

German Input to Questionnaires

29 October 2010

Attachment A

Questionnaire on Renewing political commitment for sustainable development

I. Introduction

The objective of UNCSO is to renew political support for sustainable development, assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and addressing new and emerging challenges.

The issue of renewed political commitment will need to be addressed in the longer term context of how agreement among governments and other stakeholders at UNCSO could help accelerate progress towards, inter alia: (i) the demographic goal of stabilizing the global population; (ii) the developmental goal of extending the benefits of development equitably to all segments of global society; and (iii) the decoupling goal of ensuring that the use of materials and generation of wastes is within the regenerative and absorptive capacities of the planet.

II. Questionnaire

Member States are invited to provide contributions on experiences, success factors, challenges and risks pertaining to the UNCSO objective “*Renewing Political Commitment to Sustainable Development*” in response to the following questions which have been developed based on the discussions which took place at the first Prepcom.

Experiences

1. Are there objective ways of measuring political commitment? What are the relevant indicators? Which indicators are most useful from your perspective? (e.g., New legislation enacted, Policy announcements, Budgetary allocation and support, Prominence of relevant institutions, Level of media interest, etc.)

See EU answers.

2. Based if possible on these indicators, how would you evaluate the national government’s political commitment today to sustainable development compared to 1992? How would you evaluate the political commitment of the international community compared to 1992?

See EU answers.

National Action: In Germany there are no clear, well accepted indicators established to answer question 1. Therefore an evaluation of governmental commitment better should be based on a qualitative assessment of the institutional developments since

1992. Elements should be: is SD fixed in the constitution, does a national SD strategy exist (SD targets (quantified or qualitative), timeframes, monitoring), are there institutions for the strategy implementation established, does a sustainability council exist, are there SD institutions in the parliament, is the governmental budget determined by SD principles or targets, does a SD assessment for laws exist., etc.

Concerning the political commitment generally it can be stated that sustainability is a guiding principle of Federal Government policy.

The national government's political commitment to sustainable development today is stronger than 1992. The commitment includes today all relevant policy fields, going beyond the development and environmental policy focus in 1992. The task of sustainable development pervades all policy fields: research and education, climate protection, civic commitment, the fight against poverty in developing countries, lasting and environmentally sound growth, reliable employment opportunities, and responsible budgetary policy, to name just a few topics relevant to the numerous questions with regard to sustainable development.

It encompasses policy activities addressing all political levels, including the local, regional and national level, but also the European, the G8 and G20, the OECD and the UN level. The commitment is substantiated by German Federal Governments National Strategy for Sustainable Development of 2002, regional sustainability strategies of the majority of German Laender Governments and Local Agendas 21 of hundreds of German Local Communities. Under the leadership of the German Chancellery and by decision of the National Cabinet the national strategy formulates political objectives in all policy fields. It is continuously developed further by progress reports every four years, which inform about institutions formed, activities implemented and announced, legislative acts and budgets allocated with regard to sustainability policy. It is evaluated by indicator reports every two years which inform about the developments of representative quantitative sustainability indicators in 21 crucial policy fields and the respective distance to target.

Success Factors

3. What actions have been introduced in your country to strengthen political support for sustainable development?

National SD strategy, Länder SD strategies, UNESCO decade of education for SD, since 2001 activities of the SD council with all [societal](#) stakeholders, governmental communication strategies, governmental dialogues, for instance with business companies, etc. The chancellery itself (and not a department/ministry) is formally in charge of sustainable development. The head of the chancellery (with the rank of a federal minister) is head of a committee of state secretaries on sustainable development.

4. Are there specific sectors or areas (e.g., water, energy, biodiversity, other) where national political commitment to achieve sustainable development goals has been especially strong? If so, what factors explain that commitment?
5. What examples or experiences from other areas demonstrate how political support for critical issues was enhanced (e.g., MDGs, climate change)? How could they be applied to SD?

Governmental policies alone will not be able to mobilise sufficient momentum to reach changes for critical global problems. There is a need to strip down complex issues like climate change or SD to simple messages which are able to reach people's minds. This is necessary to raise awareness and acceptance. In the climate change example, popular films on the struggle of survival of penguins or polar-bears in their rapidly changing natural habitats changed in some cases more minds than new strategies. Even though issues like climate change or MDGs in itself are part of the SD principle, there is the need to popularise SD further, simpler and more attractive.

In the area of climate change high political support could be gained by

- engaging in intensive public information and consultation about the challenges, the objectives, the measures to be taken
- mobilising a broad range of expert knowledge
- formulating a highly integrated and differentiated strategy in the specific policy field with ambitious long-, mid- and short goals and an intelligent policy mix
- addressing the diverse responsibilities of many different societal actors but also the different advantages for those actors to engage in climate policy, especially the innovative potential and the economic rationale.

