmental goods/ services
- social groups services – education, healthcare, labor protection, etc
- quality of life index is also one way
- Currently, when countries measuring GDP, the environmental consideration is still not there

What is the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD)?

The IFSD, according to the UN DESA, is a spectrum of formal and less formal bodies, organizations, networks and arrangements that are involved in sustainable development policymaking or implementation activities. In the words of the Stakeholder Forum, it is the system of global governance for sustainable development.”

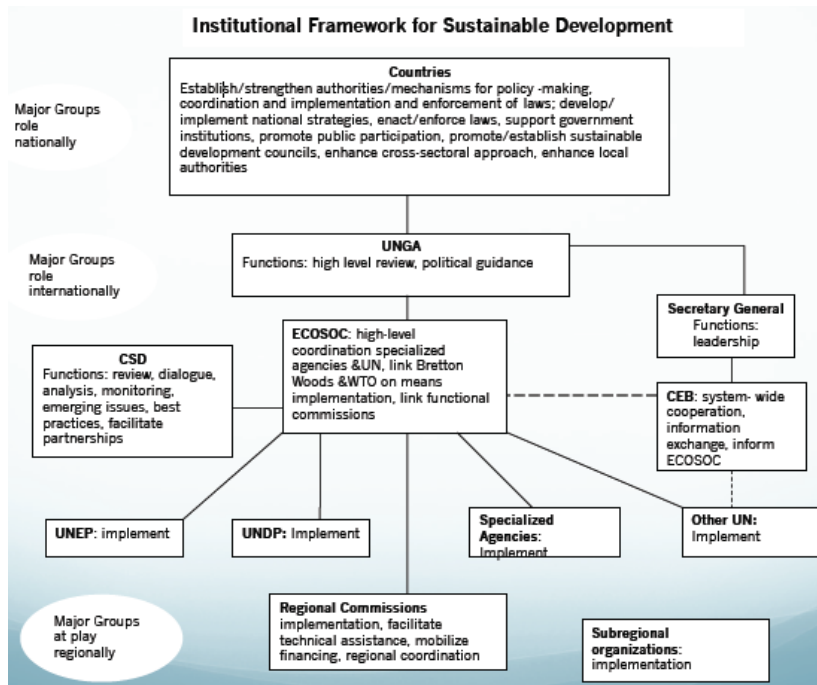
There is a whole institutional framework for sustainable development in the Johannesburg review. The Solo conference was the 1st UN DESA conference to talk about the IFSD. There are a few proposals. The discussion is mainly on strengthening the overarching structure of the UN, of the GA, of the ECOSOC, of the CSD, of the UNEP, and most importantly, many developing countries emphasize strengthening the coherence and collaboration of the existing structures, strengthening the global and regional governance, and how the international structure can support the country governance, of the role of private sector and CSOs.

Successes of IFSD

- Acceptance of Sustainable Development as a guiding principle
- Stakeholder participation
- Dialogue
- Analysis
- Identifying emerging issues
- Raising political level

Challenges for IFSD

- Lack of implementation
- National Setup & lack of mainstreaming
- Lack of capacity building
- Lack of coordination & integration
- Lack of accountability
- Are these the right functions to achieve Sustainable Development?



Reforming the IFSD

The current IFSD shows overemphasis on participation and dialogue instead of action and the lack of attention to budget and finance, strategy, and agenda setting. IFSD reform options should focus on addressing the gaps in the current functions (gap of reform analysis is needed) and this should form the basis for the building blocks. They should build on the existing institutional frameworks and strengthen the environmental pillar will support Sustainable Development and reduce mission creep— IEG has had a two year process identifying the functions and gaps, its ready for a decision for a stronger institution. National level is key and requires greater attention to institutional set up in the government, and better use of tools for achieving sustainable development. Incremental reforms won't be enough, there needs to be an overhaul.

Some of the reforms being considered are (1) strengthening the overarching structure within UN; (2) strengthening the role of GA and ECOSOC; (3) Strengthening CSD (into a Council for Sustainable Development); (4) strengthening UNEP (into WEO/UNEO); (5) strengthening coherence and collaboration (One UN, Delivery as One)—Strengthening regional governance; (6) strengthening the support to countries; and (7) strengthening the role of the private sector and CSOs.

Green Economy: A Critical CSO Perspective
Paul Quintos, IBON International

What is the Green Economy and why talk about it?

The importance of talking about the Green Economy is that it is one of the two key themes of Rio+20: “Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction.” UN officials take pains in stressing this full formulation because when the “Green Economy” was introduced as one of the key themes, there was immediately a debate, an apprehension that it is privileging only the economic and not the environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development. But then again, it would depend on how “Green Economy” is defined – of course there are varying definitions/interpretations and scope, and in terms of concrete measures.

Perhaps the most influential definition and interpretation as one would expect is coming from UNEP: the Green Economy is “one that results in improved human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.” The idea is to build a low-carbon and resource-efficient green economy as a pathway to sustainable development and an alternative to business as usual by greening 10 key economic sectors so that they become low-carbon and resource-efficient: the four natural capital sectors: agriculture, fisheries, forests, water; and the six built capital sectors: energy, manufacturing, waste, building, transportation, tourism.

There are some positive green measures proposed: support for sustainable farming of smallholders, phase out of fossil fuel subsidies, promoting the closed loop systems in manufacturing (trying to ensure as minimum waste as possible and then as localized as possible in terms of the inputs that are used), and promoting a shift to public and non-motorized transport. In terms of the range of policy prescriptions that they included in the 600-page Green Economy report, there’s a long shopping list. Examples include the improvement of natural resource management, adopting low-carbon technologies, increasing resource energy efficiency, regulating harmful activities, rechanneling public monies to green investments, green taxes, green public procurement, green governance, re-skilling workers from brown economies to green jobs, and so on.

More harm than good

Unfortunately, there are actually more dangers to the Green Economy as conceptualized by official circles and this is especially true for the “green growth” interpretation of the Green Economy.

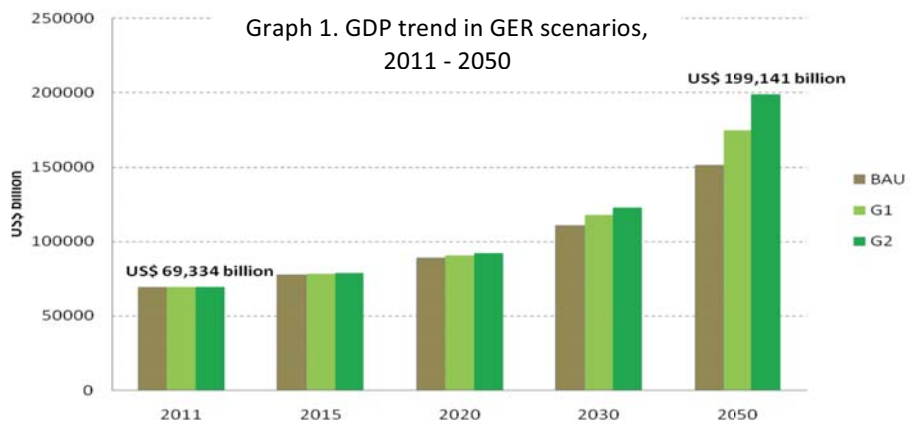
Greening economic sectors means mobilizing public resources in the amount of 2% of the GDP which is around the same amount as the current subsidies given to the brown economy/dirty industry – fossil fuels, pesticides, industrial fishing, and so on.

