



**RIO+20**  
United Nations  
Conference on  
Sustainable  
Development

inside:

The green economy hangs in the balance

Climate crisis - what crisis?

a daily  
multi-stakeholder  
magazine on  
climate change  
and sustainable  
development

# outreach.

15 June 2012



Be PaperSmart: Read Outreach online  
[www.stakeholderforum.org/sf/outreach](http://www.stakeholderforum.org/sf/outreach)



# contents.

- 1 The green economy hangs in the balance
- 2 The Happy Planet Index: measuring what matters
- 3 Green economy, new economy?
- 4 We need to talk about the elephant. We need to talk about finance.
- 5 A leopard does not change its spots: one Bolivian's reflections on the green economy
- 6 Where is the social innovation in the green economy? Economic, environmental and social innovation for green growth were focus of ICC Forum during Rio+20
- 7 Strong action needed at Rio+20 to secure a sea-change for oceans conservation
- 8 Negotiations must acknowledge the inextricable relationship between the extremes of poverty and wealth
- 9 Greening the Blue World
- 10 Appropriate technologies for the green economy
- 11 Green Economy gone toxic: time to get rid of it?
- 12 Eco Corner
- 13 Rio+20 Side Event Calendar
- 14 Reflections on the negotiations - Thursday 14th June



2



5



9

pic: Celine Massa

## OUTREACH IS PUBLISHED BY:



### About Stakeholder Forum

Stakeholder Forum is an international organisation working to advance sustainable development and promote democracy at a global level. Our work aims to enhance open, accountable and participatory international decision-making on sustainable development through enhancing the involvement of stakeholders in intergovernmental processes. For more information, visit: [www.stakeholderforum.org](http://www.stakeholderforum.org)

Outreach is a multi-stakeholder publication on climate change and sustainable development. It is the longest continually produced stakeholder magazine in the sustainable development arena, published at various international meetings on the environment; including the UNCSO meetings (since 1997), UNEP Governing Council, UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) and World Water Week. Published as a daily edition, in both print and web form, Outreach provides a vehicle for critical analysis on key thematic topics in the sustainability arena, as well as a voice of regional and local governments, women, indigenous peoples, trade unions, industry, youth and NGOs. To fully ensure a multi-stakeholder perspective, we aim to engage a wide range of stakeholders for article contributions and project funding.

If you are interested in contributing to Outreach, please contact the team ([gmacdonald@stakeholderforum.org](mailto:gmacdonald@stakeholderforum.org) or [acutter@stakeholderforum.org](mailto:acutter@stakeholderforum.org))  
You can also follow us on Twitter: @Earthsummit2012  
Outreach is now available on iPad: [www.issuu.com/outreachlive](http://www.issuu.com/outreachlive)

## OUTREACH EDITORIAL TEAM

Editorial Advisors	Felix Dodds	<i>Stakeholder Forum</i>
	Farooq Ullah	<i>Stakeholder Forum</i>
	Georgie Macdonald	<i>Stakeholder Forum</i>
Editor	Amy Cutter	<i>Stakeholder Forum</i>
Co-editor	Jack Cornforth	<i>Stakeholder Forum</i>
Editorial Assistant	Nick Meynen	<i>ANPED</i>
Political Editor	Jessica Wolf	<i>Jessica Wolf Design</i>
Print Designer	Thomas Harrisson	<i>Stakeholder Forum</i>
Web Designer	Matthew Reading-Smith	<i>Stakeholder Forum</i>

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

May Akale	<i>Bahá'í International Community</i>	Sevan Holemans	<i>Major Group for Children and Youth</i>
Daniel Perell	<i>Bahá'í International Community</i>	Brendan Coolsaet	<i>Major Group for Children and Youth</i>
Rina Kuusipalo	<i>Stakeholder Forum</i>	Kirsty Schneeberger	<i>Stakeholder Forum</i>
Juliet Michaelson	<i>nef</i>	Chiara Zanotelli	<i>Youth News Agency</i>
Victoria Johnson	<i>nef</i>	Ashwani Vasishth	<i>Ramapo College</i>
Nick Meynen	<i>ANPED</i>	Climate Action Network (CAN)	<i>UNEP</i>
Rishikesh Bhandary	<i>Tufts University</i>	Adrian Fernandez Jauregu	
Emily Benson	<i>Green Economy Coalition</i>		



# The green economy hangs in the balance

Kirsty Schneeberger  
Stakeholder Forum

As a result of the G77 suspending the green economy track this evening (see page 14 for more details) we have to ask what the future holds for, not only this section, but the final outcome and achievements of Rio+20. The G77's concern about the details contained in the Means of Implementation (MOI) section is expressed in earnest, and it should not be downplayed as a mere negotiating tactic to derail the talks for the sake of it. Rather, these concerns need to be adequately addressed, but the crucial question is - how?

With most European countries struggling to find a way to deal with the Eurozone crisis; countries such as the UK finding itself in a double dip recession; and the majority of donor countries not meeting their Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) commitments (save for a few such as the Scandinavian countries); it is very difficult to imagine where the money for supporting MOI - and other commitments - will come from.

And, if this is the case, it seems that we have a stalemate on our hands. If agreement on the MOI commitments cannot be reached, and with the G77 not willing to move forward without these, what does this spell for the outcome of a Conference whose main theme is 'green economy in the context of poverty eradication'?

Hosts of the conference, Brazil, will not wish to see the stalemate continue (not to mention all the people who have worked tirelessly to make Rio a success), and will no doubt be working hard on a potential alternative text that could be offered to Heads of State when they arrive next week.

A once in a generation opportunity such as this is too precious to be lost through our fingertips just as we begin to hope and imagine that a more sustainable way is possible. But there is more to finding the sustainable way than agreeing to paragraphs in a text - important though they are. Part of paving the path towards sustainability, of course, is to build it into our economic models. The boom and bust cycle of (largely) Western economic systems shows us time and again that sustainability is not at the heart of the way their financial institutions are designed and operate; that the *ability* of the financial institutions to *sustain* their models of economic growth based on resource consumption is fundamentally flawed.

The suspension of the green economy cluster group is really but one of the many side-effects of the breakdown of the global financial and economic models that have underpinned the unsustainable consumption and production patterns of the latter half of the twentieth century. Outside of the Rio+20 bubble, bigger questions are being asked about the actual cost of upholding the status quo and the viability of the current system, which, to all intents and purposes, is broken.