Sustainable development policy could probably profit from a broad and engaged societal dialogue resulting in the formulation of encompassing societal visions ("grand design"), based upon scientific and other reliable knowledge. Part of this dialogue and vision should be systematically interlinked long- and midterm goals (roadmaps) for specific fields of the quality of life, specific economic sectors, specific regional areas and specific social challenges. Systematic evaluations of the policies in these fields should be applied. New governance structures and processes as a broad mix of regulatory, market and informal instruments should be applied.

Challenges

6. Looking forward to the next 10 years, what are your government's highest priorities for accelerating progress towards sustainable development?

See EU answer.

7. How can international cooperation strengthen support for sustainable development? What are your expectations for UNCED in this regard?

See EU answer

Risks

8. Among your country's senior national policy makers, would you say the predominant view of the three pillars of sustainable development is that: _____ there are difficult trade-offs among them? _____ they are strongly complementary? Please briefly elaborate on your answer.

Neither A nor B. Political areas mutually influence each other. The concept of sustainability draws upon this and turns consideration of the reciprocal effects between the various political areas into a guideline for political action. It is an act of economic reason to act responsibly in terms of ecological and social matters. In the context of sustainability, a trend-setting economic policy must take ecological aspects into consideration to the same extent that environmental policy must consider economic effects. The same applies to questions of social cohesion. Moreover, beyond national considerations, a global perspective on sustainable development needs to be added to the national one. For this reason, sustainability is conceptually defined in the German SD strategy neither as a roof supported by three unrelated pillars nor as the intersection of clearly definable dimensions in the sense of 'a smallest common denominator'. Sustainability involves a holistic, integrated approach; interrelationships and interdependencies must be ascertained, described, and borne in mind in order to identify long-term and stable solutions for existing problems. Environmental protection, economic performance, and social responsibility must be combined so that viable decisions based on all three aspects are considered in a global context. The preservation of the earth's carrying capacity forms the absolute outer limit. It is within this scope that the realisation of various political goals must be optimised. Sustainability aims at achieving intergenerational equity, social cohesion, and quality of life and international responsibility across the various dimensions. These are the four guidelines that together constitute the Government's understanding of "sustainable development" as formulated in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2002. Sustainability must always be cognisant of the whole picture while adhering to the various facets of sustainability.

Attachment B

Questionnaire on Assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development

I. Introduction

1. Agenda 21 (A21) is a comprehensive and detailed programme for sustainable development, adopted by consensus at UNCED in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. JPOI was adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002. It builds upon A21 by concentrating attention on implementation, especially by introducing additional ways of reducing fragmentation and integrating all three dimensions of sustainable development into policy clusters, which in turn laid the foundation for the subsequent programme of work of the CSD.

2. An important, and perhaps the core, framework for assessing progress is the extent to which economic, social, and environmental goals (the “three pillars” of sustainable development) begin to converge. Indeed, the consistent message of sustainable development is that these represent not three separate goals but a single integrated one. The goal, and indeed the ultimate test, of sustainable development is the convergence among the three trajectories of economic growth, social development, and environmental protection. In this regard, UNCSD provides an important opportunity to assess what has worked, and what has not.

3. Some information on trends is available from the history of national reporting on sustainable development, including for the Commission on Sustainable Development and in various Trends in Sustainable Development reports on the DSD website¹. On poverty and the social pillar in particular, information on MDG indicators has been tracked since 1990 and has been described in detail in the Secretary-General’s report for the high-level event on the MDGs to take place in September 2010.²

II. Questionnaire

Member States are invited to provide contributions on experiences, success factors, challenges and risks pertaining to GA Resolution 64/236’s call for “*assessing the progress to date and remaining gaps in implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development*” in response to the following questions which have been developed based on the discussions which took place at the first Prepcom.

Experiences

1. What indicators or information on sustainable development have proven to be most useful for assessing gaps and progress towards sustainable development?

¹ http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/resources/res_publtrends.shtml

² Keeping the promise – a forward-looking review to promote an agreed action agenda to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

Please rank in order of importance 1 = most important.. Please also attach or provide a link to relevant statistical databases.

