

**ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GLOBALLY: EU FOLLOW-UP
TO RIO+20**

ABOUT YOU - THIS SECTION IS MANDATORY TO FILL IN:

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Organization Represented and main activities of your
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WECF (Women in Europe for a Common Future) International

**WECF International is a not-for-profit NGO, and co-coordinates the Women's Major
Group in the UN Rio+20 process**

Main Activities: **Sustainable Development, Environment, Gender, Health**

Location (country): **Netherlands, Germany, France**

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**Do you agree to the listing of the name of your organization in the report that the
Commission will draw up on the results of this public consultation? (Tick the
appropriate box)**

YES

NO

ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GLOBALLY: EU FOLLOW-UP TO RIO+20

Background

The Rio+20 world summit was held in Rio de Janeiro in June this year. It followed from previous related UN summits, in Stockholm (1972), Rio de Janeiro (1992) and Johannesburg (2002). The aim of Rio+20 was to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, by assessing progress to date, identifying remaining gaps in the implementation of past commitments and addressing new and emerging challenges¹.

The Summit's focus was on two intertwined themes: "a Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" and "the institutional framework for sustainable development". After extensive negotiations a Rio+20 Outcome document was agreed upon, with a number of actions and commitments. Even though the outcome was less ambitious than what the EU had aimed for, Rio+20 does offer a number of important opportunities for follow-up at EU and international level.

The implications of Rio+20 outcomes for EU policies

The main outcomes of Rio can be described along five streams:

1. The inclusive Green economy, as an important tool to achieve sustainable development.
2. Action in priority areas, such as poverty eradication, sustainable agriculture, water, sustainable energy, decent work for all, oceans and fisheries, and sustainable consumption and production.
3. Agreement to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. Agreement to develop options on an effective Sustainable Development Financing Strategy.
5. Strengthening the Institutional Framework for sustainable development.

Implementing these outcomes would lead to furthering sustainable development globally, for *all* countries (developed countries, emerging economies and developing countries). The outcomes also have implications for a range of EU policies such as economic, trade, environment, fisheries, energy, agriculture and employment and social policies. Within the EU Rio+20 offers the opportunity to review, revitalize, and re-orient a number of activities that the EU is already pursuing. An example of this is the inclusive Green economy, which is addressed in the EU by the Europe 2020 strategy² and by EU development policy.

¹ <http://www.uncsd2012.org/>

² http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

The aim of this public consultation

The European Union needs to prepare for follow-up actions and what next steps have to be taken. Follow-up by the EU level will constitute an important practical step in making sustainable development a reality in the years to come.

The objective of the present public consultation is to provide input to the European Commission for the development of specific actions and measures and for its proposals for EU positions. In particular, it will serve as input to a Communication from the Commission on Rio+20 follow-up, planned for the first half of 2013. The consultation is also a complement to the Public Consultation "Towards a post-2015 development framework"³.

The Commission widely engaged with civil society, including by undertaking a public consultation⁴ prior to Rio+20, and civil society also made important input during the conference itself. Related consultations include those which took place on the Resource Efficiency roadmap and the recently launched consultation on the 7th Environmental Action Plan. The present consultation seeks stakeholder's views on five main areas from the perspective of advancing sustainable development globally. A brief explanation of each is described below, followed by a set of questions. Please try to limit your responses to one page per area. In addition, in the final section there is the opportunity to voice your views on other topics not explicitly mentioned.

1. The Inclusive Green Economy

The Rio+20 Outcome document stated that the inclusive Green economy is an important tool for achieving sustainable development, that can be implemented in a number of different ways by countries in accordance with national priorities. The Green economy can contribute to sustainable growth, help create employment and decent work, contribute to eradicating poverty, while maintain a healthy environment. The document indicated that the implementation of Green economy policies can be a common undertaking by countries that wanted to do so.

Furthering the inclusive Green economy needs to be considered at three contexts:

1. action within the EU as a direct contribution to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy,
2. collaboration with developed countries and emerging economies, and
3. cooperation with developing countries, as part of development cooperation policy in particular as a means of eradicating poverty.

