

**ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GLOBALLY: EU FOLLOW-UP  
TO RIO+20**

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Your name (first and last name) \* **Bethany Squire**

In which capacity are you participating in this consultation? \* (compulsory)

- **on behalf of an organisation**

If answering as an individual, please indicate the country where you reside\* (compulsory)

If responding on behalf of an organization, please indicate below which type \*  
(compulsory) and your interest representative ID number:

- **NGO, civil society, environmental group, charity**

Name : **Quaker Council for European Affairs**  
Interest representative ID number:

Organization Represented and main activities of your company/organization/association:

**Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) asbl**

**QCEA is an NGO representing the views and concerns of European members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) on issues of peace, human rights, economic justice, sustainability and democratic accountability. We advocate non-violent approaches to conflict resolution, promote policies that respect the intrinsic equality of all people everywhere, and try to ensure that European policy sustains the planet's resources and the lives of all those who share them. We have been active in these areas at the European level since 1979.**

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**Do you agree to the listing of the name of your organization in the report that the Commission will draw up on the results of this public consultation? (Tick the appropriate box)**

YES

NO

# ENSURING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GLOBALLY: EU FOLLOW-UP TO RIO+20

## Background

The Rio+20 world summit was held in Rio de Janeiro in June this year. It followed from previous related UN summits, in Stockholm (1972), Rio de Janeiro (1992) and Johannesburg (2002). The aim of Rio+20 was to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, by assessing progress to date, identifying remaining gaps in the implementation of past commitments and addressing new and emerging challenges<sup>1</sup>.

The Summit's focus was on two intertwined themes: "a Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" and "the institutional framework for sustainable development". After extensive negotiations a Rio+20 Outcome document was agreed upon, with a number of actions and commitments. Even though the outcome was less ambitious than what the EU had aimed for, Rio+20 does offer a number of important opportunities for follow-up at EU and international level.

## The implications of Rio+20 outcomes for EU policies

The main outcomes of Rio can be described along five streams:

1. The inclusive Green economy, as an important tool to achieve sustainable development.
2. Action in priority areas, such as poverty eradication, sustainable agriculture, water, sustainable energy, decent work for all, oceans and fisheries, and sustainable consumption and production.
3. Agreement to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. Agreement to develop options on an effective Sustainable Development Financing Strategy.
5. Strengthening the Institutional Framework for sustainable development.

Implementing these outcomes would lead to furthering sustainable development globally, for *all* countries (developed countries, emerging economies and developing countries). The outcomes also have implications for a range of EU policies such as economic, trade, environment, fisheries, energy, agriculture and employment and social policies. Within the EU Rio+20 offers the opportunity to review, revitalize, and re-orient a number of activities that the EU is already pursuing. An example of this is the inclusive Green economy, which is addressed in the EU by the Europe 2020 strategy<sup>2</sup> and by EU development policy.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.uncsd2012.org/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm)

## **The aim of this public consultation**

The European Union needs to prepare for follow-up actions and what next steps have to be taken. Follow-up by the EU level will constitute an important practical step in making sustainable development a reality in the years to come.

The objective of the present public consultation is to provide input to the European Commission for the development of specific actions and measures and for its proposals for EU positions. In particular, it will serve as input to a Communication from the Commission on Rio+20 follow-up, planned for the first half of 2013. The consultation is also a complement to the Public Consultation "Towards a post-2015 development framework"<sup>3</sup>.

The Commission widely engaged with civil society, including by undertaking a public consultation<sup>4</sup> prior to Rio+20, and civil society also made important input during the conference itself. Related consultations include those which took place on the Resource Efficiency roadmap and the recently launched consultation on the 7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Plan. The present consultation seeks stakeholder's views on five main areas from the perspective of advancing sustainable development globally. A brief explanation of each is described below, followed by a set of questions. Please try to limit your responses to one page per area. In addition, in the final section there is the opportunity to voice your views on other topics not explicitly mentioned.