But this approach relies primarily on price signals which will supposedly incentivize green behavior. But in effect it will also incentivize greed behavior. Just from the consistent use of the term “capital” to refer to nature, you already get the sense that it is something that you are meant to profit from.

Indeed it is premised on the commodification of nature and ecosystem services - treating them as tradable assets – which, once commodified becomes subject to private expropriation, appropriation and accumulation in the hands of the few. Concretely that often leads to resource and land grabbing, privatization of commons, displacement of indigenous peoples and other marginalized sectors that are particularly dependent on the natural environment. Another favorite market-based mechanism, carbon trading, merely allows the large polluting countries and corporations to continue business-as-usual as long as they can afford to pay for the offsets and profit from trading carbon emission permits, which is becoming a subject of speculative activities as well for financial investors who are responsible for the global financial crisis. They are doing this even in these essentially fictive asset classes.

Second, there is a heavy reliance on green technologies that are produced by big business. And of course following the logic of big business, as much as possible, especially with the very tight Intellectual Property Rights regimes, profiting from these new technologies. These have particularly negative consequences for developing countries who do not have the capacity to generate those new technologies, especially if they will become the standard and becoming more dependent on importing these more expensive technologies from the advance industrialized countries – and they may or may not be locally appropriate or sustainable.

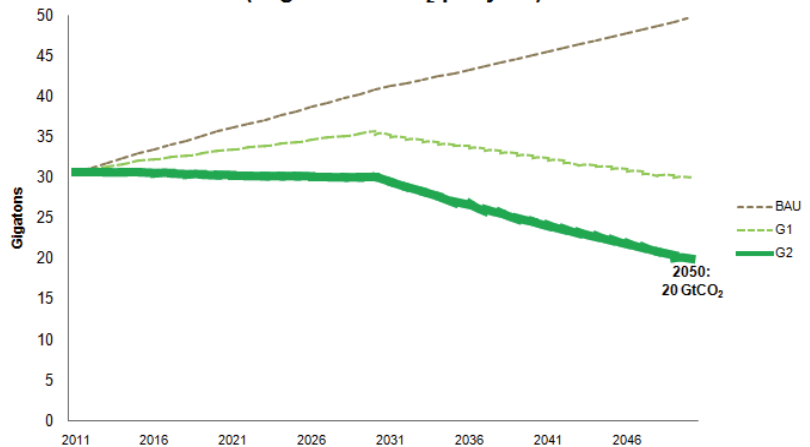
The Green Economy is pretty much wedded to idea of economic growth or material growth in consumption and production. In fact, even using the most optimistic scenarios in the Green Economy report, it will not succeed in advancing the other pillars – the social and environmental objectives of sustainable development. In Graph 1, the gray bars represent business-as-usual [BAU] scenarios, the green bars show the Green Economy scenario with the 1% GDP investment together with new environmental policies and regulations, and the optimistic scenario of 2% - clearly here they are saying that the Green Economy will actually boost global GDP economic growth (which measure only the expansion in the production of goods and services traded in the market). So yes it will boost GDP but what happens to the other pillars dimensions of sustainable development?



Looking at just one environmental indicator, carbon emissions in the optimistic scenario would fall from around 30 gigatons to around 20 gigatons by 2050 - which is just around a 30% decrease from 2011 levels. Remember that in the UNFCCC we are calling for around 50-85% cuts in emissions on 1990 levels. This shows that even the optimistic scenario is far from adequate to avoid the 2% global warming scenario that we are trying to avoid. The figure is even a bit outdated because that was based

on a 440 ppm carbon budget for the atmosphere, but more recent studies commonly acknowledged by the scientific community say that 350ppm is the safer level. The optimistic scenario far exceeds the allowable carbon budget if we are to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2050 and thereby keep to the 350ppm limit. Thus, even the environmental objective cannot be met by this scenario.

Graph
Energy CO₂ Emissions 2011-2050 in GER Scenarios
(Gigatons of CO₂ per year)



In terms of its impact on poverty alleviation even in the optimistic scenario, almost one billion people will still be living under the USD1/day poverty threshold by 2050 – a very paltry gain in terms of environmental and social gains for that massive effort at greening the economy. It is important to be critical of this agenda because it is being billed as the solution not just to the environmental crisis but to all the multiple crises were confronted with – unemployment, economic slowdown, etc.

Conclusion:

It is important to understand and underscore that the Green Economy agenda is really intended to convince big business that it pays to go green and to take the lead both in economic recovery and the so-called sustainable pathways. Unfortunately, it would most likely be at the expense of the people and the planet. It is based on the flawed premise that governments do not have the resources for the necessary investments and that the market is the more efficient regulator of behavior. Of course the global financial crisis belies this claim. When the big banks were faltering in 2007/2008, USD 11 trillion were pledged in the US alone to bailout the banks or to guarantee that the banks will not be allowed to fail. So for the big bank finance oligarchs it is easy for the government to marshal up the resources to bail out these finance institutions but not the people and the planet from ecological collapse. The financial crisis only shows the irrationality of the private sector/big business being allowed to lead on its own without the heavy social accountability to the people and to the public.

This implies that rather green growth, there should be more emphasis on the social dimensions of sustainability – focusing on re-distribution, and democratizing and ensuring people’s access to productive resources, or the stewardship of people and communities over nature; at the same time transforming in a socially rational manner the more large-scale built industries and sectors like energy, transportation and so on. That requires the central role of the state. That also poses an onus to civil society to ensure that these states are democratic and responding to peoples’ genuine interest for the long run. More fundamentally, there is a need to break away from the dominant system that we have identified as the root cause of these unsustainable patterns of production and consumption in the

world; and the need to jump towards a genuine sustainable development path for the people and the planet.

International Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD)

Neth Dano, ETC Group

It is the less known sister or brother of green economy. But as pointed out by UNEP, this is one of the two themes that are stated in the UN GA Resolution on Rio+20. Nonetheless, these are just two of the issues that will be tackled so let us not be trapped into just these two. Being part of civil society, we need to go beyond that. Right now, governments are doing it the UN way and being trapped in the two themes.

Defining IFSD

The FAO and the European Commission looks at it as good governance. They did not mention sustainable development governance and what they mean by that. There are concerns that this is going to be another conditionality - as we have seen how good governance has become “the conditionality” for much of ODA and aid agreements.

IFSD should be analyzed vis-à-vis the Green Economy

Even governments found the IFSD discussion as so “up there”. That’s a logical reaction. If you look at sustainable development governance as an island, you have to look at sustainable development governance as you look at the green economy, in tandem, for you to have a concrete sense of what this is all about. What are we governing? What sustainable development governance are we talking about when all this move in the green economy side of the Rio+20 is all about eroding and undermining what was agreed in 1992? If you are talking of the sustainable development as ‘92, think again because that is not what they have in mind. You have to really look at IFSD discussion in tandem with green economy discussion to make sense of what this and the game plan is all about.

