

# Supporting the Development of a Green Economy and Creating Green Jobs



Addressing the global challenge of climate change and its social, environmental and economic impacts underscores the urgency of a transition to a green economy. Proposals for a green economy have emerged in recent years as a paradigm for economic growth that focuses on resource efficiency, low carbon and ecological footprints, and increased social inclusion, but is also critical for sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

Such a global transition requires enterprises to drastically improve their energy and resource efficiency, shift to cleaner sources of energy, and provide new green job opportunities. New sources of income from the sustainable use of forestry, agriculture and biodiversity, economic sectors for which the world's poorest communities are most dependent, must also be developed. The role of innovation in development, diffusion and deployment of green technologies is critical in achieving this global economic transition.

The General Assembly has decided that a green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication will be one of the themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), to be held in Brazil in 2012. The UN's green economy activities are being developed in a way that supports the sustainable development aspirations of developing countries and balances the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental).



**United Nations System  
Chief Executives Board for Coordination**

## UN system-wide response to climate change

Under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, the Chief Executives Board (CEB) brings together the leaders of 29 UN system organizations to jointly support Member States in meeting the global challenges faced by the international community.

In 2008, the CEB adopted the Climate Change Action Framework, a joint, action-oriented approach in line with the ongoing UNFCCC negotiating processes and the emerging agendas of the Parties of the Convention.

The UN system stands ready to support Member States in implementing their commitments. At COP 16 / CMP 6, it is presenting its ongoing work and practical tools available through side events, exhibits and by sharing a joint package with thematic information.

For more information on the CEB and its joint work on climate change, please visit:  
<http://www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climate-change/>

CEB Secretariat  
[ceb@un.org](mailto:ceb@un.org)

### Objectives

- To avert dangerous climate change and the deterioration of natural resources, which threaten the quality of life of present and future generations;
- To deliver social development and decent work for all;
- To support achievement of the MDGs.

This includes lifting people above the poverty line and providing decent job opportunities for young people entering the labour market. It also means access to modern forms of energy and decent housing and sanitation for slum dwellers in mega-cities. These challenges are intimately linked and progress towards a green economy offers an unprecedented opportunity for countries to respond.

Developing a green economy will require Governments to refocus their policies, investments and spending in high-impact sectors, such as energy, buildings, manufacturing, transportation, water services and waste management, while ensuring such others as agriculture, fisheries and forests are more sustainable.

### Activities

There are numerous UN activities supporting the transition to a green economy that will directly contribute to the UNCSD Rio+20 Summit, including:

- UNEP-led Green Economy Initiative and the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) series of studies;
- ILO's Green Jobs Programme;
- UN Environmental Management Group report on UN activities in support of a green economy;
- Joint panel report by UN-DESA, UNCTAD and UNEP on the benefits and risks of a green economy;
- UN Habitat's efforts on climate change and cities;
- UNIDO's various initiatives under its Climate Change and Energy Programme;

- WIPO's promotion of innovation, transfer and diffusion of technologies;
- FAO and IFAD's work to scale up efforts to address poverty, food security and climate challenges;
- UNDP and UNEP's programmes to support countries in building capacities to address climate change and achieve national development objectives;
- Joint UN efforts to ensure the integration of gender perspectives into global and national policy and programmes in relation to green economy;
- Joint UN efforts to address the social dimensions of climate change.

### Moving forward

Many countries are interested in moving towards a green economy that ensures enhanced economic growth, income opportunities and social inclusion. The UN system and its partners are responding by offering a range of services and tools to interested countries creating their own national green economy strategies, green job policies, and other relevant activities.

### Contact

Steven Stone, UNEP Green Economy Initiative, Tel: +41 22 9178179,  
Email: [steven.stone@unep.org](mailto:steven.stone@unep.org), [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)  
Kees van der Ree, ILO, Tel: +41 22 799 6304, Email: [vanderree@ilo.org](mailto:vanderree@ilo.org)  
Joe Bradley, WIPO, Email: [joe.bradley@wipo.int](mailto:joe.bradley@wipo.int), [www.wipo.int](http://www.wipo.int)