This is why the green economy conversation has been so very well timed - to break the unsustainable cycle, the global economic system ought to be reconceived, redesigned, and restructured. Whilst the Rio+20 green economy negotiations search for a way out of the stalemate in the conference rooms, the wider world also finds itself in search of answers that seem to have evaded us every time a bust has followed a boom.

Perhaps Rio+20, in opening up this space, gives this search the impetus it has hitherto lacked; and perhaps now the answers can and will be found not just in the following pages of Outreach, or the conference halls, but all over the world, as we strive to catalyse a shift towards a global economy that will maximise wellbeing, operate within environmental limits, and serve humanity for generations to come ■



# The Happy Planet Index: measuring what matters

Juliet Michaelson and Victoria Johnson  
nef (the new economics foundation)

---

One of the key issues discussed in the run up to Rio+20 has been about going 'Beyond GDP' to find new indicators of national progress. This is also set to be a key talking point at the Earth Summit itself. One high profile example is the 'Measuring What Matters' side event on 20th June, organised by The Prince of Wales' Accounting for Sustainability Project and partners.

What we measure really does matter. The measures we use to judge the success of our economy are fundamental to achieving a sustainable and green economy. With Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the dominant indicator of national success, the political incentives are all about increasing economic throughput, irrespective of whether or not it improves people's lives or the harm it does to the planet. Furthermore, it keeps our thinking about what progress means firmly in terms of dollars and cents.

That is why nef (the new economics foundation) has created the Happy Planet Index (HPI), a new measure of national progress. The latest results were published in a report on Thursday this week. It is a measure of sustainable wellbeing that ranks countries according to their efficiency – the extent to which each nation produces long and happy lives per unit of environmental input.

The results – which can be explored in detail here: [www.happyplanetindex.org](http://www.happyplanetindex.org) – show that we are not living on a happy planet. We find that no country performs well on all three indicators of life expectancy, experienced wellbeing and ecological footprint. Some countries, however, do considerably better than others. And, those that do best are not who you might expect.

None of the top ten countries ranked by overall HPI score are among the world's richest – in fact in the top 40 countries, only four countries have a GDP per capita of over \$15,000. The highest ranking Western European nation is Norway in 29th place, just behind New Zealand in 28th.

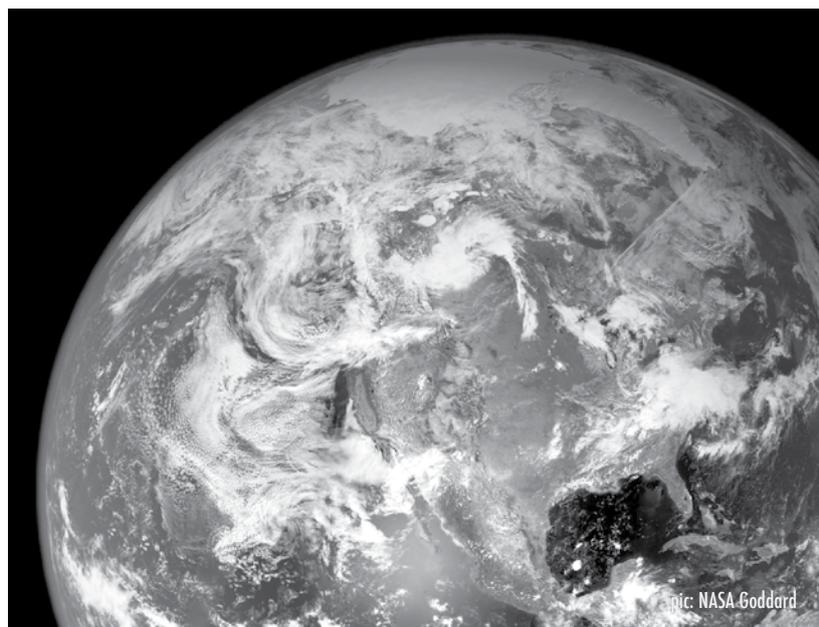
Costa Rica tops the HPI table with a substantial lead. This is due to high life expectancy and experienced wellbeing – both higher than those in the USA – and a per capita footprint one third the size of the USA's. As well as the

success of its welfare policies, the country has embraced sustainability to a remarkable extent. It produces 99% of its energy from renewable sources, has reversed deforestation in the country, and, in 2008, committed itself to becoming carbon neutral by 2021. However, its ecological footprint is still larger than it would need to be for it to live within its fair share of planetary resources. One of the lessons of the HPI is that while high and low-income countries face very different challenges, all have work to do to reach the end goal they all share.

To help reach this point, nef has also launched a Happy Planet Charter. This is receiving growing support from a broad range of civil society organisations. The Charter calls on governments to adopt new measures of progress to put the goal of sustainable wellbeing at the heart of societal and economic decision-making. It calls on the UN to develop an indicator as part of the post-2015 framework, that, like the HPI, measures progress towards sustainable wellbeing as the key goal for a better future. And, crucially, charter signatories resolve to build the political will needed across society to fully establish these better measures of human progress. The discussions over the next week in Rio will play a crucial role in achieving these goals ■

## More info

You can sign up to the Charter at [www.happyplanetindex.org/supporters/](http://www.happyplanetindex.org/supporters/) or by emailing [well-being@neweconomics.org](mailto:well-being@neweconomics.org)



# Green economy, new economy?

Rina Kuusipalo  
Stakeholder Forum

---

We used to think that we had reached the end of history, as Fukuyama put it, whereby the reigning institutional-economic arrangement was seen as the best of all possibilities, while seeing the physical planet as infinitely re-imaginable by technology. Now, not least due to climate change and the global financial crisis, we have hit the wall and reached the planet's limits. Now, we are at the threshold of engaging with the idea that the old paradigm is a false necessity, the social world is ripe with alternatives, and it is the institutional-economic creation that must alter.

Last weekend, the New Economics Institute organised the 'Strategies for a New Economy Conference' in New York State, to discuss what a new economy built on fairness and sustainability would look like. Bill McKibben, Gar Alperovitz, and other speakers stressed the importance of the paradigm shift needed to transition to another kind of economy; one that achieves long-term prosperity and tackles the interconnected crises of inequity, unsustainability, and macroeconomic instability.

