

ASIA-EUROPE ENVIRONMENT FORUM



Asia- Europe Strategies for the Earth Summit 2012

1st Scenario Planning Workshop
Yogyakarta, Indonesia 16th-18th July 2011

FINAL REPORT



ASEF's Contribution is made with the financial support of the European Commission



Asia Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum)

Asia Europe Strategies for the Earth Summit 2012: 1st Scenario Planning Workshop

FINAL REPORT¹

Asia-Europe Strategies for Earth Summit 2012: 1st Scenario Planning Workshop
Yogyakarta, Indonesia | 16th-18th July 2011

Executive Summary

The Asia-Europe Strategies for Earth Summit 2012 is a series of three informal consultation workshops to be held between stakeholders of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) process² in the lead up to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD). Over a period of 18 months, the exercise will focus on progressively developing a consolidated Asia-Europe position on a key point of the UNCSD agenda, namely, *establishing an Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD) in the context of overall International Environmental Governance (IEG) reform*. It will build upon the outcomes of prior consultations that have called for the UN to provide stronger leadership and more coherent frameworks to support policy formulation and the implementation of sustainable development objectives; to streamline co-ordination among the many UN agencies responsible for sustainable development; and to articulate and strengthen the IEG going forward. Apart from providing a strong Asia-Europe perspective, what will distinguish the outcomes from those of other multistakeholder consultation processes currently taking place is the use of foresighting techniques to systematically take into account uncertainty and unknown/unpredictable factors, drivers, trends and challenges that could influence the future of IEG.

The “Asia-Europe Strategies for Earth Summit 2012: 1st Scenario Planning Workshop” was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, from 16th to 18th July 2011. It was attended by 34 international participants representing governments, regional and international organisations, civil society organisations, academe, think tanks, the media, the private sector and the youth, in Asia and Europe. During the workshop, four scenarios were developed, each depicting a different IEG future for the world depending on the extent of reforms for IFSD agreed upon during the UNCSD, namely, (1) Status Quo; (2) Incremental Progress; (3) Fundamental Change; and (4) Beyond Institutional Change. These outcomes were subsequently presented during the UN High Level Dialogue on Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development held immediately after in Solo, Indonesia, attended by over 200 delegates representing 90 countries, 56 UN bodies, and environmental groups.

While it is too early to make decisive conclusions at this point, in the next two workshops, these scenarios will be further developed and completed, allowing for a desired future or futures, to eventually become evident. Recommendations that will result from this exercise will be part of a collective Asia-Europe effort “to address 21st century challenges and shape 21st century institutions”.

The Asia-Europe Strategies for Earth Summit 2012 is an initiative of the Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVforum), a partnership among the Asia-Europe Foundation, the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Institute of Global Environmental Strategies, the Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia and the United Nations Environment Programme.

¹ This report was prepared by Ira Martina Drupady, Research Associate, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, in consultation with the Asia-Europe Foundation. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are a summary of discussions that took place during the 1st Workshop: Asia-Europe Strategies for Earth Summit 2012 and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore or the Asia-Europe Foundation.

² Since its inception, ASEM has gone through several stages of enlargement. Currently the 48 ASEM partners are: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Laos, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretariat and the European Commission.



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1. Introduction

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) which will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 4th to 6th June 2012, has become the new converging point for international dialogue on the environment and sustainable development issues. Also dubbed as Rio+20, the event aims to produce a focused political document to facilitate a global transition to a 'green economy' and reform the International Environmental Governance (IEG) structure by establishing an Institutional Framework of Sustainable Development (IFSD). It is certainly an apt opportunity to renew and strengthen global political commitment for sustainable development and poverty eradication, access progress and gaps in already agreed commitments and address new emerging challenges.

At the civil society level, Asia and Europe are preparing a consolidated bi-regional position to feed into policy discussions on IFSD reforms. The Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVForum) has been tasked to facilitate the process by organising the Asia-Europe Strategies for Earth Summit 2012 – a series of three workshops held over a period of 18 months in the lead up to Rio+20. The exercise will build upon the outcomes of prior consultations that have called for the UN to provide stronger leadership and more coherent frameworks to support policy formulation and the implementation of sustainable development objectives; to streamline co-ordination among the many UN agencies responsible for sustainable development; and to articulate and strengthen the IEG going forward. It will also attempt a comprehensive and systematic analysis of uncertain, unknown or unpredictable factors, taking into account drivers, trends and challenges that could influence the future of IEG. To this end, foresighting techniques will be employed to develop several scenarios depicting the state-of-play of IEG, 20 years after Rio+20.

The scenario building approach gives stakeholders the tools to use their knowledge and experiences to imagine possibilities of what *could* happen and not necessarily of what *will* happen. Four scenarios were developed during the 'Asia-Europe Strategies for Earth Summit 2012: 1st Scenario Building Workshop' held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 16th to 18th July 2011. The meeting benefited from the participation of 34 international participants representing governments, regional and international organisations, civil society organisations, academe, think tanks, the media, the private sector and the youth, in Asia and Europe.