Likewise, a range of policy approaches are needed to stimulate the inclusive Green economy, and these may best apply in different ways in the above three contexts. Policies can include the removal of barriers or the creation of enabling conditions and may include:

- taxes and pricing systems
- improving the functioning of markets
- effective regulation

³ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/towards_post-2015-development-framework_en.htm

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/un_2012.htm

- a favourable environment for trade
- phasing out policy distortions such as harmful subsidies
- encouraging innovation
- appropriate labour policies and decent job creation
- green skills development

The inclusive Green economy can also be promoted through the development and application of appropriate indicators that measure progress beyond GDP. It can also be encouraged through a range of public private partnerships with aim of advancing business engagement and performance along social and environmental dimensions, and encouraging investment. Corporate social responsibility and sustainable consumption and production are also important elements.

Questions:

1. *What policy tools do you think are the most effective and need to be put into place to stimulate the transformation to the inclusive Green economy within the EU? How should this complement the Europe 2020 strategy and/or its implementation?*

Answer (max 200 words):

The current economy system remains inequitable and unsustainable. An inclusive green economy needs **indicators beyond GDP** which values the unrecognized contributions of women and the environment to our economies. An **independent authority to assess and monitor risks of technologies** (e.g. Geo-engineering, Shale-gas) and chemicals (EDCs, Nano) before their use in consumer products/markets is needed. **Insurance** should be **compulsory** before companies can sell products/technologies which might have a negative health and environmental impact. **Risks and costs of Nuclear Energy are unacceptable** and a strategy for EU-wide phase out needs to be engaged. We need to **halt privatization, commodification, exploitation and pollution of the commons** (oceans, forests, air, water) and need binding international agreements to do so. **Extractive industries** are amongst the biggest polluters, we need norms and regulations for extractive industries, including for full clean-up and rehabilitation of mining sites, including uranium mining sites, and damage payments to damaged communities. We need to create instruments to protect **rights of Future Generations** at EU and UN level. A **global Social Protection Floor** which covers informal and precarious sectors (where most women work) is key to equitable development and avoiding conflicts. Instruments to strengthen **women's land rights** and ownership tenure and **prevention of land grabbing** in international cooperation programmes. Strengthen **women's rights** at all levels including Sexual and Reproductive Rights – as a prerequisite for development.

2. *What policy tools do you think are the most effective and need to be put into place to as part of the EUs interactions with developed countries, emerging economies, and with developing countries? How should this complement EU external policies and their implementation?*

Answer (max 200 words):

The following instruments will help **reduce unsustainable impact of EU activities** in developing countries, and **support developing/transition/emerging economies** in their equitable and sustainable development efforts:

Application of the polluter pays principles to all industry sectors, and creation of global funds to support clean-up of pollution in developing countries for pollution for which the responsible companies can not be prosecuted, in particular clean up of mining sites (uranium, gold, mercury) chemicals, pesticides, electronic waste. Industry sectors should be held accountable to pay into these global funds to aid with the clean up of their sectors historic waste.

Redistribution of wealth mechanisms, and innovative finance mechanisms including the Financial Transaction Tax in all EU countries, of which a substantial share earmarked to finance a stable share of sustainable development activities in partner countries, and **global Social Protection Floor**.

Re-regulating the financial sector, in particular instruments to halt/discourage investments in unsustainable activities and assuring long-term perspectives e.g. no tax reductions before 10 years. Also, closing of tax-havens and agree on annual instead of quarterly financial reporting to shareholders by quoted companies (e.g. Unilever).

Fast **substitution of harmful substances**, in particular Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) in the EU through REACH and globally with a focus on harmful pesticides, through the Chemicals Conventions.

Obligatory **insurance for future health and environmental costs** for all products/technologies brought into the European Union and procedures to **speed-up damage payments to victims** and their families e.g. asbestos.

