Overview of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

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Background

- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) - "Earth Summit," Rio de Janeiro, 1992
  - Main theme: Environment and sustainable development
  - Resulting treaties: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
  - Non-binding documents: Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Statement of Forest Principles

The Environment and Rio Declaration

- Emphasized the critical role of peace and security for sustainable development:

    – Calls for States to "respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict and cooperate in its further development, as necessary."

"Rio+20"

- ## Main themes:

  - The green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

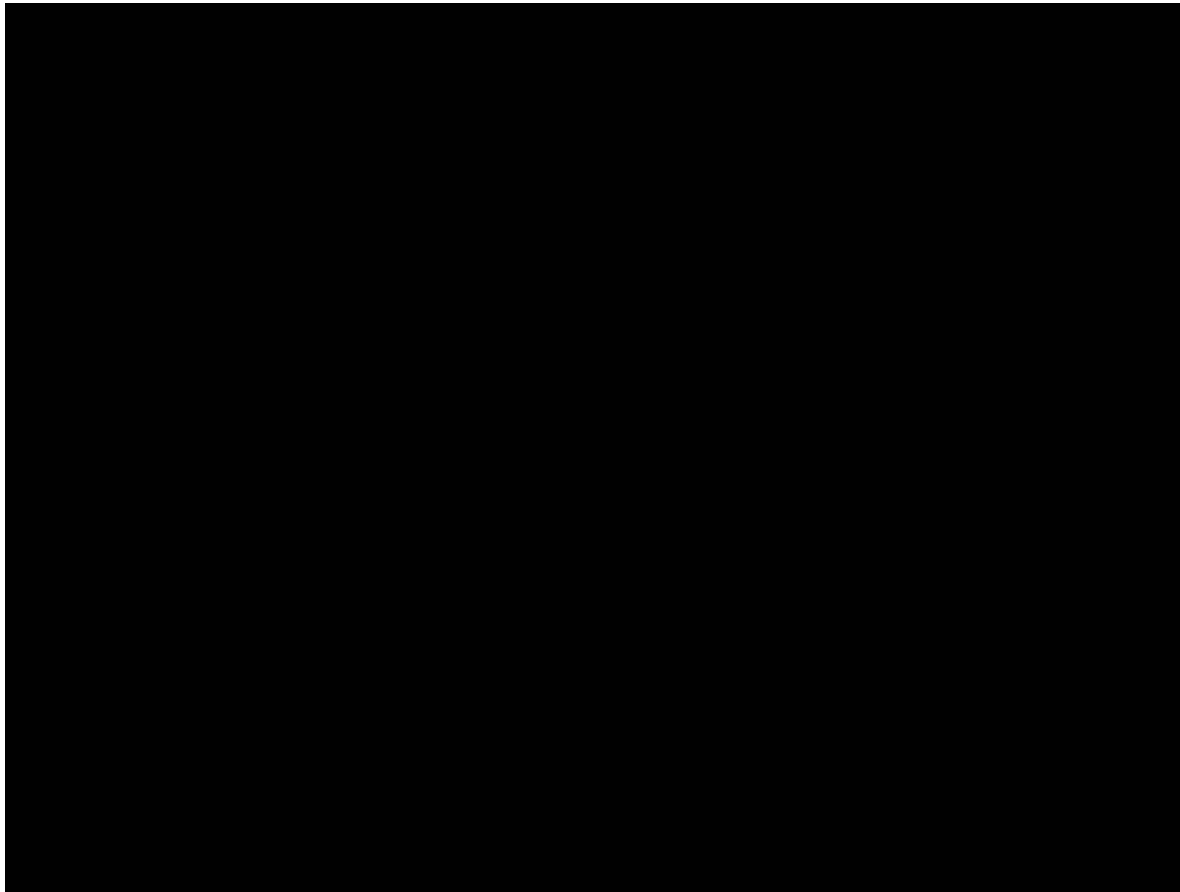 - The institutional framework for sustainable development

"Rio+20"

– Main objective:

- To secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development

- Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of sustainable development

- Address new and emerging challenges

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Rio+20: A Video Clip by the Government of Brazil