Using the year 2032 as the pivoting point, each scenario imagines a different IEG future for the world, depending on the extent of reforms for IFSD agreed upon during Rio+20, namely, (1) Status Quo; (2) Incremental Progress; (3) Fundamental Change; and (4) Beyond Institutional Change. Analysis is made at the global, regional and national levels and implications for Asia-Europe relations as well as the way forward for the world are outlined.



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2. Background

The UNCSD marks the twentieth anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the tenth anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). However, the global dialogue on sustainable development truly began in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972, with the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE). Bringing together representatives from 113 governments and international organisations, it was the first international gathering to discuss the state of the environment around the world and also marked the emergence of international environmental law. The conference laid out principles and agreements for various international environmental issues and also saw the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The setting up of the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in 1983 further acknowledged environmental deterioration on a global scale and the urgent need to find meaningful solutions. The 1987 Brundtland Report that followed, coined the often-cited definition of sustainable development as "... development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". This paved the way for the first Earth Summit, the UNCED, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. Approximately 172 governments and 2,400 civil society organisations participated in the landmark event, culminating in several important international agreements open for signature including the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Most importantly, the Earth Summit produced Agenda 21, a comprehensive blueprint of action for stakeholders of sustainable development at the global, national and local levels.

It was decided during the second Earth Summit, the WSSD, in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, that instead of establishing new multilateral agreements, governments would form partnerships with civil society as the way to manage the implementation of existing agreements that had yet to be fulfilled, including the 2000 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). During the meeting, approximately 300 new partnerships between governments and civil society organisations were forged and many more have since emerged.

Nevertheless, 40 years since Stockholm, implementing sustainable development principles continues to be a challenge for countries around the world. Global threats such as the financial crisis, food security and climate change are on the one hand, undermining all three pillars of sustainable development – economic development, social development and environmental protection – while at the same time, demonstrating the interconnectedness of the three. Increasingly, the push for reform of the IEG by way of establishing a comprehensive IFSD is seen as the way forward and is one of the key agendas of Rio+20. The recent 2010 Nairobi-Helsinki consultation process calls for the UN to provide stronger leadership and more coherent frameworks to support policy formulation and the implementation of sustainable development objectives; to streamline co-ordination among the many UN agencies responsible for sustainable development; and to articulate and strengthen the IEG going forward.

Considering that Asian and European countries represent two-thirds of the world population, they have an important stake in the outcomes of the negotiations regarding IFSD reforms at Rio+20. The Asia-Europe Strategies for Earth Summit 2012 is an important platform to formulate an Asia-Europe position at the civil society level.



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Table 1: Sustainable Development Timeline

Year	Environmental Milestone	Decisions Adopted	Outcome/ Impact
1972	UN Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE), Stockholm	The Stockholm Declaration; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established	Human development linked to the natural environment. Recognition that a differentiated approach is required to address development in different countries.
1983	World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission)	Brundtland Report ("Our Common Future").	Sustainable development defined. Includes social, economic, and environmental aspects.
1992	"Rio Earth Summit" - UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro (UNCED)	The Rio Declaration; Agenda 21; Forest Principles; UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD).	Strong enthusiasm for sustainable development principles. Criticism regarding success of implementation.
1997	"Rio+5"	Review of the implementation of Agenda 21.	Implementation issues identified, especially regarding the International Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD).
1997	Kyoto Protocol	Targeted reduction of emissions by 2012, following the UNFCCC.	Protracted ratification process, but eventual implementation. Targets set to reduce carbon emission levels to 1990 benchmark.
2000	Millennium Summit	Millennium Declaration.	Millennium Development Goals (MDG).
2002	"Rio+10" - World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.	A shift away from multilateral approach.
2010	Nairobi-Helsinki Process	The Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome.	Produced a set of options for improving International Environmental Governance (IEG).
2011	High Level Dialogue on IFSD	Solo message.	Produced a set of options for analysis and further discussion of IFSD.
2011	High level Symposium on Rio+20	Division of institutional reform proposals at the international level into three clusters.	Consensus over strengthened governance in all three pillars and as improved integration among the pillars.
2011	Submission: Zero Draft of Outcome Document	1 st November 2011 deadline	TBC

3. Methodology

A select group of approximately 30 international experts representing governments, regional and international organisations, civil society organisations, academe, think tanks, the media, the private sector and the youth, in the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) countries, will be invited to take part in a series of three workshops over a period of 18 months leading up to Rio+20.³

The overall purpose is to develop an Asia-Europe strategy that may inform discussions on IFSD reforms in the context of IEG at Rio+20. The scenario-building approach will be employed to visualise alternative IEG futures that may emerge, according to the extent of IFSD reforms agreed upon at Rio+20.

³ For more information, please refer to Annexe 3.