3. What policies need to be put into place to further encourage and engage EU business and stakeholders?

Answer (max 200 words):

- 1. Increase of work–family reconciliation** policies prescribed by national law (such as nurseries/daycare centers for children; incentives for paternity leaves; social services aimed at reducing the pressure on unpaid and care work);
- 2. Participation:** 40% increase of women effectively involved in participatory decision making processes concerning the design, implementation and evaluation of social protection systems, and other green economy policies
- 3. Gender-disaggregated Data:** universal use of gender-disaggregated data, statistics and indicators for the design, implementation and evaluation of social protection systems, included the national floors, coherently with ILO Recommendation 202, art. 21.
- 4. Gender impact monitoring and reporting by companies:** measures to encourage companies to include in the social and environmental reports, gender differentiated impact data, including for operations in developing countries

5. Reduced VAT (Value Added Tax) on sustainable and socially important products and services: use of reduced VAT and other fiscal policies to support sustainable products, such as organic farming products, which have difficulties to compete with unsustainable products, including when imported from developing countries

4. What specific actions could be foreseen in this area? How could such actions contribute to growth and jobs?

Answer (max 200 words):

Investing in women is investing in the community – is a recognized fact. **An inclusive green economy should prioritize gender equality in decent job creation programmes.**

Defining the post-2015 development agenda has precise implications for women: given the structural gender discrimination of the current system, if we do not act to **reverse the trend** the “new” model will be as gender-unequal as the current one.

In this framework, the **link between gender equality, poverty eradication and social protection is crucial:** as a matter of fact, the current model is characterized by feminization of poverty and feminization of lack of social protection. **To be a woman not only means to be poorer; it also means to be less and worse covered by social protection** in terms of income security, access to essential services and formal employment-related benefits. As a consequence, women face major social, economic and environmental vulnerability, which turn into more poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

That is why the Women’s Major Group considers the **extension of social protection for women as an essential element of the Sustainable Development Goals:** social protection is not only a core human right, but it is also an extremely powerful tool to combat poverty, promote income distribution and build resilient societies. As a first, urgent step of this process, we call for the **implementation of national Social Protection Floors**, in order to guarantee to all women in need the right to income security and access to essential services (health, including reproductive health, education, housing, water and sanitation, among others), as well as a tool to reverse gender-based power imbalance.

2. Action in Priority Areas

The Rio+20 Outcome document contains a large number of actions in the section "Framework for action and follow-up". These will address in practice specific themes of the Green economy in the context of sustainable development:

- Poverty eradication
- Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture
- Water and sanitation
- Energy
- Sustainable tourism
- Sustainable transport and sustainable cities and human settlements
- Health and population
- Promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all, and social protection
- Oceans and seas

- Small island developing states
- Least developed countries and landlocked least developed countries
- Africa and regional efforts
- Disaster risk reduction
- Climate change
- Forests
- Biodiversity
- Desertification, land degradation and drought
- Mountains
- Chemicals and waste
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Mining
- Education
- Gender equality and women's empowerment

Following the request of the European Council⁵, the EU did propose goals and targets to advance the transition to the Green economy in key areas, which are essential for social and economic development.

Questions:

5. *Which key areas do you think are the most important and should be given the highest priority (for the EU/at global level)? Please give reasons for your choices.*

Answer (max 200 words):

Sustainable development policies can only be successful when a human-rights and integrated approach is chosen, there all the 23 themes are important. However, we are convinced that **there is a hierarchy, that some themes are basic prerequisites**, whereas other are important for implementation.

- 1) **Basic prerequisites** for sustainable development policies is that they aim at reducing **inequalities**, therefore first come: “**poverty eradication**” and “**gender and women’s empowerment**”. “**Human rights**” needs to be added to this list, as well as “**Indigenous Peoples’ rights**”, and “**rights of future generations**”. The focus for targets and indicators in this area should be to measure progress in the implementation of existing UN human rights agreements such as UNDRIPS and CEDAW; setting timelines and in particular, strengthening accountability.
- 2) Secondly, there are other rights, which are essential to living in dignity, the **right to health (including SRHR)** and a **health environment**, the right to **food**, the right to **social protection**, the right to **education**, the right to **basic services** as **housing, water, sanitation, energy**.

