

# earthsummit2012

## Principles for the Green Economy

A collection of principles for the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

By: Hannah Stoddart, Stakeholder Forum

Sue Riddlestone, Bioregional

Mirian Vilela, Earth Charter Initiative



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## Introduction

As we approach the UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (UNCSD) or 'Rio+20', we stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. The identification of the 'green economy' as one of the key themes for the Summit represents a significant opportunity to define a new global economic paradigm, but it also entails a risk that previously 'hard-won' global agreements on sustainable development might be lost or obscured in the pursuit of new agenda. There are also as yet few definitions as to what constitutes a 'green economy', which make some actors weary about its potential application.

Recognizing the challenges of this 'new' agenda, it is therefore critical that any global agreements that advance progress towards a green economy are governed by an over-arching set of principles that have common currency among governments and stakeholders alike. Arriving at an all-encompassing definition of a green economy may be both laborious and constraining, so the application of broader principles may ultimately prove more helpful.

There is range of literature that can be drawn upon in the identification of some common guiding principles for the green economy. The following document aims to combine some of the most prominent existing principles relating to sustainable development and the green economy into a cohesive guiding tool. Fifteen principles have been identified that represent a consolidation of existing international agreements and more radical and forward-thinking proposals, cutting across The Stockholm Declaration, the Rio Declaration, The Johannesburg Declaration, The Earth Charter, The One Planet Living Principles, The Green Economy Coalition, the TUC 'Just Transition' principles, and The New Economics Foundation.

One of the goals of the Rio+20 Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development. To enhance political will to achieve an ambitious outcome from Rio+20, the international community will have to agree on a common ethical framework of shared values and principles. This document offers State and non-State actors an overview the kinds of principles that might constitute that framework.

This document has been put together by Stakeholder Forum in collaboration with Bioregional and the Earth Charter Initiative.

## Principles for a Green Economy

### **1. Equitable distribution of wealth**

Promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations, to reduce disparities between rich and poor, and achieve social and economic justice, within a sustainable and fair share of the world's resources and leaving sufficient space for wildlife and wilderness.

### **2. Economic equity and fairness**

Guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, create economic partnerships that would transfer substantial financial and technological assistance to less developed countries, to help minimize the gap between the developed and developing world and support the environmental sustainability of both.

### **3. Intergenerational Equity**

Environmental resources and ecosystems must be carefully managed and safeguarded so as to enhance the value of environmental assets for future generations, thereby equitably meeting their needs and allowing them to flourish.

### **4. Precautionary Approach**

Science should be utilized to enhance social and environmental outcomes, through the identification of environmental risk. Scientific uncertainty of environmental impacts shall not lead to avoidance of measures to prevent environmental degradation. The 'burden of proof' should lie with those claiming that there will not be significant environmental impacts.

### **5. The Right to Development**

Human development in harmony with the environment is fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development, so that individuals and societies are empowered to achieve positive social and environmental outcomes.

## **6. Internalization of Externalities**

Building true social and environmental value should be the central goal of policy. To this end, market prices must reflect real social and environmental costs and benefits, so that the polluter bears the cost of pollution. Tax regimes and regulatory frameworks should be used to 'tilt the playing field', making 'good' things cheap and 'bad' things very expensive.

## **7. International Cooperation**

The application of environmental standards within nation States must be undertaken in a cooperative manner with the international community, based on an understanding of the possible impact on the development potential of other States. Environmental measures relating to trade should avoid unfair protectionism, but overall should ensure that trade supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection and progressive labor standards, promoting a 'race to the top' rather than the bottom.

## **8. International liability**

Acknowledging that actions within national boundaries can cause environmental impacts beyond national jurisdictions, requiring cooperation in the development of international law that allows for independent judicial remedies in such cases.

## **9. Information, participation and accountability**

All citizens should have access to information concerning the environment, as well as the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. To ensure that environmental issues are handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, institutions at all levels (national and international) must be democratic and accountable, and make use of tools that enable civil society to hold them to account. In this regard, the access to justice by citizens for redress and remedy in environmental matters is a cornerstone of enhancing accountability.