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What will distinguish the outcomes from that of other multistakeholder consultations is the use of foresighting techniques, such as, ‘future triangles’ (using pulls, pushes, weights); ‘causal layered analysis’ (using litany, social causes, discourse/worldview and myths and metaphor); and ‘megatrends’ analysis (using the STEEP approach);⁴ that may capture and link unknown factors and the uncertainties of the future in a systematic manner. The exercise will harness the diverse knowledge and experience of participants, accommodate different opinions and interests and provide the tools and space for productive brainstorming.

The exercise will also draw from prior consultations that have been undertaken at the global, regional and national levels worldwide, including in Asia and Europe. Drivers, trends and challenges will be identified and various options discussed.

The Asia-Europe perspective that will be woven into each scenario will also lend importance to the analysis, considering that the ASEM process represents two of the most important regions in the world and two-thirds of the world population.

In doing so, the exercise aims to yield several comprehensive and realistic scenarios of the state of play of IEG in the future that would guide the discussion process and final decision regarding IFSD reforms at Rio+20.

4. IFSD Scenarios

The Yogyakarta workshop was the first of the three planned workshops to explore and develop several scenarios predicting the state of play of IEG, 20 years after member countries agree on IFSD reforms at Rio+20.

Table 2: Overview of Possible IFSD Scenarios

	Scenario 1 Status Quo	Scenario 2 Incremental Progress	Scenario 3 Fundamental Change	Scenario 4 Beyond Institutional Change
Approach	Business as usual.	Enhanced priority for the environment.	Sustainable development as an overarching goal.	Institutional reform achieved.
Global	No significant reforms. Dominance of the few.	Additional funding and universal membership.	The creation of a WEO or UNEO. There is a focus on green economy.	A reformed global environmental agency.
Regional	More regional co-operation.	Greater role for regional organisations and mechanisms.	Sustainable development co-ordination body established.	Transfer of sovereignty to regional bodies, with principle of subsidiarity nationally and locally.
National	Sustainable development a weak priority however CSOs get activated	Mainstreaming of sustainable development in national development plans.	Sustainable development co-ordination body established.	A focus on green economy.

With the year 2032 in mind, four possible scenarios were developed during the meeting, namely, (1) Status Quo; (2) Incremental Progress; (3) Fundamental Change; and (4) Beyond Institutional Change.

⁴ For more information, please refer to Annexe 1.



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These scenarios describe possibilities of what *could* happen and not necessarily of what *will* happen, depending on the reform outcomes agreed upon at Rio+20.

a. Status Quo Scenario

The World in 2032

Rio+20 did not yield a global consensus for IFSD reform and as such, there has been no meaningful institutional change at the global level for the past twenty years. In this “business-as-usual” scenario, UNEP retains its role as the lead organisation for global sustainable development issues, however, in an increasingly multipolar world and without a mandate to oversee and regulate behaviour of member countries, the environmental pillar is weakened considerably and the organisation is facing a gradual decline.

Various stakeholders have seized the opportunity to advance their own causes. For example, an increasing number of initiatives at the national, sub-regional and regional levels have emerged and civil society organisations have become mobilised and organised with the help of the Internet, social networking sites and other technological advancements. Multinationals, in particular, have gained considerable influence in steering public opinion and interests.

While these achievements have led to greater diversity and innovations, the dominance and strengthening of certain countries, interest blocs and regional powers have distorted the sustainable development agenda and created a global imbalance. Green dumping and protectionism among states have become more prevalent and an expanding world population has led to a scramble for finite food, water and energy resources. This means that countries are placing more importance on economic rather than environmental considerations while marginalising certain groups and interests in the process of doing so. The cost of inaction has become enormous as environmental degradation and biodiversity losses are reaching their tipping points. Extreme outcomes have included failed states, wars, climate refugees, famines and environmental disasters.

Asia-Europe Relations

The absence of a global environmental governance framework has encouraged Asian and European countries to forge closer co-operation at bilateral, regional and bi-regional levels. While the ASEM process and platforms like the ENVForum have gained more importance and influence in facilitating dialogue and exchange between the two regions on sustainable development issues, it is regional organisations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the European Union (EU) and the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC), that are playing key roles in consolidating the positions of their member countries and co-operating with the other region. Civil society and the private sector in the two regions are also actively advancing their agendas, exchanging ideas and feeding into the policy debate.

However, although the impact of global environmental degradation is felt in both Asia and Europe, the scope for actions and reforms on sustainable development policy in both regions has remained limited. For example, Asian countries are suffering the most from natural resource depletion and the impacts of climate change, (e.g. through natural disasters and climate refugees), but on the other hand, they are also experiencing the most economic growth, urbanisation, education and technological advancements. As such, many Asian countries are reluctant to agree on environmental governance policies that would hamper these achievements. The EU has benefited from sound environmental governance policies at the national and regional levels in the past, however, they are currently experiencing economic decline and have taken a more isolationist approach. Thus, both regions are playing a limited role in pushing for further environmental governance reforms.