### **1. The Inclusive Green Economy**

The Rio+20 Outcome document stated that the inclusive Green economy is an important tool for achieving sustainable development, that can be implemented in a number of different ways by countries in accordance with national priorities. The Green economy can contribute to sustainable growth, help create employment and decent work, contribute to eradicating poverty, while maintain a healthy environment. The document indicated that the implementation of Green economy policies can be a common undertaking by countries that wanted to do so.

Furthering the inclusive Green economy needs to be considered at three contexts:

1. action within the EU as a direct contribution to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy,
2. collaboration with developed countries and emerging economies, and
3. cooperation with developing countries, as part of development cooperation policy in particular as a means of eradicating poverty.

Likewise, a range of policy approaches are needed to stimulate the inclusive Green economy, and these may best apply in different ways in the above three contexts. Policies can include the removal of barriers or the creation of enabling conditions and may include:

- taxes and pricing systems
- improving the functioning of markets
- effective regulation

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<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/towards\\_post-2015-development-framework\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/towards_post-2015-development-framework_en.htm)

<sup>4</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/un\\_2012.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/un_2012.htm)

- a favourable environment for trade
- phasing out policy distortions such as harmful subsidies
- encouraging innovation
- appropriate labour policies and decent job creation
- green skills development

The inclusive Green economy can also be promoted through the development and application of appropriate indicators that measure progress beyond GDP. It can also be encouraged through a range of public private partnerships with aim of advancing business engagement and performance along social and environmental dimensions, and encouraging investment. Corporate social responsibility and sustainable consumption and production are also important elements.

**Questions:**

- 1. *What policy tools do you think are the most effective and need to be put into place to stimulate the transformation to the inclusive Green economy within the EU? How should this complement the Europe 2020 strategy and/or its implementation?***

**Answer (max 200 words):**

The development of alternative indicators to measure progress beyond GDP should be a priority. These must play an instrumental role in informing policy.

The true environmental and social cost of goods and services should be reflected by their price. As agreed at Rio+20, this requires the urgent removal of environmentally harmful subsidies, notably fossil fuel subsidies, which make these products artificially inexpensive.

However, certain schemes that are intended to reflect nature's value, such as payment for ecosystem services, implied by the Rio+20 outcome document and the EU Environmental Action Plan, risk financialising or commodifying nature. Proposals advocate the creation of an artificial market, which encourages speculation and leaves natural capital open to becoming the private property of anyone willing to pay the agreed price. Furthermore, schemes advocating payment for ecosystem services could exacerbate environmental degradation, allowing companies and individuals to pay a fee which permits them to continue the destructive practices from which they make a profit. Instead, increased regulation, community initiatives, and global taxes on environmentally harmful activities can protect our valuable natural environment.

The EU must fulfill its commitment to absolute decoupling of economic growth and environmental degradation, which should also mean decoupling improved wellbeing from resource use.

- 2. *What policy tools do you think are the most effective and need to be put into place to as part of the EUs interactions with developed countries, emerging economies, and with developing countries? How should this complement EU external policies and their implementation?***

**Answer (max 200 words):**

The EU must recognise the impact of its consumption habits (including policies that influence these, such as targets and subsidies) on the countries with which it interacts. Where these policies are having a negative effect, they must be revised. This must involve reducing consumption and waste and, importantly, paying developing nations a fairer price for their produce.

Official development assistance is vital in addressing global inequalities, and the EU must strive to reach its targets here, despite current budgetary restraints. However, in interacting with other countries, we should not impose our model of growth and consumption on other societies. ODA should support development in such a way that economies can become self-sustaining. It should be people-focused and not impose on developing countries the competitive market strategies which are currently in crisis in the developed world.

The EU should support technology transfer that encourages green development in developing countries so that they don't have to go through the high energy consumption/high pollution phase that developed countries have.

The EU must work to ensure that development assistance doesn't flow back to the developed economies via license fees and intellectual property payments, profits and debt servicing, leaving the poor still poor.

