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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED IN NATIONAL REPORTS TO RIO+20

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INTRODUCTION

In the run-up to Rio + 20, UNDESA and UNDP supported more than seventy countries to engage stakeholders in nationally-led processes whose aims were to review progress, challenges, and gaps in the implementation of sustainable development approaches over the last two decades. The process resulted in, among other things, the preparation of a report called [“Synthesis of National Reports for Rio+20.”](#) That document focused on the institutional framework for sustainable development, inclusive green economy approaches, and a few select themes (poverty/food security, water, energy, and climate change/natural hazards). The document in hand presents priorities that emerged from these national reports in the area of environmental sustainability, looking specifically at cities, oceans and seas, climate change, forests, biodiversity, desertification/land degradation/drought, chemicals and wastes, and sustainable consumption and production.¹

The reports tended to identify key challenges in the specific area (such as overfishing under oceans and seas, or over-extraction of natural resources under forests) and/or give a sense of what the country was doing to promote sustainability in that area (such as creating protected areas, or developing a national strategy). In general, they did not identify specific needs for assistance in that sectoral area, though there were exceptions (under climate change, for instance, countries flagged the need for new, drought-resistant plants). Overall, country reports signaled a need for dependable, adequate financing to address environmental challenges, particular those related to MEAs; support for country-led processes and priorities; capacity building for both technical issues and coordination needs in the environment area; greater government interest in and support for environmental issues; technical support and technology transfer; increased public awareness campaigns and programs regarding environmental management issues; more data and better information collection and dissemination mechanisms; research and support for alternative/renewable sources of energy; and facilitation of transition to green economy through agreed financing mechanisms.

The following pages present each of these themes in turn, with a regional breakdown that highlights key concerns that emerged in countries from different parts of the world.

¹Though some national reports noted that the country was mountainous and land-locked, specific environmental issues that arouse as a result of the mountainous terrain were little discussed. Thus that category is not included here, though it is a separate topic in *The Future We Want*.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Future We Want argues that, “if they are well planned and developed...cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies.” The key problem identified in the national reports is that cities in developing countries today are typically not “well planned and developed.” The need for an approach to urban development that “provides for affordable housing and infrastructure and prioritizes slum upgrading and urban regeneration” and “access to basic services, housing and mobility” identified in the outcome document reflects the key concerns of the national reports. It must be noted, however, that this topic was not extensively addressed in national reports. In *Africa*, the fast pace of urbanization and the inadequate services and infrastructure (for transport, water, waste management, etc.) to meet the needs of the growing urban population was cited by many countries; country reports from *Asia Pacific* cited the same concern. Fast-paced urbanization and sprawl, as well as rural-urban disparities, were problems in the *Arab region*. Ensuring structurally reliable, energy-efficient buildings was a cornerstone of building livable cities in *Europe and CIS*. In *Latin America and the Caribbean*, this topic received little focus.

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National reports, particularly those from coastal and island nations, emphasized the critical importance of oceans and seas to their country's sustainable development. Overall, key issues cited were overfishing, pollution from land-based activities, threats to tourism from coastal erosion and degradation, and sea-level rise. *The Future We Want* commits countries "to protect, and restore, the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, to maintain their biodiversity...and to effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management...of activities having an impact on the marine environment." It also recognizes the importance of the Convention on the Law of the Sea and urges all its parties to fully implement their obligations under it.

The national reports indicated the need for assistance in protecting marine ecosystems from land-based activities, protecting fisheries, and stemming erosion and degradation of the coast. While there is much countries themselves can do in the area of land-based activities and mining, protecting fisheries and dealing with ocean temperature rise as well as rising seas is beyond the ability of single nations to address; such problems require better governance of marine areas on the high seas and international action to combat climate change. Indeed, like climate change, oceans and seas demand international agreement and cooperation. The Rio Dialogue around oceans made eleven recommendations in this area, including launching a global agreement to save high seas marine biodiversity, developing a global network of international marine protected areas, and promoting the creation of Marine Protected Areas designed and co-managed by artisanal fishers to ensure marine governance and the sustainability of fisheries resources worldwide.

Key issues included the following:

Africa. The national reports from Africa indicate that for the region's coastal and island nations, the chief concern with regard to oceans and seas is the maintenance of healthy fisheries for livelihoods, food security, and economic growth. Equatorial Guinea aims to develop its seafood industry, with hopes of becoming a regional leader and generating some 60,000 jobs in the sector. For Gambia, where fisheries account for 12 percent of GDP, the sustainable and inclusive management of fisheries is a key priority, and they have national plans and institutions to further this aim. Kenya, which relies on fisheries for local income and food security, has not been able to fully exploit the potential of fisheries due to overfishing, and they have developed an integrated coastal zone policy to restore and protect marine resources. The Madagascar report expressed concern that fisheries are vulnerable to climate change and over-exploitation and has created protected marine zones in response. Liberia views fisheries as important, but also sees beaches as important for tourism. Thus sea erosion near cities is a concern.