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Going Forward

Inaction during Rio+20 has contributed toward rapid global environmental decline 20 years onwards. The absence of a global environmental structure has created space for greater co-operation and exchanges at national, sub-regional and regional levels, at both government and civil society levels. However, differences and divides have also deepened and as a result, any gains made for the environment and sustainable development has been too limited to prevent the full-scale impact of environmental degradation, biodiversity and natural resources losses, climate change and other challenges. The time is ripe to push for bold environmental governance reforms, however, the world has become far too fragmented and multipolar to reach a consensus regarding the best way forward.

b. Incremental Progress Scenario

The World in 2032

Twenty years after Rio+20, UNEP retains its current institutional status but has benefited from universal membership and an additional mandate to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. Its portfolio and funding has also been expanded to support sustainable development activities and partnerships at the regional levels. This has resulted in increased regional and bi-lateral co-operation and co-ordination in specific environmental policy areas. National governments are increasingly considering the environment and sustainable development as policy priorities and have encouraged multistakeholder engagement and supported bottom-up approaches. This in turn, has created space for civil society organisations, the private sector and financial institutions to participate and even take leading roles in sustainable development efforts, leading to the emergence of various Track II activities. As such, many good practices have been developed and awareness-raising and capacity building efforts have been continued at many levels.

However, poor co-ordination and a mistrust of the larger UN system, a gap between environmental, economic and trade priorities and an expanding global population means that such gains are apparent in some policy areas but not others; and an imbalanced 'green growth' results in a 'green divide' among developed, emerging and least developed countries. These challenges threaten to cancel out the significant gains that have been made. However, for the moment, countries seem very reluctant to push for fundamental changes.

Asia-Europe Relations

Asia and Europe are both benefiting from greater global and regional environmental governance. Asian and European countries are placing a greater priority on the environment and sustainable development issues and are open to creating more scope for co-operation and exchange at global and bi-regional levels and cross-cutting across policy areas. Dialogue between government and civil society in the two regions have become more vibrant and many good practices and innovations have been widely disseminated. Local government level initiatives for sustainable development are prevalent, although uneven across different countries. However, support for institutionalising regional and bi-regional governance structures remain weak.

Going Forward

Although the building blocks have been created to allow for greater IFSD reforms in the future, at the moment, there is a resistance from countries to consider fundamental changes. However, as environmental degradation continues and the green divide widens between countries, the impetus for fundamental change will eventually emerge.



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c. Fundamental Change Scenario

The World in 2032

Meaningful reform was agreed upon at Rio+20, integrating the social, economic and environment pillars under a Sustainable Development Council. The creation of a World Environment Organisation (or a UN Environment Organisation), replacing UNEP, was another key outcome. In an increasingly multipolar world, where major shifts among countries have occurred according to increased or decreased economic prowess, the WEO/UNEO co-ordinates, implements and facilitates international co-operation on sustainable development. Regional organisations such as ASEAN and the EU have aligned their priorities and therefore play key roles in co-ordinating and implementing global sustainable development objectives in their respective regions. The Bretton-Woods institutions are officially and legally integrated in the process and support national and regional policies.

The participation of civil society has been formalised and regulated through multi-stakeholder processes in joint-agenda settings. This greatly enhances civil society input in the policy process builds capacity at the grassroots level while at the same time, compels civil society organisations to be more accountable and transparent to their constituencies.

At the national level, legislation and programmes to address sustainable development issues such as ecosystem services, green accounting and natural resource management, support regional frameworks and allow for greater horizontal integration and co-ordination among line ministries and agencies.

Despite these important achievements, however, greater income gaps, increased corruption within each country and degradation of the environment and depletion of natural resources continue to be a reality. While urbanisation and migration have freed up rural areas for conservation, scarcity of fresh water, food and energy sources remain a source of conflict and opportunities to demonstrate military might. Countries continue to struggle to balance the implementation of environmental governance reforms with the desire for rapid economic growth.

Asia-Europe Relations

The relationship between Asia and Europe will focus on high and low technology transfer, innovations and education and food security. There will also be a relocation of high carbon footprint activities from Europe to Asia. As there has been plenty of scope for co-operation between stakeholders in the two regions in the area of sustainable development, a greater sense of convergence on the most pertinent policy issues has emerged and an Asia-Europe position in international policy debates is becoming increasingly common.

Going Forward

Although fundamental reforms of the IFSD have been achieved at Rio+20, the struggle to balance the three pillars of sustainable development, namely, social, economic and environmental, remain. Indeed, significant progress has been achieved at the global, regional and national levels and both government and civil society are becoming increasingly aligned in their sustainable development priorities. However, the competition for scarce, natural resources means that maintaining a commitment to sustainable development principles will always be a challenge. The WEO/UNEO must work with stakeholders in government and civil society alike to deepen the implementation of environmental governance at all levels and rejuvenate the push for further reforms in the future.



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d. Beyond Institutional Change

The World in 2032

Twenty years after Rio+20, institutional reform for sustainable development has been achieved. The UN plays a meaningful role in steering, facilitating, and co-ordinating sustainable development co-operation and there is now a push to go beyond rethinking the global governance structure to accelerate the development of a 'green economy'.