## **10. Sustainable Consumption and Production**

Introduce sustainable production and consumption with sustainable and equitable resource use. Reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, i.e. reduce, reuse, and recycle the materials used, acknowledge the scarcity of the Earth resources and implement activities accordingly.

### **11. Strategic, co-ordinated and integrated planning to deliver sustainable development, the green economy and poverty alleviation**

An integrated approach must be adopted at all levels to expedite the achievement of socio-economic and environmental sustainability through strategic planning with civil society and stakeholders, and across all relevant government departments.

### **12. Just Transition**

There will be costs in making the transition to a low carbon, green economy in the pursuit of sustainable development. Some States and actors are better able to bear those costs than others and are more resilient to transitional changes. In the process of change, the most vulnerable must be supported and protected – developing countries must have access to appropriate financial and technical assistance, citizens and communities must also have access to new skills and jobs.

### **13. Redefine Well-being**

GDP is an inadequate tool for measuring social wellbeing and environmental integrity. Many socially and environmentally damaging activities enhance GDP – such as fossil fuel exploitation and financial speculation. Human wellbeing and quality of life, and environmental health should be the guiding objectives of economic development.

### **14. Gender Equality**

Gender equality and equity are prerequisites to the transition to a green economy and the achievement of sustainable development. Women have a vital role to play as agents of change for environmental management and development – their actions must be rewarded accordingly and their skills enhanced.

### **15. Safeguard biodiversity and prevent pollution of any part of the environment**

Protect and restore biodiversity and natural habitats as integral to development and human wellbeing, and develop a system of governance that protects the resilience of ecosystems to prevent irreversible damage.

## Analysis and Consolidation of Principles

### 1. Equitable distribution of wealth

Promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations, to reduce disparities between rich and poor, and achieve social and economic justice, within a sustainable and fair share of the world’s resources and leaving sufficient space for wildlife and wilderness.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	Johannesburg Declaration
<p><b>Principle 1</b> Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being, and he bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations. In this respect, policies promoting or perpetuating apartheid, racial segregation, discrimination, colonial and other forms of oppression and foreign domination stand condemned and must be eliminated.</p>	<p><b>Principle 5</b> All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.</p>	<p><b>12.</b> The deep fault line that divides human society between the rich and the poor and the ever-increasing gap between the developed and developing worlds pose a major threat to global prosperity, security and stability. <b>14.</b> The rapid integration of markets, mobility of capital and significant increases in investment flows around the world have opened new challenges and opportunities for the pursuit of sustainable development. But the benefits and costs of globalization are unevenly distributed, with developing countries facing special difficulties in meeting this challenge.</p>
<p><b>Earth Charter</b> <b>3b.</b> Promote social and economic justice, enabling all to achieve a secure and meaningful livelihood that is ecologically responsible. <b>10a.</b> Promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations.</p>	<p><b>One Planet Living</b> One planet living is a positive vision of the world where we live happy, healthy lives within a sustainable and fair share of the world’s resources and have left sufficient space for wildlife and wilderness. <b>Principle 9- Equity and the local economy.</b> Thriving, diverse and resilient local economies support fair employment, inclusive communities and international fair trade.</p>	<p><b>New Economics Foundation</b> Redistribution of both income and wealth would create value as resources are moved from those who do not need them to those who do. More equal societies are happier societies. By focusing on fairness we reap both social and economic benefits, as we no longer have to pay such a high price for the social ‘ills’ associated with high levels of inequality.</p>

