

**AD HOC EXPERT MEETING ON  
THE GREEN ECONOMY: TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

**Room XXVI, Palais des Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland  
7– 8 October 2010**

**Objectives:**

- Enhance clarity on the main elements of a “transition to a green economy” in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.
- Identify key conditions for the green economy to become fully supportive of sustainable development
- Define the role of trade and trade policy in moving towards a green economy
- Initiate an open discussion on the concerns that moving towards a green economy may lead to green protectionism or aid and financial conditionalities
- Identify mechanisms to ensure that the process of a green economy is broad and inclusive of all countries, especially LDCs
- Identify areas in which global action could support a transition towards the green economy while pursuing poverty alleviation and promoting sustainable development
- Provide substantive inputs into the preparations for UNCSO 2012 (Rio+20).

**Programme**

**Thursday, 7 October**

**10:00-11:00 Opening session:**

Understanding the green economy within the imperative of sustainable development and assessing its implications, challenges, and opportunities for developing countries.

*Speakers:*

- Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD
- Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Luis Manuel A. Piantini Munnigh, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the World Trade Organization and Economic Organizations in Geneva, President of the Trade and Development Board
- Ms. Sylvie Lemmet, Director, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP

**11:00-13:00 Session 1: Twenty years since Rio: Where are we now?**

*Chair:* Ms. Melinda Kimble, United Nations Foundation Senior Vice President and Head of UNF International Bioenergy Initiative

**Sustainable development: From concept to reality**

*Speaker:* Mr. Branislav Gosovic, Former Director of South Center

**Interactive debate**

**Trade and the Green Economy: Implications for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation**

*Speakers:* Mr. Tariq Banuri, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UNDESA

The concept of sustainable development – the complementary relationship between economic growth, social development and environmental stewardship – has long been institutionalized in the United Nations system. To alleviate poverty, foster human development and address climate change, it is necessary to promote more inclusive approaches towards sustainable development, enhance the sense of ownership by developed and developing countries and strengthen the role of international co-operation.

**Interactive debate**

**15:00-18:00 Session 2: The green economy**

*Chair:* Ms. Sylvie Lemmet, Director, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP

**The role of “green economy” in sustainable development**

*Speaker:* Mr. Steven Stone, Chief, Economics and Trade Branch, UNEP

The green economy has emerged as a potential new development paradigm. What defines the green economy? Can it add value to the concept of sustainable development? How can developing countries participate in and benefit from a transition to the green economy?

*Panelists:*

- Ms. Sandra Bessudo, Senior Advisor for Environmental Affairs in the President's Office, Colombia
- H.E. Mr. Chandrashekhar Dasgupta, Distinguished Fellow, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
- Dr. Zhang Xiangchen, Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the World Trade Organization
- Mr. Carlos Márcio Cozendey, Director of the Economic Department, Ministry of External Relations, Brazil
- H.E. Mr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Former Ambassador of Bangladesh and Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh
- Mr. Paolo Soprano, Director for Sustainable Development, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of Italy and Member of the UNCSD 2012 Bureau

**Interactive debate**

**18:15**

Reception on behalf of Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD  
Bar Escargot, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Palais des Nations

**Friday, 8 October**

**10:00-13:00 Session 3: Transitioning to a green economy: obstacle for trade or opportunity for cooperation?**

*Chair:* H.E. Mr. Luis Manuel A. Piantini Munnigh, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the World Trade Organization and President of the Trade and Development Board

**Challenges and opportunities for the green economy – Overcoming potential conflicts and moving forward from niche to mainstream markets.**

*Speakers:*

Dr. Daniel de la Torre Ugarte, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Tennessee

Mr. Aaron Cosbey, Associate and Senior Climate Change and Trade Advisor, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Trade is a critical instrument for sustainable development, and has expanded dramatically over the last two decades. This continuous expansion of trade is resulting in increased price competition among developing countries. This may be an indication that there is a need to re-balance the emphasis from expanding the volume of trade to enhancing the quality of trade and its impacts on sustainable development.

The transition towards a green economy will -at least in part- be based on the expansion of successful experiences with niche green sectors. When these experiences are adapted and extended, significant tradeoffs are expected to take place. This can create structural friction due to the associated changes in international flows of goods, services and investment.

The urgency of addressing global climate change and its potential dramatic social, economic and environmental impacts requires a much more integrated approach. Whether a green economy has the potential to become the basis for a new development push will depend on how its benefits are perceived and how the burden of the transition costs is ultimately shared.

*Panelists:*

- Mr. Philip Reuchlin, Adviser to the President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- Dr. Anthony Nyong, African Development Bank
- Mr. Juan Pablo Bonilla, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
- Mr. Michael Liebreich, Chief Executive Officer, New Energy Finance-Bloomberg

**Interactive debate**

**15:00-18:00 Session 4: The need for mutually supportive trade and finance instruments for sustainable development and a green economy**

*Chair:* Ms. Melinda Kimble, United Nations Foundation Senior Vice President and Head of UNF International Bioenergy Initiative

**A new tool box for international cooperation**

A transition to the green economy would require the adaptation of old and the creation of new instruments governing trade relations, technology transfer, new and additional finance and foreign direct investment. It may also require the re-engineering of particular investments such as the Clean Development Mechanism, bio-trade, bio-diversity offsets, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions and Emissions Trading.

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The transition implies creating special conditions for certain segments or sectors of the economy, which could invite the use of border protection measures. The use of these instruments while not necessarily condoned or banned by the WTO, will undoubtedly raise the specter of green protectionism.

*Speakers:*

- Mr. Dimitri Zenghelis, Associate Fellow, Energy, Environment and Development Programme, Chatham House and co-author of Stern Review
- Mr. Janos Pasztor, Director of UN Secretary General Climate Change Support Team, and Head of the secretariats of the SG's High-level Advisory Group on Climate Finance (AGF), and the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (GSP).
- H.E. Mr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Former Ambassador of Bangladesh and Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh
- Mr. Aaron Cosbey, Associate and Senior Climate Change and Trade Advisor, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

### **Interactive debate**

#### **Closing session**

*Chair:* Ms. Melinda Kimble, United Nations Foundation Senior Vice President and Head of UNF International Bioenergy Initiative

*Speakers:*

- Mr. Tariq Banuri, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, UNDESA
- Ms. Sylvie Lemmet, Director, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP
- Mr. Lucas Assunção, Head of Trade, Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Branch, UNCTAD