A global regulatory framework for environmental goods has emerged and regional and national mechanisms for implementation, accountability and sovereignty are enabled, given such factors as: changes in economic processes, valuing of natural resources, improved financial markets, elimination of distorting subsidies, technology transfers, and others. It has been instrumental in forging international consensus, offering good practices, mobilising regional co-operation and monitoring implementation of Rio+20 agreements.

A transfer of sovereignty through different mechanisms and structures (regional, national, local) allows for subsidiarity and greater consensus, collaboration, facilitation and knowledge technology transfer between different stakeholders. This strengthens the role of civil society organisations and the private sector at the implementation level while letting international organisations take a back step. Transparency and accountability mechanisms have facilitated the process.

National governments are still the primary locus of policy-making and sustainable development planning; in tandem with local governments and civil society. Civil society continues to implement programmes while acting as watchdog and provides input to policy formulation and planning. The business sector also focuses on what they do best: products and services; but they are pushing better integrated into the policy process as well as into research and development and technology transfer. IFIs and bilateral financing institutions provide innovation funding, technology transfer, capacity building, among other resources.

Asia-Europe Relations

While Asia-Europe relations primarily focuses on trade, increased co-operation on environmental issues is likely.

Going Forward

A counter-progressive lobby by vested interests in the business sector still exists and there is a limited and often conflicting understanding among countries and stakeholders of the concept of 'green economy'. Still, further development of 'green economy' principles will continue. A transformative impulse could be pushed by the failure of prevailing economic models, reinforced by acquiring and disseminating evidences. Scarcity of resources will necessitate such a change, possibly with a strong impulse from the grassroots upwards.



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5. Conclusions

The “Asia-Europe Strategies for Earth Summit 2012: 1st Scenario Planning Workshop” has produced four scenarios for the year 2032, each depicting a different IEG future for the world, depending on the extent of reforms for IFSD agreed upon during the UNCSD, namely, (1) Status Quo; (2) Incremental Progress; (3) Fundamental Change; and (4) Beyond Institutional Change.

Using several foresighting techniques to analyse the context for key drivers, challenges and trends, each scenario illustrates different states-of-play of the IEG in 2032 that *could* happen, not what *will* necessarily happen. They provide a testing ground for both existing and new approaches and allow for the development of different action plans.

Already during this first workshop, participants expressed that the Status Quo scenario would be the least desirable outcome. However, it is clear that it is too early to make decisive conclusions at this juncture. In the next two workshops, all four scenarios will be further developed and completed, allowing for a more certain desired future or futures to eventually become evident.

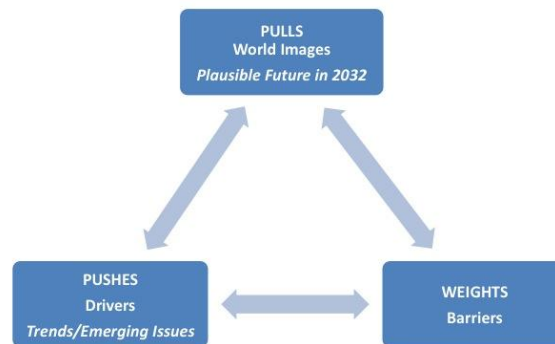


Annexe 1 – Foresight Techniques

Futures Triangle

The Future Triangle presents a way to map the competing dimensions of the future. The future is not seen as fixed but as being created by various processes, namely ‘pushes’ of the future (e.g. new technologies, globalisation, demographic shifts); ‘pulls’ of the future (competing images of the future); ‘weights’ of the future (structural challenges).

Futures Triangle



Megatrends: A component of Europe's State of Environment Report 2010

Megatrends are major trends of global proportions visible today that are expected to extend over decades, changing slowly and exerting considerable force that will influence a wide array of areas, including social, technological, economic, environmental and political (STEEP) dimensions. Eleven major megatrends were as part of Europe's State of Environment Report 2010 and have been integrated in the scenario building process.

Social

1. Increasing global divergence in population trends
2. Living in an urban world
3. Disease and the risk of new pandemics

Technological

4. Accelerating technological change: racing into the unknown

Economic

5. Continued economic growth?
6. From a unipolar to a multipolar world
7. Intensified global competition for resources

Environment

8. Decreasing stocks of natural resources
9. Increasingly severe consequences of climate change
10. Increasing environmental pollution load

Political

11. Environmental regulation and governance: increasing fragmentation and convergence



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Annexe 2 - Workshop Programme

Asia Europe Strategies for the Earth Summit 2012:
1st scenario planning workshop
17-18 July 2011 | Yogyakarta, Indonesia

17 July 2011 – Sunday
Day 1

08:45 – 09:00 Registration (for late arrivals only)