Importance of Natural Resources

- Liberian reliance upon natural resources
  - Natural resources as source of discord and opportunities for improvement
    - Economic
    - Peacebuilding/Peacekeeping

- Gradual shift to a green economy
  - Natural resources as source of stability and unification
    - Accurate valuation of economic benefits from natural capital

From conflict to peacebuilding:
The role of natural resources
and the environment (UNEP 2009)

- ## Main conclusions
  - Natural resources and the environment can be implicated in all phases of the conflict cycle, contributing to the outbreak of violence

  - In post-conflict countries, they can also contribute to conflict relapse if they are not properly managed.

  - The environment itself fall victim to conflict.

  - Sustainable management of Natural resources and the environment can contribute to peacebuilding through economic development, employment generation and sustainable livelihoods.

The Green Economy

- UNEP defines a green economy as one that results in 'improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

- In a green economy, growth in income and employment should be driven by public and private investments that:
  - reduce carbon emissions and pollution
  - enhance energy and resource efficiency
  - prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services."

The Green Economy

- The major findings of the [UNEP 2011] report:

  – Green economy supports growth, income and jobs

  – In the long run (after 2020) moving towards a green economy would outperform business as usual by both traditional measures and more holistic measures

  – There is a need to establish new enabling conditions to promote the transition to a green economy, and this is where urgent action is required of policy makers around the world (Rio+20)

A green economy can contribute to poverty reduction

- Direct link between poverty alleviation and the sustainable management of natural resources *(benefit flows from natural capital that are received directly by the poor).*

- Green Economy is particularly important in low income countries, where ecosystem goods and services are a large component of the livelihoods of poor rural communities

- Provide a safety-net against natural disasters and economic shocks.

Poverty and Environment Programme Strategy

- Main goal: to mainstream environmental sustainability and development

- Main objectives:

  1. To mainstream poverty-environment linkages within development strategies, policies and practices

  2. To mainstream climate change into those strategies

  3. To build capacities for sustainable management and governance of environment and natural resources

Mainstreaming Poverty-Environment Links in Development

- Over 50% of Liberians live below poverty line
- The poor are more dependant upon natural resources and environment
- Liberian development strategy – directly related with natural resources
- Evident linkage with poverty reduction, and eradication of inequality
- Programme aims to develop poverty and environmental indicators to strengthen the PRS monitoring system

Rio+20 and Developing Countries

- A platform for international cooperation on climate change, sustainable development, poverty reduction.

- Raises the opportunity for developing nations to become active participants in the international debates on sustainable development and environmental responsibility.

Rio+20 Success

- Dependent upon participants' preparation

- United Nations to provide technical and logistical assistance to increase capacity in developing nations, including Liberia

- Guidance notes and questionnaire were provided soliciting the inputs from the Liberian Government

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Rio+20 – Preparatory Process Objectives in Liberia

–   Building national capacity to engage more fully in the Rio+20 process.

–   Highlight Liberia's priorities, its realistic challenges

–   Connect the issues to be discussed during the Conference with the problems that face the country.

–   Looking at its planned strategies, Liberia can bring the issues that impede most critically in its path to sustainable development.

–   Ensure continuing efforts to implement the outcomes of the conference.

Rio+20 – Preparatory Process

- Consists of three consecutive and interlinked phases:
  - the preparation of a stocktaking report based on interviews, consultations and desk review;
  - a multi-stakeholder meeting addresses the issues of the UNCSD; and
  - the outcomes of both the stocktaking report and multi-stakeholder meeting are captured in a national report.

Phase 1: Prepare the stocktaking report

– Based on interviews and consultations with national stakeholders in national Major Groups and donor organizations.

– Relevant documentation of national strategies, plans, policies, capacity needs assessments and practical experiences.

Phase 1: Prepare the stocktaking report

– What actions have been introduced in Liberia to strengthen political support for sustainable development?

– Has Liberia introduced or promoted integrated planning and decision making for sustainable development (NSDS, PRSP, Five Year Plan, NCS or NEAP, other)? What are the lessons from this experience?

