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EXPLORING THE DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract:-Sustainable development is synonymous in the minds of many with the colour green—and for good reason. Twenty years ago at the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, leaders set out what today is conventional wisdom: human progress—both social and economic—cannot be divorced from environmental protection. Unless both are advanced together, both will flounder or fail. Sustainable development is as much about health, education, and jobs, as it is about ecosystems. It is about ever widening inclusion and movement away from decisions that erode democratic space and do not address social inequality, intolerance, and violence. Sustainable development is about change that transforms impoverished peoples, communities, and countries into informed, educated, healthy and productive societies. It is about wealth creation that generates equality and opportunity; it is about consumption and production patterns that respect planetary boundaries; it is about increasing tolerance and respect for human rights. Building on the human development legacy that originated with Amartya Sen and Mahbub Ul Haq and was captured by the first Human Development Report in 1990, UNDP has long promoted alternative approaches to measuring human progress, including with the Human Development Index. Today, we are building on this legacy by exploring how to adjust the index to reflect environmental sustainability, so that governments and citizens might better track real progress towards truly sustainable development. This must be our collective objective.

Key words: - Sustainable development, impoverished communities, Human Development, social, environmental, and economic progress, ecosystems, development programming ,

INTRODUCTION: -

Sustainable development is synonymous in the minds of many with the colour green—and for good reason. Twenty years ago at the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, leaders set out what today is conventional wisdom: human progress—both social and economic—cannot be divorced from environmental protection. Unless both are advanced together, both will flounder or fail. Sustainable development is as much about health, education, and jobs, as it is about ecosystems. It is about ever widening inclusion and movement away from decisions that erode democratic space and do not address social inequality, intolerance, and violence. Sustainable development is about change that transforms impoverished peoples, communities, and countries into informed, educated, healthy and productive societies. It is about wealth creation that generates equality and opportunity; it is about consumption and production patterns that respect planetary boundaries; it is about increasing tolerance and respect for human rights. Building on the human development legacy that originated with Amartya Sen and Mahbub Ul Haq and was captured by the first Human Development Report in 1990, UNDP has long promoted alternative approaches to measuring human progress, including with the Human Development Index. Today, we are building on this legacy by exploring how to adjust the index to reflect environmental sustainability, so that governments and citizens might better track real progress towards truly sustainable development. This must be our collective objective.

As countries prepare for the 'Rio+20' United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, UNDP is pleased to share this paper. After suggesting what it takes to move towards sustainable development, the report sets out national examples of progress toward sustainable development, from developing countries like Nepal and Niger, as well as emerging economies like South Africa. These examples show how social, environmental, and economic progress can be integrated to make a more sustainable future. They illustrate what the future of development programming should look like. Instead of focusing on the tradeoffs between the three strands of development, this paper highlights the range and significance of the complementarities between them. It describes 'triple win' development policies and programming that regenerate the global commons by

integrating social development with economic growth and environmental sustainability.

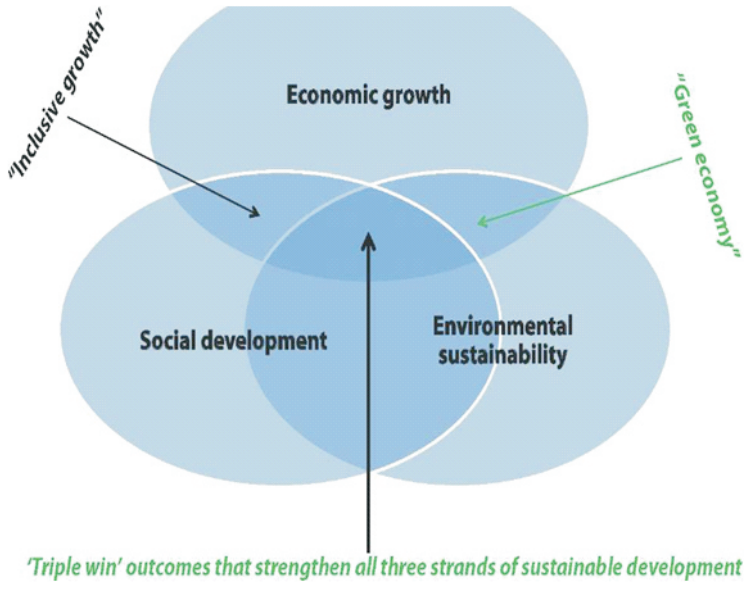
UNDP invites policy-makers and practitioners preparing for 'Rio+20' to consider this report as a contribution to the debate on how to make sustainable development happen. The global initiative, sustainable development, as articulated by the World Commission on Environment and Development and adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit, signals an important response by the global community to reverse current trends of environmental degradation. The concept of sustainable development with its concern for the ecosystem's health, social justice, and ideals of responsibility to future generations, offers hope to the modern environment gone awry. Its wide appeal has attracted a diverse range of advocates. As Serageldin (1994) of the World Bank argues, “without better environmental stewardship, development will be undermined; and without accelerated development in poor countries, environmental policies will fail.”