## 2. Economic equity and fairness

Guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, create economic partnerships that would transfer substantial financial and technological assistance to less developed countries, to help minimize the gap between the developed and developing world and support the environmental sustainability of both.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	Johannesburg Declaration
<p><b>Principle 9</b> Environmental deficiencies generated by the conditions of under-development and natural disasters pose grave problems and can best be remedied by accelerated development through the transfer of substantial quantities of financial and technological assistance as a supplement to the domestic effort of the developing countries and such timely assistance as may be required.</p> <p><b>Principle 20</b> (...) Environmental technologies should be made available to developing countries on terms which would encourage their wide dissemination without constituting an economic burden on the developing countries.</p>	<p><b>Principle 7</b> States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit to sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.</p> <p><b>Principle 9</b> States should cooperate to strengthen endogenous capacity-building for sustainable development by improving scientific understanding through exchanges of scientific and technological knowledge, and by enhancing the development, adaptation, diffusion and transfer of technologies, including new and innovative technologies.</p>	<p><b>18.</b> At the same time, we will work together to help one another gain access to financial resources, benefit from the opening of markets, ensure capacity-building, use modern technology to bring about development and make sure that there is technology transfer, human resource development, education and training to banish underdevelopment forever.</p>

Earth Charter	One Planet Living	New Economics Foundation
<p><b>2b.</b> Affirm that with increased freedom, knowledge, and power comes increased responsibility to promote the common good.</p> <p><b>7c.</b> Promote the development, adoption, and equitable transfer of environmentally sound technologies.</p> <p><b>8a.</b> Support international scientific and technical cooperation on sustainability, with special attention to the needs of developing nations.</p> <p><b>10b.</b> Enhance the intellectual, financial, technical, and social resources of developing nations, and relieve them of onerous international debt.</p>	<p><b>Principle 9- Equity and local economy</b></p> <p>As part of national, regional and project level sustainable development planning, governments and civil society consider what citizens need and what local renewable and waste resources are available which could meet those needs. Where it is necessary to develop new techniques, services and technologies to utilise these resources and meet these needs, governments must incentivise and encourage research and development, and support technology transfer with commensurate financial support for developing countries.</p>	<p>Ecological debt trading, obliging rich countries to pay poorer countries for over-using resources and over-pollution. This would have significant effects on development through redistributing economic wealth to poorer countries.</p>

### 3. Intergenerational Equity

Environmental resources and ecosystems must be carefully managed and safeguarded so as to enhance the value of environmental assets for future generations, thereby equitably meeting their needs and allowing them to flourish.

<b>Stockholm Declaration</b>	<b>Rio Declaration</b>	<b>Johannesburg Declaration</b>
<p><b>Principle 2</b> The natural resources of the earth, including the air, water, land, flora and fauna and especially representative samples of natural ecosystems, must be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning or management, as appropriate.</p>	<p><b>Principle 3</b> The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.</p>	<p><b>37.</b> From the African continent, the cradle of humankind, we solemnly pledge to the peoples of the world and the generations that will surely inherit this Earth that we are determined to ensure that our collective hope for sustainable development is realized.</p>
<b>Earth Charter</b>	<b>One Planet Living</b>	<b>New Economics Foundation</b>
<p><b>4.</b> Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations. <b>a.</b> Recognize that the freedom of action of each generation is qualified by the needs of future generations. <b>b.</b> Transmit to future generations values, traditions, and institutions that support the long-term flourishing of Earth's human and ecological communities.</p>	<p>Intergenerational equity is implicit in one planet living, where we live well within a sustainable and fair share of the earth's resources today so that resources can be safeguarded for future generations and the natural world.</p>	<p>By focusing on building real value within environmental limits our natural environment can be protected for both current and future generations. Realising the Great Transition would see value rise steadily across three dimensions: for individuals, through a more equal distribution of incomes and assets; for society, by reducing the costs associated with inequality; for future generations, by protecting the natural environment and so reducing climate change-related costs.</p>

#### 4. Precautionary Approach

Science should be utilized to enhance social and environmental outcomes, through the identification of environmental risk. Scientific uncertainty of environmental impacts shall not lead to avoidance of measures to prevent environmental degradation but shall rather justify these measures. In this case the 'burden of proof' lies with those claiming that there will not be significant environmental impacts.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	Johannesburg Declaration
<p><b>Principle 18</b> Science and technology, as part of their contribution to economic and social development, must be applied to the identification, avoidance and control of environmental risks and the solution of environmental problems and for the common good of mankind.</p>	<p><b>Principle 15</b> In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.</p>	<p><b>37.</b> From the African continent, the cradle of humankind, we solemnly pledge to the peoples of the world and the generations that will surely inherit this Earth that we are determined to ensure that our collective hope for sustainable development is realized.</p>
<p><b>Earth Charter</b></p> <p><b>6.</b> Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.</p> <p><b>a.</b> Take action to avoid the possibility of serious or irreversible environmental harm even when scientific knowledge is incomplete or inconclusive.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Place the burden of proof on those who argue that a proposed activity will not cause significant harm, and make the responsible parties liable for environmental harm.</p>		