Jumping from the new economy discussions to the green economy negotiations at Rio+20, the contingencies are seemingly apparent. The green economy, as defined by UNEP, would result in 'improved human wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities'. But what will the green economy deliver: the same old in greenwashed clothes, or, the global vision and grammar for a paradigmatically and practically new economy?

Unless developed countries agree to 'new and additional' funding for sustainable infrastructure in developing countries that are still building fast with little money and resources, such visions will remain words on a paper in the offices of the global North. The question of funding is not simply one of crisis times, either: not endorsing this crucial enabling mechanism would be a political choice of neglect, as possible funding sources

range from eliminating fossil fuel subsidies, to taxes on aviation, shipping, and financial transactions. The idea of a social protection floor as a new development strategy to hospice the transition would be useful. This would guarantee a safety net to enable wellbeing and freedoms to flourish, under the government's proper function to protect people, for instance, by providing re-skilling the population in a just transition.

When the US states that it does not know what a "non-market based approach" is, we should be careful not to use alternative valuing systems to commodify nature, which as the G77 says, could "result in the excessive concentration of financial resources in developed countries". Equitable ownership of resources and modes of production would be crucial: allowing space for diverse ownership models and guaranteeing local stakeholder control of resources. Indeed, addressing the underlying context of structural inequity more widely – with 1% of the world's population controlling 50% of the planet's wealth – is a prerequisite for any just and meaningful transition.

The 'Beyond GDP' concept could also further the idea that the solution to poverty and inequality will not be the, and ultimately unfulfilling, Western middle-class ideal of wealth, but sufficiency, wellbeing, and sustainability. Under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, already articulated in the 1992 Rio Declaration, developing countries should be given the actualised 'right to development' – developed countries should make space for the development of the global South and better distribute national wealth, instead of clinging on to unsustainable debt-fuelled consumerism. The G77 has been pushing in the negotiations for text on such significant lifestyle changes in developed countries. This would not be a new, green economic paradigm of mere necessity, however, but one of desirability too. As Tim Jackson, author of 'Prosperity Without Growth', soberly puts it, we are indeed persuaded 'to spend money we don't have, on things we don't need, to create impressions that won't last, on people we don't care about'. The UN remains the primary forum to re-define the paradigm of progress, to steer it toward those things we fundamentally care about.

As a concept, the green economy can serve to crucially open the global dialogue on new economic alternatives, extending beyond the Rio outcome. The talks already assert that economic stability, social protection, and green transition do not oppose each other but instead need to be addressed holistically – if this essential idea roots itself, this green economy talk could serve as a crucial tipping point for a pluralist array of new economies ■

# We need to talk about the elephant.

## We need to talk about finance.

Emily Benson

Green Economy Coalition

Over 50,000 people are expected to flood to Rio over the next week. The corridors of Riocentro, and beyond, are buzzing with energy, ideas and expertise. The sheer number and diversity of side events is testament to the range of activity going on around the globe related to the broader vision of sustainable development. But, amid all of the enthusiasm, there is also a large elephant lurking in the corner of the room and stalking the corridors. That elephant is finance. Many economies around the world are broke or in serious trouble. So, how are we going to pay for the transition to a greener economy? Where is the money coming from?

Four years after the outbreak of the financial crisis, economies around the world are still reeling. The IMF estimates that the crisis cost us a cool US\$2.3 trillion. In the last year, overall global debt grew by US\$5 trillion with global debt to GDP increasing from 218% in 2000 to 266% in 2010. Within a 2 year period following the liquidity crisis, 27 million people around the world lost their jobs, many more accepted reduced working hours, wages and/or benefits.

Against the background of continuing economic turmoil, it is clear that we need to find different financial models and alternative sources of funds that do not undermine the longer term prospects for people and planet. The question is how. While, we cannot claim to have come up with all of the answers, we have been investigating the question and, with the help of our partners – the Global Alliance for Banking on Values – have educated ourselves with some fascinating new research.

Today's capital markets have become increasingly dominated by a selection of large financial institutions, which the Financial Stability Board calls Globally Systemically Important Financial Institutions (GSIFIs). They coordinate the movement of vast capital flows. The size and role of such GSIFIs means that they have become 'too big to fail'.

However, in the shadow of these giants of the finance world, there is a network of smaller, 'value-based' banks that prioritise sustainable finance models. Recent research has shown that not only are these banks better equipped to deal with volatility in the markets, but they also provide better returns. In the four year period ending in 2010, GSIFIs had a loan/assets average of 37.8% - the remaining 62.2% was tied up in speculative activities. By comparison, over that same four year period, smaller value-based banks dedicated to sustainable finance had a loan/assets average of 69.5%. Perhaps, even more interestingly, during the economic downturn (2007 – 2010) the GSIFIs had to drop their lending ratio dramatically, while lending from value-based banks increased by 80%.



pic: Brittany Hack

The story that is unfolding here is that the smaller, value-based banks, who do not indulge in speculative activities to nearly the same extent as the GSIFIs, have the financial resources to support the transition to a greener, more resilient global economy. They are better equipped to deal with volatility because they have diverse investment portfolios and longer-term investment timescales. It is also these smaller, value based banks that are supporting the lives of billions around the globe through micro-loans and long-term investments.

Prompted by the financial crisis, there is a broad conversation going on within finance circles about the need for mainstream financial system reform. Those conversations are long overdue and urgently required. However, we now know that as well as reforming the mainstream banking institutions we need to support the smaller, value-based banks to multiply and grow so that they can become the vehicles of greener, more resilient economies.

On Sunday along with our partners the Global Alliance for Banking on Values and ForUM we will be launching a set of four very practical policy recommendations that would reform our financial systems with this vision in mind. The policy suggestions have come about through a consultation with leaders from sustainable banking, academics and economists. Do join us there. But, be warned, there will be a large elephant in the room and we will be chatting about him ■

# A leopard does not change its spots: one Bolivian's reflections on the green economy

Adrian Fernandez Jauregui

---

There have been almost two years of mounting excitement around the Rio+20 Conference. But what is there to be excited about? How has the world changed over the past 20 years since the first Rio? The lot of the world's poor has not significantly improved - quite the opposite in fact - and global power structures remain mostly the same. There are still the same winners and losers in the great game of international relations. Especially when it comes to the idea of the green economy, it seems that the global South will once again get the short end of the stick.