IFSD at the national and local level

As part of our governments’ commitment in Rio, sustainable development should have been integrated in all development plans at the national level. The UN required governments to submit National Sustainable development Strategies (NSDS) fully funded by UNDESA, which includes local plans. In one study done by UNDESA itself, only 53 countries have submitted their NSDS to the CSD. A more important question is how they were formulated. You can have an NSDS by hiring a few consultants, pay them to come up with NSDS. But what has that got to do with us? And how many of them were implemented? If you talk of the Philippines, for example, it is the first country in Asia to submit a national Agenda 21 of which very little has been implemented. These were the times when people were so high about Agenda 21. Today, however, if you ask government officials, they will probably ask you, “Agenda 21? What is that?” This is not a joke. One of the officials present in the meeting last week asked that.

The term governance refers to the process or method by which society is governed, or the ‘condition of ordered rule’. It reflects the structures and processes of regionalization and decentralization, which have tended to build on previously informal interactions between government and other actors. - UN DESA

On top of the NSDS, there was also an invitation - not an instruction, not an order - a request to governments on the part of NSD to create national councils for sustainable development, to which only 34 countries responded and have established their own NCSDs. In the region, we have South Korea, Thailand, and Philippines creating their NCSDs. But the question is how do people's organizations and civil society organizations participate? How were they represented? Have they performed? Do they still exist? In the case of the Philippines, it has been dying for the past seven years when the Arroyo administration tried to limit discussion of sustainable development to just environment. Our national council for sustainable development used to be comprised of 17 cabinet secretaries integrating sustainable development in all agency plans. But when Arroyo took power, she said sustainable development is just about the environment. You have environment and economic planning secretaries talking between themselves, totally marginalizing NGOs in the discussion, because they tend to make too much noise that was the main sense. It is still trying to resuscitate itself through Rio+20 but I think it is clinically dead. But the key question we should ask, have these sustainable development strategies and councils made a difference at all? Have they been relevant in all these discussions on sustainable development? These are key questions we should ask in our specific contexts.

IFSD at the global level

The key institutions on global sustainable development governance are mainly ECOSOC and the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which is a child of Rio, established in 1992. ECOSOC and CSD are meant to be integrative. They have cross-cutting mandates but have no implementation and follow-up capacity. That was the main concern/critique on CSD. CSD 11 actually virtually killed CSD and limited it mainly to a talk-shop. Governments are barely interested to engage in CSD. Those who have the misfortune of engaging the CSD would probably attest to that and wonder what the forum is for. Governments talk about experiences in implementing sustainable development. At the end of a two-year cycle, they come up with a shopping list of what to do, in terms of a particular theme, like climate change, agriculture, how to integrate sustainable development at different levels, but they do not give any commitment on how to implement the shopping list. It is pathetic that CSD fails on the most important issues – cycle on climate change, food and agriculture almost failed, sustainable production and consumption recently failed. These are things that actually make or break sustainable development. The intent is just to come up with a shopping list over which they fail to agree on and in the end will not implement anyway. I would not even want to use the word pathetic. It is frightening if you see how CSD has failed in the past years.

- ECOSOC: UN Economic and Social Council
 - established under the UN Charter as the principal organ to coordinate economic, social and related work of the 14 specialized agencies, functional commissions and 5 regional commissions
- CSD: Commission on Sustainable Development
 - Established by the UN GA in 1992 to ensure effective follow up to UNCED/Earth Summit
 - reviews progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, and provides policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) at the local, national, regional and international levels.

In terms of the environment sphere, UNEP is the key UN agency coordinating all these environment programs. You talk about more than 500 multilateral environment agreements and only a few of them are actually under UNEP. Some of them with FAO, some of them have their own specific governance mechanisms. At the economic sphere, you talk about WTO, World Bank which is not even part of the

UN, and that do not even operate under the one-country one vote system. In the social sphere, you have all these thematic-focused agencies like UNESCO, UN Women, UNICEF, etc.

CSOs in the IFSD

Where are we in this global sustainable development governance structure? It is largely governments that are talking in these government structures. Only accredited organizations can participate as observers which means you have to have the stamps of governments by consensus which means Burmese NGOs have no chance. Many of the Chinese NGOs do not even dream of becoming an accredited organization because the Chinese government will say no.

Meetings are held at the UN headquarters in New York which virtually cuts off many organizations and movements working on sustainable development. If we talk about CSD and many of the UN agencies, they operate under the Major Groups approach to facilitate the participation of observer organizations and CSOs. Under the NGO Major Group, you only talk as one so you have to negotiate among yourselves. In the same way, people's organizations, farmers, indigenous peoples, women, have to organize themselves under major groups. Those who self-organize are limited to those who can be in New York and UN meetings. Each UN agency has its own different rules for observer participation. That is where we are in global sustainable development governance.

What have we got to do with global sustainable development governance in terms of UN formal processes? These are some of the proposals:

- Elevate CSD to a UN Council on Sustainable Development from its current status as standing committee under ECOSOC. (They're proposing to have a permanent Council under UN General Assembly. But of course, this has a lot of legal implications. This might mean rewriting some parts of the UN Charter.)
- Establish high level segment within ECOSOC
- Improve task management and inter-agency coordination
 - Revitalize the Task Management System created in the 1990s but was closed down in 1998 under the UN Reform
 - Re-establish the Inter Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) under the Chief Executives Board (CEB)
- Enhance role of civil society (though it is really sad for some of us that Rio+20 is just about enhancing civil society participation, access issues, forgetting that we have to be pushing for the recognition of the rights that we gained from Rio 1992.)
- Sustainable development governance at the local, national and regional levels
 - Institutional connections among different levels need to be made
- New Conventions and Treaties
 - Principle 10 on access to information
 - On the Precautionary Principle
 - On issues related to corporate social responsibility

On International Economic Governance (IEG)

IEG is the most mature part of sustainable development governance discussion and encompasses over

500 multilateral environment agreements. The call has been to ensure coherence and synergy but very little has been put on the table so far as governments are quite wary about touching these time bombs.