- Economic Indicators (e.g., GDP growth, trade performance)
- Comprehensive Indicators (e.g., HDI, MDGs)
- Poverty Indicators (e.g., Headcount or other measure, please specify)
- Environmental Indicators (e.g., ESI, Footprint, other, please specify)
- Social Indicators (e.g., Unemployment, life expectancy)
- Results of Public Opinion Surveys
- Other (please specify) _____

Sustainability calls for reliable and transparent monitoring of results. A ranking of importance of different types of indicators seems not useful from our perspective. For the German case a set of key indicators (economic, social, environmental comprehensive indicators) combined with (quantified) targets and timeframes is the most useful tool to manage and evaluate the progress towards SD. Such a set enables an integrated evaluation of the progress towards SD. Indicators for measuring developments and concrete goals against which these developments can be assessed are vital to any management approach. Besides goals currently set by the Federal Government in specific fields, there are superior long-term sustainability goals. These underpin the strategy in 21 areas and cover the scope of the political tasks—from the conservation of resources to the opening of markets for developing countries.

2. What indicators of integrated goals and strategies have been most useful? Please rank in order of importance.

- Outcome indicators (e.g., correlation between indicators of economic, social, and environmental change)
- Commitment indicators (e.g., fiscal or other support for integrated sustainable development programmes)
- Institutional indicators (e.g., use of integrated strategies, establishment of coordination mechanisms)
- Information-related indicators (e.g., development of analytical and assessment tools, collection of data, investment in research)
- Other (please specify)

See answer B1.

3. Based as far as possible on these indicators, please provide an assessment of the progress made towards sustainable development over the past 18 years (1992-2010), (a) at the level of your country (where applicable) and (b) globally. Please attach any relevant technical studies or policy analyses. For each input, kindly provide the original article or url, and enter a short abstract.

See EU answers

National Input: A comprehensive assessment is formulated in the last Progress Report 2008 on the National Sustainability Strategy and the recent Sustainable Indicators Report 2010.

Link:

Success Factors

4. What factors explain progress in implementation? Please rank in order of importance.
- use of integrated strategies
 - generalized economic growth and prosperity
 - investment in technical and institutional capacity
 - financial support from international sources
 - other; please specify: _____)

See EU answers.

5. Has your government introduced integrated planning and decision making for sustainable development? If so, under what title (NSDS, PRSP, Five Year Plan, NCS or NEAP, other)? What are the lessons from this experience?

See EU answer

National Input: The German Government announced in 2002 its National Strategy for Sustainable Development. This strategy is further developed, (see the latest Progress Report 2008) and regularly monitored (see latest SD Indicators Report 2010). For lessons see answers in Attachment E.

6. Are there examples of strong public-private partnerships for sustainable development in your country? How have these been promoted?

There is broad range of fora and networks in different policy fields to link up public and private activities, e.g. the Corporate-Social-Responsibility-Forum, the Network for Resource Efficiency or national initiatives within the framework of the UN Decade “Education for Sustainable Development”.

7. Is the technical assistance from UN system entities a key factor in explaining progress with sustainable development? If so, in what areas or sectors (e.g., MDGs, water, energy, health, agriculture, biodiversity, forests, climate change, jobs, other)?

Challenges

8. What are the major barriers to implementation? Please rank in order of importance
1 = most important.
- inadequate coordination between ministries
 - low political priority for integrated decision making
 - problems created by slow growth

- lack of data
- inadequate or unpredictable international support
- inadequate public awareness or engagement
- other; please specify: _____

See EU answers.

9. What steps need to be taken to address these barriers in an effort to bridge the implementation gaps?
10. What are the main difficulties experienced in promoting integrated planning and decision-making?
11. What further actions could be taken to promote effective voluntary actions and partnerships?

Risks

12. What are the risks to sustained progress towards convergence among the 3 pillars of sustainable development?

See EU answers.

Attachment C

Questionnaire on Addressing new and emerging challenges

I. Introduction

Although there is no such thing as a definitive list of “new and emerging challenges”, the following are widely agreed to be significant ones:

- Climate change, as new evidence has emerged to suggest that the danger is a more imminent one than previously thought
- Rising water scarcity and increased desertification
- The unfolding of the financial crisis in developed countries, and its global transmission through financial markets as well as through global recession
- Halting progress towards MDGs despite consistent political support
- Food crisis, caused by the rapid escalation of food prices
- Energy crisis, precipitated by the unprecedented volatility in energy prices
- Other environmental trends that have worsened more rapidly than anticipated, including concerns that some “planetary boundaries” have been exceeded, especially biodiversity
- Degradation of marine ecosystems
- Inefficient and wasteful patterns of consumption and production, and
- A succession of disasters.

All countries face these challenges, but they differ widely in their ability to cope with the risks and shocks inherent in them. Challenges have been exacerbated in developing countries by poverty, competition for scarce resources, the rapid pace of rural/urban migration, and the concomitant challenges to provide food, infrastructure and access to basic health, water and energy services.

The sustainable development challenge posed by climate change illustrates well the importance of a holistic response from the international community.