Decades after the lengthy and painful structural adjustment periods of the 70s and 90s - which left deep scars on the industries, agricultural sectors, and societies of the developing world - it is insulting to now see an eerily similar initiative appear in the green economy roadmap. This new project is similar in too many ways to the older - unsuccessful and damaging - restructuring initiatives and would see new trade barriers imposed on the developing world (such as a carbon tariff, or border adjustment tax). It would involve 'experts' imposing a 'one size fits all' development model, or roadmap. It risks establishing new aid conditionalities that require progress solely toward environmental goals, and is all about changing the rules of the game in order to favor specific (developed) economies, allocating the burden of transition to developing countries in the process. It restarts the struggle to catch up with the developed world - this time (and for now) the new direction is the green economy instead of liberalisation of the economy.

The original Rio Principles and commitments are being ignored completely as governments work towards a new (questionably titled) document, The Future We Want. The excuses are many, but the bottom line is that developed countries want to move away from the agreements and principles established in 1992. Although the Rio Principles are supposed to be shaping the document, countries like the US, Canada and Japan have been systematically blocking any mention of them, especially those of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Polluter Pays, which are key strategic safeguards.

It is frustrating to know that the same story is being replayed over and over again. But the worst part is seeing some developing countries follow the same patterns of development based on natural resource predation and unsustainable consumption patterns that not long ago were heavily criticised by the overdeveloped ones. It is not easy to restrain humanity's aspirations of development, but it is certainly tougher to reject the idea of development when poverty, hunger, and inequality are the standard fare of everyday life for the large majority of people. So, it should not surprise anyone to see more and more developing countries trading green forests for green cash. Especially after the first Earth Summit, when it was made clear that the only way for the South to develop in a sustainable way was by providing them with adequate assistance such as technology transfer, Overseas Development Assistance and capacity building, breaking any dependency. These necessities were never even close to being met.

Development is needed in most regions of the world, to address poverty. But, just as with anything in the natural world, things can only grow and develop until a certain point. Unfortunately, there are a number of countries who are living way beyond their means. Over-consumption - a symptom of over-development - remains a contentious topic. In fact, the US rejects the interdependence between sustainable consumption and production patterns and sustainable development. Bolivia and Ecuador disagree fundamentally with this position; for these two countries the concept of 'good living' should instead be the guide to achieve sustainable consumption levels. The concept of 'good living' means understanding quality of life as much more than purchasing power and consumption levels: it also takes into account peoples' relationship with nature.

Until underlying issues such as inequality, the assumption of infinite growth, over-consumption, and lack of agency in the South are seriously addressed, and principles like Common but Differentiated Responsibilities are seriously respected, whatever comes out of Rio will not be the future we really want ■



pic: Andy Withers

# Where is the social innovation in the green economy?

Nick Meynen

ANPED, Northern Alliance for Sustainability

Mentioned only once, in bracketed text on greening the supply chains of business and industry, is 'social innovation'. This does not adequately reflect what the people want and already do. Social innovation has much broader support than technological innovation. The question is, why are delegates neglecting creative social solutions to the crisis of our current economic model?

In Mondragon, Spain, the cooperative experiment that coped relatively well during the ongoing crisis is gaining currency as an alternative economic model. Car-sharing and community supported agriculture are booming in Belgium. Luis Flores Mimica from Consumers International - one of the three NGO Organising Partners - affirmed that social innovation is something that is "starting to happen". He added that in Latin America "there is much more ground for social innovation than for technological innovation". So what is the problem?

"While social innovation is happening, what is missing are social indicators", according to PERL's (Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living) Victoria Thoresen. The first ever UN World Happiness Report is part of the answer, but the consensus is that we need more alternative indicators. Mr Flores also made the point - during a SPREAD Sustainable Lifestyles side-event on social innovation - that "Social innovation has allowed us to look beyond the neo-liberal ideology".

Yet this is not happening at the negotiation tables. Other business models exist and even big companies are in favour of things like choice editing, where unsustainable products are simply banned from the market, as Robert Ter Kuille from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and a representative of PepsiCo confirmed. So what are we waiting for?

Social innovation is leading us to a sustainable service economy, totally different from the consumption-oriented economy that we now have. People are showing leadership through social innovations; elected leaders should build on this. So if you see a negotiator, please ask them exactly where the social innovation in the green economy is ■

---

## Economic, environmental and social innovation for green growth were focus of ICC Forum during Rio+20

---

On Wednesday the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) held an event titled Creativity for Innovation, hosted by the Brazilian Chamber of Commerce in the centre of Rio. The symposium brought together a varied group, consisting of senior corporate executives, thought leaders, entrepreneurs, government officials, and young leaders, who presented and discussed current projects as well as new ideas, technologies and solutions to deliver a green economy.

During the Forum, the ICC released its 'Green Economy Roadmap', which sets out 10 conditions needed to drive growth in a resource-constrained world and serves as a guide for business, policy makers and society to achieving a green economy. Participants supported the Roadmap and linked the 10 conditions to their own projects and ideas.

During a discussion on value chains, private sector executives shared information on how they are - at various stages - greening the resources they use and products they produce. There was general agreement that improving the sustainability of value chains was not solely a result of consumer demand, although that certainly has had an impact on private sector behaviour. Some companies

are also doing it as a part of their foresight and vision, particularly for products that have a long lifespan. Another point of agreement is the duality between the oft-used phrase 'what gets measured gets managed' and the opinion that 'what gets managed gets measured'. This indicates that if companies establish permanent posts managing the greening of their value chains, it generally has a positive result in terms of greening their business operations.

