

## The Spirit of Rio

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# Is the world going in the right direction?

- What are the current challenges that the world needs to address?
- How can we address the challenges together?
- How long do we have to address them ?



## Five key challenges

1. Human societies are living beyond the carrying capacity of the planet

2. Climate change has emerged as an out-of-control driver

3. There is now becoming an increasing link between environment and security

4. Governments have still not given the UN the mandate, the resources or the institutional capacities required

5. Consumption-based economic model is seriously threatening the economic stability of all nations, and compromising the prospect for any of us to live on this planet sustainably.

The green economy in the context of poverty alleviation and sustainable development

- We are operating at 25% above the biological capacity to support life
- present lifestyles are drawing down the ecological capital from other parts of the world and from future generations
- Earth Summit 2012 can clearly draw a roadmap to set the world on the path to a new "economy" that is sustainable, equitable and accessible to all



#### **Emerging issues**

- Environmental and security issues are becoming increasingly intertwined.
- The "environment-security/insecurity nexus" covers such overlapping issues as climate security, energy security, ecosystem destruction, biodiversity loss, food security, water security, health security -all of which are contributing to an increase in environmental refugees.

#### Sustainable Development Governance

- Earth Summit 2012 should agree on strengthening and upgrading the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which should be the most influential champion of the global environment.
- We need a review of the environment
  Conventions to reduce fragmentation and increase cooperation and coordination



#### Sustainable Development Governance

- Transforming the Trusteeship Council, a core body of the UN, into a Sustainable Development Council
- Sustainable Development Board



#### Gaps?

- A framework convention on corporate accountability built from the new ISO 26000
- A global convention on Principle10 of the Rio Declaration – access to information, public participation and environmental justice – utilizing UNEP Guidelines
- A global framework convention on Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on the Precautionary Principle. This could then address issues like nano technology, geo engineering, cloning

#### Stakeholders

- National Councils on Sustainable Development should be established/revitalised
- Knowledge Bank of Good Practice
  Stakeholders should have their own targets





### Stakeholders

- to re-launch local their Agenda 21 program as a concept around the green economy. All local authorities should create a local green economy
- Industry sectors should be asked what they will do to address the key elements of a sustainable and green economy
- Companies should work with their trade unions to help green the companies' workplace and their activities.
- 'Rio for 20-somethings'

#### Is there a Common Future?

- We can reboot sustainable development
- We can refocus our local, national and global economies around a sustainable economy
- We can reform our sustainable development institutions so that they can cope with the challenges of the 21st century
- We can re-establish National Councils for Sustainable Development
- We can re-launch multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development

### Following Rio+20

- Stakeholder web site: <u>www.earthsummit2012.org</u>
- UN web site:
  - www.uncsd2012.org