## 5. The Right to Development

Human development in harmony with the environment is fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development, so that individuals and societies are empowered to achieve positive social and environmental outcomes.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	Johannesburg Declaration
<p><b>Principle 8</b> Economic and social development is essential for ensuring a favorable living and working environment for man and for creating conditions on earth that are necessary for the improvement of the quality of life.</p>	<p><b>Principle 3</b> The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.</p> <p><b>Principle 4</b> In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.</p>	<p><b>7.</b> Recognizing that humankind is at a crossroads, we have united in a common resolve to make a determined effort to respond positively to the need to produce a practical and visible plan to bring about poverty eradication and human development.</p>
<p><b>Earth Charter</b></p>	<p><b>One Planet Living</b></p>	
<p><b>10.</b> Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.</p>	<p><b>Principle 9- Equity and local economy.</b> One planet living aims to create employment, particularly in the green economy, trade in certified fair trade goods, enable equity and inclusiveness physically and socially, participation, ownership and affordability and improve the welfare of disadvantaged groups..</p>	

## 6. Internalization of Externalities

Building true social and environmental should be the central goal of policy. To this end, market prices must reflect real social and environmental costs and benefits, so that that the polluter bears the cost of pollution. Tax regimes and regulatory frameworks should be used to ‘tilt the playing field’, making ‘good’ things cheap and ‘bad’ things very expensive.

	<b>Rio Declaration</b>	
	<b>Principle 16</b> National authorities should endeavour to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.	
<b>Earth Charter</b>	<b>Green Economy Coalition</b>	<b>New Economics Foundation</b>
<b>7d.</b> Internalize the full environmental and social costs of goods and services in the selling price, and enable consumers to identify products that meet the highest social and environmental standards.	Fiscal policies and investment contracts include measures that hurt the environment, such as subsidies for extraction, refining and consumption of fossil fuels and incentives to over-consume finite resources like water and land. Tax regimes tax ‘goods’ such as jobs rather than ‘bads’ such as environmental damage.	Building social and environmental value should be the central goal of policy-making. This needs to be true for private as well as for public decision-making, with market prices reflecting real social and environmental costs and benefits. We need to make ‘good’ things cheap and ‘bad’ things very expensive – too often this is the opposite of what we have today.

## 7. International Cooperation

The application of environmental standards within nation States must be undertaken in a cooperative manner with the international community, based on an understanding of the potential impact on the development potential of other States. Environmental measures relating to trade should avoid unfair protectionism, but overall should ensure that trade supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection and progressive labor standards, promoting a ‘race to the top’ rather than the bottom.

<b>Stockholm Declaration</b>	<b>Rio Declaration</b>	
<p><b>Principle 11</b> The environmental policies of all States should enhance and not adversely affect the present or future development potential of developing countries, nor should they hamper the attainment of better living conditions for all, and appropriate steps should be taken by States and international organizations with a view to reaching agreement on meeting the possible national and international economic consequences resulting from the application of environmental measures.</p> <p><b>Principle 24</b> International matters concerning the protection and improvement of the environment should be handled in a cooperative spirit by all countries, big and small, on an equal footing.</p>	<p><b>Principle 12</b> States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better address the problems of environmental degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Unilateral actions to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided. Environmental measures addressing transboundary or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus.</p>	
<b>Earth Charter</b>	<b>Green Economy Coalition</b>	
<p><b>10c.</b> Ensure that all trade supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection, and progressive labor standards.</p>	<p><i>An international challenge “race to the top”.</i> The more profitability can be aligned with the creation of positive sustainable development outcomes, the more likely it is that business will strive to deliver these. This will require getting not just the prices right but also getting the incentives right. The WTO and other international trade and financial institutions can be important partners in achieving this outcome.</p>	