Another observation was that companies which include sustainability criteria into their decisions on purchasing also treat sustainability as a core element of their business planning and execution, and not only as an 'add-on' for the sake of public relations, often touted as green washing. The participants also agreed on the need to get clear signals from policy makers, such as on the establishment of a global regulation for carbon. Such a level playing field would potentially propel the greening of businesses from the current fringe position into the mainstream of good business practice ■

### More info

[www.iccwbo.org/uploadedFiles/Rio20/Pages/ICC\\_flyer\\_070612\\_monitor\\_DS.pdf](http://www.iccwbo.org/uploadedFiles/Rio20/Pages/ICC_flyer_070612_monitor_DS.pdf)



# Strong action needed at Rio+20 to secure a sea-change for oceans conservation

Chiara Zanotelli

Youth News Agency and Rio+YOU

A green economy needs a blue backbone. Our oceans give us life. Billions of people depend on them for their food and for employment. Degradation of marine ecosystems and failure to conserve marine biodiversity has significant economic, environmental and social consequences. In return, we are plundering the oceans of fish, choking them with pollution and altering them forever with the impacts of human-induced climate change, harming the very source of our prosperity. Healthy and productive oceans are essential to the future of life on earth, and the fight against poverty is fundamental to ensure food security.

Management of the oceans is one of the many priority areas addressed by Rio+20. The high seas comprise 64% of the world's oceans and nearly half the planet's surface. They, with the sea floor, support important fisheries and harbor an enormous reservoir of biological diversity that is increasingly under threat.

High Seas Alliance, comprising 25 member organisation, works toward the protection, conservation and restoration of the marine ecosystem health and biodiversity in the high seas and calls on states at Rio+20 to agree to take urgently needed action to improve the rules that govern the high seas.

UN processes and internal reviews by some bodies have already illustrated that there are significant gaps in ocean governance of the high seas. Those issues, according to the High Seas Alliance, can best be addresses through a new legal framework-an implementing agreement under the United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS). In fact, current governance of marine areas on the high seas is characterized by an uncoordinated patchwork of regional and sectorial management mechanisms. This structure, however, has failed to ensure effective implementation of States' obligations to conserve and manage marine resources and to protect the environment in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

For examples, marine protected areas (MPAs) and no-take reserves are proven and effective tools to conserve and protect marine biodiversity, fish populations and vulnerable marine ecosystems. The High Seas Alliance stressed that there is yet no legal mechanism capable of establishing integrated multi-sector protected areas on the high-seas, and currently less that 1% is protected. Prior environmental impact assessment (EIAs) and increasingly strategic environmental assessments (SEAs) are widely regarded as essential processes for identifying activities with the potential to have significant adverse effects on the marine environment. As of yet, there is not an integrated global process for the conduct or standardisations of EIAs an SEAs for proposed activities and projects that may affect biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. Also lacking is recognition of the governance gap around regulation of access to marine genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use.

With its side event hosted here at Riocentro, the High Seas Alliances intended to point out how the current draft of Oceans Paragraph 6 simply reflects the ongoing discussions in the UN working group in marine biodiversity (so called "BBNJ"), which has been meeting since 2006, and which at its last week-long meeting in May 2012 could only agree to hold two further intersessional workshops next year, with no commitment to initiating negotiations of a new agreement or to any other tangible action. The draft will simply maintain the status-quo, clearly stated as inadequate by the vast majority of States and there was clear consensus at the recent BBNJ meeting that this is unacceptable.

It is critical that States at Rio+20 make a clear commitment to immediately initiate the negotiation of a comprehensive and inclusive agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Rio+20 offers a critical opportunity for the international community to forge a sustainable path for the future of the ocean, and the High Seas Alliance strongly support efforts to close existing legal gaps and enhance current ocean management so that it provides a more integrated, equitable and accountable framework.

The world's leaders must show the courage and leadership necessary to reverse the worsening state of the world's oceans. Let us agree, at long last, to protect the biodiversity of the largest reservoir of diversity on the planet ■



# Negotiations must acknowledge the inextricable relationship between the extremes of poverty and wealth

Daniel Perell and May Akale  
Bahá'í International Community

Deliberations about the nature and purpose of a green economy have - rightfully - given much attention to the eradication of poverty. But while the 2nd June draft of the Outcome Document mentions poverty over 80 times, the text and related negotiations are conspicuously silent on an issue closely related to poverty, namely extreme concentrations of wealth - the one mention of which remains in limbo.

Why is this issue important? While efforts to eradicate poverty have resulted in improved living standards in select parts of the world, inequality remains widespread. Today, over 80% of people live in countries where income inequality is growing. At the one extreme, 2 billion people lack access to basic sanitation; on the other, a mere handful of billionaires are thought to control as much as 6% of the Gross World Product. The widespread assumption is that such inequality, while undesirable, is necessary for the generation of wealth, and, by extension, to facilitate poverty eradication measures. Yet, if the means by which wealth is accumulated involves the exploitation and oppression of others, how can we hope to mobilise the tremendous material, intellectual and moral resources needed to eradicate poverty on a global scale?

It must be acknowledged that extremes of poverty *and* wealth are symptoms of structural flaws in our economic system and its institutions. The negotiations on the 20 paragraphs pertaining to the green economy - none of which have been agreed upon as of the 13th June - provide the opportunity to do this in a clear and confident manner.

Others participating at Rio+20 are taking every opportunity to address this issue. A side event filled to capacity on the 13th June saw Dr Steven Stone of UNEP, Farooq Ullah of Stakeholder Forum, Daniella Hiche of the Brazilian Bahá'í Community and Professor Michael Dorsey of Dartmouth College each give informative and impassioned perspectives on this pressing issue. Ideas

were shared regarding the purpose of development, the importance of individual initiative, and intergenerational fairness. Dr Stone asked "what is economic progress?" - a question that must be answered if the negotiations are to produce a visionary Outcome Document.

Each panellist addressed a fundamental reality: ultimately, it is not solely wealth generation that improves our wellbeing. The nature of the relationships between individuals, communities, and institutions are of primary importance in securing and shaping our collective life. The purpose of the green economy, or any economy, then, must be to facilitate human wellbeing without sacrificing that of future generations. Societal progress requires the development and implementation of economic models which reflect the central role that relationships play in human life.

Certain consequences of extreme poverty are well known, including reduced access to healthcare and education. Likewise, the impact of extreme concentrations of wealth have a profound impact on human relationships: such extremes undermine economic vitality, thwart participation in decision-making in public life, obstruct the flow of knowledge and information, and isolate people and communities.