⁵ Conclusions of the European Council, 1-2 March 2012 (article 28), and Environment Council Conclusions, 12 March 2012 (articles 17, 18).

- 3) To assure these basic rights, we need to protect also our **global environmental commons** on which our livelihoods are based, our **oceans, soil, forests, biodiversity and climate**.
- 4) And as the main barrier to achieving any of the above, it is essential that **unsustainable sectors are entirely phased-out** or thoroughly **transformed** in particular **unsustainable energy, mining, chemicals, waste, transport, industrial agriculture, tourism**.
- 5) And finally, we have **regional interests such as mountains, SIDS, African region, cities**, which are of course also important but at another level.

6. *Are there specific ways in which an area needs to be followed up (within the EU/global level)? Should the EU promote and enter into partnerships for action and if so, in which area specifically? Are there specific barriers to implement actions in a given area? What could be done to overcome these barriers?*

Answer (max 200 words):

Some EU policies go against Sustainable Development in partner countries and are barriers, e.g. some trade agreements, some continued exports of harmful chemicals/pesticides, the case of biofuels etc. These should be addressed.

EU should **take the lead** in developing international standards, best practices and legal protection measures **to address the barriers of unsustainable sectors and damage caused to global commons, human health and livelihoods of people living in poverty**, in particular for mining industry, unsustainable energy industry (fossil, nuclear, shale, tarsands) chemicals, geo-engineering, industrial agriculture, waste.

EU should take the lead in partnerships which lead to **real implementation** of the first 2 priority areas, **the rights-based areas**, including where needed with strengthened regulations and new partnerships in the EU itself, e.g. support for global social protection floor, the right to water and sanitation and a focus on “**environmental health**” and “**Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights**” in the focus area of health.

7. *Do you think it is useful for the EU to develop targets to drive the inclusive Green economy? If so, what aspects do you think should be covered and how should economic, social and environmental aspects be addressed?*

Answer (max 200 words):

Yes, time-bound and measurable targets are useful and necessary, some examples of possible EU and global targets:

Gender Equality and Women's rights: Enforcement of CEDAW is urgently required; Parties to the Convention need to integrate and materialize in their national legislation the provisions from the Convention, especially in regards to Articles, 3, 13, 14 & 15. Targets can be: 40% women in leadership in private and public sector by 2020, and 100% equal wage by 2020.

Social Protection Floor:

implemented for 100% regarding Essential Services: universal financial and geographic access to essential services (health, including reproductive health, education, housing, water and sanitation) for all women in need by 2030;

implemented for 100% regarding Income Security: universal provision of social transfers, in cash and in kind, for all women lacking of minimum income and livelihood security by 2030 (taking into account in priority criteria the cases of single parent-households headed by women);

Vertical Extension of Coverage: 30% increase of women with access to social protection benefits beyond essential services and income security (targets 1 and 2), according to ILO Convention 102 standards (that is, higher levels of protection in the branches of medical care, sickness benefit, unemployment benefit, old-age benefit, employment injury benefit, family benefit, maternity benefit, invalidity benefit and survivors' benefit), with particular attention to women's emancipation from traditional job roles (such as domestic workers, self-employed workers, at-home care workers).

Sexual and Reproductive Rights: All adolescent girls and boy, women and men have the knowledge and the skills to know their bodies and their rights, negotiate sexual and reproductive decision-making, access health services, and are free from violence and discrimination by 2020. This can be done through ensuring comprehensive sexuality education in and out of schools, and to provide adolescent girls with the sexual and reproductive health services that they need while respecting their privacy and confidentiality.

Food Sovereignty: Eliminate subsidies for industrial fishing fleets and encourage community-based governance models of marine protected areas and targets for implementation of the International Guidelines to secure the small scale sustainable fishing. States need to secure land tenure rights and retain free access to natural resources to the most vulnerable groups in society, including women and Indigenous women particularly, and improve monitoring systems for foreign investment and its social, economic and environmental impacts; it is important to keep environmental services and forests out of carbon and other markets since they promote privatization and restrict access to forest users. Today, halting land-grabbing is one of the most urgent issues that need to be addressed.