However, for many, sustainable development is not practical, given the current cultural patterns of material and energy consumption in the North, (where one quarter of the people consume three quarters of the world's resources), and the enormous population growth in the South. It is expected that the 6 billion mark of the world's population will soon be passed, only ten years after we passed the 5 billion mark (Harrison,1992). Limitations of existing institutional environmental management policies and practices further the problem. Lele (1991) points out that the current conception of sustainable development contains some significant problems, which include “incomplete perception of poverty and environmental degradation, and confusion about the role of economic growth and about the concepts of sustainability and participation.” There has been a lack of a clear distinction between the objectives of sustainability, such as the integration of environment and economics in decision making, equitable distribution of resources, quantitative and qualitative growth, and the means for carrying out the objectives. Another source of the problems frequently articulated by the sustainable development researchers is the avoidance of addressing deeper socio-political changes or cultural values that are needed to change current resource consumption patterns. Even though the member states of the international community, UN agencies, the World Bank, governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, and community groups are adopting sustainable development plans and strategies they are doing so without clear theoretical rigor (Clayton and Radcliffe 1996). As Norgaard (1994:) argues, “as conventionally understood, sustainable development contests our competence to predict the consequences of our interactions with nature and taxes our capability to control those interruptions so that the old idea of development remains intact yet is sustainable.”

Development is not just about growth. Likewise, sustainability is not just about protecting the environment. Both development and sustainability are primarily about people living in peace with each other and in equilibrium with the planet. Their rights, opportunities, choices, dignity and values are (or should be) at the centre of everything. Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of people today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Inter-generational equity—avoiding the unjustified transfer of development risks from present to future generations, without sacrificing reductions in poverty and inequality today at the altar of future environmental concerns—is implicit in this approach to development. Current patterns of consumption and production risk breaching planetary boundaries. If the natural environment undergoes significant degradation, so too does the potential to improve people's lives—both in this and subsequent generations. This is especially true for the world's poorest—most of whom rely directly upon nature for their livelihoods, and whose prospects are therefore most directly affected by the threats to ecosystems.

Unless issues of equity and sustainability are properly addressed, current development trajectories could grind to a halt, or even go into reverse. Avoiding such outcomes will be the great challenge of the 21st century. To achieve sustainable development the six key principles that are needed to recalibrate the global development agenda. It then uses country case studies that describe policy measures, programmes, and efforts that can support a more robust and sustainable human development model. This method is used to illustrate examples of enlarging people's freedoms and opportunities that can be achieved while safeguarding the natural environment for future generations. It also suggests that sustainable development requires that it's economic, social, and environmental 'pillars' be thought of as synergistic and integrated 'strands' that lend themselves to interweaving and linkages. This paper is devoted to development policy and practice as the art and craft of weaving these strands together, in order to make sustainable development real. It looks at the 'how' of sustainable development. It considers what can happen when green growth—the nexus of the 'economic' and 'environmental' strands of sustainable development—is combined with inclusive growth—the nexus of the 'economic' and 'social' strands (Figure 1). This paper provides concrete examples of policies, programmes, and projects from different countries and sectors that are restoring the global environmental commons while also

Figure 1—Sustainable development and 'triple wins'



providing employment, energy, and other basic services to vulnerable people, and building resilience in vulnerable communities, whose legitimate development aspirations must not go unmet. It is by expanding these programmes and policies that 'triple wins' can be achieved—and significant progress can be made in developing green economies, and more sustainable production and consumption patterns.

A four-step algorithm for pursuing or expanding triple-win programming emphasizes:

1)Identifying opportunities for triple-win programming, and specific activities that can be engaged to capture these opportunities;
2)Defining barriers to the effective implementation of these activities—and therefore efforts to remove these barriers;
3)Making broader policy environments more conducive for triple win activities; and
4)Selecting appropriate financing options.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1990: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In 1992, world leaders gathered for the first Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and agreed on the'Rio principles' (Box 2), which recognized the importance of integration across the environmental, social, and economic strands of sustainable development. However, the modern day story of sustainable development started in earnest two years earlier. "People are the wealth of nations"—so began UNDP's first Human Development Paper in 1990. This was a groundbreaking step. The concept of human development was born, defined as a process of enlarging people's choices to lead lives they value. The 1990 Human Development Paper also launched the Human Development Index. Designed to move beyond the traditional GDP measure to assess the state of human well-being, the Human Development Index incorporated indicators for a long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living.

Box 2: The "Rio Principles"—What do they say?
Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. (Principle 1)
The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations. (Principle 3)
The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority . . . In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit to sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command . . . Standards applied by some countries may be inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries, in particular developing countries. (Principles 6, 7, 11)
. . . States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies. (Principle 8)

Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens . . . each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided. (Principle 10)
States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better address the problems of environmental degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. (Principle 12)
In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation. (Principle 15)
National authorities should endeavor 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. (Principle 16)
Women have a vital role in environmental management and development.Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development . . . The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all . . . Indigenous people and their communities and other

Ten years later in 2000, building on a decade of major United Nations conferences and summits, world leaders adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing their countries to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty. The Millennium Declaration made possible the design and implementation of the eight Millennium Development Goals—a series of time-bound goals (with quantified targets and indicators) for reducing extreme poverty, with a deadline of 2015. Considered together, the Earth Summit's sustainable development principles, the definition and measurement of human development, the Millennium Declaration, and the Millennium Development Goals—these constitute significant progress towards a holistical approach to development, and to measuring progress toward that end. Significant progress towards sustainable development has certainly been made in the last two decades. Despite this, programmes and policies that focus on the 'triple-win' space are not yet standard practice, not yet the habit of policymaking.

WHAT HAS WORKED?

