

Introduction

As we approach the UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (UNCSD) or 'Rio+20', we stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. The identification of the 'green economy' as one of the key themes for the Summit represents a significant opportunity to define a new global economic paradigm, but it also entails a risk that previously 'hard-won' global agreements on sustainable development might be lost or obscured in the pursuit of new agenda. There are also as yet few definitions as to what constitutes a 'green economy', which make some actors weary about its potential application.

Recognizing the challenges of this 'new' agenda, it is therefore critical that any global agreements that advance progress towards a green economy are governed by an over-arching set of principles that have common currency among governments and stakeholders alike. Arriving at an all-encompassing definition of a green economy may be both laborious and constraining, so the application of broader principles may ultimately prove more helpful.

There is range of literature that can be drawn upon in the identification of some common guiding principles for the green economy. The following document aims to combine some of the most prominent existing principles relating to sustainable development and the green economy into a cohesive guiding tool. Fifteen principles have been identified that represent a consolidation of existing international agreements and more radical and forward-thinking proposals, cutting across The Stockholm Declaration, the Rio Declaration, The Johannesburg Declaration, The Earth Charter, The One Planet Living Principles, The Green Economy Coalition, the TUC 'Just Transition' principles, and The New Economics Foundation.

One of the goals of the Rio+20 Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development. To enhance political will to achieve an ambitious outcome from Rio+20, the international community will have to agree on a common ethical framework of shared values and principles. This document offers State and non-State actors an overview the kinds of principles that might constitute that framework.

This document has been put together by Stakeholder Forum in collaboration with Bioregional and the Earth Charter Initiative.

Principles for a Green Economy

1. Equitable distribution of wealth

Promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations, to reduce disparities between rich and poor, and achieve social and economic justice, within a sustainable and fair share of the world's resources and leaving sufficient space for wildlife and wilderness.

2. Economic equity and fairness

Guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, create economic partnerships that would transfer substantial

relating to trade should avoid unfair protectionism, but overall should ensure that trade supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection and progressive labor standards, promoting a 'race to the top' rather than the bottom.

8. International liability

Acknowledging that actions within national boundaries can cause environmental impacts beyond national jurisdictions, requiring cooperation in the development of international law that allows for independent judicial remedies in such cases.

9. Information, participation and accountability

All citizens should have access to information concerning the environment, as well as the opportunity

2. Economic equity and fairness

Guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, create economic partnerships that would transfer substantial financial and technological

<p>2b. Affirm that with increased freedom, knowledge, and power comes increased responsibility to promote the common good.</p> <p>7c. Promote the development, adoption, and equitable transfer of environmentally sound technologies.</p> <p>8a. Support international scientific and technical cooperation on sustainability, with special attention to the needs of developing nations.</p> <p>10b. Enhance the intellectual, financial, technical, and social resources of developing nations, and relieve them of onerous international debt.</p>	<p>Principle 9 : Equity and local economy As part of national, regional and project level sustainable development planning, governments and civil society consider what citizens need and what local renewable and waste resources are available which could meet those needs. Where it is necessary to develop new techniques, services and technologies to utilise these resources and meet these needs, governments must incentivise and encourage research and development, and support technology transfer with commensurate financial support for developing countries</p>	<p>Ecological debt trading, obliging rich countries to pay poorer countries for over-using resources and over-pollution. This would have significant effects on development through redistributing economic wealth to poorer countries.</p>
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3. Intergenerational Equity

Environmental resources and ecosystems must be carefully managed and safeguarded so as to enhance the value of environmental assets for future generations, thereby equitably meeting their needs and allowing them to flourish.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	Johannesburg Declaration
<p>Principle 2 The natural resources of the earth, including the air, water, land, flora and fauna and especially representative samples of natural ecosystems, must be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning or management, as appropriate</p>	<p>Principle 3 The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.</p>	<p>37. From the African continent, the cradle of humankind, we solemnly pledge to the peoples of the world and the generations that will surely inherit this Earth that we are determined to ensure that our collective hope for sustainable development is realized.</p>
Earth Charter	One Planet Living	The New Economics Foundation
4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for	Intergenerational equity is implicit in one	By focusing on building real value within

present and future generations.

a. Recognize that the freedom of action of each generation is qualified by the needs of future generations. b. Transmit to future generations values, traditions, and institutions that support the long-term flourishing of Earth's human and ecological communities

planet living, where we live well within a sustainable and fair share of the earth's resources today so that resources can be safeguarded for future generations and the natural world.

environmental limits our natural environment can be protected for both current and future generations.