II. Questionnaire

Member States are invited to provide contributions and inputs on experiences, success factors, challenges and risks pertaining to GA Resolution 64/236’s call for “*Addressing new and emerging challenges*” in response to the following questions which have been developed based on the discussions which took place at the first Prepcom.

Experiences

1. What five new and emerging challenges are likely to affect most significantly your country’s prospects for sustainable development in the coming decade? Please rank in order of importance.

See EU answers.

2. What mechanisms have been put in place in your country to address these challenges: At local level? At the national level?
3. In which of these areas has support from the international community been forthcoming? In what areas is new or enhanced international support needed?
4. What new and emerging challenges should be acted upon at UNCSD?

See EU answers.

Success Factors

5. What factors explain the successful ability to address new and emerging challenges?
 - adequate financial resources
 - strong government leadership
 - investment in essential infrastructure
 - dedicated government programmes
 - literacy and awareness among the population
 - effective communication systems
 - availability of data and technical capacity
 - speed and adequacy of international support
 - leadership by international organizations
 - south-south cooperation
 - regional cooperation
6. What steps have been taken or are under consideration in your country to enhance these success factors?

Challenges

7. How can the link between science, education, and policy be strengthened to address the new and emerging challenges, especially those identified above?

See answers of the EU.

8. How can international support be harnessed effectively to address these challenges?

See answers of the EU.

Risks

9. Do the new and emerging challenges pose a fundamental risk to the prospects of economic growth and development of your country?

See answers of the EU.

10. How can the risks to the poor and other vulnerable populations be addressed?

See answers of the EU.

Attachment D

Questionnaire on Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

I. Introduction

The concept of the green economy is one of the several closely related constructs that have emerged in recent years to enhance convergence among the three pillars of sustainable development. While the idea has an intrinsic appeal, questions have been asked regarding conceptual clarity, precise definition, and implications for key social and economic goals.

One specific question pertains to the difference between the ideal concept of a “green economy” and the near- to medium-term implications of the “transition to a green economy”.

In the literature, most treatments invoke the term in order to outline elements and actions that should normally be described as “greening of the economy”. The more comprehensive of such treatments seek to unite under a single banner a broad suite of economic policies that are relevant to achieving sustainable development.

The Prepcom also raised a number of questions regarding the impact of the “transition to a green economy” on other goals, notably macroeconomic outcomes (especially income growth), trade competitiveness, protectionism, aid conditionality and poverty and livelihoods. In addition, the delegates asked for sharing of experiences, success factors, challenges, and risks in the practical application of some of the recommended instruments.

II. Questionnaire

Member States are invited to provide contributions and inputs on experiences, success factors, challenges and risks pertaining to the UNCSD theme “*Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication*” in response to the following questions which have been developed based on the discussions which took place at the first Prepcom.

Experiences

1. Is there a consensus among policy makers in your country on the meaning of the term “green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”? If so, how is it defined? [If relevant, please provide any official publications or analytical studies on the concept of green economy or its operational or social implications, together with a short abstract]
 - What are the main examples of green economy policies that are currently in place in your country? (e.g., government expenditures on green infrastructure,

incentives for private investment in green sectors, subsidy reform, pricing of pollution, public procurement, other)

- Which policies, or types of policy, do you consider to be most effective in promoting a green economy and why?
- Are poverty and other possible social impacts explicitly considered in the design of green economy policies? If so, how?

See answers of the EU.

2. Are these policies being implemented as part of a coherent green economy, or green growth, strategy?
3. What are the main perceived benefits of implementing a national green economy strategy?

A green economy strategy is conducive for forcing strong and sustainable economic growth. Green technologies hold great potential for the economy with regard to the German position in the world market, but the deployment of green technologies in the German economy is also crucial. The efficient use of energy, raw materials and water reduces costs, increases competitiveness and ensures jobs. There are about 1.8 million green jobs in Germany. At the same time, producing less waste and using less energy preserves the environment.

Environmental technologies are central to the goal of industrialised countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 % by 2050.

4. What economic sectors do you consider to be most important to building a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication?

The goal of a resource efficient, low carbon overall economy is crucial. Energy efficiency, environmentally friendly power generation and storage, sustainable mobility, resource and materials efficiency, waste and closed cycle management and sustainable water management, are all key green markets of the future.

Environmental technologies generated around 8% of Germany's GDP in 2007 (Roland Berger). By 2020, this share will have climbed to 14%. In 2007 they already represented a global market volume of around 1,400 billion euro, and this will probably more than double to 3,100 billion euro by 2020. Green services are important as well: service-providers in the environmental technology industry accelerate the "green transformation" and help achieve the objectives of sustainable production and emissions reduction.