## 8. International liability

Acknowledging that actions within national boundaries can cause environmental impacts beyond national jurisdictions, requiring cooperation in the development of international law that allows for independent judicial remedies in such cases.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	Earth Charter
<p><b>Principle 22</b> States shall cooperate to develop further the international law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage caused by activities within the jurisdiction or control of such States to areas beyond their jurisdiction.</p>	<p><b>Principle 13</b> States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage. States shall also cooperate in an expeditious and more determined manner to develop further international law regarding liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental damage caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction.</p> <p><b>Principle 14</b> States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.</p>	<p><b>2a.</b> Accept that with the right to own, manage, and use natural resources comes the duty to prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people.</p> <p><b>13d.</b> Institute effective and efficient access to administrative and independent judicial procedures, including remedies and redress for environmental harm and the threat of such harm.</p>

## 9. Information, participation and accountability

All citizens should have access to information concerning the environment, as well as the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. To ensure that environmental issues are handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, institutions at all levels (national and international) must be democratic and accountable, and make use of tools that enable civil society to hold them to account. In this regard, the access to justice by citizens for redress and remedy in environmental matters is a cornerstone of enhancing accountability.

<b>Stockholm Declaration</b>	<b>Rio Declaration</b>	<b>Johannesburg Declaration</b>
<p><b>Principle 19</b>            (...) It is also essential that mass media of communications avoid contributing to the deterioration of the environment, but, on the contrary, disseminates information of an educational nature.</p> <p><b>Principle 20</b>            (...) In this connection, the free flow of up- to-date scientific information and transfer of experience must be supported and assisted, to facilitate the solution of environmental problems; (...)</p>	<p><b>Principle 10</b>            Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.</p>	<p><b>26.</b> We recognize that sustainable development requires a long-term perspective and broad-based participation in policy formulation, decision-making and implementation at all levels. As social partners, we will continue to work for stable partnerships with all major groups, respecting the independent, important roles of each of them.</p> <p><b>29.</b> We agree that there is a need for private sector corporations to enforce corporate accountability, which should take place within a transparent and stable regulatory environment.</p> <p><b>31.</b> To achieve our goals of sustainable development, we need more effective, democratic and accountable international and multilateral institutions.</p>

Earth Charter	One Planet Living	Green Economy Coalition
<p><b>8c.</b> Ensure that information of vital importance to human health and environmental protection, including genetic information, remains available in the public domain.</p> <p><b>10d.</b> Require multinational corporations and international financial organizations to act transparently in the public good, and hold them accountable for the consequences of their activities.</p> <p><b>13.</b> Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.</p> <p><b>a.</b> Uphold the right of everyone to receive clear and timely information on environmental matters and all development plans and activities which are likely to affect them or in which they have an interest.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Support local, regional and global civil society, and promote the meaningful participation of all interested individuals and organizations in decision making.</p>	<p>Clear principles frameworks, such as those outlined in 'One Planet Living', make it easy for people to understand and implement sustainability and to operate well at different scales and situations. Knowledge-sharing between those implementing one planet living is vital to make rapid progress and achieve the best outcomes. Clear and simple principles frameworks also enable citizens to hold decision-makers to account for those principles.</p>	<p>Weak leadership, accountability and incentives continue to entrench the economic paradigm.</p>