Trends over the past 40 years document significant improvements in human development, especially amongst the poorest countries (Box 3). Countries in the lowest 25 percent of the human development index rankings improved their overall HDI by 82 percent over the period—twice the global average. Since 1990 (the baseline against which progress toward attaining the Millennium Development Goals is measured), hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty. The world is within reach of seeing every child enrolled in primary school. Fewer lives are being lost to hunger and disease. The world overall is healthier, wealthier, and better educated than ever before.

Box 3: Progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
The world as a whole is on track to reach MDG1 (the target for cutting extreme poverty in half). By 2015, the global poverty rate should fall below 15 percent—well under the 23 percent target.
Some of the poorest countries have made the greatest strides in education (MDG2). For example, Burundi, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo, and Tanzania have achieved or are nearing the goal of universal primary education.
The number of deaths of children under the age of five declined from 12.4 million in 1990 to 8.1 million in 2009 (MDG4). This means nearly 12,000 fewer children die each day.
Increased funding and more intensive control efforts have cut deaths from malaria by 20 percent worldwide (MDG6), from nearly 985,000 in 2000 to 781,000 in 2009.
New HIV infections have declined steadily (MDG6). In 2009, some 2.6 million people were newly infected—a 21 percent drop since 1997, when new infections peaked.
The numbers of people receiving antiretroviral therapy for HIV or AIDS increased 13-fold from 2004 to 2009 (MDG6), thanks to increased funding and expanded programmes.
Some 1.1 billion people in urban areas and 723 million people in rural areas gained access to improved drinking water sources during 1990-2008 (MDG7).
Source: 'Major progress towards Millennium Development Goals,but the most vulnerable are left behind, UN report says', UN Department of Public Information, July 2011

Progress has likewise been made in repairing the ozone layer (Box 4), in reducing pollution in major river basins, in reducing technical losses in the use of energy, water, and other natural resources, in expanding the land and coastal regions covered by protected areas, and in extending basic services. The work of global institutions and treaties whose roots can be

traced to Rio 20 years ago—the Global Environment Facility, the global conventions on climate change, biodiversity, and desertification—have made concrete improvements in environmental quality for people all over the world. These conventions have made possible the mobilization of billions of dollars for investments in the global environmental commons. The 'think globally, act locally' slogan, which was popularized at Rio, has taught us the importance of civil society and community empowerment. Growing numbers of banks and corporations issue annual sustainability papers, showing how ecological concerns have become part of 'business as usual'.

Box 4: Repairing the ozone layer

Depletion of the atmosphere's protective ozone layer was a key global environmental concern in the late 1980s, following the discovery of a major ozone 'hole' over the Antarctic. The Earth was thought to have been on track to lose two thirds of its ozone layer by 2065, leading to dramatic increases in skin cancer. But thanks to the Montreal Protocol to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (which entered into force in 1989), global chlorofluorocarbon production was completely phased out by 1996. Since then, the ozone layer has begun to recover; Antarctic ozone is expected to return to pre-1980 levels sometime between 2060 and 2075.- Adapted from Resilient People, Resilient Planet (2012), report of Secretary General's High Level Global Sustainability Panel

(from 4.6 to seven billion people) has placed new demands on the planet—particularly the global commons, the management of which can not be left to the invisible hand of the market. The atmosphere's ability to absorb greenhouse gases (without significant temperature increases), the oceans' abilities to generate bionutrients, the world's forest cover, the earth's soil nutrients—these are among the planetary boundaries that are increasingly overtaxed by the march of progress. One fifth of the world's coral reefs have been damaged beyond repair. Desertification in regions such as the Sahel threatens livelihoods in the drylands, which are home to a third of the world's people. Relative prices of food, energy, and many primary products have risen sharply since early 2007. Local communities—particularly in coastal areas and arid regions—are facing growing threats from floods, droughts and increasing competition for dwindling resources. There is a growing global consensus that current production and consumption patterns are not environmentally sustainable. The social dimension of sustainable development is a mixed picture. Despite the progress made in achieving the MDGs, results have been uneven within and between countries, and there are still too many people being left behind. Progress tends to bypass those who are lowest on the economic ladder or are otherwise disadvantaged because of their sex, age, disability or ethnicity. Disparities between urban and rural areas remain daunting.

In 2009, nearly a quarter of the children in the developing world were underweight, with the poorest children most affected. Children from the poorest households in the developing world are more than twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday as children in the richest households. Recent UNICEF research finds that some four million young children die each year—more than 10,000 per day—due to hunger, malnutrition, and unsafe drinking water. Some 1.3 billion people did not have access to reliable electricity services in 2009; 2.7 billion were without clean cooking facilities. Some 780 million people lacked access to safe drinking water in 2010, and 2.5 billion lacked access to modern sanitation systems. The socio-economic consequences of inadequate access to improved water and sanitation services are substantial. Annual GDP losses associated with inadequate access to water have been assessed at 6.4 percent, 5.2 percent, and 7.2 percent in India, Ghana, and Cambodia, respectively.