With a view to *poverty eradication*, the relevance of particular sectors highly depends on the economic and social structure of the corresponding country as well as its natural resources and population density (country context). Important criteria are the extent of ecological externalities (GHG emission, waste and pollution, environmental

degradation etc.) and the number of people employed and active in the sector through farming, subsistence livelihoods or micro-, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Agriculture, water, energy, transport, forest, fishery and housing, urban development as well as the financial sector might be highly relevant for a number of countries. Furthermore manufacturing as well as selected industrial sectors or the mining sector could be important.

However, rather than prioritising particular sectors for achieving a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication is the question of sustaining the natural resource base and developing favourable framework conditions in all sectors, giving priority to those where impact on lives of poor women, men and children would have immediate and sustained effect. These framework conditions should create incentives for actors to behave in an environmentally and socially sustainable way.

Success Factors

5. What green economy policies would you rate to be most effective?

- Coherent policy mixes that promote long term improvements in human well-being and social equity while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities (UNEP definition of Green Economy), To pick some examples:
- **Environmental fiscal reform**, i.e. introduction of taxes on environmentally relevant economic activities and products (e.g. extraction and use of natural resources, emissions), gradual elimination of counterproductive subsidies that favour unsustainable development and redirection of fiscal funds towards areas that support environmental protection and poverty reduction.
- Promotion of more resource-efficient and low-emission technologies, such as **renewable energy** (Feed in tariffs, research programs, top runner program, vocations training) and **energy efficiency** (both, demand side and supply side) and step wise reducing incentives for consumption of fossil fuels (eco-fueltax, emission trading, phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies, targeted green subsidies) and in addition promoting decentralised access to energy services in rural areas, using appropriate technologies, including modern and efficient biomass technologies. On the international level, promotion of renewable energy through initiatives like “Renewable Energy Policy Network” (REN 21) and the recently established International Agency for Renewable Energy (IRENA).
- Using the **Integrated Water Resource Management** approach as a framework when formulating water laws, regulations and strategies in order to reconcile protection of water resources and assuring water, food and energy security as well as adaptation to climate change
- Promotion of “**Circular economy**” approaches by implementing the following hierarchy in order to push for resource efficiency while at the same time increasing the competitiveness of companies: Avoidance, preparation for

reuse, recycling, further recovery including thermal recovery and final disposal. This could include recycling, ecological sanitation, composting (awareness rising and provision of information, trainings, support of business development services assisting companies in improving their eco-efficiency, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, provision of credit for investment in cleaner production).

- Implementation of **ecological and social standards and norms** e.g. by defining how “ecological products and foods” have to be grown or produced and step wise adapting them to change framework conditions.
- Promoting **urban environmental management**, e.g. by improving public transport systems and integrated planning of infrastructure in order to reduce commuting needs or facilitate circle economy approaches,
- Development and implementation of **ecological industrial policies** in order to restructure the economy towards green sectors and activities and long-term competitiveness
- Supporting the development of **markets for green business development services** that help companies to shift their production patterns towards environment-friendly methods (e.g. consulting services regarding the introduction of environmental management methods)
- Introduction and adaptation of **technical and vocational training programs** in order to build local capacities.
- Promoting options for ‘**green financing**’, such as index-based weather insurances and microfinance products for investments in renewable energy and resource efficiency
- Creating new markets and regulation for providing fair distribution of revenues from natural resources and ecosystem services e.g. via mechanisms for “**Access and Benefit Sharing**” and “**Payments for Ecosystem Services**”.

6. How have those policies contributed to poverty eradication, other specific sustainable development goals?

- Green economy policies can contribute to poverty reduction in several ways: 1) especially poor people benefit from a reduction of the negative impacts of economic activity on the environment as they generally rely heavily on environmental systems for their livelihoods. 2) Eliminating environmentally harmful subsidies and introducing taxes on environmentally harmful products and economic activities increases government revenue and provides opportunities for increased social spending, 3) By increasing the competitiveness of micro-, small and medium enterprises through sustainable business practices and resource efficiency and creating new business opportunities in green sectors such as biotrade, green economy policies provide new jobs and income opportunities;
- However, a positive impact of green growth policies on poverty eradication will not result automatically but requires inclusive planning and design of

policies. To give green economy policies a pro-poor orientation, we need a policy mix with explicit additional measures to improve the outreach to marginalised regions and households and thereby assure an equal distribution of the benefits of these policies.

