

Rio+20: Making it Happen

Newsletter of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
Special Issue on "Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development"
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In ongoing efforts to promote awareness about Rio+20, we have dedicated this special issue of the newsletter to the "institutional framework for sustainable development," which is one of the themes of the Conference.

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Quote

"I have called climate change the defining issue of our time. Indeed we must go even further. We must make sustainable development for all the defining issue of our time –because it is only in that broader framework that we can address climate change and the needs of our citizens." -

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

IFSD at Rio+20



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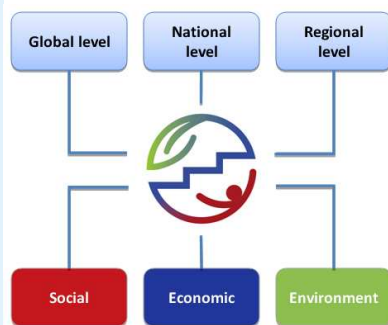
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Reforming Sustainable Development Institutions: Integration and Implementation

Solo, Indonesia — At the opening session of the High-level Dialogue on the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD), held 19-29 July 2011, Rio+20 Secretary-General Sha Zukang noted that one common lesson that had emerged since Rio was that "institutions play a critical and fundamental role in implementing sustainable development policies." He added, however, that "a strong governance structure is critical for advancing sustainable development."

The High-level Dialogue, attended by more than 300 delegates from over 90 member States, 30 international agencies and Major Groups, was dedicated to one of the main themes of the forthcoming Rio+20. In that context, it examined in detail the prospects for a coherent, coordinated institutional framework for sustainable development at the local, national, regional and global levels.



The outcome document of the three-day Dialogue, known as the "Solo Message," will contribute to ongoing preparations for Rio +20. The Message essentially focuses on two main points:

- (i) the integration of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development;
- (ii) the effective implementation of the political commitments for sustainable development.

The Solo Message called for an organization at the international level that promotes the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development— economic, social and environmental pillars. To that end, various options were discussed at the meeting, ranging from an enhanced mandate for **ECOSOC**, to the establishment of a 'Sustainable Development Council.' It was generally agreed that the environmental pillar needed to be reinforced to get to the level of the economic and social pillars. Strengthening **UNEP** would be essential in that regard.

Furthermore, the Message strongly emphasized the need to renew political commitment to IFSD and translate it into implementation. Sustainable development governance at the local, national and regional levels needs to be reviewed and supported.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Sha said, "We made progress in more clearly defining the options for strengthening IFSD. Six months ago, at the 2nd preparatory committee meeting, our vision on IFSD was still blurred. It is now clearer - thanks to Solo." For more information on IFSD, click here bit.ly/jefWgx



From left to right: Rio+20 Secretariat staff who assisted in the planning, coordination and participated in the Solo High-level Dialogue on IFSD; Technical and Analytical Cluster Chief David O'Connor, Executive Coordinator Liz Thompson, Conference Secretary-General Sha Zukang, Head of Office Tariq Banuri, and Team Members Maria Martinho and Diane Quarless. Photo by Rio+20 Secretariat

Regional Preparatory Meetings

As mandated by the General Assembly in resolution A/64/236, the five regional commissions will host regional preparatory meetings for Rio+20, which will also consider the two themes of Rio+20: a 'green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,' and the 'institutional framework for sustainable development.' The schedule is as follows:



7-9 September 2011, Santiago, Chile - The Regional Preparatory Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean will be held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). More information available at www.cepal.org/rio20/

10 -14 October 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - The African Regional Rio+20 Preparatory Meeting will be held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). More information available at www.uneca.org



16 -17 October 2011, Cairo, Egypt - The Regional Preparatory Meeting in the Arab Region will be organized by the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with two major partners, the League of Arab States (LAS) and the United Nations Environment Programme/Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA). More information available at <http://bit.ly/oHhWGg>

19 - 20 October 2011, Seoul, Republic of Korea - The Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia Pacific Region will be organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). More information available at www.unescap.org/



1- 2 December 2011, Geneva, Switzerland - The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) will organize the Regional Preparatory Meeting for all 56 countries located in the European Union, non-EU Western and Eastern Europe, South-East Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and North America. More information available at www.unece.org

Intergovernmental Meeting

Beijing High-Level Symposium

8-9 September 2011, Beijing, China—The High-Level Symposium on the UN Conference on Sustainable Development aims to offer an opportunity for in-depth discussions among government officials, experts, and representatives from the UN system as well as Major Groups on both the objective and the two themes of Rio+20, with a view to formulating concrete proposals the Rio+20 process

The Symposium will be co-organized by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Rio+20 Secretariat. More information available at <http://bit.ly/reHFwg>

Major Group

New Website Launched

The [Earth System Governance Project](http://www.ieg.earthssystemgovernance.org) has launched an initiative on international environmental governance (IEG) and IFSD that aims at contributing to the process leading to Rio+20.

At the core of this initiative is a new website: www.ieg.earthssystemgovernance.org, which will compile easily accessible and structured information on International Environmental Governance and will solicit advice and comments from the global research communities, stakeholders, and policy makers.

EC-ESA-Plus IFSD Study

UN Study on the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

The [Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs](http://www.un.org/esa/ecaecp/) (ECESA) Plus is conducting a study on IFSD. The study, which will be available in September 2011, will address institutional issues on all three pillars of sustainable development and their integration at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels.

The ECESA Plus mechanism includes over 40 organizations and was established in mid-2010 to bring relevant UN system agencies, the [World Bank](http://www.worldbank.org/), [IMF](http://www.imf.org/) and the [Rio Convention](http://www.rioconvention.org/) secretariats together with ECESA Members to prepare for Rio+20.

Read more on ECESA here <http://bit.ly/q4WAcT>

Upcoming Events

Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Science and Technology Workshop

3-5 August 2011
Mexico City, Mexico
<http://bit.ly/qVRo3H>

Promoting a Transformative Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Workshop on Rio+20

17 August 2011
Bangkok, Thailand
<http://bit.ly/q0Zq7s>

World Ecocity Summit

22-26 August 2011
Montreal, Quebec
<http://bit.ly/queuKl>

The Innovation and Sustainability Conference & Expo 2011 Africa

24-27 August 2011
Kampala, Uganda
<http://bit.ly/pbERh9>

64th Annual United Nations DPI/ NGO Conference: "Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens."

3-5 September 2011
Bonn, Germany
<http://bit.ly/nzKGeN>

CIVICUS World Assembly

10-12 September 2011
Montreal, Quebec
www.civicus.org

ICLEI European Convention 2011

12 - 14 September 2011
Brussels, Belgium
<http://bit.ly/oGJdB8>

Annual Meetings of the Bretton Woods Institutions, World Bank and IMF

24 - 26 September 2011
Washington, D.C., USA
<http://bit.ly/r7B9qI>

Rio+20: What Ambition for the Environment? Third Worldwide Conference of Environmental Law NGO and Lawyers

29 September - 1 October 2011
Limoges, France
<http://bit.ly/mQwrpE>

Complete listing of meetings and events are available at: www.uncsd2012.org