



# UN CSD - Major Group for Children and Youth

## Text Amendments for Zero Draft- 02/28/2012

### III. Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

#### A. Framing the context of the green economy, challenges and opportunities

22. We commit to improving governance and capacity at all levels – global, regional, national and local – to promote integrated decision making, to fill the implementation gap and promote coherence across institutions. Additionally, we commit to change current unsustainable economic practices to promote sustainable and fair development for all.

24. We call for a global policy framework requiring all listed and large private companies to consider sustainability issues and to integrate sustainability information within the reporting cycle. We ask governments to help, guide, and assess private companies' achievements in regards to sustainable goals through innovative policies.

28. We recognize that each country, respecting specific realities of economic, social and environmental development as well as particular conditions and priorities, will make the necessary choices adapted to their own conditions. ~~appropriate choices .~~

30. We acknowledge, however, that developing countries are facing great challenges in eradicating poverty and sustaining growth and a transition to a green economy will require structural adjustments, which may involve additional costs to their economies. In this regard, the support of the international community is necessary. We also encourage developing countries to develop new strategies that would emancipate them from international support.

#### B. Toolkits and experience sharing

33. b) a toolbox of good practices in applying green economy policies at regional, national and local levels ,such good practices should use common assets trusts and public goods protections;

33. c) a set of indicators to measure progress including alternatives to GDP and commonly used economic indicators

33. e) a set of measures to draw the attention of states to the multiple benefices of sustainable development.

#### C. Framework for action

34. We request the UN Secretary-General, in consultation with international organizations, relevant entities of the UN system and others, to establish such a platform and to establish a review process to determine the linkage of such platform with already existing institutions.

39. We encourage the United Nations, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, to support developing countries at their request in developing green economy strategies through formalized centre of knowledge sharing and capacity building.

41. We acknowledge and encourage voluntary national commitments and actions by State actors as well as stakeholders to achieve a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, including through the shaping of innovative partnerships. We also commit ourselves to develop an adapted and normative framework of actions enabling international institutions to compel member states to achieve significant change.

42. b) To launch an international process to promote the role of innovative instruments of finance for building green economies, while taking care that all stakeholders, including indigenous communities, accept and benefit from these new instruments;

42. e) To encourage creation of Centres of Excellence as nodal points for green technology R&D and ensuring that such points are geographically balanced;

42. f) To support developing countries' scientists and engineers and scientific and engineering institutions to foster their efforts to develop green local technologies and use traditional knowledge while keeping the precautionary principles as a rule for using new technologies or scientific knowledge;

We request the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the UN system, to provide a report for the General Assembly at its 67th session, detailing further steps in this regard. We call for the establishment of a peer-reviewing mechanism for governments efforts towards sustainable development similar to the universal periodic review process performed by the UNHRC, and call for strong scientific interface in this reviewing process.

#### **IV. Institutional framework for sustainable development**

##### **A. Strengthening/reforming/integrating the three pillars**

44. e) Provide a means to ensure that the needs of future generations are taken into account in all relevant policies and decision-making processes.

49. – delete -

49 alt. bis The work of the Council should be based on fundamental documents on sustainable development such as Agenda 21, the Rio principles and related outcomes. The Council should, inter alia, fully carry out the functions and mandates of the Commission for Sustainable Development. It would be guided by the need to promote integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, promote effective implementation at all levels and promote effective institutional coherence, including between the Bretton Woods and UN institutions. It should help in enhancing the involvement of all stakeholders, particularly major groups, with increased participation and representativeness in the follow-up of Rio+20.

51. – delete -

51 alt. We resolve to establish a UN specialized agency for the environment with universal membership of its Governing Council, based on UNEP, with a revised and strengthened mandate, supported by stable, adequate and predictable financial contributions and operating on an equal footing with other UN specialized agencies. This agency, based in Nairobi, would cooperate closely with other specialized agencies and would integrate the effective participation of civil society at all levels of decision making, on the basis of the nine major groups.

53. We call for the scientific basis for science-based decision making and monitoring to be strengthened across the UN system and recognise that the interface between science and policy-making should be enhanced. We call for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Panel on Sustainable Development, that functions as an umbrella organization which would review relevant scientific knowledge (including natural sciences, social sciences, economics and traditional knowledge). The Panel should also be mandated to provide an assessment of ecological boundaries.