To give some examples:

- Approaches that focus special target groups, for example the "fair trade" approach looking at marginalised agricultural producers, or special financial products and management services developed for small and medium enterprises, corporations, or individual persons (mutual saving banks, Grameen),
- special information services, trainings and education offers reaching out to micro, small and medium companies and marginalized regions to facilitate access to knowledge about clean technologies, financial and other products, environmental management practices.
- Markets for organic products can create new business opportunities for small-scale farmers as these farmers often hardly use any pesticides or agrochemicals. Such markets can be established by supporting certification processes and reducing barriers to trade, amongst others.
- promotion of selected cleaner technologies that in addition to the above mentioned principles would address in particular poor people's needs such as efficient cook stoves, sustainable sanitation facilities, rainwater harvesting, drop irrigation, decentralised renewable energy systems.
- participatory approaches that would involve local communities in resource management (water user committees, user rights for forest areas to farmers)

7. What in your view are the principal reasons for their success? (e.g., availability of relevant institutional or technical capacity, strong political support, broad engagement of business and civil society, international support, other)

8. What steps and actions have proven effective in building political and popular ownership for green economy measures?

In most of the countries the concept of a "Green Economy" is not established so far. So it is too early to define effective steps in building ownership. A first step could be to build on good practices and appropriate communication.

Challenges

9. Are there studies for your country that identify success factors, challenges or risks associated with green economy policies identified under Question 1? For each, kindly provide the original article or web link, and a short abstract.

There are several studies on those questions, above all:

Roland Berger:

www.greentechatlas.de

http://www.bmu.de/files/pdfs/allgemein/application/pdf/greentech2009_en.pdf

The first edition of GreenTech made in Germany highlighted the importance of environmental technology and environmental innovations to the German economy, showing how this sector is increasingly emerging as an engine of growth and employment. The second edition brings the material in the earlier volume up to date and examines the subjects raised in greater depth. It also provides a comparative view of key issues, as well as adding new themes and insights.

McKinsey:

„BDI initiativ - Wirtschaft für Klimaschutz“

http://www.bdi.eu/download_content/Publikation_Treibhausgasemissionen_in_Deutschland.pdf

http://www.bdi.eu/BDI_english/download_content/Flyer_Klimainitiative._engl.PDF

BDI's Climate Study by McKinsey is the first detailed cost-benefit analysis of climate technologies and examines the »Costs and Potentials of Greenhouse Gas Abatement in Germany«. It provides answers to the question: How much Greenhouse Gas Abatement can we achieve – and at what cost?

10. Based on all of the above, what is (are) the key outcome(s) you think could emerge from the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 with respect to a 'green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication'?

See answers of the EU.

Risks

11. What is the relationship of green economy policies to other policies and policy domains (e.g., poverty, growth, employment, trade, etc.)? Are there cases of conflict and, if so, how have these been addressed?

See answers of the EU.

Attachment E

Questionnaire on Institutional framework for sustainable development

I. Introduction

Institutional support for sustainable development works *horizontally* across different domains, agencies, ministries, functional groups, and countries, while the traditional organization of authority and action is *vertical*, precisely along the lines of the same agencies and ministries and other specialities. So, the challenge is to identify institutional elements that can facilitate integration, on a continued basis, across existing lines of authority and programme structures, without undermining or displacing them.

At the international level, UNCED led to the establishment of three main institutional structures to pursue sustainable development, namely the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) for political leadership, the Inter-Agency Coordination on Sustainable Development (IACSD) for coordination within the UN system, and the High Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development (HLB) for intellectual guidance. CSD remains the principal policy making institution on sustainable development within the UN system, but the other two structures were discontinued. Since Rio, many UN bodies and international organizations have aligned their work with the principles of sustainable development, which is referred to in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (GA Resolution A/RES/06/1) as “a key element of the overarching framework of United Nations activities”.

At national levels, early innovations include national sustainable development councils (NSDC), and integrated strategies. The experience with NSDCs needs to be assessed to identify lessons of success as well as failure. The process of developing integrated strategies has taken root, including in the form of national sustainable development strategies (NSDS), but there is a need to review this experience to assess how best the goal of integration can be advanced, and in particular whether the existence of several competing strategy processes (e.g., PRSP, development plan, national conservation strategy) can undermine the very goal of integration.

At local levels, Local Agendas 21 were developed by local institutions and urban municipalities, and again there is a need to draw lessons from this experience.

II. Questionnaire

Member States are invited to provide contributions and inputs on experiences, success factors, challenges and risks pertaining to the UNCSD theme “*Institutional framework for sustainable development*” in response to the following questions which have been developed based on the discussions which took place at the first Prepcom.

Experiences

1. Various changes in the global institutional framework for sustainable development have been discussed. In your experience, what is the importance of the following avenues for reform?