Forests, Biodiversity, Indigenous Peoples Rights: Rewarding women for their biodiversity stewardship – especially regarding saving seeds and nurturing trees – through targeted and effective public governance measures must be in place. Target support for Indigenous and local communities conserved territories (ICCAs). Set targets addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, reducing unsustainable consumption and Green House Gases

Sanitation: 100% safe sanitation for all by 2030, including safe treatment / reuse of waste materials (urine, faeces and grey/black water)

8. *What additional tools and indicators for the measurement of progress should be applied?*

Answer (max 200 words):

Each main priority area should set gender sub-targets

3. Sustainable Development Goals

The Rio+20 Outcome document outlined key principles for developing SDGs. It is stated that the SDGs should reflect all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) in a balanced way; and that they should be action-oriented, concise, easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, and that they should be guided by the Rio Outcome document. The Rio+20 Outcome document also states that the SDGs need to be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015, and that the process to establish SDGs needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes for the post-2015 development agenda.

It is important to underline the universal character of the SDGs. They must simultaneously respond to the need to have global goals for all countries and the need for a specific development focus.

The EU will have to set up a process to establish its position on the scope, nature and specifics of the SDGs. This should take into account the EU 2020 targets and those being further pursued under the resource efficiency flagship, as well as the proposals for priority areas and cross cutting themes made by the EU in the run up to Rio+20. It will also be important to ensure that goals should be consistent with internationally agreed goals, such as on biodiversity, climate and social aspects.

Questions:

9. *In your opinion, what specific themes or topics should SDGs cover? In what way could the EU build on existing or proposed goals and targets?*

Answer (max 200 words):

The Sustainable Development Goals bring an essential additional scope to the MDG and post-2015 development agenda; the missing link between **development at any cost**, and **development in a way which sustains the carrying capacity of the planet** (and with that, the wellbeing and livelihoods of future generations). Also, it moves away from the “charity” approach, where the richer nations can buy a good conscience and set conditions for development programmes in partner countries, to a better concept where **all nations have responsibility in promoting human rights, wellbeing and protection of our global commons**.

The **MDGs were too limiting in scope**, and did not reflect the aspirational and broader Millennium Declaration. As targets became synonymous with goals, it gave the false impression that it is acceptable to aim for some to remain in extreme poverty, or for half a population to still lack access to water.

We recommend reviewing the assessments of the MDGs, to understand what worked, what did not. UNDP’s analysis shows that **women’s rights and gender equality have been accelerators for achieving all MDGs**, not just MDG3. We should learn from these lessons, and make women’s rights and gender equality **a priority area for SDGs**.

We also recommend that the EU looks again at the proposals which were developed for **concrete targets for Chapter 5 of the Rio+20 outcome** documents in the first half of 2012, they came too late to fit into the negotiation process, but there were some good recommendations there.

We **warn against rushing into a new set of “Goals”** if they become again too limiting, and therefore more of a barrier than accelerator to sustainable development.

10. What form and structure should SDGs have? How should economic, social, and environmental dimensions, as well as the inter-linkages between them be addressed?

Answer (max 200 words):

The SDGs should not only focus on the environmental pillar, but bring the environmental and sustainability aspect into all priority areas.

The structure for the SDGs can build on the proposals for the post-2015 development agenda, building on the UN concept of the four priority areas: **environmental sustainability, inclusive social development, equitable economic development and peace and security**.

As a next level, SDGs should focus on prerequisites to achieve this, which are the rights framework: “**Human rights**”, “**women’s rights and gender equality**”, “**Indigenous Peoples’ rights**”, “**rights of the child**”, “**rights of future generations**”, “**poverty eradication**” and the social, cultural and economic rights: **right to health (including SRHR)**, the right to **food**, the right to **social protection**, the right to **education**, the right to **basic services as housing, water, sanitation, energy**. The right to a **healthy environment** as recognized in regional agreements, should become universal.