57. We support the proposal to establish agree to further consider the establishment of an Ombudsperson, or High Commissioner for Future Generations, with an agenda setting and monitoring role, to act as the advocate for the interests and needs of future generations in the context of to promote sustainable development, helping to provide an integrated approach at the highest level of UN decision making, policies and programmes. The Office of an Ombudsperson or High Commissioner for Future Generations should exercise its functions in close co-operation with civil society.

58. We agree to take steps to give further effect to Rio Principle 10 at the global, regional and national level, as appropriate. We call all relevant political institutions to consider the representation of a minimum of 2 non-voting representatives of civil society in their respective bureaux.

58.bis We agree to launch negotiations for the establishment of an international framework convention on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and/or regional conventions, that deals with access to information, public participation and environmental justice.

58. ter. We call for the establishment of a World Environmental Court to take decisions related to the non-respect of national obligations under international environmental law. This court will provide a forum for individuals and communities to hold states party to international environmental agreements legally accountable of their commitments. Procedures for individuals and communities to file a complaint to the Court should be based on those of existing Human Rights courts

#### **D. Regional, national, local**

61. We underline the need for improved integration of sustainability into more coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at the national level. We therefore call on countries to establish in national law Ombudspersons for Future Generations, independent of the executive, with access to information, legal powers and duties to report, monitor and examine progress by government and public bodies advocating for the interests and needs of future generations. This institution would be expected to consider petitions from the public to enhance stakeholder participation in sustainable development policy making. We call on countries to establish and strengthen, as appropriate, national sustainable development councils to enable them to coordinate, consolidate and ensure the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues in the highest decision-making bodies, with the integration and full participation of all stakeholders, including each of the nine major groups identified in Agenda 21.

### **V. Framework for action and follow-up**

#### **Food security**

64. We reaffirm the right to food and the importance of farming to social and economic development, and call upon all States to prioritize sustainable intensification of food production through increased investment in local food production, developing sustainable food systems, improving access to local and global agri-food markets. We also call for the reinforcement of farmers' role and reduced waste throughout the value chain, with special attention to women, smallholders, youth, and indigenous farmers. We are committed to ensuring proper nutrition for our people and the protection of ecosystem services.

65. We call for more transparent and open trading systems and, where appropriate, practices that contribute to the stability of food prices and domestic markets; ensure access to land, water and other resources; resource efficiency, and support social protection programmes.

66. We call on all actors to ramp up support for agricultural knowledge systems including research, advisory services, vocational training, and farmer-to-farmer training.

#### **Water**

67. We recognize the global challenge of water and we underline the importance of the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. We recognize the role of the private sector and civil society in meeting this overachieving goal. Furthermore, we highlight the critical importance of water resources for sustainable development, including poverty and hunger eradication, public health, food security, hydropower energy, land use, agriculture and rural and urban development.

69. We renew our commitment made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) regarding the development and implementation of integrated water resources management, the nexus approach and water efficiency plans. We call for the development of specific water efficiency measures to track water use throughout all sectors including agriculture, energy, industrial and urban use. We call member states to consider the impact of economic and social policies in the water availability in their countries. Furthermore, we call for the implementation of national and regional water-basin frameworks to improve

mechanism for solving conflicts among water users, improving public-private dialogue and promoting assessment and monitoring systems. We reaffirm our commitment to the 2005-2015 International Decade for Action "Water for Life". We encourage cooperation initiatives for water resources management in particular through capacity development, exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned, as well as sharing appropriate environmentally sound technologies and the development of capacity toolkit for the promotion of small scale efficient use of water and risk-management techniques.

## **Energy**

70. We propose to build on the Sustainable Energy for All initiative launched by the Secretary-General, reiterates the goals established, by Agenda 21 and the framework of implementation laid out by JPOI; with special attention to the WEHAB cross-sectoral priority areas. Those goals being the provision of universal access to affordable energy services for both consumption and production uses by 2030, improving energy and resource efficiency at all levels by doubling the rate of improvement by 2030, and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. We call for the promotion, development and use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency technologies in all countries. We call for provision of adequate financial resources, delivered in a timely manner, to developing countries for the provision of access to and efficient use of energy sources.

## **Cities**

72. We commit to promote an integrated and holistic approach to planning and building sustainable cities through support to local authorities, efficient transportation and communication networks, green buildings and an efficient human settlements and service delivery system, improved air and water quality, reduced waste, improved disaster preparedness and response and increased climate resilience through the implementation of sustainable master-plans and drainage plans.