### ***3. What policies need to be put into place to further encourage and engage EU business and stakeholders?***

#### **Answer (max 200 words):**

As a policy tool, target setting can be an effective way of engaging European businesses and stakeholders in the sustainable development process. In order to be effective, however, targets must be clear, coherent, and supported by the political will to achieve them with appropriate sanctions for those who do not meet them. Developing additional regional targets is not necessarily desirable, but streamlining, clarifying and enhancing existing targets, strategies and plans for action could be very effective. This can assist businesses and stakeholders in their long term planning and give them the confidence to invest in and engage with the sustainable development process. (Please see our answer to question 7 below for more details on types of targets QCEA recommends.)

The public has been underestimated for its capacity to deliver on sustainable development policy. There are successful, grass-roots, initiatives in response to the pressures of climate change, fossil fuel depletion, and economic contraction. They must be celebrated, fully supported, showcased, and replicated.

The concept of the Green Economy needs to be better defined and articulated in order for society and stakeholders to understand and engage with it more fully.

### ***4. What specific actions could be foreseen in this area? How could such actions contribute to growth and jobs?***

#### **Answer (max 200 words):**

The wording of this question demonstrates the prevailing belief that growth and jobs are synonymous with development and wellbeing. As the EEA itself states, fundamental changes, including economic re-evaluation, are essential in our transition to a green economy. QCEA believes that the primary aim of action should be to address economic and social inequalities and injustice in an environmentally sustainable manner. Economic growth and jobs may result from our focus on wellbeing but should not be our overall goal.

Priority actions should be those that bring about changes in Europe's current, unsustainable consumption habits and production methods.

The EU should introduce stronger information requirements, such as better labeling practices, to make clear to consumers the environmental footprint of products and services. The EU must lead by example in prioritising sustainability, not only cost-benefit in ALL public procurement. Mandatory green public procurement rules for additional product categories are needed.

The EU must discourage the unnecessary transport of food over long distances and encourage more sustainable, local food independence.

The EU must streamline and clarify existing targets and initiatives at a regional and multilateral level.

The EU must support alternative indicators to GDP, ensuring that our actions prioritise wellbeing rather than growth.

## **2. Action in Priority Areas**

The Rio+20 Outcome document contains a large number of actions in the section "Framework for action and follow-up". These will address in practice specific themes of the Green economy in the context of sustainable development:

- Poverty eradication
- Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture
- Water and sanitation
- Energy
- Sustainable tourism
- Sustainable transport and sustainable cities and human settlements
- Health and population
- Promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all, and social protection
- Oceans and seas
- Small island developing states
- Least developed countries and landlocked least developed countries
- Africa and regional efforts
- Disaster risk reduction
- Climate change
- Forests
- Biodiversity
- Desertification, land degradation and drought
- Mountains
- Chemicals and waste
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Mining
- Education
- Gender equality and women's empowerment

Following the request of the European Council<sup>5</sup>, the EU did propose goals and targets to advance the transition to the Green economy in key areas, which are essential for social and economic development.

*Questions:*

**5. Which key areas do you think are the most important and should be given the highest priority (for the EU/at global level)? Please give reasons for your choices.**

**Answer (max 200 words):**

The list above implies that these issues can be dealt with individually and ignores the extent to which they are inextricably interrelated. At both EU and global level, our efforts should focus on taking a holistic view and understanding the essential interrelatedness of social and environmental issues.

With this in mind, if it is necessary to name priorities, we must prioritise actions that can have impacts on as many areas as possible. Eradicating global poverty, halting the increasing inequality in European societies, and bringing about sustainable consumption and production should be overarching goals. In order to produce sustainably, we must understand the fundamental basis of our entire economic system in natural resources and ecosystem services.

It is also important to recognise that, on a global scale, there is no one-size-fits-all model. Priorities and concerns will vary greatly between different countries, regions and social groups; policies must reflect this.

A fundamental issue which is absent from the above list is social conflict. Conflict between people is in part caused by inequality and by lack of access to essential resources. Sustainable development must address inequality, resource depletion, land and resource grabbing, and other causes of conflict.