Harsh gender-based inequalities persist in many societies, despite evidence showing a positive correlation between closing gender gaps and more favourable development outcomes. Women lack access to land, property and inheritance rights in much of the world, violence is a brutal reality for millions of women and girls in many countries, women's access to basic reproductive health services is too often denied, and in many developing countries girls continue to lag behind boys in school enrollment and completion. Despite much progress since the World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, women continue to be poorly represented within the public service, in particular in leadership and decision-making positions. Children who are poor, female, or living in a conflict zone are less likely to be in school. Worldwide, among children of primary school age not enrolled in school, 42 percent—28 million—live in poor countries affected by conflict. As we have witnessed again and again the last 20 years, conflict is an absolute showstopper for sustainable development. Successful conflict prevention and peacebuilding are prerequisites for development progress. A balanced and holistic sustainable development agenda is the most effective approach to preventing conflict and securing peace.

Poverty, demographic pressures, and access to basic services have traditionally been seen as predominantly rural problems. This may now be changing. A recent World Bank study finds that, as of 2010, the majority of the world's population was living in cities. According to the Making Cities Work initiative, the world's population by 2050 will grow by an additional 2.2 billion people—2.1 billion of whom will be born in cities, and 2.0 billion of whom will be born in the world's poorest cities. The development challenges of the future will therefore increasingly wear an urban face. Rapid, unplanned urbanization is already producing new and exacerbating some old social problems. Violent crime in urban areas is one of these, particularly among youth living in informal peri-urban settlements facing uncertain employment prospects in the formal economy. Recent UNDP research describes and analyzes disturbing increases in violent crime in the Caribbean: during 1990-2010, for example, the homicide rate (per 100,000 population) in Jamaica rose from 21 to 51; in Trinidad and Tobago it rose from 5 to 35. Rural development prospects continue to be challenging: many communities suffer from underinvestment in agriculture, energy and transport infrastructure, increased competition for land, water and other resources, climate change impacts, and devastation

from AIDS, malaria, and other diseases.

At least thirty million jobs were lost globally during 2007-2009, and labour markets have yet to fully recover from the impact of the global financial crisis. Global unemployment is now estimated at 200 million. Another 400 million jobs will be needed to keep up with new labour-market entrants. In addition, 900 million workers—around 30 percent of the global labour force—are 'working poor, living on less than two dollars a day. In many countries, job prospects for the young are at their least favourable in years. Income poverty, gender gaps, unequal access to resources, basic services, and decent work, heightened exposure to disaster and environmental risks—these all go together. This confluence is not a coincidence: the human costs of environmental degradation and social underdevelopment are born predominantly by the poor, whose livelihoods and welfare are most closely linked to natural resources and social protection, and who are therefore most likely to bear the social costs of unsustainable environmental practices. The 'Arab Spring' shows how these linkages are not academic. Real and perceived social inequities in this region have interacted with high food prices and governance concerns to create deep-seated socio-political instability, conflict, and crisis—even in upper-middle income countries. Moreover, the advent of social media and the new information and communications technologies that underpin them have given the aggrieved and vulnerable new instruments to register their concerns—and force policy makers to listen. Just as the Earth Summit set a new direction for our world 20 years ago, so now policy-makers, experts, and civil society and advocacy groups must learn from such experiences to revisit the premise of current development models and see what works, why, and where we can and must do better. It is time to recalibrate the global development agenda.

RECALIBRATING THE AGENDA: WHAT IS NEEDED?

The 1992 Rio sustainable development principles offer a vision for combining economic growth with environmental and social sustainability. Twenty years later, questions about the implementation of these principles have risen to the fore. Economic growth and development have continued and income poverty rates have fallen, but this progress has been delivered by consumption and production patterns that are increasingly seen to be unsustainable. Continued progress in reducing poverty and improving access to basic services requires a vision of sustainable development that simultaneously:

Prices natural resources—including common property resources—at levels that create incentives for sustainable production, consumption, and conservation; and
Moves away from unsustainable policy frameworks—such as fossil fuel subsidies—towards policies that:
encourage sustainable production and consumption patterns; while
protecting those most vulnerable to the effects of higher food and energy prices, and of transitions away from "brown" to "green" economies; and which
build resilience, in countries and communities, to climate and other socio-economic risks.

Progress towards this vision is particularly important in six areas:

1.Revisiting finance for development.
2.Developing new metrics for sustainable development.
3.Accelerating progress towards attaining the MDGs, while putting Sustainable Development Goals at the heart of the post-2015 global development framework.
4.Boosting the role of 'triple-win' policies and programming.
5.Investing more in good governance and capacity development.
6.Leveraging knowledge and innovation to deliver development results.

a. Finance for sustainable development

Financing for sustainable development needs to increase. At the same time, fiscal tensions in OECD-DAC countries are squeezing the fiscal space for traditional development cooperation. While overall global aid spending hit its highest level ever in 2010, a decline in OECD-DAC aid flows was noted in 2011; further near-term declines seem not unlikely. Longer term, estimates of the volume and shape of other forms of development assistance (e.g., climate finance) face considerable uncertainty. The costs of shifting towards a sustainable future are real, however. A relatively low estimate of the total annual climate change mitigation and adaptation costs through 2030 is $249 billion, for example; and this addresses only one threat (global warming) to the global environmental commons. By contrast, official development assistance (ODA) constitutes a relatively small pool of finance, at approximately $130 billion annually. Most of the investments in regenerating the global commons will therefore be owned, managed, and financed, by the private sector. Helping create the appropriate enabling environment, to direct these flows—ODA, domestically available public finance, other sources—to the projects where they can deliver the largest transformational impact, is a critically important task for the public sector. No less important, however, is the need to ensure that the public funds that are available to support national transitions to sustainable development are able to leverage and catalyze larger pools of private finance. A number of possible new public financing mechanisms merit serious consideration. Tobin taxes—levies on financial transactions with which financial market instability or other negative

externalities may be associated—are one such category. Thanks in part to recent changes in the payments systems for foreign exchange transactions, UNDP's 2011 'Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All' Human Development Paper found that a 0.005 percent tax on foreign exchange transactions would yield some $40 billion annually.