To assure these basic rights, SDGS need targets to protect our **global environmental commons** on which our livelihoods are based, our **oceans, soil, forests, biodiversity and climate**.

And as the main barrier to achieving any of the above, it is essential that **unsustainable sectors are entirely phased-out** or thoroughly **transformed** in particular **unsustainable energy, mining, chemicals, waste, transport, industrial agriculture, tourism**.

11. How can it be best ensured that SDGs and their monitoring are science based?

Answer (max 200 words):

The Joint Monitoring Program of the MDGs became a far too technocratic exercise, in the end, only got measured what the statisticians said could be measured. We cannot allow that this happens again with the SDGs. The **SDGs cannot be limited to what we can currently measure**. For a number of priority areas we need the political will to develop new measurements and monitoring mechanisms. We should build on the existing experience and knowledge with EEA, UNEP, IPCC etc. However, as Ban Ki Moon told the Women's Major Group at the Rio+20 summit, "we are all experts on our own lives", and this expertise needs to be consulted as well. We need the **monitoring by the local communities and in particular also the women and indigenous peoples**, to have a firm place in the monitoring of the SDGs.

12. How can one make sure that the SDGs will be relevant and will act as a stimulus to all countries (developed, emerging, developing)? How will they contribute to mobilizing action?

Answer (max 200 words):

The main effort in development of the SDGs should be in developing the **"Means of Implementation"**, and the **"Accountability" mechanisms**. Too often protecting the environment is portrayed as a burden, a cost, it is often being opposed to poverty eradication (if you don't build this nuke plant you will remain poor – if you don't use pesticides you will not develop). The cost of lives is valued too low, in favor of profits of a few. The SDGs need to create incentives to support positive sustainable actions, - e.g. through fiscal policies, green purchasing, obligatory insurances, direct subsidies, - and create barriers for unsustainable development – through fiscal policies, mandatory rights-based safe-guards etc. Measures are needed to increase corporate accountability and liability for unsustainable activities. And much stronger measures are needed to protect those who oppose unsustainable activities, and to punish those who harm them, especially when they are representing governments or corporations. As terrifying statistics show; each day women's activists and environmentalists are being killed because they oppose e.g. mining corporations; **access to**

affordable justice, in particular for women, is therefore a key aspect of SDGs implementation.

13. In what way should the SDGs relate to stimulating the inclusive Green economy?

Answer (max 200 words):

An inclusive green economy should be stimulated by the SDGs, also in the EU. The EU has probably the most developed legislation in this area, but still a lot is lacking. One particular area is that of assessment and **monitoring of technologies and environmental health**.

As agreed in the Rio+20 outcome document, the UN should develop recommendations for independent technology assessment and monitoring. An independent body or technology assessment and monitoring should have rules and regulations which prevent double hats of decision makers in the body (e.g. example of EFSA staff also working for biotechnology industry). This independent body can cater to the needs of developing countries and their citizens seeking advice before allowing new technologies to be tested in their region – too often developing countries and their peoples have been used as guinea pigs and dumping grounds (chemicals, pesticides, e-waste). In the government structure of such a body, there should be a space for representatives from civil society, including women's and indigenous organisations.

14. How do you see the relationship of SDGs to future goals following up on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are likely to be developed under the post 2015 development agenda?

Answer (max 200 words):

The SDGs should aim at **merging with the post-2015 development agenda** – the parallel implementation would be probably mean an overload.

The first proposals of the post-2015 agenda show already many areas of possible convergence.

The key will be to base the goals on the **Rio 1992 principles** and to agree on the funding mechanisms and accountability mechanisms.

We believe it is important that both processes are **open for civil society, major group and stakeholder involvement** in as open and transparent a way as possible, at least based on the standards of Rio+20. We believe a number of major groups are essential, including the women's major group, as well as others e.g youth, indigenous, labour unions, social movements, environmental NGOs...

