
**Wednesday, 19 October 2011**

**Plenary 1**

**Sustained Stability in the next economy: Lenses**

*Synopsis:* During this session, speakers argued that public and private actors involved in the investment and financial intermediation chains can benefit from the use of better quality and wider « lenses » that give greater depth, breadth and granularity to their vision and understanding of a wider range of risks. Speakers also argued that these actors could benefit greatly from employing « clocks » that heighten their appreciation of the temporal nature of risk by neither over emphasizing those short-term and seemingly more easy quantifiable risks or under emphasizing long-term less easily quantifiable risks.

Summary: In periods of crisis economics issues drown out ecological issues, said the speakers. Environmental degradation undermines economic security, behoving all in this sector and establishing linkages between three pillars of sustainability: environmental / economical / social equity. The speakers further agreed that advancing the notion of integration in terms of long-term risks and opportunities was key to moving forward. They said they believed that Rio+20 was an opportunity to move this agenda forward.

It was further discussed that the commercial banking sector should address three issues: transparency, urgency and choices. In terms of transparency, speakers said that the banking sector is perceived as being secretive, which causes a lack of trust. It was argued that the banking sector should make an effort to open up and create transparency. In terms of urgency, speakers said that the world was beyond the tipping point – which was arguably reached at the United Nations Earth Summit in 1992. Since then, issues such as the loss of biodiversity, the financing of projects such as the Arctic exploration and the building of the Mekong dam in China have had severe effects, they said. Regarding choice, speakers said that the banking sectors should chose transformational finance initiatives and rely less on traditional carbon intensive investments.