

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LUNCH TIME DIALOGUE
ON GREEN ECONOMY IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION**

Tuesday, 19 February 2013, 13:30-14:30, Conference Room 1

Without rapid economic and ecological restructuring, the world economy is likely to approach critical environmental thresholds and tipping points, which could further increase poverty, inequality and social tensions. A green economy approach for sustainable development and poverty reduction has been shown to provide a viable solution to simultaneously address these multiple challenges by redirecting investments to safeguard and build “productive assets of the poor” and to generate sources of economic growth and employment from activities that address environmental challenges, including in low-income countries.

Following the Rio+20 Declaration “The Future We Want”, and the call to provide technical assistance and support to those countries wishing to embark on a transition to a greener economy, UNEP has worked with its close partners to develop a global effort responding to this call. Building on a wide network of contacts and countries, UNEP - with ILO, UNIDO and UNITAR - has created the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) to deliver country-tailored technical assistance and capacity building over a seven year period as part of the UN-wide response to Rio+20.

This lunch time event is intended as an open dialogue on green economy, exploring:

- Building on the Rio+20 outcomes, and in particular the agreements outlined in paragraph 66, what are the main constraints for countries to move towards a green economy as a tool for poverty reduction, and how could PAGE contribute to overcoming them?
- What are the concrete experiences of countries in using a green economy approach for poverty reduction and improving natural resources while generating economic growth? What role has investment and finance played in this, and how has it been mobilized?
- What are the models that can be shared to create new employment and income opportunities for the poor through the greening of economies, in particular in least developed and low-income countries?
- What are the major challenges faced by Governments in shifting public and private investment at the necessary scale towards green activities, including laying down low carbon infrastructure and enhancing ecosystem resilience? What are the country lessons, experiences and policies that can be shared, and how can UNEP and the United Nations system best respond to those challenges

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Agenda

- 13:00 Refreshment served in front of the Conference room 1
- 13:30 Start of the event. Master of Ceremony: Mr. Nick Nuttal, Director DCPI
- 13:30 Opening remarks – Mr. Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director
- 13:40 Panel discussion – Getting on the same PAGE for sustainable development and poverty reduction
- Mr. Juan José Guerra, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico*
Mr. Ali Mohamed, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources of Kenya
Mr. Yoon Jung-Soo, Vice-Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea
Ms. Doris Leuthard, Federal Counselor for Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of the Swiss Confederation
- 14:00 Dialogue of the Executive Director with Ministers and Heads of Delegation and the representatives of other agencies including PAGE founding partners (ILO, UNIDO, UNITAR)
- 14:25 Closing Remarks by the Executive Director and Group Photo

Documentation to be consulted:

UNEP/GC.27/INF/19 Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication: Background note by the Executive Director.

Rio+20 outcomes document “The Future We Want”.

For more details:

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