**6. Are there specific ways in which an area needs to be followed up (within the EU/at global level)? Should the EU promote and enter into partnerships for action and if so, in which area specifically? Are there specific barriers to implement actions in a given area? What could be done to overcome these barriers?**

**Answer (max 200 words):**

The main barrier to implementing action on poverty eradication and sustainable consumption and production is the prevailing belief that increased consumption = increased GDP = development and improved wellbeing. We need to challenge this misconception and demonstrate that societies can prosper and flourish without consuming more or increasing growth. This means moving towards absolute decoupling and a circular economy.

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<sup>5</sup> Conclusions of the European Council, 1-2 March 2012 (article 28), and Environment Council Conclusions, 12 March 2012 (articles 17, 18).



Overcoming this barrier requires a more sophisticated definition of poverty, one which does not solely refer to an absence of material wealth, and requires serious steps to encourage the use of indicators other than GDP.

Immediate, effective policies are needed including the rapid phasing-out of environmentally harmful subsidies and support for community-led initiatives.

Community education and lateral thinking will also be necessary, and this must challenge the longstanding idea that the economy exists to create profit for shareholders. Economies exist to permit people to trade so that they can survive. They exist not for profit, but for human wellbeing. The conviction that profit is our destiny is a major barrier to poverty eradication.

**7. Do you think it is useful for the EU to develop targets to drive the inclusive Green economy? If so, what aspects do you think should be covered and how should economic, social and environmental aspects be addressed?**

**Answer (max 200 words):**

The EU has a number of existing targets and suggested targets which cover many of the issues encompassed by the phrase Green Economy. We urge the EU to further its work to achieve **existing** targets, and to work to **streamline and clarify** these in order to ensure **coherence and clarity** for stakeholders.

With this in mind, further steps should be taken to ensure we succeed in reaching the targets defined in the EU2020 strategy, particularly the energy efficiency objective. We encourage the EU to move forward in setting new, stronger renewables and emissions targets for 2020 and to establish ambitious targets for 2030 as soon as possible. These targets should take into account developments in our understanding of land use issues, specifically with regards to biofuels, and must also include accurate life cycle assessments of new technologies.

Other important existing strategies which can be enhanced and streamlined include: the Roadmap on Resource Efficient Europe, The Biodiversity Strategy 2020, The Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

In addition, Rio+20 called for a "land degradation neutral world." Further action towards sustainable land and protection of soils, abroad as well as at home, needs to be taken urgently.

**8. What additional tools and indicators for the measurement of progress should be applied?**

**Answer (max 200 words):**

Our fixation on economic indicators, primarily GDP, drives the behaviour of our institutions and determines our policies, at the expense of our societies and the environment. QCEA applauds comprehensive initiatives to measure wellbeing more holistically, such as those of Canada or Bhutan. Whilst Eurostat is already effectively measuring and monitoring many of the areas listed below, further steps must be taken to ensure that this feeds back into decision making, so that these indicators **influence policy to a greater extent than economic indicators do**. The EU must make further use of indicators in the following areas:

- Peace and security (not only the absence of violence, but including factors that contribute to the outbreak of armed conflict),

- Environmental footprints (not only carbon, but also land use, water consumption and raw material consumption),
- Democratic participation (not just voter turn out, but indicators that demonstrate the extent to which the population engages with and trusts the political process),
- Social equality,
- Health (not only life expectancy, but including indicators such as nutrition levels and emotional wellbeing),
- Education.

Above all, these must be developed as **true alternatives to GDP**. They must not serve merely as a publicity tool.

### 3. Sustainable Development Goals

The Rio+20 Outcome document outlined key principles for developing SDGs. It is stated that the SDGs should reflect all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) in a balanced way; and that they should be action-oriented, concise, easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, and that they should be guided by the Rio Outcome document. The Rio+20 Outcome document also states that the SDGs need to be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015, and that the process to establish SDGs needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes for the post-2015 development agenda.

It is important to underline the universal character of the SDGs. They must simultaneously respond to the need to have global goals for all countries and the need for a specific development focus.

The EU will have to set up a process to establish its position on the scope, nature and specifics of the SDGs. This should take into account the EU 2020 targets and those being further pursued under the resource efficiency flagship, as well as the proposals for priority areas and cross cutting themes made by the EU in the run up to Rio+20. It will also be important to ensure that goals should be consistent with internationally agreed goals, such as on biodiversity, climate and social aspects.