## **Green jobs-social inclusion**

73. a) We call for specialized measures and training programs to facilitate gender equality in the economic sphere through enhanced participation of women into the workplace.

74. We also recognize that significant job creation opportunities can be availed through investments in public works for restoration and enhancement of natural capital, sustainable land and water management practices, family farming, ecological farming, organic production systems, sustainable forest management, rational use of biodiversity for economic purposes, and new markets linked to renewable and unconventional energy sources. We encourage business and industry to contribute to green job creation throughout their global supply chains, including through support to small and medium enterprises. We also call businesses and policy-makers to create green angles in all jobs to ensure that every profession has a sustainable dimension.

76.c) put in place an enabling environment for robust creation of decent jobs by private enterprises investing in the green economy, ~~including by small and medium enterprises.~~

## **Oceans and SIDS**

78. We recognize that oceans are critical to sustaining Earth's life support systems. Careless exploitation of the oceans and their resources puts at risk the ability of oceans to continue to provide food and other economic benefits and environmental services to humankind. Worldwide, there is a large population that relies heavily or solely upon fisheries and the ocean for sustenance and livelihood. We stress the importance of the conservation, sustainable management and equitable sharing of marine and ocean resources. We also recognize the significant economic, social and environmental contribution of coral reefs to island and coastal States, and support cooperation based on the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).

80. We note the establishment by the UN General Assembly of an Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, and we agree to initiate immediately, as soon as possible, the negotiation of an implementing agreement to UNCLOS that would address the conservation and

sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, based on a sense of shared responsibility and the principles of subsidiarity and intergenerational equity. This process should lead by 2015 to the establishment of a permanent, legally-binding Global Commons Trust that cooperatively and responsibly develop, manage, maintain, and equitably share in the usage and benefits coming from resources that are held in common by the community at large.

83. We note that despite agreement to restore global fish stocks to sustainable levels by 2015, many stocks continue to be depleted unsustainably. We call upon States to re-commit to maintaining or restoring depleted fish stocks to sustainable levels and to further commit to implementing science-based management plans ~~to rebuild stocks~~ by 2015.

**\*\*\* Note: We understand that SIDS should be their own section. The sustainable development challenges related to SIDS go beyond vulnerability related to increasing sea levels. By including SIDS within the oceans sections, other challenges related to energy generation, pollution and geospatial considerations are not recognized. \*\*\***

#### **Anthropogenic Hazards and Natural Disasters**

87. We reiterate the call for disaster risk reduction to continue to be addressed in the context of sustainable development and placed within the post-2015 development agenda. We call for increased coordination among national, regional and international levels for a robust response to environmental emergencies and improved forecasting and early warning systems and prevention, as well as closer coordination between emergency response, early recovery and development efforts, including adoption of a post “Hyogo Framework” and its integration into development policy. We also recognize the need to address specific human hazards that increase Member States vulnerability to natural disasters such as conflict, deforestation and unsustainable planning.

#### **Forests and biodiversity**

90. We support policy frameworks, market instruments and technology that effectively slow, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation and promote the sustainable use and management of forests, as well as their conservation and restoration. We call for the urgent implementation of the “Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests (NLBI)”.

#### **Mountains**

94. We recognize that mountainous regions and people provide essential goods and services for human survival. We recognize the need to create global, regional, national, and local mechanisms to support mountain communities in providing essential resources and services for human well-being. We underline the importance of supporting green and low-carbon economic activities in mountain regions through capacity building and development of suitable technologies, as well as innovative means of financing for sustainable development and conservation of mountain regions. We stress the pivotal role of regional centres of competence in research and development to achieve solutions that take into account the specificities of mountain areas. We welcome new opportunities for public-private partnerships and investments in mountain ecosystem goods and services, especially in the fields of renewable energy, sustainable forest management, sustainable tourism, responsible industrial development, and climate-smart agriculture including promotion of natural products.

#### **Chemicals and waste**

95. We call for strengthening the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), to step up efforts towards a more robust, coherent, effective and efficient international regime for chemicals throughout their lifecycle. Sustainable and adequate long-term funding will be important to assist developing countries with sound chemical and waste management through an integrated approach. We also recognize that toxic chemicals can work accumulate and cause lasting impacts to biodiversity. We commit to further research into these chemicals and their effects on the environment.