Key Options in IEG Reform

1. *Strengthening UNEP*

Supporters: many countries from the South (Mexico wants universal membership – to increase UNEP funds)

Pros: will involve strengthening the regional and national presence of UNEP

Main issue: what aspects of UNEP need to be strengthened and how

2. *Creating an umbrella org for sustainable development*

Involves the broader sustainable development governance, thus beyond the mandate of UNEP

3. *Creating an UNEO/WEO*

Advocates: France, supported by EU, Kenya

Against: India, Iran, Argentina, Russia, Ghana, US

Main Issues: will create another bureaucracy, will further centralize authority, will require substantial costs, will mean additional burden on the South (funds based on assessed contributions) under universal membership

Diagnosis: half-dead in the Rio+20 process, but may have a chance in the long term

4. *Reforming the ECOSOC and the Commission on Sustainable Development*

5. *Streamlining the existing structures and enhancing institutional reforms*

Advocates: US, Russia, NZ

Conclusion

The principles in reforming sustainable development governance should be based on the recognition of the rights of the people to participate in shaping development and in implementing Rio commitments. That is what we are pushing for when we engage in the reform of sustainable development governance at different levels. Any reform should recognize expertise and special relationship of social movements and civil society organizations on environment through arrangements that will enable and support full participation, and should be based on one country-one vote. Because right now, there are governments dabbling with an alternative formula in view of Bolivia's behavior, in delaying and stopping the UN from adopting consensus agreements in Cancun. They say we cannot allow countries like Bolivia to delay decision-making at the global-level. They are saying we should rethink the one country-one vote and maybe adopt an IMF or World Bank type of decision-making. We cannot consider them as alternatives to this. Also, we have to push for the principle of effective participation of developing countries in streamlining and synchronizing all these meetings and agreements, as well as to facilitate the rationalization of the treaty secretariat. UNEP is actually experimenting on this in terms of the waste and chemical conventions and so far, it has been quite good in opening up processes as well for civil society participation, and also to strengthen the capacity of the UN to support regional and national actions.

Q&A
with Vandana, Neth, Paul and Wanhua

Is it possible for CSOs to take over Rio+20? How? What is the role of CSOs? Almost all developing countries are controlled by IMF, WB, ADB, African Development Bank. Preparations to Rio+20 has been captured by the multilaterals at country level, they have put up several topics which are very humanistic issues – social development process, etc. but the content is actually preparatory to Rio. In this situation where most of the governments are controlled by the same framework of Green Economy, do we still have hope? What is our strategy to take over the delegates during Rio+20? Is there such a possibility? – *Don Marut, Indonesia*

How do you assess Rio+10 – *Anselmo Lee, South Korea*

What is the role of the Korean government in UNEP? UNEP has a bad image in Korea among environmental movements because UNEP has given an award to the Korean President about a reclamation project which according to environmentalists is a typical greenwash project. What is the role of Korean government in UNEP? – *Anselmo Lee, South Korea*

How would the Green Economy address labor rights especially now that we are facing a lot of problems in labor migration? Since we have discussed green economy, I think I have failed to hear anything about labor rights. The Philippines has just finished a green jobs conference and they are rooting for greening the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016 and they have also rooted for greening the Philippine labor and employment plan also for 2011-2016, but the objective is more on decent work but not on labor rights and trade unions. – *Sheena Opulencio, Philippines*

With the green economy or green growth, what is the UNEP really promoting? – *Mahbub Hasan, Bangladesh*

Dr. Vandana Shiva

Q: What should be CSOs' roles and strategies?

We should constantly deconstruct the vocabulary that hides more than it illuminates and never give up our independent imagination. One of the things that's happened in recent years as alternatives in agriculture have emerged and where movements have evolved, both the principles and the processes - for example the organic standards are created by the organic movement not by any government - the International Federation of Organic Agriculture movements evolved the standards that govern every national standard. And there is very serious attempt to undo them through what is called greening the economy through agriculture on the one hand, and on the other there is also what is called in implementation 'good agricultural practices' as if peasants do not have good agriculture practice, as if sustainable farming communities do not have good agriculture practice. And what I see happening

through this is the sneaking in of things like conservation agriculture, which is no-till agriculture, which is Roundup agriculture – don't do weeding, spray a Roundup. If you want to see the consequences of what this has done all you have to do is look at Argentina - absolutely devastated communities. So one of the things that we have to constantly do is deconstruct the vocabulary that hides more than it illuminates. And of course the green economy is being put in the agenda of Rio+20 but we should not give up our vocabulary of talking about sustainable development, social justice, labor rights, everything else, in every holistic way rooted in our communities to create actual empowerment to be able to act.

We should connect the issues of sustainability in nature's terms and sustainable development in terms of meeting the people's well-being through democratic means. Each of our countries is ready to overexploit resources saying that's the need of our people. We have big debates on mining in India right now. Constantly we are told that we need to mine that coal because India needs it but 90% of it is exported to China, not for India but the global economy – in addition, it is not being exported to China even for today's need but because commodity speculation has become so high that they keep extracting because that's where money gets made. IBON has a special issue on food crisis and speculation - given the subprime housing collapse, all of the speculative money has moved to minerals as commodity, food as commodity, land as commodity, and that's why we are getting more and more devastation in terms of what is happening to both nature and people, the deprivations are becoming very intense. That's where the whole issue of sustainable development from our perspective comes in. Everywhere there is an attempt to separate the issue of sustainability in nature's terms and sustainable development in terms of meeting the people's well-being through democratic means. Our job is to connect the two. For example in Navdanya we managed to show that the more we conserve biodiversity the more you increase food production – so these are not oppositional but actually convergent objectives and we got to do this in more and more spheres.

Let us be paradigm warriors, independent of power but linked to people. As we called ourselves in the international forum on globalization that we created to counter the WTO, we have to be paradigm warriors. When things were good and stable, civil society was the outside, we were reacting and responding. But things are collapsing – deep economic and political collapse and impending ecological collapse – and in this kind of period, even small actions and paradigm shifts by us become very significant. So we must not underestimate the contributions we can make. But we can only make these contributions if we stay independent of power but linked to people. That's our strength, independence.

Q: Do we have hope?

We are realistic. We don't underestimate the very tight closure that's taking place – the closure of our thinking, of the democratic space in most of our countries, and the enclosure of our resources and ecological space. I personally still have hope in spite of this for two reasons: first, ***the system that imagines it can keep appropriating, commodifying and enclosing is already collapsing around us. It doesn't have a life, it's not sustainable, something will have to come after, and we might as well be building what has to come after now.*** And that's why according to our priorities, every group has its own priorities, we need to shape whatever - whether its transportation or housing or how we feed

ourselves. ***Second, there is incoherence. Things are hitting against each other. Because when you don't have an honest agenda, when you have an agenda of double-speak and appropriation, then inconsistencies start. If we as civil society movements, as activists stick our ground, speak the truth, work in solidarity with our people, there's a power of truth that emerges.*** One simple example: Our Planning Commission is totally neo-liberal. But a few months ago we decided to call the bluff on genetic engineering feeding the world, and we did our own report on nutrition, how ecological systems produce malnutrition. And they were forced literally to adopt that agenda because there's a desperate need for a new paradigm.

Q: What about labor rights in green economy?

Labor rights have indeed disappeared in discussions in the discussion and also in reality. Everywhere, labor is being made to look like the criminal of the peace, that it's the aristocracy demanding, saying that unionization is what has led to unviable economies and hire-and-fire and exploit people in a slave context. In India, we have casualization of labor where there are no labor rights. If you look at America what is happening with Wisconsin and the big blow-up around labor rights?