## 10. Sustainable Consumption and Production

Introduce sustainable production and consumption with sustainable and equitable resource use. Reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, i.e. reduce, reuse, and recycle the materials used, acknowledge the scarcity of the Earth resources and implement activities accordingly.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	Johannesburg Declaration
<p><b>Principle 3</b> The capacity of the earth to produce vital renewable resources must be maintained and, wherever practicable, restored or improved.</p>	<p><b>Principle 8</b> To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies.</p>	<p><b>11.</b> We recognize that poverty eradication, changing consumption and production patterns and protecting and managing the natural resource base for economic and social development are overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.</p>
Earth Charter	One Planet Living	Green Economy Coalition
<p><b>7.</b> Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth’s regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being. <b>a.</b> Reduce, reuse, and recycle the materials used in production and consumption systems, and ensure that residual waste can be assimilated by ecological systems. <b>b.</b> Act with restraint and efficiency when using energy, and rely increasingly on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.</p>	<p>Introduce sustainable production and consumption within a fair and sustainable share of ecological and carbon footprint and following clean production with considering all of the ten one planet living principles of sustainability:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Zero Carbon</li> <li>2. Zero Waste</li> <li>3. Sustainable transport</li> <li>4. Sustainable materials</li> <li>5. Local and Sustainable Food</li> <li>6. Sustainable water</li> <li>7. Land use and wildlife</li> <li>8. Culture and heritage</li> <li>9. Equity and the local economy</li> <li>10. Health and Happiness</li> </ol>	<p>New problems of unsustainable consumption have escalated. While almost a third of the world’s population struggles to survive on less than US\$2 per day, the lifestyles of citizens in wealthy industrialised countries result in an ecological footprint 3 to 5 times greater than the earth’s capacity. Consequently there is inadequate progress towards the wellbeing of all humanity. This prevailing economic paradigm – debt-fuelled, fossil-fuelled, consumption-based growth with insecure jobs – is entrenched globally, but we still rely on it to solve the very problems it is creating.</p>

## 11. Strategic, co-ordinated and integrated planning to deliver sustainable development, the green economy and poverty alleviation

An integrated approach must be adopted at all levels to expedite the achievement of socio-economic and environmental sustainability through strategic planning with civil society and stakeholders, and across all relevant government departments.

<b>Stockholm Declaration</b>	<b>Rio Declaration</b>	<b>Johannesburg Declaration</b>
<p><b>Principle 13</b> In order to achieve a more rational management of resources and thus to improve the environment, States should adopt an integrated and co-ordinated approach to their developmental planning so as to ensure that development is compatible with the need to protect and improve environment for the benefit of the population.</p>	<p><b>Principle 10</b> Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level each individual shall (...) have the opportunity to participate in decision making processes.</p>	<p><b>30.</b> We undertake to strengthen and improve governance at all levels for the effective implementation of Agenda 21, the Millennium development goals and the Plan of Implementation of the Summit. <b>36.</b> We commit ourselves to the Plan of Implementation of the World summit on Sustainable Development and to expediting the achievement of time bound, socio-economic and environmental targets contained therein.</p>
<b>Earth Charter</b>	<b>One Planet Living</b>	<b>Green Economy Coalition</b>
<p><b>5a.</b> Adopt at all levels sustainable development plans and regulations that make environmental conservation and rehabilitation integral to all development initiatives.</p>	<p>The One Planet Living implementation approach includes the preparation, with stakeholders, of Action Plans to achieve one planet living in the given context. The plan is informed and guided by the ten one planet living principles, common international targets and the latest science. This approach builds commitment and unlocks creative solutions to achieve sustainability and so deliver a green economy and poverty alleviation. These plans are scrutinised by independent experts who give advice on improvement, published and updated periodically showing progress made.</p>	<p>Achieving a green economy requires that environmental concerns and priorities are mainstreamed into all levels of national policy making and spending, and also integrated into the countless tributaries of development – sectoral government ministries and departments, local government institutions, businesses, the media, academia and civil society in its many facets.</p>

## 12. Just Transition

There will be costs in making the transition to a low carbon, green economy in the pursuit of sustainable development. Some States and actors are better able to bear those costs than others and are more resilient to transitional changes. In the process of change, the most vulnerable must be supported and protected – developing countries must have access to appropriate financial and technical assistance, citizens and communities must also have access to new skills and jobs.