96. We commend the increased coordination and cooperation among the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and call for

public-private partnerships aiming to enhance capacity and technology for environmentally sound waste management. We also note with concern the emerging challenges of electronic waste and plastics in the marine environment, which should be addressed inter-alia through appropriate programmes and environmentally sound technologies for material and energy recovery and recycling.

### **Education, Training and Research**

98. We recognize that access by all people to quality education is an essential condition for sustainable development and social inclusion. We also recognize that education and life-long training for sustainable development serve as the basis for a green economy and green society. We commit to strengthening the contribution of our education systems to the pursuit of sustainable development, including through enhanced teacher training, curricula development and use of I-CT. Education and training for sustainable development should be cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary, and provide a basic set of knowledge, skills and competences related to sustainable development for all.

98. a) We call for, in particular, special initiatives to promote education, both primary and beyond primary, for girls.

99. We call upon all Higher Education Institution to become models of best practice and transformation by setting an example of sustainability of facilities on their campuses and teaching sustainable development as a module across all disciplines. Through the active participation of faculty and students, sustainable practices will become embedded in learning and action.

100. We commit to promote formal, non-formal and informal Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to address the various stakeholders and the public at large in order to promote the principles of sustainable development.

101. We commit to promote education, training and research for sustainable development beyond the end of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in 2014, through the implementation of relevant strategies and tools to educate a new generations of students in the values, key disciplines and holistic, cross-disciplinary approaches essential to promoting sustainable development. We call upon academic ranking, accreditation institutions and governments to integrate sustainable development education, training and research activities as a new criterion in their evaluations of the performance of Higher Education Institution.

101.bis We call for the continuation of the activities of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development beyond 2014 and assign UNESCO as the coordinator, involving interested states, relevant intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders. This partnership should set concrete short-, mid- and long-term objectives for the promotion and implementation of ESD, build on best practices, and be periodically reviewed. This partnership should also mobilize resources via voluntary contributions to facilitate a scaling up existing local, national, regional and global initiatives on ESD and the Green Education Fund.

### **Gender equality**

102. We recognize that sustainable development is linked to and depends on women's economic contributions, both formal and informal. We note with concern that persistent social and economic inequities continue to affect women and children, who make up the majority of those living in poverty. Poverty is a major barrier to education, especially for women and girls. Education is the key to unlocking successive barriers to women and girls in society.

103. We call for the removal of barriers that have prevented women from being full participants in the economy and unlocking their potential as drivers of sustainable development. It is important to prioritize measures to promote gender equality in all spheres of our societies, including education, employment, ownership of resources, access to justice, political representation, institutional decision-making, as well as the traditional spheres of caregiving and household management.

103. a) We reaffirm the connection between women's equality, education, and sexual and reproductive rights and lower rates of unintended pregnancies. We further affirm that reproductive rights are a form of self-determination, and affect a woman's ability to fully participate in education initiatives as well as the workplace.

103. b) We recognize that women must have access to reproductive health care and family planning resources in order to be able to participate in productive activities. We therefore call upon all countries to provide accessible reproductive healthcare and to actively promote and protect reproductive and sexual rights.

## **B. Accelerating and measuring progress**

105. a) a set of global cost-effective Sustainable Development Goals that reflect an integrated and balanced treatment of the three dimensions of sustainable development, are consistent with the principles of Agenda 21, and are universal and applicable to all countries but allowing for differentiated approaches among countries;

## **C. Means of implementation**

### **Finance**

116. We reaffirm the key role of the private sector in promoting sustainable development including through multi-stakeholder partnerships. Public policy should create a stable investment climate and regulatory framework conducive to long-term investment and socially and environmentally responsible behaviour by business and industry. Additionally, we call for specific investments in irrigation, rainwater harvesting and natural systems to increase climate resiliency as well as increasing overseas development assistance (ODA) focused on agriculture.

### **Capacity Building**

121. We reaffirm the need for providing support to existing regional, sub-regional, basin-wide and local participatory structures and mechanisms in developing countries and encouraging their creation, where needed, with the aim of facilitating cooperation and the exchange of information, including capacity building, exchange of experiences and expertise to advance the implementation of the decisions at regional, sub regional,and basin-wide levels.

### **Registry/compendium of commitments**

128. We welcome the ~~voluntary~~ commitments made at Rio+20 and invite the Secretary-General to compile them in a registry/compendium that will serve as an accountability framework accessible to all members of civil society.