Current state of play on global environment policy in the run-up to Rio+20

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Presentation summary

1. Current GE Rio+ landscape
2. UNEP Position & Planning
3. Potential Outcomes
4. UNEP FI & Rio+20
1. Current GE Rio+ landscape

• Active preparations, mainly by UN bodies: opportunity to be seized

• But not same level as Rio, WSSD

• Significant concerns about implications for past commitments (e.g. social aspects of SD) and risk (of ‘finger pointing’)

1. Current GE Rio+ landscape

SWOT analysis

Strengths/Opportunities
- Increasing understanding of urgency and imperative of GE
- Fin / Econ / Planning Ministries interest if economic case is made
- Developing countries support
- Business beginning to position itself on GE issues
- Many IGOs have GE plans
- UNEP ‘first mover’ leadership on issue; credibility from history
- UNEP FI committed

Weaknesses/Threats
- Concerns about re-inventing new concepts, and losing old promises
- Confusion about GE definition and relationship to SD, poverty and SCP
- Failure so far to engage Fin / Econ Ministers
- Trade competition and access issues
- Concern about where finance will come from and unknown costs
- Scepticism (post Copenhagen) about gov’t/UN system capacity to deliver
- Proliferation of uncoordinated initiatives
1. Current GE Rio+ landscape

Intergovernmental organisations, e.g.


ILO – Decent work and ‘Green Jobs’ agenda.

WB – A key partner in implementation and research (wealth accounting)

UNIDO - Green Growth & Cleaner Production

UNCTAD – Trade and Green Economy

UNDP, UNESCAP (Green Growth), UNDESA

UNSG Panel on Global Sustainability ("new development paradigm")
1. Current GE Rio+ landscape

Business and NGOs – key partners

- Global business organisations gearing up for high profile presence and reports.

- Major global NGOs still assessing approach. Most maintain a climate/development focus. Stakeholder Forum traditionally taking the lead.
1. Current GE Rio+ landscape

Intensive meetings calendar offers opportunities and visibility

- IMF/WB Annual Mtg session on GE, 7 Oct
- G20 Summit, Seoul, 11-12 Nov
- 1st UNCSD Open-ended inform. intersess. 10-11 Jan
- UNEP GC, Nairobi, 21-25 Feb
- PrepCom II, NY, 7-8 March
- Regional PrepComs, March –April
- CSD 19, NY, 2-13 May
- OECD Ministerial Council - Green Growth Strategy, May
- G 20 June and Nov (France leads)
2. UNEP Position & Planning

Major reports

- Reports of Resource Panel – Decoupling (Feb 2011)
- UNSG Report on CSD/Rio+20 (March 2011)
- GE Report (May 2011)

Outcome document of CSD19 - 10YFP on SCP (May 2011)

Strategic partnerships - ILO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD, WB

National interventions

Private sector actions
3. Potential Outcomes: Overall

WHAT should be achieved?

- A global commitment to change the current economic paradigm and base it on ecosystem protection and human wellbeing.
- Based on this, a collective prioritization in all future policy planning of a rapid transition to low-carbon, resource efficient economy as the only way to achieve SD and alleviate poverty.
3. Potential Outcomes: specific goals and HOW to achieve...

- New MDG goals for GE? Set targets for efficiency / resource productivity improvements (in key sectors & basic services: energy, natural resources, waste, health, education, etc.).

- Financial commitment? Commit x% of GDP/national budgets to GE investments. Time for a universal tax on financial transactions for GE?

- 10YFP transformed into GE delivery mechanism?

- New major partnerships, and platform for enabling countries and MDBs to lead change?
UNEP FI’s activities for Rio+20

Proposal to policy makers

What the financial system needs to look like in a Green Economy

A new vision: A re-engineered financial system builds lasting economic, social & environmental value
UNEP FI & Rio+20

For a creation of a resilient & robust financial system delivering sustained & balanced economic growth

- Integration of long-term sustainability risks into financial systemic risk regulatory and supervisory frameworks

- Promote firm-wide long-term sustainability risks-adjusted performance assessment frameworks in across the finance sector

- Promote productive financial innovation that enhances economic, environmental and social value to shareholder and society
Thank you