<p><b>Stockholm Declaration</b></p> <p><b>Principle 12</b> Resources should be made available to preserve and improve the environment, taking into account the circumstances and particular requirements of developing countries and any costs which may emanate from their incorporating environmental safeguards into their development planning and the need for making available to them, upon their request, additional international technical and financial assistance for this purpose.</p>	<p><b>Rio Declaration</b></p> <p><b>Principle 6</b> The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority. International actions in the field of environment and development should also address the interests and needs of all countries.</p>	
<p><b>Earth Charter</b></p> <p><b>9c.</b> Recognize the ignored, protect the vulnerable, serve those who suffer, and enable them to develop their capacities and to pursue their aspirations. <b>10 b.</b> Enhance the intellectual, financial, technical, and social resources of developing nations, and relieve them of onerous international debt.</p>	<p><b>One Planet Living</b></p> <p><b>Principle 9.</b> <i>Equity and the local economy</i> <b>Principle 10.</b> <i>Health and happiness</i></p>	<p><b>Green Economy Coalition</b></p> <p><i>A just transition to a green economy.</i> Investment, education and training, social protection and dialogue are needed to drive changes in the traditional economy and accompany workers and communities towards a fair and green economy. Investing in technologies and infrastructure to create green jobs; investing in skills and training programmes for a green economy; respect for labour rights.</p>

### 13. Redefine Well-being

GDP is an inadequate tool for measuring social wellbeing and environmental integrity. Many socially and environmentally damaging activities enhance GDP – such as fossil fuel exploitation and financial speculation. Human wellbeing and quality of life should be the guiding objectives of economic development.

<b>Stockholm Declaration</b>	<b>Rio Declaration</b>	<b>New Economics Foundation</b>
<p><b>Proclamation 5</b> Of all things in the world, people are the most precious. It is the people that propel social progress, create social wealth, develop science and technology and, through their hard work, continuously transform the human environment. Along with social progress and the advance of production, science and technology, the capability of man to improve the environment increases with each passing day.</p>	<p><b>Principle 1</b> Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.</p>	<p>People rightly associate falling GDP with rising unemployment, poverty and general misery. The way our economy has been structured is such that this has indeed been the case. A central goal of the Great Transition is to manage this change in such a way that we are better off not worse off. GDP is a very poor measure of progress: the revenues skimmed off the financial system by traders in the City of London as the pyramid of 'toxic' derivatives was being built added to GDP; cleaning up the effects of pollution increases GDP; paying the costs of high rates of crime increases GDP. None of these things can be said to build lasting social or environmental value. Rather, they are highly destructive of it.</p>

Earth Charter	One Planet Living	Green Economy Coalition
<p><b>7f.</b> Adopt lifestyles that emphasize the quality of life and material sufficiency in a finite world.</p>	<p>One planet living approaches around the world show us how we can live within our fair share of the world's resources and yet citizens report a higher quality of life, health and happiness. This shows that we can move away from a culture of consumerism and waste to one of sufficiency for current levels of human population.</p> <p><b>Principle 8. <i>Culture and Heritage.</i></b> A culture of sustainability, community and a sense of place is nurtured. Build on local cultural heritage to foster social capital and connectedness.</p> <p><b>Principle 10. <i>Health and Happiness.</i></b> Encouraging active, sociable, meaningful lives to promote good health and well being.</p>	<p>Redefining progress in development and the way we measure it: GDP has proven to be a grossly inadequate tool for measuring national development, and GDP-driven economic, monetary and fiscal policies and targets have led to many of the problems we are now confronting. The need for new methods and indicators has been increasingly acknowledged.</p>

## 14. Gender Equality

Gender equality and equity are prerequisites to the transition to a green economy and the achievement of sustainable development. Women have a vital role to play as agents of change for environmental management and development – their actions must be rewarded accordingly and their skills enhanced.

	<p><b>Rio Declaration</b></p> <p><b>Principle 20</b> Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.</p>	<p><b>Johannesburg Declaration</b></p> <p><b>20.</b> We are committed to ensuring that women’s empowerment, emancipation and gender equality are integrated in all the activities encompassed within Agenda 21, the Millennium development goals<sup>6/</sup> and the Plan of Implementation of the Summit.</p>
<p><b>Earth Charter</b></p> <p><b>11.</b> Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity</p> <p><b>a.</b> Secure the human rights of women and girls and end all violence against them.</p> <p><b>b.</b> Promote the active participation of women in all aspects of economic, political, civil, social, and cultural life as full and equal partners, decision makers, leaders, and beneficiaries.</p>	<p><b>Green Economy Coalition</b></p> <p>The green economy offers an opportunity to open up employment opportunities in environmental management to women, many of whom have the relevant skills from 'informal' activities .</p>	<p><b>New Economics Foundation</b></p> <p>The core economy is made up of all the unpaid labour that is crucial to keeping society and communities functioning – the time that is put into caring for older people, raising children, volunteering for the community, exercising democratic rights to protest, and raising children. These tasks (disproportionately carried out by women) have also been systematically devalued as the market economy encroaches on the time that can be committed to them</p>

