



Post-Rio to Post-2015 Background Paper

Means of implementation

Section VI of the Rio+20 Outcome Document explores the Means of Implementation which will be required to deliver our sustainable future. It reaffirms the means of implementation outlined in previous agreements (e.g. Agenda 21), and outline that each country has responsibilities regarding delivery. Section VI outlines six sub-sections in further detail. These are:

- 1. Finance:** Paragraph 255 agrees to “establish an intergovernmental process under the auspices of the General Assembly, with technical support from the United Nations system and in open and broad consultation with relevant international and regional financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders.” The process will: (i) assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks, and evaluate additional initiatives, (ii) prepare a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives. Paragraph 256 states that “an intergovernmental committee, comprising 30 experts nominated by regional groups, with equitable geographical representation, will implement this process, concluding its work **by 2014.**” And Paragraph 257 requests “the General Assembly to consider the report of the intergovernmental committee and take appropriate action.”
- 2. Technology:** Paragraph 273 requests “relevant United Nations agencies to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies by, inter alia, assessing the technology needs of developing countries, options to address those needs and capacity-building.” This request the Secretary-General, on the basis of the options identified and taking into account existing models, to make recommendations regarding the facilitation mechanism to the 67th session (Sept 2013) of the General Assembly.
- 3. Capacity Building:** Paragraph 277 emphasizes “the need for enhanced capacity-building for sustainable development and, in this regard, we call for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.”
- 4. Trade:** Paragraph 281 reaffirms “that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and also reaffirm the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development, as they advance towards sustainable development.”
- 5. Registry of commitments:** Paragraph 283 welcomes “the commitments voluntarily entered into at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and throughout 2012 by all stakeholders and their networks to implement concrete policies, plans, programmes, projects and actions to promote sustainable development and poverty eradication.”

Countries must “take Rio home” with them and focus on national delivery plans. That is the level that implementation will actually happen. But there must be alignment between global goals and local action. As resources for sustainable development are scarce, the need to be both effective and efficient is greater than ever. Each country will want to approach this task in its own way. But some key elements will need to be addressed everywhere. At the national and local levels we must now:

- Improve government and legislative machinery for sustainable development;
- Model new and better processes for engaging civil society and major groups in the sustainability transition;

- Create or renew national sustainable development strategies or frameworks in the light of the Rio outcomes, including in particular the new global sustainable development goals;
- Review policies and programs in the light of the Rio outcomes, including the application of green economy principles and instruments; and
- Deliver formal and informal education and training for sustainable development.

The key questions to address in this working group session will be on:

1. Are the initiatives under the Means of Implementation section in the Rio+20 Outcome Document sufficient to deliver sustainability?
2. What is missing and what needs to be added to create a full framework of means which implements sustainable development?
3. What innovative types of resource/finance mobilization should the new intergovernmental process consider for sustainability?
4. What rights and risks are associated with the transfer of technology?
5. What specific types and areas of capacity building need to comprise a larger programme which can create the skills and abilities required? Where should the support for these types of programme come from?
6. What role can trade play in implementing sustainable practices? What negative impacts does trade have which need to be reduced? And how can that be done?
7. How can the voluntary commitments made at Rio be actualized? Will these types commitment be important going forward? If so, how can we further engender commitments of all types?