09:00 – 10:00

Opening Session

Mr. Ulrich Klingshirn, Director, Hanns Seidel Foundation Indonesia

Mr. Hideyuki Mori, President, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Ms. Sol Iglesias, Director of Intellectual Exchange & Coordinator of Asia-Europe Environment Forum, Asia-Europe Foundation

Introductory Session: Scenario-building Process

Ms. Grazyna Pulawska, Project Executive, Asia-Europe Foundation

10:00 – 10:30

Remembering the past while heading towards Rio+20. International Environmental Governance as Part of the International Framework for Sustainable Development

H.E. Ambassador Jean-Pierre Thébault, French Ambassador for the Environment

Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Team Leader, Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development, Secretariat for United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 – 12:30

Strengthening the International Environmental Governance: Challenges and Opportunities - Panel Discussion

Moderator:

Mr. Surendra Shrestha, Team Leader, Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development, Secretariat for United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

Panellists:

Mr. Bradnee Chambers, Chief of Environmental Law and Governance Branch, UNEP

Dr. Robert Mather, Head of Southeast Asia Group, IUCN Asia Regional Office

Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, Coordinator, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Mr. Lloyd Russell-Moyle, Board Member, European Youth Forum (TBC)

12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch*

13:30 – 15:00

The Environmental State of Play: Mapping Asia and Europe

Mr. Mark Kunzer, Senior Environment Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Mr. Jakub Wejchert, Desk Officer DG Environment, European Commission

Global Megatrends Overview

Ms. Ella Antonio, President, Earth Council

15:00 – 15:30 *Coffee break*



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15:30 – 17:30

Mapping the Future of International Environmental Governance – moderated group work

<Participants will have an opportunity to discuss the relevance of Megatrends for different stakeholders with regard to the environment.>

17:30 – 18:00 Reflections and Closing of the Day

20:00 – 21:00 Dinner

18 July 2011 – Monday

Day 2

09:00 – 09:30

Financial Implications of the International Environmental Governance Reforms.

Mr. Takejiro SUEYOSHI. Special Adviser of UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI), and Counsellor of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

9:30 – 13:00

Creating Alternative Futures: Predefined Scenario Building (Futures Triangle). Facilitated group work

<The Future Triangle presents a way to map the competing dimensions of the future. This is useful in that with a simple diagram the dialectics of the future can be understood. The future is not seen as fixed, but as the result of various processes being created because of historical patterns or weights.>

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00

Presentation of the Workshop Outcomes.

Vision for the Earth Summit Rio +20. Lessons learnt from Johannesburg

Expert Commentator: Prof. Dr Emil Salim, Chairman of the Advisory Council to the President Republic of Indonesia on Economics and Environmental Affairs

16:00 – 16:30

Closing Remarks



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Annexe 3 – Workshop Participant List

- Prof. Emil Salim (Chairman of the Advisory Council to the President Republic of Indonesia on Economics and Environmental Affairs)
- Surendra Shrestha (Rio+20 Secretariat)
- Jean-Pierre Thebault (Ambassador for Environment and Head of French Delegation)
- Liana Bratasida (Ministry of Environment, Republic of Indonesia)
- Ismid Hadad (KEHATI-Indonesia Biodiversity Foundation)
- Wongruang Piyaporn (Bangkok Post)
- James Tee (Rio+20 Secretariat, UN DESA)
- Robert Mather (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
- Clara Nobbe (United Nations Environment Programme)
- Ulrich Klingshirn (Hanns Seidel Foundation, Jakarta)
- Ella Antonio (Earth Council)
- Berthold Paul Seibert (The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
- Zhang Xiaoying (Deutsche Welle)
- John Soussan (Stockholm Environment Institute)
- Mark Halle (International Institute for Sustainable Development)
- Yang Wanhua (United Nations Environment Programme)
- Lloyd Russell-Moyle (European Youth Forum)
- Jakub Wejchert (European Commission)
- Masanori Kobayashi (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies)
- Takejiro Sueyoshi (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies)
- Sol Iglesias (ASEF)
- Grazyna Pulawska (ASEF)
- Ada Wong (Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture)
- Hideyuki Mori (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies)
- Mark Kunzer (Asian Development Bank)
- Jordi Pascual (United Cities and Local Governments)
- Bradnee Chambers (United Nations Environment Programme)
- Yan Peng (Clean Air Initiative)
- Arabinda Mishra (The Energy and Resources Institute)
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Annexe 4 – Rio+20 Background paper

Introduction

The 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Earth Summit) comes at a challenging time. The Summit takes place in the context of a combination of global crises—the global financial crisis; a major global food crisis; increasing concerns over energy security; and a number of climate-related natural disasters that continue to draw attention to climate change issues. These crises underscore the fact that **now is an opportune moment to take decisive action to embrace sustainable development principles at a global level.**

As such, Rio+20 will have two main focus areas:

- a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and
- the institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD).