#### *Questions:*

***9. In your opinion, what specific themes or topics should SDGs cover? In what way could the EU build on existing or proposed goals and targets?***

#### **Answer (max 200 words):**

The SDGs can be an important tool in inspiring a paradigm shift, steering our current way of life away from its focus on growth and consumption.

It is vital that SDGs address the issue of over-consumption and living beyond our means. This should go hand-in-hand with poverty eradication as an overarching goal. Although challenges will lie in addressing our common but differentiated responsibility towards changing consumption habits we should not shy away from ambitious goals to tackle it.

The SDGs must address areas which are not sufficiently covered by the MDGs including, but not limited to, stronger and further reaching environmental targets relating to issues such as land use, climate change and biodiversity. They need to take a holistic approach to these issues, weaving these into our targets on other areas.

A key area that needs to be discussed is the streamlining of conflict and peacebuilding into our targets. 1.5 billion people live in areas affected by conflict or large scale violence and none of these countries has yet achieved a single MDG. The goals need to address the causes of conflict and be made relevant to conflict-affected countries.

***10. What form and structure should SDGs have? How should economic, social, and environmental dimensions, as well as the inter-linkages between them be addressed?***

**Answer (max 200 words):**

It is essential that the goals are clear and easy to communicate and understand.

Poverty eradication, inequality reduction, and sustainable production and consumption, should be seen as the three main overarching goals. Other goals can be steps towards addressing these.

As with the present MDGs, the goals should be broken down into smaller, measurable and globally relevant targets.

Synergies need to be drawn between different goals, linking social, environmental and economic issues. For example, social inequality and access to natural resources must be considered together with their impact on health. In another example, the consideration of new hydroelectric projects aimed at alleviating climate change must include the consideration of aspects such as access to water, water products (such as fish), land rights, conflict, water cycling and climate, and erosion.

***11. How can it be best ensured that SDGs and their monitoring are science based?***

**Answer (max 200 words):**

*[We have decided to leave this question blank]*

***12. How can one make sure that the SDGs will be relevant and will act as a stimulus to all countries (developed, emerging, developing)? How will they contribute to mobilizing action?***

**Answer (max 200 words):**

The SDGs should be adaptable to take into account country-specific or region-specific situations and challenges, such as conflict. There is no one-size-fits-all model, and different countries will have different priorities. The process of establishing the goals should be transparent and accessible to all regions and stakeholder groups.

The goals should not be solely donor-driven and should not impose our model of growth and consumption onto other societies. They should support development in such a way that it can become self-sustaining. This means accepting wellbeing rather than profit as the goal of our economic system.

Steps should then be taken to address the shortcomings and limitations of the existing MDGs in order to ensure that the SDGs can be reached and that they bring benefits to those who need them most. Many countries have made slow progress towards the MDGs because the financial assistance they are given for this purpose flows back to wealthy countries via debt servicing. Such issues must be rectified to ensure the success of SDGs - they should not be simultaneously counteracted by the policies of developed nations. Finally a focus on local and community-led participation and empowerment is essential in mobilising action.

### ***13. In what way should the SDGs relate to stimulating the inclusive Green economy?***

#### **Answer (max 200 words):**

UNEP's definition of the Inclusive Green Economy: "an economy that results in improved human wellbeing and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities" implies that the SDGs are fundamentally related to the Inclusive Green Economy and cannot be considered separately.

The Inclusive Green Economy should not be narrowed down to refer solely to green GDP growth or more green jobs and, likewise, SDGs should by no means focus on economic growth or be driven by economic indicators. In order to avoid this, the concept of the Inclusive Green Economy should be thoroughly defined and consistently used.

### ***14. How do you see the relationship of SDGs to future goals following up on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are likely to be developed under the post 2015 development agenda?***

#### **Answer (max 200 words):**

The SDGs should not be seen as an alternative to the MDGs; the two sets of goals should not be discussed in isolation. Rather, the processes should be merged as far as possible in order to ensure clarity and coherence. QCEA welcomes the Commission's plan to release a single Communication which addresses both processes, and we urge the EU to lead the way in encouraging others to bring the two sets of goals together.