Conventionally in economics they should talk about capital, land and labor. Land as ecology is being devastated, labor as people is being devastated and we are being asked to think of capital as the ultimate security for everyone and that's where I feel our alternatives are important because if the green economy is designed in order for everything to become dependent on finance and capital, then we can be sure we have it because that is what's collapsing. Between speculation and sustainability it has no promise and therefore we need people-centered, nature-centered economies. And the reason for this is so important now is not just because our communities – whether were agricultural, or fisher folk, IP...That was always important. But this is becoming important globally. I advised the President of Spain because their economies are collapsing they don't know what to do. The state cannot provide jobs, the corporations cannot either so we got to do something else. And that's where we can find a new, search for a new sustainable model. That will be the people's green economy where we need to be concrete, but not reduced to small micro-practices but our practices need to evolve theories that challenge the highly bankrupt theory and paradigm of the neoliberal economy.

I cannot go into the details of the geopolitics of energy between India and US but I will just quote Condoleeza Rice. We were forced to sign a new treaty and while Condoleeza Rice was justifying it in US Congress, one statement she made was, they haven't built a nuclear power plant in 30 years. The reason we need India to build nuclear power plants is both we get business for General Electric and the others, but also because if they have nuclear they will leave the oil for us and won't compete for oil. So there's a kind of division of labor - oil for us, nuclear for you. And of course coal for everyone – for Australia, America, India. If you look at those policies for sure – the genetic engineering policy, the biotech policy... Today they are now debating a biotechnology law which would undo all our laws and leave GMOs totally unregulated while imprisoning activists who question GMOs. So we are in a time where, I don't call it anymore a narrow imperialistic agenda, but a corporate imperialistic agenda. It's for Monsanto that the White House works and it's tragic because the White House could be

independent. It's for the coal lobby and the oil lobby that the White House works. So imperialism today has really become the imperialism of the five big oil, the five big seed, the five big food, the five big water companies. And that's where unfortunately the US government is the most willing player to push that on other countries of the world and the only counter... our governments used to be the counter because they were sovereign. Today they've also been wrapped up in that thinking as well as that power structure and that's why the only counter is well-networked, well-organized civil society.

Q: How do you assess Rio+10?

Very tragic. It was the first time the environment movement actually did a walkout because we said you are hijacking the Rio agenda and replacing it with the corporate agenda. The cars were right in the hall. The water privatizing companies, the Suisse and the Vivendis were literally displaying everything right inside the hall and as we moved, as there was more and more undoing and rolling back of the sustainable development commitments into commodification commitments, all of us got together and... Bob Brown head of Green Party Australia, he and I was to lead the march and he and I realized what the police in the apartheid regime has been because these young boys with brutal eyes willing to crush you, they beat us out, they trashed us out. So the Rio+10 was an attempt already to undo Rio and if it wasn't for the fact that all of us joined this movement because were so deeply committed, there are commitments carried on and continue to build the sustainability agenda.

Neth Dano

Q: What should be CSOs' CSO roles and strategies?

Our key role is to continue pushing for the alternative paradigms that we have been fighting for, and reminding ourselves and our own ranks that we have to be much more critical in engaging supposedly progressive languages.

Many of the big green groups have actually run in the train now, they have this Green Economy Coalition in support of the green economy. By exposing the language and the incoherence in the whole play, since the motivation has been dishonest, you can see the incoherence, even the language and the way they present the concept. Take for example the Green Economy report and look at that vis-a-vis the FAO's. In the meeting last week, the Japanese had a hard time

explaining this saying that their idea of the green economy is more realistic than UNEP's (which is pushing for agro-ecological farming) because they know that agro-ecological farming cannot feed the world thus the need to entertain some chemical farming as well. So within the system, the way they understand GE is very different, there's a lot of disparity and incoherence in the way they present and understand the concepts and that to me presents an opportunity.



We should also be very wary of the very clear deception along the way, the links between the different parts of the UN, and the hijacking of the languages that we love. i.e. the Greening the Economy through Agriculture initiative of the FAO in coming up with a charter and a roadmap, you can actually see how it would impact on the negotiations on the UNFCCC because by forcing the government to sign a charter you're actually telling them that they have to do a lot of mitigation as developing countries. It's not a commitment under the UNFCCC but it becomes a commitment under the FAO. The GE report contains the languages that we love that's why many are misled to support the GE as UNEP is pushing for it and also the fact that some of the report writers are from our ranks. The agriculture report, for example, was mainly written by friends from the movement, so we have a lot of work before us in the next years after 2012.

Q: Do we have hope?

There is hope and a lot of opportunities because many developing countries are coming in the discussions unprepared. They don't have much to present in terms of what they have done since Rio 1992 and look at the green economy as a life vest, without which they have nothing to say about what they have done on sustainable development.

Dr. Wanhua Yang

On UNEP –SK Government relations

On UNEP's image in South Korea, I don't know the actual incident but absolutely everybody sometimes do not do things right. For South Korea's role in UNEP, SKs right now has the green growth, ***UNEP is looking at SK as a sort of model to see how to go with green growth. UNEP is working with S. Korean government to formulate a plan for green economy. UNEP got quite some support from your government on several projects*** – i.e. in Central Asia for climate change adaptation. We have a big project to support North Korea on environmental issues, and our regional director and some senior officers are from South Korea.



On the role of CSOs

The role of CSOs in general is to help the government and other organizations to shape policies and the road map, also how to have the scientific base for policymaking, to communicate and to do many other roles.

On what UNEP is really promoting

The green economy is just proposed to let people think inventively and see the whole concept of green economy. For example, some time ago when you talk about health issue you always talk about cure. WHO was able to turn that around to pay more attention to preventive cure. If people talking about environment, they only think about big money to address the environmental issue. That is why our director sees there is opportunity to talk environment as engine for development.

Of course there are many issues as raised by Paul and Dr. Shiva, but we need these critiques to help UNEP put GE in the context of sustainable development. We don't see GE as a new concept to replace sustainable development, but rather as a tool to achieve sustainable development

We do not just want to undo what is already proposed, but we just need working with governments and CSOs and to come up with good solutions. I would like to convey Paul's critique to the UNEP's green economy team for them to know that there are issues to be addressed. CSOs to achieve best strategies; Rio+20 is an opportunity to work together to address the issues we are facing, we are not changing the cause, we have to stick with the Rio principles.

Paul Quintos

I think all the questions have already been tackled and we're out of time. But just briefly on labor rights. The great contradiction that we witness everyday is that there are so many unemployed or underemployed, on the one hand and on the other an enormous basket of unmet social needs whether its health, education, etc. Side by side, this massive waste of human potential and capabilities and the massive unmet needs. This is a grave irrationality of the current system. ***The challenge for the labor movement is to rethink labor rights and decent work not just in terms of good wages, humane working conditions, security of tenure, but to claim the right to work productively to meet the needs of the people, for the needs of society and the environment.*** This means working people should have democratic control over the mode of production and consumption in society.