Phase 1: Prepare the stocktaking report

– Are there specific industry sectors or resource areas (e.g., water, energy, biodiversity, other) where national political commitment to achieve sustainable development goals has been especially strong? If so, what factors explain that commitment?

– What institutions have been developed for sustainable development in your country? Have changes been made to existing institutions in this context?

– Have the Ministry of Finance/Ministry of Planning or important line ministries been engaged in public policy and planning for sustainable development?

Phase 1: Prepare the stocktaking report

- – What new and emerging challenges are likely to affect the prospects for sustainable development in the coming decade?

- – Is there a consensus among policy makers in your country on the meaning of the term green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication? If so, how is it defined?

- – What green economy actions have been taken so far in your country, if any?

- – Are there studies for your country that identify success factors, challenges or risks associated with green economy policies identified?

Phase 2: Conduct multi-stakeholder consultative meeting

- Based on the stocktaking report, a multi-stakeholder meeting will be organized by the project team to discuss and move towards consensus on:
  - a national assessment of progress
  - remaining gaps, experiences and opportunities pertaining to the two themes of the UNCSD.

- Intended to build the capacity of relevant national institutions to engage in the regional and global preparation processes and outcome of the UNCSD.
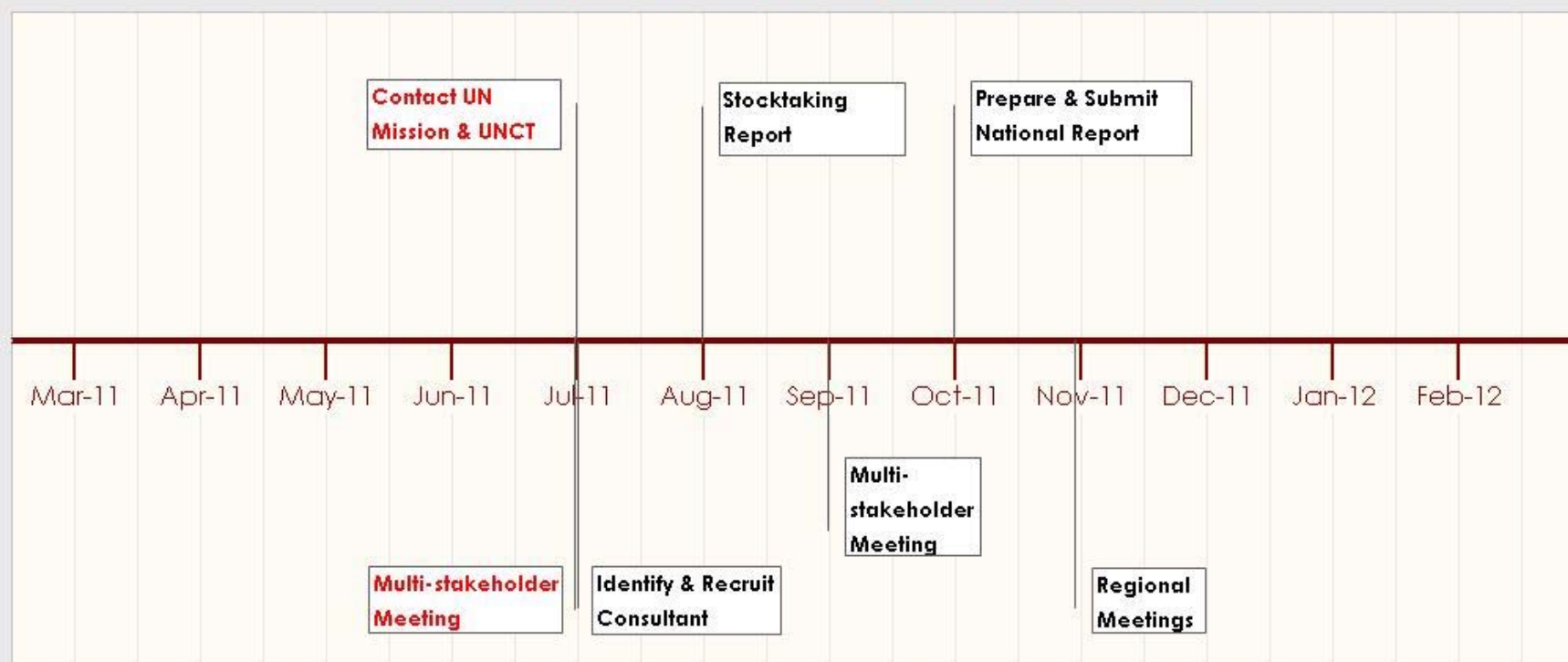
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Phase 3: Prepare a national report