Linking the SDGs and MDGs, however, should not be a case of merely extending MDG 7 (on ensuring environmental sustainability), as this would ignore the holistic approach which is required in order to address sustainable development adequately.

It would be preferable to see the Sustainable Development Goals as an overarching framework which incorporates the Millennium Development Goals, taking care not to detract from the importance of the MDGs or the progress that has been made on them. We must **not** start totally from scratch.

Fundamentally, the final set of goals agreed must be clear and coherent, as well as easy to communicate, understand, and measure. This is essential in engaging stakeholders and ensuring targets are supported by the political and public will to achieve them.

#### 4. Financing Strategy for sustainable development

The Rio+20 Outcome document underlined Means of Implementation as crucial to achieving sustainable development. It established an intergovernmental process under the UN General Assembly to produce options for a sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of financial resources and their effective use. Such a strategy should promote a single comprehensive approach to development financing, building on the Financing for Development agenda<sup>6</sup> and promote an integrated approach to the various global financing processes, including Rio+20, climate change and biodiversity financing.

It is important that financing strategies for sustainable development should consider all possible sources to be mobilized by all types of stakeholders, including by national and international, public and private, financial and non-financial actions. This includes giving due attention to public and private financing schemes, innovative financing, taxation and pricing schemes, regulation, and to the barriers to foreign direct investment, as well as looking at the synergies and overlaps with other policy goals (development, climate change, biodiversity).

On external financing, the strategy should look beyond development aid. There is a need to recognize that the major emerging economies should no longer only be seen as recipients of aid even if they still require institutional and technological capacity building assistance. Relevant international and regional banks such (the IMF, World Bank and other Multilateral Development Banks, such as the EIB) should be involved. Also it should be noted that many of the financing and investment conditions are similar to those for fostering an inclusive Green economy.

#### *Questions:*

**15. What should be the main elements covered in financing strategies for sustainable development? Could, for example, thematic strategies such as the Biodiversity Resource Mobilization Strategy<sup>7</sup> be a useful starting point?**

#### **Answer (max 200 words):**

Financing schemes should reflect the fact that sustainable development should be integrated into all areas of EU operation and not treated as a separate issue, on which separate projects funded by a 'sustainable development fund' are carried out in isolation from other schemes. Within Europe, the EU already has policies in place which deal with many of the sectors indicated as key for the transition to a green economy, including agriculture, buildings, energy supply, transport and waste management. Financing for sustainable development should be applied to each of these sectors with the aim of making them more sustainable.

Financing needs to represent the strength of the EU's commitment to sustainable development; whatever strategies are selected, they should reflect the urgency and priority that this issue requires.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=11654>

**16. What are some of the most effective financing and resource mobilisation schemes to date, such as public or private schemes, micro-financing, climate change and biodiversity financing? How can they be scaled up?**

**Answer (max 200 words):**

Finance must be used in such a way that they serve the people who need them most. We are concerned by any public-private partnership which risks limiting (whether by price or availability) access to fundamental goods and services for all members of society in the short or long term.

The recent difficulties in the Emissions Trading Scheme demonstrate that market mechanisms cannot be relied upon to provide solutions to environmental problems. The ETS, and other schemes such as carbon offsetting, should not be used as models on which to base sustainable development or biodiversity financing strategies. The principle that one business or individual can pay for another to implement more sustainable practice, so that the first can continue on an unsustainable path, is not going to deliver the change that we vitally need. We oppose the implementation of schemes that financialise or commodify nature.

Phasing out harmful subsidies, such as fossil fuel subsidies, is an urgent first step in ensuring that financing is in line with policy objectives.

We support schemes such as micro-financing, which promote bottom-up approaches, innovative thinking and small-scale, community-led initiatives. These do not necessarily need to be scaled up, but increased in number and more fully supported.