There is much to learn about both extremes of the poverty-wealth spectrum, as well as the relationship between them, and discussions surrounding the green economy can provide such an opportunity. Rather than focus on geopolitical or economic differences, we strongly encourage Member States to strive to better understand, and modify accordingly, the structures and systems that perpetuate the ongoing existence of extremes of wealth and poverty, thereby making the goal of sustainable development far more attainable. In this way, wealth-generating measures which involve the exploitation of others (individuals, communities or nations), the monopolisation and manipulation of markets, and the production of goods that promote violence and tear at the social fabric of society, can be openly examined.

To be effective and relevant, the Outcome Document, and the institutional arrangements it legislates for, must acknowledge that every economic transaction has a social dimension, and give due consideration to the relational dimensions of our economic life. Guided by this insight, the economy can shift beyond removing the ills of poverty to address a greater purpose: providing the means for all of humanity to participate fully in the construction of a more just global order ■

# Greening the Blue World

UNEP

Oceans and coasts are a key component in transitioning to a low-carbon, resource efficient green economy.

Our 'Blue World', covers 70% of the earth's surface and provides a multitude of services ranging from food and climate regulation, to nutrient cycling and storm protection. These services are essential for the food security and livelihoods of millions of people in sectors from tourism to fisheries.

Over the last 50 years, however, oceans and coasts have seen increasing degradation as a result of over-exploitation, especially regarding the depletion of fisheries, pollution from land-based activities, and increasingly, climate change. For example, recent studies have tallied more than 405 'dead zones' world-wide, a consequence of excess nutrients from agriculture and poorly treated wastewater entering coastal waters.

Degraded oceans and coasts threaten the livelihoods and food security of millions of people around the world. The latest Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report on fisheries and aquaculture noted there are nearly 45 million people directly employed in fisheries, and 180 million more indirectly. In turn, if we assume that for every job there are three dependents, then over 540 million people depend on the ocean for their livelihood and food security. This represents 8% of the world's population.

The world's population is predicted to rise from the current seven, to nine billion by 2050. This in turn could increase the demands and impacts on these important areas. The demand for fish has been increasing steadily, it appears the limit has been reached for wild capture fisheries, and the gap between demand and supply is increasingly being met by aquaculture. In either case, the demand for ocean resources are increasing; either directly by fishing deeper and further offshore, converting coastal land to aquaculture, or by using lower quality wild fish for the fishmeal and oil required by the aquaculture sector.

These ocean-related drivers of change, along with those exerted on virtually all other natural environments, indicate that the world needs to be more innovative and intelligent with managing its resources and services. The green economy is one pathway to transition to using oceans and their resources in a smarter and more sustainable way. Moreover, the same concepts for transitioning to a low-carbon, resource efficient marketplace can be applied in marine and coastal economies. Indeed, there are many opportunities – from shipping to marine-based renewable energies – to shift to a green economy approach that leads to healthier and more economically productive oceans and ocean-related industries.

This in turn contributes to sustainability in terms of improved human wellbeing and social equity for the benefit of coastal communities. For example, transitioning to small-scale fisheries that use less destructive methods has the potential to restore fish stocks, employ more people and to improve the sector's economy by \$50 billion per year. Also, marine renewable energy is labor-intensive and could offer alternative employment opportunities to fisheries and the gas and oil sectors.

How do we advance towards transitioning to a green economy for oceans? At UNEP we see three areas that need to be strengthened:

- A. A better understanding of the direct and indirect values of oceans and their resources;
- B. Strengthening ocean governance, especially regarding integrated ecosystem management, which should include developing the appropriate tools;
- C. The creation of innovative financing mechanisms to spur investment in less energy-intensive and more labor-intensive developments.

The Rio+20 Summit is a clear opportunity to scale-up and accelerate the transition to a green economy for oceans in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; one which should not be squandered ■



# Appropriate technologies for the green economy

Ashwani Vasishth  
Ramapo College of New Jersey

---

Rio+20 is focused, in part, on the theme of ‘a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication’. The fact that sustainable development and poverty eradication are placed clearly as constraints on the world economy implies, at the very least, that conventional economic approaches will not do. But if the status quo will not serve us, where are we to look?

Mahatma Gandhi's call for a village-oriented development model and E.F. Schumacher's argument that ‘small is beautiful’ together represent a coherent vision for an alternative form of development that would serve us well in our own day and age. The dialogue toward a new green economy would be well served by taking these ideas into account in a central way.

Appropriate Technologies are innovations that are simple, labour intensive, and small-scale. As such, they are the proper vehicle for moving the new green economy forward.

The Appropriate Technologies movement began in the 1970s and '80s, but wilted in the face of the modernisation discourse driven by the proto-globalisation movement of that era. The World Bank's structural adjustment policies, the Washington Consensus, the drive to scale-up privatisation, and the seduction of Western ways of life propagated by both Hollywood and Bollywood alike ensured that the ideas inherent in the Appropriate Technologies movement had a negative image. Who, after all, would want a composting toilet when you could aspire to flushing toilets? Why use a solar cooker when you could use propane stoves instead?

Back in the 1970s, India had a very healthy Appropriate Technologies scene –there were a number of national and regional research institutions, generating precious information, experimenting vigorously, and compiling voluminous data on the modes, methods and performance of a huge variety of such technologies – ranging from experiments on solar cookers, to windmills and alternative building materials and techniques. Such technologies were always based on the idea that they would be context-sensitive, appropriately low-tech, and always low-cost.



But the hedonism of the '80s and '90s ensured that such technologies shrank back into the undergrowth of the grass-roots. They were kept alive, however, by the dedication and vision of the inspired few, determined individuals and groups who knew, with foresight and certainty, that the call to ‘proper action’ would ultimately lead the world to a healthy balancing of the global with the local.

Let us be clear on two things. First, corporate capitalism is here to stay. There is no way that the Washington Consensus and the move to privatisation can be undone. Globalisation is not going to go away any time soon. Second, there are real constraints imposed upon us by planetary biogeochemical processes, and that as we move toward a fuller world we will be driven to find an alternative to growth economics. Localisation's day has come.

These two factors represent the essential tension that we must find some way to reconcile. We should consider them as yin and yang. In this light, we need to find some way to combine globalism and localism. Let corporate capitalism have a field day. But let us make sure that grassroots localism comes out into the sunshine too.

The move to a greener set of economies can only be supported by a technology model that is focused on local context, and on small-scale implementation. Appropriate Technology is that model.