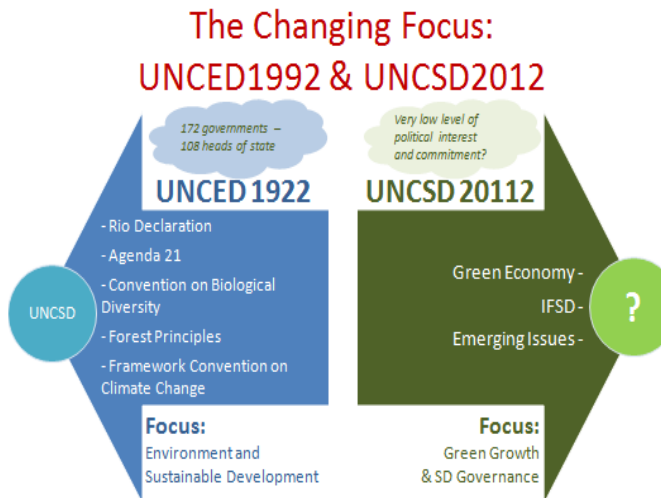


**State of Play and Mapping of Major Stakeholders' Positions: Opportunities for Engagement
Global and Regional Overview**

Uchita de Zoysa

Center for Environment and Development

For the past one year, participation in the Rio+20 process has been very low, civil society organizations, people's movements, including governments are not well represented. Why? It lacks a political mission and lacks a political commitment. The issues – green economy, IFSD, the emerging issues – they keep on pushing the pawns here and there. After 20 years, we do not know what the emerging issues are.



The Changing State of Play

The game plan is changing when the whole IFSD discussion is going to revolve around two institutions and how to get the 500+ multilateral agreements to be at the coordination of one or two organizations. Then the game plan will have to change. Then the current policies will have to change will be tinkering around them. There is absolutely no policy coherence, something we are absolutely 100% sure of. Governments will go to summits and sign on documents and do nothing. Signing a convention is nothing. Who holds them responsible for their signings?

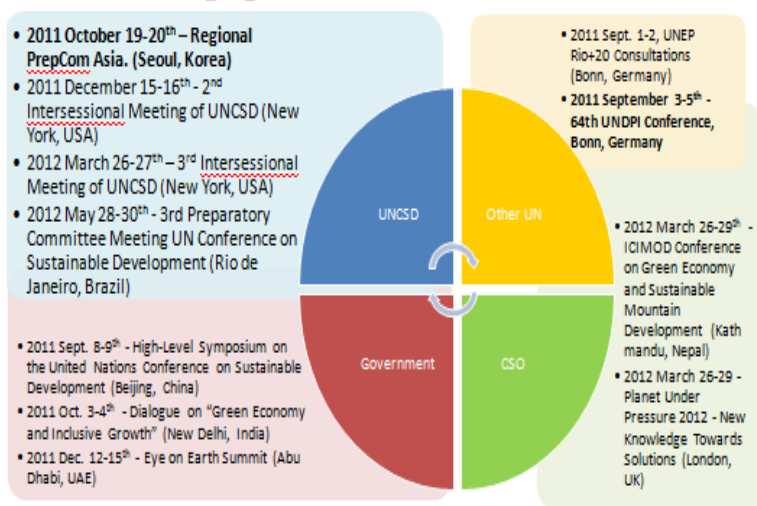
In the current institutional landscape, there are many players but these are the UN players fighting up to now. The whole architecture of the global power game is changing. We saw what happened in Copenhagen in 2009. What is the whole validity of G77 when the G20 moves to a different group? How do we position our game plan if we are from a developing country or the South? The game plan between government blocs are changing. Of course the current policies and programs. Again, the key discussions international environmental governance has been a baby of the UNEP for a very long time simply because they believe that they should be the environmental manager of the UN environment system. The problem is that they all take these agreements which cut across sustainability, including poverty and social issues then you can't get one organization in one pillar to leave out the more important pillars out of this.

The best approach to the institutional framework is not to empower a super cop called the UN. The lowest level of denomination of community is important. The whole discussion has to be embedded on the sustainable livelihood and lifestyles. There is a huge missing critical actor in this game - global citizens' movement. We have been territorial.

What are the opportunities for civil society engagements with these institutions?

The major groups and civil society and stakeholders have been invited by these UN bodies in Switzerland, Bonn, they are having a consultation. Please understand these are invitations only. There are CSO forums happening. The momentum is now gathering. It gives us greater hope that there are more people with diverse options that can be brought to the table, not just the single environmental discussion that we normally hear. The other one is PPP hybrid that's being used today to raise funds or to do jugglery and get to Rio and do something there. All of these are opportunities if we want to use it.

What are the various venues for CSO engagement with the UN?



Who are some opportunities for engagement?

The European Commission is pushing their agenda so are the G77 and China group, but the interesting part is the whole CSD caucuses. Today at any meeting, what happens is that we have to find common representative, business and civil society. No CSO had been invited to the three preparatory meetings except for the one so-called representative to the Major Groups. They have already decided from Asia and from Africa who should go to these meetings with excuses as limited funding for subsidies.

A Strategic Process towards an Asia Pacific Positions for a Zero Draft

Inputs to the Zero Draft

One is to submit positions and statements as inputs to the Zero Draft before November 1. Another is the meeting of the largest civil society gathering to consult with the UN in the Rio process, 3-5 September in Bonn, where CSOs have an opportunity to meet. There is a Bonn Declaration that would come out, in which the task is to ensure that there is reference to the Dhaka Declaration and the People's Statement.



Country Overview:

Indonesia (Don Marut, INFID), Thailand (TEIF) , China (Daxing Zhao, CANGO), Pacific Islands (Neth Dano)

Indonesia: Progressive SusDev movements excluded

Don Marut, INFID

NGOs in Indonesia were saved by (1) the Stockholm Conference because that time Soeharto wiped out all against him, those with different position from him were called Communists and had to be excluded. So then the first generation of NGOs took on environmental issues as the reference for taking position vis-à-vis the government and then in 1981 NGOs declared the Pakenjing Declaration on Biosphere Transformation, and this was anticipating the structural adjustment program sponsored by the World Bank in Indonesia at that time and also of the development of big dams. The position was majority of NGOs in Indonesia were environmental in principle to promote alternative development against government development paradigm sponsored by World Bank and major donors, including European and US governments. But at the same time, the environmental issue was also captured by the intellectuals, bureaucrats, technocrats or what we call in Indonesia the Barclay Mafia - the economists who introduced the neo-classical economy and turn into neoliberal economy. So in Rio, this Barclay Mafia mobilized the NGOs but fortunately there were some critical activists who then split from the government delegates to Rio so they could still have chance educating people about sustainable development.

In preparation for Rio+20, the situation is still the same. In terms of policies, there is the “dormitory complex” – everybody’s property has names, and the names identified the territory. Those were outside of the territory are not allowed in the policy process, and this happens to environmental issues. During the climate change conference, the person who participated in Stockholm and Rio+10, until now – are the ones still at the top of the pyramid of this environmental dormitory complex. He also represents the WB interest, the mining interest, big financial services interest. So there is no chance for those with critical alternative thoughts in promoting ideas to this group. And now this group also captured civil society. A leading environmental organization in environmental issues, Walhi Friends fo the Earth, which expands not only on environmental issues but to sustainable development as their focus of program in advocacy and policy, is being looked up to by all NGOS working on the issue. But because they have different position on climate change particularly REDD, they are now excluded, paralyzed and almost collapsed. They are blocked from participating in Rio+20 preparatory meeting in Korea and all other venues.