There are other options:

Governments spend nearly $1 trillion annually on environmentally unsustainable subsidies, including for fossil fuel production. Abolishing or curtailing such subsidies would promote both economic and environmental sustainability. The savings could finance investments in sustainable development—in social protection to shield those most vulnerable to higher energy prices, in expanding clean and renewable energy solutions, and in reducing the social costs of transitions from 'brown' to 'green' economies facing carbon- and resource-intensive sectors.
Governments also spend nearly $5 trillion annually on public procurement (10-20 percent of GDP in most developing countries). If one fifth of these expenditures were to be managed in accordance with sustainable development criteria (e.g., prioritizing the use of recycled resources, or services supplied via social enterprises) another $1 trillion in financing for sustainable development would appear.
These points show that financing for sustainable development is available. They also show that—if generated correctly—the process of generating these resources can help to recalibrate the global development agenda and regenerate the global environmental commons.

b. New metrics for sustainable development: Beyond GDP and the bottom line

The metrics by which progress is assessed poorly serve the cause of sustainable development, in both the public and private sectors.

In the public sector, 'Rio+20' should be the beginning of the end of measuring development progress mainly in terms of growth in GDP that is not adjusted to reflect environmental externalities. The 'Rio+20' final document is an opportunity to request that the UN system and the Bretton Woods institutions accelerate work on initiatives like the wealth adjusted valuation of ecosystem services, and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting—the introduction of which started in Europe, for air pollutants, environmental taxes, and material flow accounts, in 2012. The initiatives could generate gross national income for sustainable development, a sustainable development index, or both. These metrics, which could be taken up by the UN Statistical Commission for consideration in the discussions around the post-2015 global development agenda, should seek to measure: The UN Capital Development Fund is helping the Government of Ethiopia to provide basic social and economic infrastructure and improve the natural resource base of local communities.

Progress in 'greening' key sectors, such as environmental investments, the sales of 'green' goods and services and green jobs; improvements in energy and resource efficiency; re-use, recycling, and other measures of 'doing more with less'; and
Changes in welfare that reflect holistic, integrated trends in natural capital, poverty, and social inclusiveness, as well as output—indicators of how well the economy is delivering across all three strands of sustainable development. Work to develop a sustainability-adjusted human development index could likewise be accelerated.
In the private sector, important progress has been made in corporate social responsibility during the past two decades. The private sector is the driver of economic growth and highly responsive to incentives provided by all levels of government. In this respect, further steps are needed—particularly in terms of:
moving toward standardized 'triple bottom line' corporate papering frameworks that can monitor the links between commercial behavior and sustainable development, reflecting social and environmental, as well as financial criteria;
requirements that all publicly traded companies regularly paper on their social and environmental (as well as financial) sustainability; and that key financial data be papered on a country-by-country basis, in all jurisdictions in which companies operate, in order to improve the quality of information about global development finance and reduce illicit financial flows.
These innovations could support the monitoring of progress towards sustainable development, including through the global sustainable development outlook paper proposed by the Secretary General's High Level Global Sustainability Panel.

c. From MDGs to SDGs

Attaining the Millennium Development Goals is the first step towards a sustainable future—even as the conversation on what the post-2015 development framework looks to begin in earnest. During 2010-2011, UNDP together with other UN agencies introduced the MDG acceleration framework to do just that. This framework has now been deployed in some 30 countries, and demand for its use is growing. The framework brings governments, development partners, and other stakeholders together to analyze why—often despite a range of strategies and plans—progress towards achieving specific MDGs is proceeding too slowly. Bottlenecks and constraints are identified, action plans to address them are designed and implemented, and the necessary resources are mobilized. Priority actions have been identified to widen access to seeds and fertilizer, and decentralize the services that provide them; improve nutrition; expand social protection; and enhance the technical know-how of small-scale farmers. Progress already achieved toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals

can be set back, if not reversed, by the shocks of disasters, macroeconomic instability, food shortages, or socio-political unrest. Once progress is reversed, the impacts are multiple and can span generations. If instability—and the social and economic unrest it can generate—has become an enduring, systematic characteristic of the global economy, then countries must be better prepared for the waves to come. They need to safeguard and sustain progress already made. For many poor households, the impact of crises depends on what governments do with their budgets: how much do they spend to fight the crisis, protect the poorest, and finance progress towards meeting the MDGs? This underscores the need for participation and local solutions as well as direct interventions—such as developing and extending social protection systems, clarifying and strengthening property rights, and the legal empowerment of the poor more broadly. Such interventions help societies build resilience to shocks and sustain MDG progress.

The Millennium Development Goals—even if they are met—will not automatically shift the world onto a sustainable development trajectory, partially because the MDGs are weaker on environmental concerns. In a number of respects, progress in meeting MDG 7 ('ensure environmental sustainability') has been relatively modest, in part because of governance shortcomings, in part because of difficulties with measuring and monitoring progress towards environmental sustainability. More holistic Sustainable Development Goals should therefore evolve from the MDGs, and serve as the basis for a new, post-2015 development framework.