## 15. Safeguard biodiversity and prevent pollution of any part of the environment

Protect and restore biodiversity and natural habitats as integral to development and human wellbeing, and develop a system of governance that protects the resilience of ecosystems to prevent irreversible damage.

Stockholm Declaration	Rio Declaration	Johannesburg Declaration
<p><b>Principle 6</b> The discharge of toxic substances or of other substances and the release of heat, in such quantities or concentrations as to exceed the capacity of the environment to render them harmless, must be halted in order to ensure that serious or irreversible damage is not inflicted upon ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Principle 4</b> (...) Nature conservation, including wildlife, must therefore receive importance in planning for economic development.</p>	<p><b>Principle 4</b> In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.</p>	<p><b>18.</b> We welcome the focus of the Johannesburg Summit on the indivisibility of human dignity and are resolved, through decisions on targets, timetables and partnerships, to speedily increase access to such basic requirements as clean water, sanitation, adequate shelter, energy, health care, food security and the protection of biodiversity. At the same time, we will work together to help one another gain access to financial resources, benefit from the opening of markets, ensure capacity-building, use modern technology to bring about development and make sure that there is technology transfer, human resource development, education and training to banish underdevelopment forever.</p>

Earth Charter	One Planet Living	New Economics Foundation
<p><b>2a.</b> Accept that with the right to own, manage, and use natural resources come the duty to prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people.</p> <p><b>5a.</b> Adopt at all levels sustainable development plans and regulations that make environmental conservation and rehabilitation integral to all development initiatives.</p> <p><b>6d.</b> Prevent pollution of any part of the environment and allow no build-up of radioactive, toxic, or other hazardous substances.</p>	<p><b>Principle 7. Land use and wildlife</b> Protect and restore existing biodiversity and natural habitats and create new space for biodiversity. Leading ecologists suggest that there is a global need for at least 20% of biologically productive land to be left for wildlife and biodiversity. The trend is that we are losing biodiversity and this needs to be reversed. <i>Clean (non-polluting) activities</i> Avoid any pollution to air, land or water. Purchasing systems should check for upstream pollution impacts.</p>	<p>It is a vision of environmental governance that restores and protects the resilience of ecosystems, and the biodiversity within them, and thus secures the many services they provide. And it is a vision of development that uses natural resources sustainably, allocating environmental benefits and costs fairly to achieve a more just and equitable society.</p>

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## **ABOUT STAKEHOLDER FORUM**

Stakeholder Forum is an international organisation working to advance sustainable development and promote stakeholder democracy at a global level. Our work aims to enhance open, accountable and participatory international decision-making on sustainable development. Stakeholder Forum works across four key areas: Global Policy and Advocacy (including Global Governance); Stakeholder Engagement; Media and Communications; and Capacity Building.

## **OUR WORK TOWARDS EARTH SUMMIT 2012**

Achieving sustainable development requires cooperation among a vast range of stakeholders. Stakeholder Forum is working with representatives from all nine Major Groups globally in its work towards Earth Summit 2012, to enhance involvement of civil society in the Summit process. To this end it is producing analysis, facilitating dialogue, hosting workshops, conducting consultations and building multi-stakeholder coalitions. To communicate its work it is also producing radio podcasts, videos and animations to engage a wide diversity of stakeholders.

Stakeholder Forum has set up [www.earthsummit2012.org](http://www.earthsummit2012.org) as an information hub to provide updates, background information and analysis towards Rio+20. It is intended that this site will also act as a platform to connect organisations and stakeholders interested in engaging in the preparatory process.

