

Bridging the Implementation Gap for Rio+20

BY UNDESA, Netherlands

One of the decisions from Rio+20 was to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals for the post-2015 development agenda. There is a strong growing ownership and understanding that we are on the cusp of an important transition. Ownership and engagement includes governments, civil society and private sector. The Sustainable Development Goals will affect even the poorest persons in terms of poverty reduction and health. They address issues of climate change, marine ecosystems, and terrestrial degradation with an ambitious universal integrated inclusive transformation.

Green economy is well placed to be a major contributor to attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, the most relevant being proposed goal 8 to promote strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all but also many others like clean energy access, water and sanitation and agriculture. Orders of magnitude more investment will come from private sector but governments and the UN have an important role to play in shaping markets, lowering risk and developing capacity for the transition.

The participants expressed appreciation for the workshop's rich discussion across many green economy issues and felt that they had gained a better appreciation of how to make use of the green economy/ green growth in their work. Participants included over 60 Government officials and civil society involved in planning, sustainable development processes, High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development negotiators energy, transport, agriculture, water and sanitation. Countries represented included Ghana, Ecuador, Gambia, Vietnam, Guatemala, Cote d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, Antigua & Barbuda, Mexico, South Africa, Jordan, Burkina Faso, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Philippines, and others not recorded. Agencies included ILO, UNDP, UN DESA, UNEP, UNESCO and NGOs Green Economy Best Practices, Green Economy Coalition among others.