The Sustainable Development Goals should be one set of global development goals that:

Reflect the entirety of the sustainable development agenda, including the continuing importance of poverty reduction;
Are universal in character, pertaining to developed and middle-income countries, as well as to low- income and less developed countries; and
Address all three strands of sustainable development in each of the goals.

To the extent possible, the Sustainable Development Goals should seek to build on the MDGs and use quantified indicators to monitor progress. The post-2015 development framework should also be firmly grounded in the other core values besides poverty reduction expressed in the UN Charter and reaffirmed in the Millennium Declaration—human rights, justice, peace and security. Such an approach can help ensure that national transitions to sustainable development are aligned with broader understandings of people's welfare, enlarging their opportunities.

d. 'Triple-win' policies and programming

'Triple-win' policies and programming, integrating and finding synergies between social development, economic growth, and environmental sustainability, are the future of development. Many countries are already implementing programming that integrates the social, environmental, and economic strands of sustainable development. For example:

The government of India has adopted several rights-based laws to address inequity, protect the vulnerable, and ensure sustainable development. These include laws to protect the right to education and information, national food security legislation, and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. In addition to containing the world's largest wage guarantee programme—providing employment to approximately 54 million households—this integrated framework reduces food insecurity by conserving water, soil fertility, and biodiversity; it also sequesters carbon. Almost 50 percent of the programme's workers are women; 43 percent are from historically disadvantaged groups.

· Energy offers clear opportunities for better integrating the three strands of sustainable development. By expanding access to sustainable energy supplies, progress can be advanced along all three dimensions:

Economic: billions of under-served consumers can be brought into the global market place, and business- and employment creation could accelerate—particularly in rural areas, where such energy supplies are most likely to be lacking.
Social: women and children can be liberated from the drudgery of gathering biomass for fuel; health and education could be improved by reducing indoor pollution from poorly designed stoves, and by providing health clinics and schools with the heat and power needed for uninterrupted service delivery.
Environmental: deforestation, and the emissions created by burning soft coal and biomass that contribute to climate change, could be reduced.

The UN Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative is designed to generate global momentum to achieve three specific energy targets by 2030, namely:

Achieving universal access to modern energy services;
Doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and
Doubling the share of renewables in the global energy mix.

The sustainable development potential of this initiative is illustrated by Nepal's Rural Energy Development Programme. Since its introduction in 1996, this programme has brought decentralized renewable energy services to some one

million people living in the most remote parts of the country. It has provided reliable, low-cost electricity to rural communities via the construction of micro hydropower stations, and has raised living standards. Average incomes in beneficiary households have increased due to improvements in electricity access, while average annual household spending on energy fell to $19 dollars compared to $41 spent by non-electrified households. As of 2010, the programme had connected 59,000 households to micro hydropower installations, constructed 317 new micro hydropower plants (with 5.7 megawatts of installed capacity), and installed nearly 15,000 improved cooking stoves, 7,000 toilet-attached biogas installations, and 3,200 solar home heating systems.

e. Investing in good governance and capacity development

Country experiences indicate that public finance is usually not the binding constraint on national programmes that make a difference for sustainable development. Instead, it is usually the quality of governance and the capacity to mobilize and manage development finance that matter. Capacity development is needed to help developing countries absorb traditional and innovative forms of development finance and innovative technologies, and to avoid high-carbon development paths, while also reducing poverty and inequality. Effective lawmaking, oversight, and representation—the three chief functions of parliaments—along with access to justice, are fundamental to ensuring that all branches of government are accountable and transparent before the public. Parliaments can be powerful agents of change for sustainable development. But they often need strengthened capacity, whether to legislate for sustainable development or to promote institutional reform. Decentralization, local and inclusive governance, and social mobilization are needed for empowered citizens to 'think globally while acting locally. The transformations now taking place in the Arab world illustrate this point. There, people have come out onto the street to express their desire for dignity, opportunity, and justice alongside a meaningful say in the decisions that affect their lives, and an end to corruption, abuse and repression. They remind us that, to be sustainable, development must provide for human rights, justice, the rule of law, accountability, equity and—crucially—gender equality and women's empowerment. Democratic governance cannot be fully achieved without the participation of women at all levels. This is not only a good in itself; there is also growing evidence that greater participation of women in institutions increases responsiveness to women's priorities and needs and in determining the manner in which services are provided. In the words of the Secretary General's High Level Global Sustainability Panel: "democratic governance and full respect for human rights are key pre-requisites for empowering people to make sustainable choices." Seen in this light, governance serves as the glue that binds together efforts to more closely integrate the three strands of social, economic, and environmental development in policy and in practice.

This is particularly true when it comes to:

Clear land and natural resource rights for local communities, to generate incomes and jobs, strengthen local incentives to sustainably manage the resources on which local livelihoods depend, and help ensure equity of such rights between women and men. UNDP's Legal Empowerment of the Poor initiative offers many good examples of what can be done in this respect.

Institutional capacity to design and implement integrated development policies and programmes that address all three sustainable development strands; and which benefit from partnerships between central and local governments, private companies, civil society organizations, and international organizations. Creating this institutional capacity often requires a combination of public administration reforms—structural reviews, civil service reform, use of e-governance tools, finding the right balance of decentralization, deconcentration, and centralization—and 'collaborative' capacity development initiatives, emphasizing the expansion of capacities for brokerage, partnerships, and network development and management.