4. Financing Strategy for sustainable development

The Rio+20 Outcome document underlined Means of Implementation as crucial to achieving sustainable development. It established an intergovernmental process under the UN General Assembly to produce options for a sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of financial resources and their effective use. Such a strategy should promote a single comprehensive approach to development financing, building on the Financing for Development agenda⁶ and promote an integrated approach to the various global financing processes, including Rio+20, climate change and biodiversity financing.

It is important that financing strategies for sustainable development should consider all possible sources to be mobilized by all types of stakeholders, including by national and international, public and private, financial and non-financial actions. This includes giving due attention to public and private financing schemes, innovative financing, taxation and pricing schemes, regulation, and to the barriers to foreign direct investment, as well as looking at the synergies and overlaps with other policy goals (development, climate change, biodiversity).

On external financing, the strategy should look beyond development aid. There is a need to recognize that the major emerging economies should no longer only be seen as recipients of aid even if they still require institutional and technological capacity building assistance. Relevant international and regional banks such (the IMF, World Bank and other Multilateral Development Banks, such as the EIB) should be involved. Also it should be noted that many of the financing and investment conditions are similar to those for fostering an inclusive Green economy.

Questions:

15. What should be the main elements covered in financing strategies for sustainable development? Could, for example, thematic strategies such as the Biodiversity Resource Mobilization Strategy⁷ be a useful starting point?

Answer (max 200 words):

A focus on local sustainable value chains see under 17.

16. What are some of the most effective financing and resource mobilisation schemes to date, such as public or private schemes, micro-financing, climate change and biodiversity financing? How can they be scaled up?

Answer (max 200 words):

⁶ <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>

⁷ <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=11654>

Funding sustainable development should **NOT rely on corporate / private sector funding**, as the wealthiest have an interest in keeping the status quo.

Funding **sustainable development should be based on public funding**, through a combination of national and international redistribution mechanisms and direct levies on unsustainable activities, e.g.

* **Regulate investors – e.g. limit financial speculation in food prices**

* **Redirect subsidies away from unsustainable activities**, such as:

- Fossil fuel and nuclear subsidies (Diversion of fossil fuel subsidies based on 2010 subsidy levels USD\$ 300b/an)

- Large scale fisheries

- Industrial agriculture subsidies

* **Global tax on chemical industry** (0.01% on global sales bringing 4 billion per year in trust fund)

* **30% reduction in all national military expenditures** (based on 2010 exp. USD\$ 500b/an)

* **ODA 0.7% GNI of OECD countries and 0.35% GDP BRIC and emerging economies** (USD\$ 100b/an)

* **Tobin Tax (FTT)** on international financial transactions (USD\$ 100b/an)

* **Closing of Tax Havens** globally (USD\$ 40b/an)

* Tax on **mining - extractive industry tax** (Norway ca 80% of oil revenue taxed goes into oil fund for future)

17. What are the most effective ways of encouraging investment? Where possible, link your replies to questions on the inclusive Green economy.

Answer (max 200 words):

Investments in **local sustainable value chains** are the most promising, but so far, ODA has not been good at supporting this type of investments. **ODA is often too short term** (project based).

We can **learn from how local sustainable investments are successful in Europe**. For example, in **Germany 40% of renewable energy investments are owned by citizens** or citizen's organisations, and 11% by farmers. Only 6% are owned by the large energy companies. It's the citizens who want the energy turn around (the energy sector more or less

opposes it). So instruments are needed which help citizens and municipalities to have access to funds to invest in their sustainable energy production. Key instruments are:

- **Feed in Tariff legislation** to assure a safe and long-term investment by citizens and small investors

- **Low-interest rate loans for local authorities and cooperatives, including cooperative banks**, e.g. many municipalities in Denmark have access to almost 0% interest loans from the state, which makes that long term investments in housing, energy, schools becomes affordable

- **Regulation which supports citizen's owned investments and cooperatives**

In all our projects in developing countries we encounter that when local citizens and municipalities want to obtain funds to invest in sustainable energy our housing, they can often only get a loan at a **10-20-30% interest rate per year** – which makes the investments completely impossible, no one by its right mind would take such a loan in the EU.