- Strengthen existing institutions
- Merge institutions
- Improve coordination among existing institutions
- Establish new institutions
- Change mandate(s) of institution(s)
- Streamline institutions

Kindly explain your choices, indicating what concrete measures could be considered in this regard.

See answers of the EU.

2. How can the institutional framework ensure effective synergies between the CSD and other existing inter-governmental instruments and processes, including different multilateral agreements, UN programmes and funds, and regional processes?

See answers of the EU.

3. How can the institutional framework ensure effective coordination and synergies among different agencies and organizations responsible for aspects of sustainable development?

See answers of the EU.

4. Does your country have an active national sustainable development council (NSDC) (or equivalent)? Yes/No Do you think an active NSDC could facilitate your country's preparations for UNCSD? If so, how?

Yes. The German council for Sustainable Development plays an important role in the formulation, further development and implementation of the strategy. Its members are appointed for three years by the German Chancellor. The members of the Council represent ecological, economic, social or global concerns depending on their professional and personal backgrounds.

5. Please provide the name and e-mail contact of the focal point for your country's NSDC.

Dr. Stefan Bauernfeind (stefan.bauernfeind@bk.bund.de)

6. What role has sub-national and local government in your country played in implementing sustainable development since Rio?

Sustainable development cannot be mandated from the top, but rather must evolve from a dialogue among the respective stakeholders and with the participation of the appropriate groups of society. Precisely here is where the *Länder* and the municipalities play an important role because of their proximity to the citizens as well as to business and other areas of society. The *Länder* are committed to sustainability as a goal for their development. Correspondingly, various structures have been created in the *Länder* to adequately discuss and implement the topics relevant for the future.

Some *Länder* have introduced dialogue and consultation processes for the formulation of joint objectives for sustainable development. Other *Länder* have initiated region-wide agenda processes. Several *Länder* have started their own comprehensive strategies for sustainable development. The range of topics addressed is broad, and many priorities of the individual *Länder* as well as priorities of the *Länder* and the Federal Government match. The subjects range from energy and climate protection, demographic change, mobility, work and the economy, and the development of cities and regions up to education and research. Within these fields, sustainability is and will be filled with life through concrete actions, projects, and initiatives. The successful implementation of a central topic of sustainability in the *Länder* is the issue of education for sustainable development.

Sustainability is increasingly becoming a central guiding principle of municipal politics. As early as in the middle of the 1990s, German municipalities began to implement the action programme 'Agenda 21' of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which took place in June of 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. Since then, the topic of sustainability has been gaining in importance above and beyond the area of ecology. As the political and administrative level closest to the citizens, municipalities play a decisive role in mobilising the public and raising its awareness of a sustainable and more environmentally friendly development.

7. Since the UNCED (Rio) in 1992, has the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in national decision-making processes on sustainable development significantly increased? Yes/No Please indicate which of the following forms of engagement of major groups in decision making are commonly used in your country (ranking in order of importance with 1 = most important):
- participation in policy development
 - public hearings
 - partnerships
 - scientific panels
 - inclusion in international delegations
 - multi-stakeholder consultations for international meetings

Sustainable development will only be possible if all stakeholders in industry and civil society pull together and if all citizens adopt the vision of sustainable development as

their own. When private businesses invest and when consumers spend they are shaping future development every bit as much as the government with its legislation and programmes. Thus, the public debate, and cooperation with and between civil society actors are important factors in the sustainability strategy of the German government.

What is needed is a joint effort on the part of the federal government, civil society, the federal states and local authorities. This is why the German government invites the German Council for Sustainable Development, the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development in the German Bundestag, the federal states and the leading associations of local authorities to make their own contributions to the National Sustainability Strategy.

The German government also attached great importance to giving normal citizens an opportunity to become involved in the drafting of the progress reports at an early stage and to a significant extent by contributing their ideas and proposals. The comments made by individuals and associations and institutions show that the issue of sustainability enjoys broad support within German society.

8. Name the major groups with which your government has had the closest collaboration? For each, briefly describe the main features of the collaboration.

Civil society: To provide external expertise the German government put in place the German Council for Sustainable Development in 2001. Fifteen individuals from businesses, trade unions, churches, the media, and consumer and environmental associations meet regularly to discuss topical aspects of sustainability. They are free to set their own agenda, and provide important subject-specific inputs so as to help push forward with sustainable development at all levels. The Council is also involved in elaborating the strategy. Its mandate includes bringing the vision of sustainability closer to the general public.

Economic actors: To strengthen sustainability the Federal Government supports business by support programmes. Following the request for fostering the inclusion of small and medium enterprises into support programmes the support instruments are shaped as network projects, in which universities, research institutes and firms in do joint research. There is also a specific support programme „KMU innovativ (SME innovative, which supports easy and flexible applications from SME (e.g. projects on issues of resource and energy efficiency).