There are still strong movements on the ground, nonetheless, and WALHI is taking the lead in mobilizing this. There is Serikahijo, this is the green movement of Indonesia composed of people’s organizations facilitated by WALHI in the past. There is another group also called ORA, a people’s organization, which started with alternative organic medicines, initiated by ex-communist people who were not allowed to do any business. The other is the network of My Development Goals, the alternative to MDGs, and then there are labor unions – they are now aware that green growth will affect their job security also. The Indonesian official delegation in the Rio+10, they are also prominent civil society activists who joined ... from other countries have to be very careful with Indonesian official delegates because they are also part of OECD Green Growth Group, WB and ADB green growth groups so they have prepared green economy, all these things that undo the Rio.

Thailand: Participatory, research-oriented, and rights-based approach

Peter Limpiyawon, TEI

Where is Rio at the national level?

Thailand is not very active in terms of meetings in international arena, but as usual it now has a confirmed the head of delegation, as 20 years ago in the first Rio meeting. It has the office of natural resources and environmental planning as the focal point for the Rio negotiations but the two major parties in the negotiations would be the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Thailand has a new cabinet just last week on the 9th of August which means positions and preparations are still pending –although there are already some government agencies doing some work on the process. There is a working committee on Rio+20, a prep meeting was conducted few months ago and TEI was invited.

TEI employs participatory and research-based approaches to Rio and sustainable development. TEI was asked by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to prepare the country report on the green economy and one of its partners, the Good Governance for Social Development and Environment Foundation, was commissioned by the MFA to prepare Thailand's position paper, and both agreed to have it be done on a participatory approach – this means Thai position will be decided in consultation with the people. There is also now a network called the Access Initiative in Thailand – a network of CSOs that promote Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration – that is promoting public participation, access to information, and access to environmental justice.

TEI believes that to make environment better having a structure will make everything will go well. It sees three major approaches to conceptualizing environmental issues: the first is the aid approach – which looks at people as victims of environmental problems and should be given food and other help that they need. The second approach is the development approach which sees people as recipient of development and the government is the primary agent of development. Lastly, and the one that should be adopted, is the rights approach where we try to empower people to be able to participate. Environmental democracy and governance must be strengthened from the ground.

PEOPLE'S STATEMENT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND RIO+20

**August 17, 2011
Bangkok, Thailand**

We, 52 women and men from 18 countries - Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China and Hongkong SAR, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Spain, Thailand, Timor Leste, USA, and Vietnam - and representing peasants, agricultural workers, fisherfolk, indigenous peoples, workers, women, youth and students, refugees and stateless persons, academia, environmental and support NGOs and networks met for the 'Promoting a Transformative Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Strategy Workshop on Rio+20' on August 15-17, 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand.

We have come to this meeting fully aware that twenty years after the UN Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, popularly known as the Earth Summit, the world is farther than ever from reaching the goals of genuine people-centered sustainable development. The multi-faceted, yet interconnected crises encompassing the economic, political and ecological spheres are causing unparalleled suffering all over the world. Worst afflicted are people from poor countries, most especially women and indigenous peoples.

This crisis of global capitalism further propels profit-driven and unsustainable development that causes irreversible damage to the world's environment. This crisis results in the global climate meltdown, the appropriation of natural resources and the destruction of lives and livelihoods, especially of ecologically-sensitive indigenous and traditional livelihood systems.

Rio+20 in 2012 thus comes at an opportune time, when the world's governments and peoples are obliged to think of alternatives to the current development model with its ever-increasing failures. It presents opportunities to push urgently and comprehensively the agenda for genuine people-centered sustainable development.

Indeed, solutions exist. And they are in our hands, the people, who in our communities, workplaces, farms and forests, make the building blocks of genuine people-centered sustainable development. As we strengthen and consolidate our movements to achieve genuine economic, political, social, gender, ecological and climate justice, we call on the leaders of governments, multilateral institutions and other stakeholders to heed the people's calls for genuine sustainable development.

We urge governments and the UN system to deliver and not backtrack on the promises and commitments made in Rio twenty years ago.

In particular, we put forward these messages:

On the Green Economy

We are alarmed at the corporatization of the Green Economy agenda. We believe that technological fixes and market-based incentives are false solutions to the ecological and climate crises and will not advance sustainable development.

For sustainable economies to develop, it is crucial to democratize ownership, control and decision-making over productive resources and assets. We should move from a capital investment model towards an appropriate mix of more democratic modes such as cooperative, community-based and driven, commons or public forms of ownership to ensure that economic activity provides sustainable livelihoods and meets the developmental goals of the community and society.

- Public enterprises should remain in public control and privatization should be reversed.
- Promote sufficiency-based economies (i.e. catering primarily towards meeting local needs and demands, developing local capacities, based on available resources, appropriate technologies and resource sharing).
- Manufacturing should promote closed-loop production where products are designed with minimum use of energy and materials, longer life-spans and with maximum reuse and recycling of parts and components.
- Promote mass public transportation systems.
- Implement genuine agrarian, aquatic, pastureland and forestry reforms; and promote biodiverse ecological agriculture that benefit small producers, especially women and indigenous people.
- Stop profit-oriented exploitation and destruction of natural resources that destroy lives and livelihoods.
- Stop industrial corporate agriculture and fisheries.
- No to renewable energy that depends on monoculture and biomass extraction.
- Respect and promote community-based and farmer-driven efforts in organic agriculture, seedbanking and on-farm improvement of crop varieties and animal breeds.
- People-centred sustainable economies should promote the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in accordance with UNDRIP including rights to land and resources, and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

On the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

To deliver on the promises of the first Earth Summit, there is a need for an effective and democratic institutional framework that can and will ensure economic progress, social equity and environmental protection – the three pillars of sustainable development -- in an integrated and holistic manner. This governance architecture must operationalize and implement the Rio principles including the Right to Development, common but differentiated responsibility, the polluter pays principle and the precautionary principle.

- Building a strong apex body on sustainable development that works on a global level and can integrate the disparate United Nations bodies working on one of the three pillars of sustainable development is desirable. Options that should be explored include transforming the Commission on Sustainable Development into a Council on Sustainable Development, or establishing a UN Organization on Sustainable Development.
- Rio+20 should work for the immediate establishment of a broad inclusive multi-stakeholder consultative body or network tasked with supporting the promotion and implementation of Agenda 21 and Rio+20 resolutions. Such body should be participatory, democratic, and have an integral multi-stakeholder character that accords civil society with equal rights and equal voice as governments.
- Ultimately, the effectiveness of a global body on sustainable development rests on the effective functioning of similar institutions at the local and national levels and its relevance to people's lives.