At the very least, the negotiating text of The Future We Want should insert a phrase on the significance of localisation and call for the increasing deployment of an Appropriate Technology approach to development within the green economy ■

**More info**  
[vasishth@ramapo.edu](mailto:vasishth@ramapo.edu)



# Green Economy gone toxic: time to get rid of it?

Sevan Holemans and Brendan Coolsaet  
Major Group for Children and Youth

---

At YouthBlast on Tuesday, Mr Sha Zukang, the Secretary General of Rio+20, referred to the importance of peer-based education for a transition to sustainable development to take place. We, youth, could not agree more. Unfortunately, during the last round of 'Informals', the education paragraphs agreed upon did not make any reference to non-formal education. This once again lays bare the worrying gap between the objectives of a green economy and the negotiating text. An even bigger problem is that this inadequacy also applies to the very concept of a green economy. Although pictured as the long overdue panacea for the current crisis, the text clearly narrows the concept down to a sustainable solution (in the longevity-sense of the word) for business as usual.

## Commodification of the Environment

According to UNEP, the green economy 'results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities'. We would love to believe in fairy tales solving all our problems. But tales are deceptive. Can it be that the very same policies, tools and logic that caused the actual crisis could now turn out to be the solutions?

Environmental regulation by the markets is not enough and it is worrying that the concept of a green economy does not question the current model of economic growth. Worse still, it now seems to include a willingness to deepen and extend the current destructive economic order. It seems that the purpose of a green economy is limited to integrating the biological processes and ecosystems – or the services they provide – into the capital cycle for a new phase of capitalist expansion. At the European

level, the position is clear. Janez Potocnik, the European commissioner for the environment stated that "we must transit from a situation where we are protecting the environment from business, to a situation where we using businesses to protect it". For the EU, a green economy means investing in the key resources and natural capital that could become areas for future economic growth and global markets, in particular when encouraging private sector participation. But, this is not the whole picture.

There is much to say regarding the state of the negotiating text currently being discussed in the RioCentro corridors. But let us focus on section III on a green economy. It is crystal-clear that there is no willingness to reform the financial and commercial liberalisation policies that have existed since the 80's. A green economy is depicted as a win-win situation for all actors, but what are the mechanisms that will ensure that no one is left aside this time? Continuously increasing the size of the economy is no longer an acceptable solution to achieve fairness. Nor is it efficient.

## Should we stop here and get rid of the green economy concept?

No – we are convinced that we cannot discard the idea of a green economy without taking the risk of condemning the very tenable policies at the core of it. Therefore, we propose to continue to refine the definition of a green economy and bring our values into it. The definition must mention the necessity to promote sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption and production patterns in a context of resource scarcity. Moreover, a green economy will also have to explore equally the 3 dimensions of sustainable development, and change its focus from unlimited growth and consumption to the real needs of present and future generations. In order to do that, we must work on the social and environmental dimensions more extensively. On the social side, decent working conditions must be a priority – along with support of formal and in-formal education – in order to transmit knowledge and create human capital. On the environmental side, it should be acknowledged that alternatives to market-based tools or governmental regulation do exist, and their efficiency needs to be recognised. The economy will also need to be reshaped in order to serve people before profit. Furthermore, it is crucial to radically open the decision-making processes at all levels, in order to cope with the ever growing complexity of the problems that we face. Sustainable institutions will need to be organised and governed by the resource users themselves. Failing to address the above comments will most certainly lead us further down the path of social and natural disaster ■



# ECO Corner

ECO Corner is produced by the cooperative efforts of Climate Action Network members at the Rio+20 Conference

## Where is the energy in Rio?

---

After being energised by the magnificent rhythms and colours of Brazilian samba, ECO realised that there was something strangely missing from the official negotiation agenda: energy. Right now there are no public meetings on the energy paragraphs, and nothing is scheduled for the remainder of the conference. How can this be?

Intelligent and ambitious approaches to energy are crucial to ensure sustainable energy for all and a world free from climate chaos and dirty and risky energy. The energy section deals with a number of critical issues that mustn't be lost, namely: sustainable energy for all, renewable energy deployment, energy access, energy efficiency, and the critical issue of fossil fuel subsidies.

Unless country delegates take the energy paragraphs seriously and make bold commitments, there is little hope in achieving many other goals in the Outcome Document. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), renewable technologies are now the most economic solution for off-grid electrification and grid extension in most areas, as well as for centralised grid supply in locations with good resources.

Making progress in phasing out fossil fuel subsidies could free up much needed funding from problems to putting the money into funding solutions. If even a small amount of the hundreds of billions of dollars handed out to the fossil fuel industry were redirected to renewable energy and sustainable development, Rio+20 would represent a helpful and hopeful step forward. But all of that is currently at risk of being ignored, much less realised.

ECO urges negotiators to make sure that energy issues don't disappear into the shadows at Rio+20 and instead are given the priority attention they deserve ■

## Climate crisis - what crisis?

---

Most of the world's leaders will be here in Rio in a few short days to assess (non-)progress in sustainable development and to address the accumulating environmental and social challenges that threaten our well-being, security and even very survival.

Oddly enough though, the one issue that world leaders have said is the most serious environmental crisis facing humanity, with potentially catastrophic impacts on communities and the planet, is almost invisible here. Only 4 paragraphs out of the current 80-page text are devoted specifically to climate change. Even this short text that fails to go beyond earlier commitments is at risk of sinking under the rising tide of ignorance, shortsightedness and abdication of leadership. While it is good that the dangerous gap between what governments have promised to do and their concrete actions is recognized (i.e. that

their planned emission cuts will not keep us below 2 or 1.5 degrees C of warming), no commitment is made to address this gap with faster and bigger emission cuts. Of course climate change is intimately linked to many of the other issues addressed, like sustainable energy and green economy, but without a strong climate change section, the message coming from Rio will be that this issue is not a priority for the world right now.

Rio+20 offers the world a chance to assess the progress (or lack thereof) made in limiting and reducing global emissions – a promise governments made 20 years ago when signing the Climate Convention in Rio – and to make a clear commitment to make up for lost time with stronger and faster emissions cuts. The details will of course have to be negotiated under the UNFCCC, but a clear commitment from leaders here in Rio could help to put some urgency and focus back in the climate negotiations.

