

Comparison of the Draft Text of the Rio+20 Outcome Document with The Leadership Compact: 'Committing to Natural Capital'

Background

On the 19th of June, the Draft Text of the Outcome Document of The UN Conference on Sustainable Development [<http://www.uncsd2012.org/futurewewant.html>] was presented by the Conference's Presidency. It was adopted by consensus, to be taken over to the High Level Segment of the meeting.

The Natural Capital Leadership Compact developed by leaders within the Cambridge Natural Capital Leaders Platform [<http://www.leadershipcompact.com>], has been signed by CEOs and Board members of 15 major companies with a global reach. The Leadership Compact presents ambitious pledges, that the companies are already taking significant steps to achieve but recognize are complex and will take time to deliver as a whole. At a headline level these pledges are: to operate within the limits of natural systems, to identify and address externalities, and to enable consumers to make better-informed decisions. The Leadership Compact also urges governments to adopt a holistic policy framework, to work with all stakeholders to promote sustainable resource use, and to set a clear goal of no net loss.

Summary of relevant paragraphs in the UN Draft Text

The following summary refers to relevant cross-linking paragraphs with the Natural Capital Leadership Compact in the UN Draft Text. These paragraphs are given in full at the end of this document.

- The draft text acknowledges the importance of engaging the private sector to implement sustainable development and of responsible business practices.
- Public private partnerships are taken an important tool for achieving sustainable development.
- Corporate sustainability reporting is viewed as important by governments and businesses are encouraged to integrate sustainability into reports.
- Governments recognise that urgent action on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption are fundamental in addressing environmental sustainability, and promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, regeneration of natural resources, and the promotion of sustained, inclusive and equitable global growth.
- Governments acknowledge that a mix of measures, including regulatory, voluntary and others applied at the national level and consistent with obligations under international agreements, could promote a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.
- Governments acknowledge that involvement of all stakeholders and their partnerships, networking and experience sharing at all levels could help countries to learn from one another in identifying appropriate sustainable development policies, including green economy policies.
- The importance of governments is underscored in taking a leadership role in developing policies and strategies through an inclusive and transparent process.
- Businesses are invited to develop sustainability strategies that integrate green economy policies in accordance with national legislation.
- Governments encourage existing and new partnerships, including public-private partnerships, to mobilize public financing complemented by the private sector and should promote the contribution of the private sector.

- Governments recognize that goals, targets and indicators, including where appropriate gender-sensitive indicators, are valuable in measuring and accelerating progress. They further note that progress with implementation of the actions stipulated in the aims for the Conference can be enhanced by voluntarily sharing information, knowledge and experience.

Relevant paragraphs for reference (paragraphs 46, 47, 61, 63, 64, 67, 68, 69, 71, 104).

46. We acknowledge that the implementation of sustainable development will depend on active engagement of both the public and private sectors. We recognize that the active participation of the private sector can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, including through the important tool of public-private partnerships. We support national regulatory and policy frameworks that enable business and industry to advance sustainable development initiatives taking into account the importance of corporate social responsibility. We call on the private sector to engage in responsible business practices, such as those promoted by the UN Global Compact.

47. We acknowledge the importance of corporate sustainability reporting and encourage companies, where appropriate, especially publicly listed and large companies, to consider integrating sustainability information into their reporting cycle. We encourage industry, interested governments as well as relevant stakeholders with the support of the UN system, as appropriate, to develop models for best practice and facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting, taking into account the experiences of already existing frameworks, and paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries, including for capacity building.

61. We recognize that urgent action on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption where they occur remains fundamental in addressing environmental sustainability, and promoting conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, regeneration of natural resources, and the promotion of sustained, inclusive and equitable global growth.

63. We recognize the importance of the evaluation of the range of social, environmental and economic factors and encourage, where national circumstances and conditions allow, their integration into decision making. We acknowledge that it will be important to take into account the opportunities and challenges, as well as the costs and benefits of green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, using the best available scientific data and analysis. We acknowledge that a mix of measures, including regulatory, voluntary and others applied at the national level and consistent with obligations under international agreements, could promote green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. We reaffirm that social policies are vital to promoting sustainable development.

64. We acknowledge that involvement of all stakeholders and their partnerships, networking and experience sharing at all levels could help countries to learn from one another in identifying appropriate sustainable development policies, including green economy policies. We note the positive experiences in some countries, including in developing countries, in adopting green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication through an inclusive approach and welcome the voluntary exchange of experiences as well as capacity building in the different areas of sustainable development.

67. We underscore the importance of governments taking a leadership role in developing policies and strategies through an inclusive and transparent process. We also take note of the efforts of those countries, including developing countries that have already initiated processes to prepare national green economy strategies and policies in support of sustainable development.

68. We invite relevant stakeholders, including the UN Regional Commissions, UN organizations and bodies, other relevant intergovernmental and regional organizations, international financial institutions and major groups involved in sustainable development, according to their respective mandates, to support developing countries upon request to achieve sustainable development, including through, *inter alia*, green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in particular in least developed countries.

69. We also invite business and industry as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation to contribute to sustainable development and to develop sustainability strategies that integrate, *inter alia*, green economy policies.

71. We encourage existing and new partnerships, including public-private partnerships, to mobilize public financing complemented by the private sector, taking into account the interests of local and indigenous communities when appropriate. In this regard, governments should support initiatives for sustainable development, including promoting the contribution of the private sector to support green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

104. We recognize that in order to achieve the objective of the Conference, namely to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, as well as to address the themes of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable development, we commit to address remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, to address new and emerging challenges and to seize new opportunities through the actions enumerated below in this framework for action supported as appropriate through provision of means of implementation. We recognize that goals, targets and indicators, including where appropriate gender-sensitive indicators, are valuable in measuring and accelerating progress. We further note that progress with implementation of the actions stipulated below can be enhanced by voluntarily sharing information, knowledge and experience

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