On New and Emerging Issues

- The UNCSD 2012 must affirm and strengthen internationally-agreed principles and objectives for sustainable development at all levels of government. All actors should be held accountable to well-established international standards and conventions – e.g. Right to Development, Human Rights conventions, Extractive Industry Accountability, Transparency Accountability Initiative, etc.
- Reorganize international trade, investment, finance and development cooperation relations around rules that value, respect, protect and fulfill people's rights; economic, social, gender ecological and climate justice; economic sovereignty and self-sufficiency.
- Enhance development cooperation in support of sustainable development.
- Commitments from the North in the form of adequate financing (according to common but differentiated responsibility), appropriate technology cooperation, and needs-based capacity building are of utmost importance to support developing countries make a just transition to sustainable development pathways.
- Developing countries and their development partners should evaluate the coherence of their policies in trade and investments and rectify those that are incoherent with sustainable development. Repudiate unequal trade and investment agreements.
- Restructure foreign direct investments in the context of South-South Cooperation (not North-South or South-South competition) to include regulatory controls and a transition period.
- Uphold food sovereignty to address the food crisis. Communities should have the right to determine their patterns of food production and consumption, and farmers should be able to prioritize food production for domestic consumption. Government should give incentives to sustainable food production practices.
- Reject the intellectual property rights regime and other monopolistic enclosures that impede people's access to commons and productive resources.
- There should be a global mechanism to assess the impacts of new technologies. Such mechanism should provide resources towards building capacity of countries and communities to assess and monitor the health, biodiversity and environmental impacts of new technologies. We support the adoption of an International Convention for the Evaluation of New Technologies (ICENT) and an outright ban on technologies that put the planet at grave risks such as geo-engineering.
- Governments should invest in research and development on people-centered sustainable development.
- Policies should respect cultural diversity, and modern science should be combined with indigenous knowledge in bottom-up approaches of research and development to develop technologies that are appropriate and democratic.

Communities have shown extreme resilience and creativity in confronting the spiraling multiple crises, utilizing various mechanisms not just to survive, but also to assert their economic, social, cultural and political rights. In the midst of this protracted crisis of the global capitalist system, people dare to imagine and build a new world where development means promoting the well-being and dignity of all; where prosperity is created through shared resources and efforts; where nature's limits are respected; and where nations, peoples and communities cooperate to ensure democracy, justice, equity, peace and prosperity for all.

Today, even more so than twenty years ago, people of the world are aware that the challenge of genuine sustainable development requires no less than the profound transformation of societies and of international relations. We must all rise up to the challenge. #

Signatories

Aidwatch Philippines
Anakbayan-California/Katarungan-Washington DC, USA
Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), Lebanon
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
Asia Monitor Resource Center (AMRC), Hong Kong
Asia Pacific Forum for Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN)
Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST), Philippines
Burma Environmental Working Group (BEWG)
Center for Community Economics and Development Consultants (CECOEDECON), India
Centre for Environment and Development (CED), Sri Lanka
Center for Peoples Democratic Governance (CPDG), Philippines
Centre for Sustainable Development in Mountainous Areas (CSDM), Vietnam
Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Vietnam
China Association of NGOs (CANGO), China
Coastal Development Partnership (CDP), Bangladesh
Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC)
Dignity International
Earth Rights International
Ecumenical Institute for Labor Institute (EILER), Philippines
Equity and Justice Working Group Bangladesh (EquityBD), Bangladesh
ETC Group
Forum of Womens NGOs of Kyrgyzstan
Foundation for Consumers, Thailand
Green Movement of Sri Lanka (GMSL)
IBON International
International NGO Forum for Indonesian Development (INFID), Indonesia
Institute for Motivating Self-Employment (IMSE), India
Instituto de Estudios Politicos para America Latina y Africa (IEPALA), Spain
Khmer Institute for Democracy (KID), Cambodia
Korean Civil Society Forum on International Cooperation (KOFID), South Korea
Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM), South Korea
Korea NGO Council for Overseas Cooperation (KCOC), South Korea
Local Development Institute, Thailand
Navdanya International
ODA Watch Korea
Participatory Research and Development Initiative (PRDI), Bangladesh
Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PAN AP)
Peoples Movement on Climate Change (PMCC)
Peoples Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, South Korea
Public Interest Research Centre, India
Reality of Aid Asia Pacific (ROA-AP)
Roots for Equity, Pakistan
Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN), Burma
Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE), Philippines
Sustainable Rural Development (SRD), Vietnam
Thai Committee for Refugees Foundation, Thailand
Timor Leste NGO Forum/FONGTIL
World Society for the Protection of Animals – Southeast Asia Office
Vikas Adhyayan Kendra (VAK), India

Additional Signatories as of September 14, 2011

Center for Environmental
Concerns (CEC), Philippines
Uganda Coalition for Sustainable
Development - Rio and beyond
Bangladesh NGOs Network for
Radio and Communication
(BNNRC)
Partnership for Governance
Reforms (Kemitraan), Indonesia
Franciscans International (Asia
Pacific)
Water and Quality of Life
Foundation, Thailand
Labour, Health and Human Rights
Development Centre, Nigeria
Pergerakan Indonesia
Kampala, Uganda
Indigenous People's Issues and
Resources, USA
NNARA Youth-UPM, Philippines
Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas
(KMP), Philippines
Asian Peasant Coalition
APVVU, India
SAHANIVASA, India
Civil Society Counterpart Council
for Sustainable Development,
Philippines

ACTION PLAN

	RESEARCH	INFO & COMMUNICATION	LOBBY WORK	MOBILIZATION	COORDINATION	OTHERS
LOCAL					District and provincial level meetings on Rio+20	
NATIONAL	-Country researches/ assessments on the implementation of Rio commitments	-Publication of research studies in the local language	-Presentation of Rio+20 roadmap to government		-Capacity-building workshops and consultations of different sectors	Fund-raising for CSO Initiatives
	-National-level political mapping	-Media workshops/ press conferences	-Lobbying with the government team to include research/ reports in the official position			
	-Drafting of critique on the green economy	-Educational forums/ roundtable discussions on green economy issues (green jobs, agriculture, fisheries, etc.)				
		ABCs of Rio+20				
		-Popularization of alternative Perspective to Rio+20 via Social networking sites				
REGIONAL	-Regional political mapping	-South Asia: CSO regional meeting in Colombo	-Publication of Northeast Asia regional white paper on the environmental situation in China, Korea and Japan	Regional prep meeting: CSO side event in Korea	-Skype meetings	
		-Maximization and expansion of existing listserve for info exchanges	-Consolidation of critique to input on the zero draft		-Formation of loose platform for coordination and Communication	
		-Production and circulation of education materials/ capacity-building modules	-Participation at the Rio+20 meetings and CSO parallel processes (UNEP meeting, AP regional meet)		-Creation of support systems for other CSOs	
GLOBAL		-Submission of CSO inputs to the zero draft	-Representation of different sectors In high-level meetings (Seoul and Rio+20)	-COP 17 actions – Durban		
		-Education/ information Campaigns on upcoming key Events (FAO World Food Day, COP17, HLF)				

MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE

A small group was formed to follow up the long list of activities and share updates on engagements, etc. Volunteered and nominated to the group were the following:

Azra Sayeed, Roots for Equity
Gilbert Sape, PAN AP
Sundaru Babu, VAK
Paul Quintos, IBON
Uchita de Zoysa, CED
Neth Dano, ETC
Ujjaini Halim, IMSE
Suranjan Kodithuwakku, GMSL
Mahbub Hasan, Bangladesh
Tomoko Kashihawazi, APWLD
(1 slot is reserved for South Korea)

PROMOTING A TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

A Regional Conference on Development Models
and CSO Strategizing Session on Rio+20



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