Social programming that integrates social protection with social service provision, environmental protection, and crisis prevention and recovery; that improves access to energy, water, sanitation and other basic services; and which protects the poor and vulnerable by taking rights-based approaches that reflect the global conventions and the UN's universal values.

For example, growing numbers of large metropolitan areas are moving towards smart growth in cities, which also offers an abundance of opportunities for grass-roots innovation and creating pro-poor green economies—as envisioned by Agenda 21 at Rio in 1992. Important public investment—and income- and employment-generation—opportunities are present inter alia in the construction, refurbishing, and management of public infrastructure and programming, whether for energy-efficient buildings and mass transit systems, or for urban agriculture to help address urban poverty and hunger. For many smaller cities, taking advantage of these opportunities requires significant investments in capacity development. This is particularly true for improving governance and financial management systems (interalia through public-private partnerships), and engaging with, and responding to the needs of, poor and vulnerable households and communities, including women, migrants, and the residents of informal settlement.

Sustainable development happens at the country—and often at the community—level. Efforts to develop 'triple-win' policies and programming that integrate the three strands of sustainable development, while at the same time strengthening coordination across and between all actors for increased effectiveness, therefore need to focus on:

Strengthening inter-ministerial coordination, including via the lead of high level government offices with appropriate institutional capacity and authority in development policy. As the UN Secretary General's High Level Global Sustainability

Panel recommends, governments should adopt whole- of-government approaches under the leadership of the head of state or government, and involving all relevant ministries, in order to address issues across sectors and improve policy coherence. Governments and parliaments should incorporate the sustainable development perspective into their strategies, their legislation and, in particular, their budget processes.
Getting the incentives right through aligned and integrated national, sub-national, local and sectoral development strategies that are tied to medium-term expenditure frameworks. Synergies between development strategies allow all levels of government to get the incentives right for attracting public and private sector investment. The same institutions should have the capacity needed to effectively design and implement these strategies, at the level of the individual, institution, and broader environment.
Ensure meaningful participation of the private sector, representatives of parliaments and sub-national governments, and civil society actors—particularly those representing vulnerable groups, including women, children, indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, people living with disabilities or HIV and AIDS, or low-skilled workers.

Box 6: Mechanisms for policy coherence
Options for improving policy coherence—allowing governments to break silos and better integrate the three strands of sustainable development—include the following:
Institutions: High-level coordination bodies, either within the state—such as India's Planning Commission, China's National Development and Reform Commission, and South Africa's National Planning Commission—or of a multisectoral nature, such as Barbados's Social Partnership initiative (which brings together ministers, employers, and trade unions to address major economic, social and environmental challenges under the leadership of the Prime Minister).
Instruments: National sustainable development plans and strategies, which:
integrate the three strands of sustainable development;
are championed by the head of state or government;
receive broad political support in parliament;
bring together all relevant stakeholders (sub-national governments, private sector, civil society);
have time frames that are long enough to address development challenges, but short enough to influence behavior today;
are aligned with national budgets, sectoral development programmes, and donor activities; and contain monitorable indicators for assessing progress toward meeting strategic objectives.

Be informed by the latest global and local scientific data and knowledge, with carefully designed accountability and regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms.
Raise public awareness about the links between governance, poverty reduction, gender equality, and environmental sustainability—possibly through the global application of the environmental governance principles of the Aarhus Convention.
Promote resilience to crisis and shocks, regardless of whether they are associated with disasters, macroeconomic instability, high food or energy prices, or armed conflict. More accurate targeting of social assistance, the expansion of crop insurance, and better use of early warning systems can boost resilience among vulnerable households, helping them to invest in their future and take moderate risks, and ultimately drive productivity gains and inclusive growth.
Global governance. Addressing governance at the global level is also important. This could mean improving the functioning of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, possibly by turning the Commission on Sustainable Development into a Sustainable Development Council. It could also mean the possible introduction of a voluntary sustainable development peer review mechanism or a periodic global sustainable development outlook paper, to monitor progress and encourage development coherence. So far, however, the discussion of how governments can more strongly bring together the three strands of sustainable development and drive implementation at the national and sub-national level, is less concrete. This is an area in which the United Nations has a wealth of accumulated experience, and can play a critical role in supporting countries in accelerating progress towards sustainable development. 'Rio+20' provides an opportunity to strengthen UN Country Teams and the Resident Coordinator system, to bring support and services from across the UN system to programme countries in a way that can facilitate integrated action across the three strands of sustainable development.f. Leveraging knowledge and innovation for development results

The case studies below point to many successful examples of sustainable development. Important lessons have been learned from both the successes and the mistakes made in the process. But the hard- won benefits produced are typically isolated, even though their broader application could produce exponential benefits and contribute vital ideas to the evolution of sustainable development. As the section on governance and capacity above points out, one of the principles that should underpin all 'triple-win' decisions is that they should be informed by the latest global and local scientific data and knowledge. National transitions to sustainable development should be based on relevant innovation, knowledge, capacity, and experience from around the world, leveraging south-south and other forms of cooperation for increasingly effective development results. As 'Rio+20' approaches, a globally recognized home for this function—a Global Centre for Sustainable Development—should be found. Such a Centre could catalyze innovation, act as a repository of initiatives, a global knowledge-sharing platform, and an analytical hub, as well as broker links between the demand for, and supply of, sustainable development initiatives. It could promote collaborative and interdisciplinary research and create linkages across researchers, policymakers, and the private sector; and identify, disseminate, and scale-up successful models. There is a clear need for organizations with the mandate and

capability to gather information on these initiatives, analyze their effectiveness and political feasibility, and broker their adoption throughout the world. While global centers exist for green growth, inclusive growth, and social innovation, they do not systematically pull the green, the social, and the economic together into coherent frameworks, analysis, and actionable policies.