- Capturing the outcomes of both the stocktaking exercise and the multi-stakeholder meeting .

- Address (Rio+20) bjectives and themes in the context of the present situation, experiences gained and aspirations of the country.

- Aim at providing a number of recommendations for Rio+20.

Time Frame & Deliverables

Rio + 20 Website

www.uncsd2012.org

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june 2012
the event that will take hold of the city in 2012.

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DOCUMENTATION & RESOURCES

Access our extensive Document Library - for reference material related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio+20.

> Minutes of the Sixteenth UNCSD Bureau Meeting
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THEMES OF THE UNCSD - RIO+20 - CONFERENCE

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, will focus on two themes:

> Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
> Institutional framework for sustainable development

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INPUTS FOR COMPILATION DOCUMENT

Do not miss to submit your inputs to the compilation document - deadline November 11, 2011.

> Inputs for Compilation Document
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08
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RIO+20 SECRETARIAT

Mr. Sha Zukang, Secretary-General of Rio+20

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FEATURED EVENTS

> High Level Dialogue on the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development
19 Jul 2011 - 21 Jul 2011 , Solo, Indonesia

> High-Level Meeting on Youth
25 Jul 2011 - 26 Jul 2011 , General Assembly Hall , New York

> 64th Annual DPI/NGO Conference, Theme: Sustainable Societies, Responsive Citizens, DPI
3 Sep 2011 - 5 Sep 2011 , Maritim Hotel, Bonn, Germany

Meetings & Events

LATEST NEWS

> 7 Jul 2011 - Rio 20: African Leaders Stress Importance of Sustainable Development

> 7 Jul 2011 - UN: US$1.9 Trillion Needed Annually to Avert "Major Planetary Collapse"

> 7 Jul 2011 - UN Report: Immediate Gains in Cleantech and Sustainable Agricultural Needed to Avert Catastrophic Impacts

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Member States

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, is an intergovernmental process driven by Member states of the United Nations with full involvement of the UN system and Major groups. Several preparatory Member States led meetings are taking place in the run-up to the Conference, in order to discuss the objective and themes of the Conference.

The Conference will be convened at the highest possible level, including Heads of State of Governments and other representatives, and will result in a focused political document.

The effectiveness of Member States engagement in Rio+20 will depend on the quality of national and regional preparations that will feed into the global process. Please see our section with Member States-Led Activities here

Click on any of the Member States links below to read in depth information on their preparatory work and engagement towards the Rio+20 Conference — and beyond.

DOCUMENTS

Concept Note Supporting National Preparations for The United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development UNCSD Rio+20, Prepared by DESA and UNDP

Guidance Note on Supporting National Preparations for the United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development (UNCSD), Rio+20

Letter to All Permanent Missions on National Preparations

Nota informativa sobre el proyecto de apoyo a los preparativos nacionales para la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible Río+20

Note d'information sur le soutien à la préparation nationale en vue de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le développement durable — CNUDD Rio+20

Questionnaire for the Member States

Terms of Reference - National Preparatory Process

Terms of Reference - National Preparatory Process (French)

Terms of Reference - National Preparatory Process (Spanish)

Afghanistan	Albania
Algeria	Andorra
Angola	Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina	Armenia
Australia	Austria
Azerbaijan	Bahamas
Bahrain	Bangladesh
Barbados	Belarus
Belgium	Belize
Benin	Bhutan
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Bosnia and Herzegovina

Thank You

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        http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/index.html