Realising the Great Transition would see value rise steadily across three dimensions: for

6. Internalization of Externalities

Building true social and environmental should be the central goal of policy. To this end, market prices must reflect real social and environmental costs and benefits, so that the polluter bears the cost of pollution. Tax regimes and regulatory frameworks should be used to 'tilt the playing field', making 'good' things cheap and 'bad' things very expensive.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	Johannesburg Declaration
	<p>Principle 16 National authorities should endeavour to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.</p>	
Earth Charter	Green Economy Coalition	The New Economics Foundation

7d. Internalize the full environmental and

7. International Cooperation

	be important partners in achieving this outcome.	
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8. International liability

Acknowledging that actions within national boundaries can cause environmental impacts beyond national jurisdictions, requiring cooperation in the development of international law that allows for independent judicial remedies in such cases.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	Earth Charter
<p>Principle 22 States shall cooperate to develop further the international law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage caused by activities within the jurisdiction or control of such States to areas beyond their jurisdiction.</p>	<p>Principle 13 States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage. States shall also cooperate in an expeditious and more determined manner to develop further international law regarding liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental damage caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction.</p> <p>Principle 14 States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.</p>	<p>2a. Accept that with the right to own, manage, and use natural resources comes the duty to prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people.</p> <p>13d. Institute effective and efficient access to administrative and independent judicial procedures, including remedies and redress for environmental harm and the threat of such harm.</p>

9. Information, participation and accountability

All citizens should have access to information concerning the environment, as well as the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. To ensure that environmental issues are handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, institutions at all levels (national and international) must be democratic and accountable, and make use of tools that enable civil society to hold them to account. In this regard, the access to justice by citizens for redress and remedy in environmental matters is a cornerstone of enhancing accountability.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	Johannesburg Declaration
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. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.

7a. Reduce, reuse, and recycle the materials used in production and consumption systems, and ensure that residual waste can be assimilated by ecological systems.

7.b Act with restraint and efficiency when using energy, and rely increasingly on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.

Introduce sustainable production and consumption within a fair and sustainable share of ecological and carbon footprint and following clean production with considering all of the ten one planet living principles of sustainability:

1. Zero Carbon
2. Zero Waste
3. Sustainable transport
4. Sustainable materials
5. Local and Sustainable Food,
6. Sustainable water
7. Land use and wildlife
8. Culture and heritage
9. Equity and the local economy
10. Health and Happiness

New problems of unsustainable consumption have escalated. While almost a third of the world's population struggles to survive on less than US\$2 per day, the lifestyles of citizens in wealthy industrialised countries result in an ecological footprint 3 to 5 times greater than the earth's capacity. Consequently there is inadequate progress towards the wellbeing of all humanity.

This prevailing economic paradigm – debt-fuelled, fossil-fueled, consumption-based growth with insecure jobs – is entrenched globally, but we still rely on it to solve the very problems it is alr dD>17(r)]TJ 0 Tc 0 Tw 5.84 8 Td ()Tj -0 EMC /P CS0 cs Td so

Principle 14 Rational planning constitutes an essential tool for reconciling any conflict between the needs of development and the need to protect and improve the environment.

Earth Charter

One Planet Living

Implementation of the Summit.