Research actors: There is relevant support e.g. in the context of the framework programme “Research for sustainability” launched 2010. envisages specific dissemination and incorporation strategies and innovative structural measures in addition to pure project support. The programme will run until 2015, investing more than 2 billion Euro in innovative sustainable projects in this period. The new framework encompasses a broad spectrum of research. Germany is also strongly engaged in the new founded research networks in the context of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

Success Factors

9. Are there examples, whether in the sustainable development domain or in related policy domains (e.g., MDGs, other), where an effective institutional framework has contributed to significant positive outcomes at national level? international level?

The German government has created a body specifically mandated to deal with sustainability policy - the State Secretaries' Committee on Sustainable Development, which consists of State Secretaries from each ministry of the Federal Government. The decisions it makes are binding for the further development of Germany's national sustainability strategy.

The committee is responsible for further developing the strategy and to monitor regularly the state of implementation. Also the committee is the contact for the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development of the German Bundestag, for the Laender (German federal regions), the German municipal umbrella organisations, the German Council for Sustainable Development and further social actor groups. The committee all ministries are represented. It is chaired by the Head of the Federal Chancellery. The Secretaries of State gather on regularly basis and discuss – often together with invited experts – specific issues of sustainability policy. The ministries deliver departmental reports about their work.

A major reform in order to strengthen the implementation of the strategy in daily policy was the introduction of sustainability as a criteria for the impact assessment for new laws or regulations. In May 2009 sustainability was included permanently in the standing orders of the federal government (“Geschäftsordnung der Bundesministerien”, GGO) in the section, which deals with impact assessment.

Parliament takes into account the status of sustainability as a task that embraces the full spectrum of political activity: in 2004 the 15th German Bundestag established the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development and closely monitored the sustainability process in Germany. By the decision on initiation of the Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development end of 2009 it was equipped with enforced rights. This implies a relevant role for checking statement on sustainability in the frame of the impact assessment for new laws or regulations.

10. How can the lessons from such successes be used to enhance the effectiveness of the institutional framework for sustainable development? Are the lessons relevant to the Commission on Sustainable Development?

See answers of the EU.

11. How can the lessons from such successes be used to enhance the effectiveness of international environmental governance/policy guidance?

See answers of the EU.

12. What in your experience have been the most effective means of strengthening major group and other relevant stakeholders' participation in national sustainable development efforts?

The Federal Government underlines the relevance of partnership and dialogue for the sustainability discourse. The NSDS has been further developed in a broad consultation process. In case of sustainable production and consumption producers, retailers and consumers are along a variety of projects (e.g. by the formulation of a National CSR Strategy finalised October 2010) in continuous dialogue with the Federal Government. The question how consumers can strengthen their efforts to implement aspects of sustainability in their daily decisions on consumption is crucial for the development of sustainable lifestyles. The Federal Government's objective therefore is to endow consumers with information and instruments to align their decisions along sustainability criteria. A further immediate and project related support of civil society engagement happens through the competition „Bürger initiieren Nachhaltigkeit“ („Citizens initiate Sustainability“), which is organised by the Advisory Council for Sustainable Development in cooperation with the Federal Government, also by programmes which are funded by the Federal Ministry for the Environment.

German Development Cooperation supports Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in developing countries and emerging economies by 1) strengthening framework conditions at government level, 2) supporting private sector initiatives for sustainable development and 3) enhancing the framework for cooperation between government and private sector (e.g. by supporting public-private sector dialogues). German Development Cooperation for instance supports the implementation of systems of environmental and social standards in national and international value-added chains.

Challenges

13. What are the most significant challenges facing international institutions charged with promoting sustainable development?

See answers of the EU.

14. What are the most significant challenges facing national institutions charged with promoting sustainable development in your country?

The structural change towards a resource preserving and low carbon economy has to be promoted forcefully. Due to its good preconditions Germany is expected to take internationally a leading role in the transition towards a sustainable climate neutral economy. Sustainability has to become more and more a trade mark of German policy.

Many people in Germany engage resolutely for sustainability, sustainability is generally well positioned in German society. But the task remains to enhance the effectiveness of the NSDS within Federal Government, the cooperation with the

regional and local level and to achieve a further strengthened business engagement. In the further future development of the NSDS longterm objectives have to be implemented to a broader extent. Government and public institutions have to intensify the dialogue with society.

Risks

15. What decisions should UNCSD aim to reach on the institutional framework for sustainable development? What are the main risks threatening a successful UNCSD outcome on the institutional framework?

See answers of the EU.