If world leaders in perhaps their largest gathering ever will fail to address the greatest threat to humanity, it would be a serious abuse of the trust the world citizens have placed in them, if not an act of sheer cowardice ■

# Rio+20 Side Event Calendar

Date	Time	Room	Title	Organisers
15/6/12	09:00 - 11:00	Rio Centro T-3	Green Economy and Trade - Assessing Risks and Opportunities	International Trade Centre (ITC) - Lead partner, UNEP, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)
	11:30 - 13:00	RioCentro T-8	Social justice for future generations	World Future Council
	11:30 - 13:00	Rio Centro T-4	Green Jobs: A Chance for Youth!	UNEP
	12:00 - 13:00	UNEP Pavilion Auditorium	Addressing the Short Lived Climate Pollutant Challenge: The New Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short lived Climate Pollutants	UNEP
	13:30 - 15:00	RioCentro T-2	The Future We Want: Biodiversity in the Sustainable Development Goals	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
	13:30 - 15:00	RioCentro P3-E	How to create an equitable and sustainable green economy	Danish 92 Group
	13:30 - 15:00	RioCentro T-4	Securing a sustainable and equitable future for all post-Rio+20	BioRegional Development Group
	15:00 - 16:45	UNEP Pavilion Auditorium	Financing a Green Economy	UNEP
	15:30 - 17:00	RioCentro T-6	Connecting the dots: science, the IPCC and the policy picture	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
	17:30 - 19:00	RioCentro T-8	Transboundary Waters, Climate Change and Good Governance	WWF Indonesia
	15:30 - 17:00	RioCentro T-9	What Comes Next? An Interactive Dialogue on Youth Movements Beyond Rio	SustainUs
19:30 - 21:00	RioCentro T-3	International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS)	AICESIS	
16/6/12	11:00 - 13:00	UNEP Auditorium Pavillion	UNEP FI Event - A Financial Sector Perspective on Rio+20	UNEP
	11:30 - 13:00	P3-6	The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
	13:00 - 15:00	T-9	From Rio to Cairo to Rio? and Beyond	Population Action International
	13:30 - 15:00	T-2	China's Progress on Sustainable Development & Expectations of Rio+20	China
	15:30 - 17:00	P3-B	Oceans for the future - How can we achieve marine reserve targets?	Zoological Society of London
	15:30 - 17:00	T-8	Democratization of International Relations - Role of UN World Conference	Conference of NGOs
All Day	Peoples' Summit	Peoples Treaties	Peoples' Summit	



Rio+20 will be a 'PaperSmart' conference so we are encouraging our readers to move online and access Outreach on our newly optimised website: [www.stakeholderforum.org/sf/outreach](http://www.stakeholderforum.org/sf/outreach) or download each daily edition using a Quick Response (QR) code displayed here.

## Be PaperSmart: Read Outreach online

### 4 easy steps to using the Quick Response (QR) Code

1. Download a QR code reader on your phone or tablet
2. Open the QR code reader
3. Scan the QR Code with your camera
4. Today's Outreach pdf will automatically download to your phone or tablet

# Reflections on the negotiations - Thursday 14th June

Kirsty Schneeberger  
Stakeholder Forum

---

After a promising start in the morning session, the group discussing the green economy seemed like it had a spirit of willingness and flexibility, and an attitude of cooperation to progress discussions and agree to more of the paragraphs in section III. The clean-up exercise of the morning helped to bring a few more of the paragraphs nearer to completion and in anticipation of a productive evening session.

However, at a few minutes after 5pm, the G77 requested the floor to announce that it could not continue in the green economy discussions until the group discussing Means of Implementation (MOI), Section VI, had arrived at a clearer position. In response to this, the Chair followed protocol and suspended the session, but clarified that – as per the programme of work – a report back would still be made to Working Group II at 8pm. Depending on the status of discussions on MOI, the green economy group will reconvene first thing on Friday morning to continue discussions.

This situation clearly highlights the tensions that exist between sections III and VI for the G77; namely that there is concern about agreeing to any measures in section III that relate to e.g. technological developments, innovative applications, or other measures to implement the green economy outcomes, without first having assurances and agreement on the support that will be offered to G77 countries to facilitate their transition to green economies that will drive forward sustainable development.

This is a very tricky issue, especially for the least developed countries and other developing countries that will rely on technological, knowledge sharing, and financial assistance to implement any of the outcomes – not least those contained in section III. With one day remaining of the formal negotiations, it is expected that the Bureau will decide to continue negotiations over the weekend in order to finalise the text in preparation for the arrival of Heads of State on Wednesday next week. After Thursday's delay, section III will very much be in need of extra time ■

Rishikesh Bhandary  
Tufts University

---

The facilitator introduced new text this afternoon to streamline the section on means of implementation. The contours of a potential Rio+20 outcome are slowly becoming visible, as parties have begun indicating their priorities and associated red lines.

Discussion on finance was dominated by the G77 and China's demand for a resource mobilisation framework with clear targets and numbers. The Group has called the 'legs' of means of implementation (Overseas Development Assistance, South-South cooperation and efficient use of finance) as inadequate and has asked for a commitment of \$30 billion by 2017 and a \$100 billion per year by 2018. The United States – along with Japan and other countries – were sceptical of the numbers put forward and supported the Facilitator's compromise proposal of embarking on a needs assessment exercise coupled with delineation of all potential sources of finance.

A common refrain heard at this meeting was that "this is not a pledging conference". However, as the facilitator pointed out, developing countries will be signing up for many commitments (particularly in Section III under Green Economy) that will kick in before the Sustainable Development Goals and their associated architecture come into place. Delegates will have to figure out how to finance these new commitments.

On technology, any mechanism for technology transfer has received stiff resistance from industrialised nations. The source of this disagreement seems to revolve around competing thoughts on the role of intellectual property rights on technology diffusion.

Regarding trade, delegates have been confronted with the challenge of creating a delicate balance between injecting some energy into the flagging Doha trade talks and the Conference remaining in its 'area of competence'.

With just one more day of the Prep Com remaining, delegates are finding that a lack of clarity on the process ahead and dissatisfaction in other forums, like trade, are impeding progress ■

---

Outreach is made possible by the support of