Green Economy Coalition

12. Just Transition

There will be costs in making the transition to a low carbon, green economy in the pursuit of sustainable development. Some States and actors are better able to bear those costs than others and are more resilient to transitional changes. In the process of change, the most vulnerable must be supported and protected – developing countries must have access to appropriate financial and technical

12. Redefine Well-being

GDP is an inadequate tool for measuring social wellbeing and environmental integrity. Many socially and environmentally damaging activities enhance GDP– such as fossil fuel exploitation and financial speculation. Human wellbeing and quality of life should be the guiding objectives of economic development.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	New Economics Foundation
<p>Principle 5 Of all things in the world, people are the most precious. It is the people that propel social progress, create social wealth, develop science and technology and, through their hard work, continuously transform the human environment. Along with social progress and the advance of production, science and technology, the capability of man to improve the environment increases with each passing day.</p>	<p>Principle 1 Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.</p>	<p>People rightly associate falling GDP with rising unemployment, poverty and general misery. The way our economy has been structured is such that this has indeed been the case. A central goal of the Great Transition is to manage this change in such a way that we are better off not worse off. GDP is a very poor measure of progress: the revenues skimmed off the financial system by traders in the City of London as the pyramid of 'toxic' derivatives was being built added to GDP; cleaning up the effects of pollution increases GDP; paying the costs of high rates of crime increases GDP. None of these things can be said to build lasting social or environmental value. Rather, they are highly destructive of it.</p>
Earth Charter	One Planet Living	Green Economy Coalition

	<p>sustainability, community and a sense of place is nurtured. Build on local cultural heritage to foster social capital and connectedness.</p> <p>Principle 10 – Health and Happiness Encouraging active, sociable, meaningful lives to promote good health and well being.</p>	
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13. Gender Equality

Gender equality and equity are prerequisites to the transition to a green economy and the achievement of sustainable development. Women have a vital role to play as agents of change for environmental management and development – their actions must be rewarded accordingly and their skills enhanced.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	Johannesburg Declaration
	<p>Principle 20 Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.</p>	<p>20. We are committed to ensuring that women's empowerment, emancipation and gender equality are integrated in all the activities encompassed within Agenda 21, the Millennium development goals^{6/} and the Plan of Implementation of the Summit.</p>
Earth Charter	Green Economy Coalition	New Economics Foundatil

committed to them

15. Safeguard biodiversity and prevent pollution of any part of the environment

Protect and restore biodiversity and natural habitats as integral to development and human wellbeing, and develop a system of governance that protects the resilience of ecosystems to prevent irreversible damage.

Stockholm Declaration	Earth Charter	Green Economy Coalition
<p>The discharge of toxic substances or of other substances and the release of heat, in such quantities or concentrations as to exceed the capacity of the environment to render them harmless, must be halted in order to ensure that serious or irreversible damage is not inflicted upon ecosystems.</p> <p>Nature conservation, including wildlife, must therefore receive importance in planning for economic development.</p>	<p>Principle 4 In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.</p>	<p>18. We welcome the focus of the Johannesburg Summit on the indivisibility of human dignity and are resolved, through decisions on targets, timetables and partnerships, to speedily increase access to such basic requirements as clean water, sanitation, adequate shelter, energy, health care, food security and the 3 Tc 0aiJg9o-3(e)4()r</p>

5a. Adopt at all levels sustainable development

ABOUT STAKEHOLDER FORUM

Stakeholder Forum is an international organisation working to advance sustainable development and promote stakeholder democracy at a global level. Our work aims to enhance open, accountable and participatory international decision-making on sustainable development.

Stakeholder Forum works across four key areas: Global Policy and Advocacy (including Global Governance); Stakeholder Engagement; Media and Communications; and Capacity Building.

OUR WORK TOWARDS EARTH SUMMIT 2012

Achieving sustainable development requires cooperation among a vast range of stakeholders. Stakeholder Forum is working with representatives from all nine Major Groups globally in its work towards Earth Summit 2012, to enhance involvement of civil society in the Summit process. To this end it is producing analysis, facilitating dialogue, hosting workshops, conducting consultations and building multi-stakeholder coalitions. To communicate its work it is also producing radio podcasts, videos and animations to engage a wide diversity of stakeholders.

Stakeholder Forum