This background paper provides a brief outline of the evolution of sustainable development discussions. This will indicate the drivers and outcomes of previous conferences and summits on sustainable development, as well as contextualising the issues that will figure at the forefront of Rio+20. Significant progress has been made in the nearly 40 years of discussions on sustainable development, but there are also substantial challenges that remain to be addressed. Now is the time to consolidate the successes that have been made and to address these remaining challenges, in order to meaningfully progress sustainable development into the future.

Historical overview

The original Earth Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, but the first coordinated effort to address sustainable development concerns predates that by 20 years. The UN Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972, recognised that the welfare of human populations should be linked to environmental issues. The Stockholm conference also acknowledged that countries in different stages of development faced different challenges, including different forms of environmental challenges. The conference produced the Stockholm Declaration, a major outcome of which was the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which answers to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN. The Stockholm Declaration has been the basis for the body of international environmental law that has developed since 1972, although the Stockholm meeting did not itself result in any binding international agreements on the environment.

Following the Stockholm conference, the UN convened the World Commission on Environment and Development, named the Brundtland Commission after its Chairman, Gro Harlem Brundtland. The Commission was convened to address concern regarding the interlinking effects of natural resources and human environment degradation on both economic and social development. It produced the comprehensive Brundtland Report, titled “Our Common Future”, in 1987. The report contextualised many of the sustainable development issues which have been central to the Earth Summits. Significantly, the Brundtland Commission provided the commonly used definition of sustainable development, as that which **“meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”**.

This definition encompasses the three pillars (social, economic and environmental) of sustainable development that are central to achieving equitable development for the world’s population whilst respecting the environment.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

The UNCED (the Rio Earth Summit) met from June 3-14 1992, in Rio de Janeiro. The conference took place in an atmosphere of some urgency regarding environmental protection and socio-economic development, and brought together more than 100 heads of state. It addressed issues including patterns of production, fossil fuel reliance, emission congestion strategies, and water scarcity. The event was largely hailed as a success, generating substantial enthusiasm for sustainable development issues.

Leaders implemented the following documents:



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- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development⁵
 - 27 Principles designed to regulate sustainable development in the future
- The Forest Principles⁶
 - An eventual compromise between developing and developed nations on forest management, including remuneration for forest degradation
- Agenda 21⁷
 - An comprehensive blueprint for sustainable development in the 21st century
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)⁸
 - A binding agreement to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations to reduce climate change. The UNFCCC ultimately led to the Kyoto Protocol.
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - One of the central documents of sustainable development, the CBD is a legally binding Treaty covering biodiversity conservation, sustainability of consumption, and equitable use of benefits from genetic resources.

A further product of the event was the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which was mandated to monitor and report implementation of the UNFCCC. While the Rio Earth Summit was a success in generating enthusiasm and awareness of sustainable development concerns, not to mention the resulting agreements, critique has since been levelled, which points out that many of the Earth Summit agreements have not resulted in changing patterns of behaviour. In particular, global poverty increased during the 1990s, while the state of the environment worsened.

Follow-up: Implementation and Further Processes

Rio+5

In order to assess the implementation of Agenda 21, the Rio+5 meeting took place in 1997. Given the ambitious nature of the action plan set forth in Agenda 21 and the broad shift in thinking that it called for, it was perhaps unsurprising that the Rio+5 meeting determined that the implementation of the principles established at the Rio Earth Summit had been insufficient. In particular, the session recognised that increasing globalisation, wealth inequality, and environmental degradation persisted. The Rio+5 meeting therefore urged the international community to reinvigorate the interest in the environment and global development, by ratifying and strengthening the agreements and conventions that were emerging in this area. A General Assembly resolution was introduced to this end.

The Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol was a result of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which called for a reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and mandated the introduction of protocols to this end. The Kyoto Protocol was negotiated in 1997, and set binding targets on signatories to reduce GHG emissions by 2012, to 5.2% below the benchmark of 1990. The Kyoto Protocol also included a greenhouse gas emission trading programme and an agreement to meet to determine penalties for violations of the targets and regulation rules. The Protocol, however, faced implementation issues. For, a number of key countries, notably the United States, did not sign up to the Protocol, meaning that it only entered into force in 2005. The issues surrounding the Kyoto Protocol indicate the underlying tensions between the need to respect national sovereignty, and the need for global steps towards implementing sustainable development principles against which states can be held accountable. The imminent expiry (in 2012) of the Kyoto Protocol raises the question of what will follow in its place, and how the institutional architecture of sustainable development governance will enable an effective replacement.

⁵ The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development laid down 27 principles underpinning sustainable development, affirming that environmental issues must be taken into account to enable long-term development. For instance, Principle 15, the Precautionary Principle, promotes pre-emptive action to address sustainable development needs before an identified future problem area becomes a reality.

⁶ Or the "Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests" – a set of recommendations for sustainable forest management.

⁷ The consultation, negotiation and drafting process of Agenda 21 commenced in 1989, with the document revealed. It addressed three main areas – social and economic, resource conservation and management for development, and the role of major groups (at the local, national, regional and global levels), as well as means of implementing principles in those three areas – such as scientific progress, technology transfer, education, and international institutions.