18. How should coherence, coordination and non-duplication of efforts be ensured with regard to the Financing for Development process and other relevant processes?

Answer (max 200 words):

Funding of Sustainable Development will need a mix of mechanisms, as mentioned before, with only the traditional “bankable” project criteria used by EBRD, WB and other development banks it can not be achieved, - the 40% citizens owned renewable energy installations in Germany would not have existed.

More knowledge should be gathered from the EIB – the European Investment Bank, and from the most crisis-resistant banks: the cooperative banks and the green and social banks such as Triodos bank.

5. Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

An important theme of Rio+20 was on furthering the institutional framework for sustainable development. Rio decided to strengthen the functions of UNEP. Rio also decided to establish a High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development. The EU will now have to consider how it can best contribute to implementing this outcome.

Questions:

19. What measures would you see best taken to ensure that the EU effectively contributes to the implementation of these outcomes?

Answer (max 200 words):

EU should support the strengthening of UNEPs functions financially, in a substantial way.

EU should contribute to the development of a meaningful HLPF. It should not start of as a high level forum, and then end up as a chat shop – as has happened to another similar forum.

The organization and the programme of work of the HLPF should allow important decision-making, and a better integration of the work of UNEP, UNDP, DESA, ILO, FAO and WHO as well as the Bretton Woods institutions (WB, IMF etc) on sustainable development.

EU should contribute to public participation in the processes, and provide earmarked financial support for this.

EU should look at good practices from Member States regarding funding which achieved lasting improvement of the MDGs, for example, the Dutch Governments “MDG-3” fund which has achieved incredible results, to a large extend because the scope of which was much broader – addressing all areas of women’s rights – then the definition of the MDG3 targets.

20. Do you think the participation of civil society, social partners, and other stakeholders should be strengthened? If so, how internationally and within the EU?

Answer (max 200 words):

Currently the Rio+20 civil society representatives, which are organized by major groups, are working with UNEP and DESA to evaluate best practices and propose improvements for future involvement in the post Rio+20 processes.

The Women’s Major Group has become a strong, representative and reactive network throughout the preparations of the Rio+20 summit, and has internally consulted on how to further strengthen its participation in the post Rio+20 process. Proposals are being discussed and tested with thematic and regional focal points within the major group women, based on a transparent nomination and election procedure.

The Women’s Major Group envisages an extended Major Groups participation model with across major group Thematic Clusters for the post-Rio+20 process, and a clear definition of which groups represent commercial interests (direct or indirect) and which groups represent not for profit, non-governmental organisations without commercial interest.

Other issues

You may also outline your views on other issues related to the follow-up to Rio+20 that have not been mentioned above.

This submissions is presented by WECF International (Netherlands, France, Germany), together with the following member organisations (see below), and based on input received from Women Major Group partners globally, in particular Global Forest Coalition (Colombia, Paraguay), Roots for Equity (Pakistan), Solidar (Costa Rica), All Indian

Women's Conference (India), ReactionClimatico (Bolivia), SustainLabour (Italy, Spain), RESURJ (Argentina, Mexico), DAWN (Philippines) and WEDO (NY).

WECF Member organisation co-submitting:

Ecolife	Georgia
NGO - Fund of Women Entrepreneurs	Georgia
Solidarity Among Women	Azerbaijan
Ramazzini Institute - Cesare Maltoni Cancer Research Center	Italy
KA-Korashan Association	Portugal
EDEN Center	Albania
EcoUrban Workshop	Serbia
Alliance for cancer prevention	UK
Khazer Ecological and Cultural NGO	Georgia
Women's Movement& Integral Development	Albania
Femeia Mileniului III	Romania
NGO "Terra-1530"	Moldova
CUTEZĂTORUL	Moldova
Black Sea Women's Club	Ukraine
Foundation Caucasus Environment	Georgia
Mountain club "Jabagly-Manas	Kazakhstan
Clean up Greece	Greece
The Greens Movement of Georgia	Georgia
Georgian Environmental and Biological Monitoring Association	Georgia
Social Eco-Club	Kazakhstan

Thank you for your contribution!