What do UNDP and the UN bring to the table?

On the ground in more than 177 countries and territories, UNDP since 1966 has been partnering with people in all walks of society to help empower lives and build resilient nations. As the UN agency with a mandate to promote and integrate all three strands of sustainable development, as well as principles of democratic governance, UNDP encourages transformational change. It does so with particular experience and expertise in how to build and strengthen institutional capacity.

UNDP's track record in supporting sustainable development is reflected in its mandated expertise in each strand of development—and in its ability to see across and integrate all three strands. The UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative is an example of how this can take place (Box 7). At the national level, this work takes place within the framework of the UN Resident Coordinator system and its convening power—ideally in a 'one UN framework'

In particular, UNDP promotes sustainable development through supporting:

inclusive and sustainable growth, advancing economic opportunities via equitable access to social services, protecting the environment and embracing low-emission, climate resilient development; and democratic governance for inclusion, resilience and peace, advancing equality, the rule of law, human rights, and accountable, effective institutions in times of stability and of crisis, with the participation of all peoples—including women, girls, youth and marginalized groups—in political transitions and processes.

Box 7: The UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative The Poverty-Environment Initiative is a UN-led global programme that supports country efforts to reduce poverty by strengthening environmental sustainability—and vice versa. It focuses in particular on ensuring that poverty-environment linkages are appropriately reflected in national and local development planning, from policy-making to budgeting, implementation and monitoring. The Poverty-Environment Initiative:
was launched in 2005 and significantly scaled-up in 2007;
is funded by the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, and by the European Union;
works in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean;
has full programmes in seventeen countries, and is providing advisory services in a number of others; and
provides supra-national support for 'Delivering as One' and other measures to increase the UN's development effectiveness at the national level, in the areas of poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

UNDP is committed to a global partnership for achieving UN Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative by 2030. Wherever there is a demand from governments, UNDP will capitalize on the convening power of the Resident Coordinator system to help strengthen governance arrangements and 'triple-win' policy and programming at the national and sub-national level, bringing policy options, financing, technology, and capacity development together to create conditions to scale up what works. UNDP continues to advocate strongly for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including via:
the MDG acceleration framework;
coordinating the UN's efforts to respond to national priorities, inter alia by working with the MDG Achievement Fund (Box 8);
providing policy and technical advice to countries as they work to achieve the MDGs; and
working with countries on in-depth analyses and papers on MDG progress.
Working within the wider UN family, UNDP is leveraging this experience to help countries to determine what the global development framework should look like after the 2015 MDG deadline. As it strives to always be better, UNDP will:
accelerate progress in greening its own programming and facilities, particularly in programme countries;
use human development indicators and data to better monitor national transitions towards sustainable development;
mainstream low-emission, climate-resilient development principles across its work; and
leverage traditional and non-traditional partnerships and forms of development finance, to support national transitions toward sustainable development, particularly via south-south cooperation and public-private partnerships.

Box 8: The UN MDG Achievement Fund—Reducing vulnerabilities and helping adapt to climate change
The MDG Achievement Fund (MDG-F) is a joint United Nations initiative that supports national efforts to reduce poverty and inequality and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Established in December 2006 with an initial contribution of $710 million from the Government of Spain to UNDP on behalf of the United Nations system, MDG-F currently finances 130 joint programmes in eight thematic areas in 50 countries. The MDG-F's 'environment and climate change' thematic window has

allocated nearly $90 million to 17 joint UN programmes that support efforts by governments, citizens and civil society organizations to reduce poverty by investing in environmental sustainability.

While the outcomes of these programmes are diverse, common elements include:

Raising the profile of and emphasis on environment and natural resources issues in policy-making;
Assessing and improving national and sub-national capacity to adapt to climate change;
Exploring innovative approaches to climate change mitigation;
Improving local governments' capacities to plan and implement environmental policies;
Supporting the participation of civil society organizations in the planning and implementation of environmental policies and projects; and
Efforts to link downstream project results with upstream policy dialogue.

In China, Colombia, and the Philippines projects funded by MDG-F work with indigenous and rural communities to address threats to livelihoods brought on by a changing climate, by supporting the application of climate-resilient agricultural techniques and crop diversification. This programming at the local level is accompanied by advocacy for the adoption of climate change policies and practices and the national level.

SUMMARY

As 'Rio+20' approaches, a globally recognized home for this function—a Global Centre for Sustainable Development—should be found. Such a Centre could catalyze innovation, act as a repository of initiatives, a global knowledge-sharing platform, and an analytical hub, as well as broker links between the demand for, and supply of, sustainable development initiatives. It could promote collaborative and interdisciplinary research and create linkages across researchers, policymakers, and the private sector; and identify, disseminate, and scale-up successful models. There is a clear need for organizations with the mandate and capability to gather information on these initiatives, analyze their effectiveness and political feasibility, and broker their adoption throughout the world. While global centers exist for green growth, inclusive growth, and social innovation, they do not systematically pull the green, the social, and the economic together into coherent frameworks, analysis, and actionable policies.

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