⁸ The UNFCCC did not itself set greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets, rather provided for the establishment of protocols. The Kyoto Protocol was one such result of the UNFCCC. The signatories to the UNFCCC meet annually in Conferences of the Parties (COP) to assess climate change issues.



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Into the 21st Century – A Reinvigoration of Sustainable Development Dialogue

The Millennium Summit

At the turn of the millennium, the UN seized upon the symbolically significant occasion to articulate a leading role for itself in the 21st century. The Summit took place from 6-8 September, 2000, and was attended by a record number of world leaders. The 189 member states of the United Nations adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), outlined in the Millennium Declaration. This document focused on a number of global issues, chiefly, world poverty, the AIDS epidemic, and equitable development in an era of globalisation. The Millennium Development Goals represent important momentum to address the social and economic pillars of sustainable development, in particular.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

From 1998 to 2000, impetus for a second Earth Summit was established by a number of governments and stakeholder forums. The United Nations assisted national governments to perform self-assessments of the implementation of sustainable development principles. This process was aided by the Earth Council, which had been established in 1992 to further sustainable development principles.

The second Earth Summit—the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)—was held in Johannesburg in 2002. The event was an opportunity to further assess the state of affairs in the decade since the Rio Summit. The Johannesburg Summit represented a shift away from an emphasis on legally-binding global conventions, rather encouraging active partnerships to complement government action in achieving sustainable development goals.⁹ The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was adopted, outlining five priority areas and listing specific commitments and initiatives to address concerns in those areas.

The five areas identified in the Johannesburg Implementation Plan were: water and sanitation; renewable energy; health (especially in relation to the reduction in dangerous chemical use); agriculture and food security; biodiversity and ecosystem management.

Important outcomes of the WSSD included a revision of existing institutions and approaches in order to best enable the identified partnerships to succeed, including revisions to the functioning of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which was identified as a focal point for partnerships. Commitment to Agenda 21, the Rio+5 commitments, and the Millennium Development Goals was also reaffirmed. The WSSD was marred by the absence of the USA, which lessened the force of its outcomes.

The Nairobi-Helsinki Process

While the WSSD emphasis on partnerships rather than binding multilateral agreements was a pragmatic way of progressing sustainable development goals without sacrificing national sovereignty, it is clear that reform of the sustainable development architecture at the global level is in need of reform. The Nairobi-Helsinki Process was implemented by the governing council of the UNEP in 2010 with the aim of identifying the objectives and functions of an International Environmental Governance (IEG) system, and coming up with a set of options for improving that system.

The Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome indicated six potential means of systemic IEG reform:

1. A strengthening of the science-policy interface to better meet the needs of developing countries,
2. A system-wide strategy for UN effectiveness, involving increased interagency and better division of labour within the UN, and improved civil society input,
3. Increased synergies between Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) to prevent overlap,
4. Improved linkages between policy-making and financing at the global level, to ensure predictability of financing, with a broader (public and private) base,
5. Systemic capacity-building framework to strengthen national capabilities to implement international environmental agreements and objectives

⁹ Nearly 300 Type II partnerships were identified during the Summit process. These are seen as an effective means of implementing Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as the Millennium Development Goals. One example of such a partnership is the Alliance for Rural Energy in Africa (AREA), which seeks to pool resources to meet the energy demands of sustainable development in rural Africa. More information:

<http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/20.html>



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6. A continuation of regional-level strategic engagement, with an increase in UNEP regional offices to better react to regional and country-specific needs.

Looking to Rio+20

Since the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, there has been substantial progress made towards implementing sustainable development practices. Early UN conferences outlined the guiding principles of sustainable development, while more recent conferences and events have focused on the practical implementation of these principles. As indicated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002, there has been a clear and welcome shift towards using partnerships to achieve sustainable development goals, and many of these have been successful. However, the world continues to face challenges in all three of sustainable development's pillar areas - social, economic and environmental. These challenges are compounded by the lapse of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012. It is evident that conclusive implementation of sustainable development principles will require structural and institutional deficiencies at global and UN levels to be addressed. Reform of the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development and encouragement of a green economy are therefore crucially important goals, but they are also goals that are highly achievable. Rio+20 is a unique opportunity to ensure a path towards sustainable development that will ensure a reasonable living standard for the world's population, while preserving ecosystems and resources that have both been threatened by human development. With the enthusiasm of previous Earth Summits and the wisdom that the last 40 years of sustainable development dialogue has brought, Rio+20 can mark the critical point in the history of sustainable development. This opportunity should not be missed.

For further information:

The Stockholm Declaration:

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=97&articleid=1503>

“Our Common Future” Report: <http://www.un-documents.net/wced-ocf.htm>

Agenda 21: http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/res_agenda21_00.shtml

The Millennium Declaration: <http://www.un.org/en/development/devagenda/millennium.shtml>

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation:

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/POIToc.htm

The Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome:

<http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/Portals/8/documents/Events/NairobiHelsinkioutcomeedited.pdf>