**17. What are the most effective ways of encouraging investment? Where possible, link your replies to questions on the inclusive Green economy.**

**Answer (max 200 words):**

According to UNEP, the Inclusive Green Economy is one that results in improved human wellbeing and social equality, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In searching to encourage investment, we must therefore challenge the prevailing belief that the purpose of investment is to generate profit or growth, and must only encourage investment that can truly bring about social and environmental change.

Again the concept of the Green Economy must be better defined and articulated. So that all stakeholders understand that it does not refer to a slightly greener version of the 'business as usual' approach. By increasing public awareness of the issues we can increase demand for sustainability which will in turn encourage investors to change their practices.

Targets, if ambitious, coherent, streamlined and supported by the political will to achieve them, can be instrumental in encouraging investment, providing companies with long-term clarity and reduced risk.

**18. How should coherence, coordination and non-duplication of efforts be ensured with regard to the Financing for Development process and other relevant processes?**

**Answer (max 200 words):**

*[We have decided to leave this question blank]*

## 5. Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

An important theme of Rio+20 was on furthering the institutional framework for sustainable development. Rio decided to strengthen the functions of UNEP. Rio also decided to establish a High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development. The EU will now have to consider how it can best contribute to implementing this outcome.

### *Questions:*

**19. What measures would you see best taken to ensure that the EU effectively contributes to the implementation of these outcomes?**

#### **Answer (max 200 words):**

The EU should ensure that it relies on experts to find solutions in technical areas, and in working to resolve the problem we face: the gap between what the world can produce and what people wish to use. The EU should be a leader in developing the resource-decoupled economy focused on wellbeing for all people.

**20. Do you think the participation of civil society, social partners, and other stakeholders should be strengthened? If so, how internationally and within the EU?**

#### **Answer (max 200 words):**

OCEA believes that strengthening the participation of civil society, social partners and other stakeholders is fundamental to the sustainable development process.

The EU should actively ensure that all elements of society have the opportunity to participate in discussions and initiatives and that all are equally represented, including young people, minority and majority groups within a region, people with various levels of education and social status, women and men, people from developing countries and those from rural areas. Talks should not be unfairly influenced by one specific group or dominated by business interests. Community-led, bottom-up and grassroots initiatives should be celebrated and supported.

In order to achieve adequate social participation, all processes should be totally transparent and should be presented to the public in a clear and accessible manner (not clouded by jargon or technical language). Educational outreach is key in enabling stakeholders to engage with the implementation of new goals for sustainable development.

### **Other issues**

You may also outline your views on other issues related to the follow-up to Rio+20 that have not been mentioned above.

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everywhere, and try to ensure that European policy sustains the planet's resources and the lives of all those who share them. Our testimony of equality calls us to work for a world in which all people have fair access to resources and opportunities. Our belief in simplicity calls us to analyse the effects of our consumption habits on the world in which we live and on others with whom we share the world. It also means understanding that a good life is not something found in shops or manufactured by industry.

We are called to create a world in which wellbeing is understood to be much more than consumption and material wealth. Rio+20 and the commitments made in June 2012 represent our opportunity to begin this transition on a global level. In order to bring about essential changes to improve quality of life and begin living within the means of our planet, we need to develop a new economic model that puts well-being for all humans above profit-making for some. QCEA believes that, in order to do this, the EU must:

- Encourage community-led and people-centred development rather than development focussed on profit.
- Recognise the synergies between areas of human well-being and address issues holistically. For example, one important issue which has thus far been absent from the EU's consideration of sustainable development, is conflict prevention. The EU must streamline its consideration of conflict and peacebuilding into its thinking in the follow-up to Rio+20.
- Urgently address policies such as fossil fuel subsidies, which directly contradict its sustainable development aims.
- Take significant steps to measure and then reduce the impact that the European lifestyle is having on natural resources and the natural environment, whilst avoiding any policy which financialises nature or ecosystems as well as schemes that operate on the basis of "offsetting." These will not bring about the changes we need and risk making nature and ecosystems into a tradable commodity.
- Design policies for wellbeing rather than for profit, and adapt these policies through information evaluated against appropriate indicators.
- Make all policy processes and goals clear, coherent and transparent, in order to enable and encourage the engagement of all members of society.

**Thank you for your contribution!**