Asia. Bangladesh calls for an ocean monitoring system. It is concerned with sewage pollution and wary of the rising sea level (discussed more under climate change). Timor Leste recommends plans for managing oceans and seas as well as furthering

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sustainable fishing. Vietnam calls on the global community to promote sustainable, protective use of oceans while maximizing their economic potential, and noted its own dependence upon fisheries.

Arab States. Lebanon reports that dense human settlements along the coast have resulted in altered wave patterns, preventing sand replacement, and coastal contamination by wastewater. Measures to prevent this encroachment are non-existent. Regulations have been placed on fishing nets and fishing practices to reduce overfishing. Morocco calls for protection of the unique biodiversity of oceans, preservation of fish stocks, and improved monitoring of marine ecosystems.

Europe and CIS. Oceans and seas are not an issue in national reports from this region.

Latin America and the Caribbean. Antigua and Barbuda expressed concern about increased evidence of coastal degradation, which could have adverse impacts on the environment and tourism. Although the fishing sector is relatively healthy, there are significant threats to its biodiversity base; these include pressure from fishing and other marine activities, coastal development (especially hotels and marinas), and pollution. Grenada seeks to lessen human impact upon coastal areas. For instance, a fisheries-based adaptation initiative provided alternative gear, methods, and skills training. Through studies and the development of a plan, Grenada is seeking to make land management more consistent and compatible with coastal / marine management in the small island context. In Guyana, which has an integrated coastal zone management action plan in place, local coastal communities (particularly the women) have been actively involved in the Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project. St. Lucia has intensified its focus on the sustainable management of the country's ocean and marine resources (the Blue Economy); it has developed a coastal zone management policy, ratified the UN Fish Stock Agreement, and established the Soufriere Marine Management Authority, as well as signing on to several regional agreements and mechanisms for fisheries management. In Uruguay, 40 percent of the territory is a marine-estuary, with high biodiversity; the coast is key to the country's development (fishing, tourism, navigation, port development, farming, and mining). However, the ability of coastal areas to provide such ecosystem services is under threat given land-based activities and population impacts (68 percent of the population lives along the coast).

CLIMATE CHANGE

National reports from all regions cited climate change and the resulting increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events (hurricanes, droughts), natural hazards (floods, mudslides), sea-level rise, and coastal erosion as a major challenge. *The Future We Want* reaffirms “that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time” and emphasizes that “adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority.” The report calls for mobilizing financing from a variety of sources to support “mitigation actions, adaptation measures, technology development and transfer and capacity-building in developing countries.”

Although countries in all regions cited climate change as a fundamental threat to the future of sustainable development, the nature and level of concern differed from country-to-country. Small Island Developing States, such as countries in the Caribbean, Mauritius, and the Solomon Islands, are most concerned with sea-level rise, which threatens their very existence. But so are many coastal nations. For example, Gambia is ranked tenth among nations most susceptible to sea level rise and faces a high risk of coastal erosion and flash floods. Floods, such as those recently experienced in Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Pakistan, were a particularly grave concern in Asia.

Most countries cited a dearth of financial resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation as a barrier to almost all the measures they identified. Well-enforced international mechanisms to curb greenhouse gas emissions were a priority, though there was a greater focus on adaptation in most country reports. In areas where drought is a risk, the need for drought-resistant plants was cited, as was technical support for desalination and other technologies to increase water security. Least developed countries needed support in assessing and planning for the specific risks they face from climate change. In areas susceptible to flooding and other hazards like mudslides, disaster risk planning was an area for technical and financial assistance.

Some regional examples include the following:

Africa. Ethiopia identifies climate change as “the greatest challenge of all” and has developed a “Climate Resilient Green Economy” strategy and a program for action, the “Ethiopian Program of Adaptation to Climate Change.” Gambia has also developed a national climate change strategy; their main concern is sea level rise and coastal effects. Kenya likewise sees sea level rise as a threat to the national economy. In Congo, the forestry programs are viewed as essential to combatting global climate change. In Togo, a shortening and intensifying of the rainy seasons has accelerated land degradation, harming the agricultural sector. Burkina Faso flagged the need to develop drought-resistant plants, and drought-resistant agriculture is likewise key for Niger.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Asia/Pacific. Bangladesh flagged climate-change-risk-resilient development and disaster management (flooding) as priorities. In Bhutan, there was concern that vector-borne diseases are likely to spread with rising temperatures and that hydropower and agriculture are both highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Timor-Leste, a SIDS highly dependent upon fishing and agriculture, expressed extreme concern about yet-unknown climate change impacts. Vietnam cited sea-level rise and the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather as priority concerns.

Arab States. Water security and agricultural practices and productivity were of concern in the Arab region.

Europe and CIS. Disaster risk reduction and mitigation in key sectors was identified as a priority (Moldova). But more than other regions, countries in this part of the world identified the need to reduce carbon emissions. In other words, their focus was more on prevention through reduced emissions, whereas other, less industrialized regions focused more on adaptation and risk reduction.

Latin America and the Caribbean. Every national report from the region identified climate change as a priority issue. Island states in the Caribbean expressed grave concern about sea-level rise. Guatemala is considered in the top ten countries vulnerable to the effects of climate change, hurricanes being the most serious threat. In Grenada, housing was identified as a key priority in an age of more frequent and severe extreme weather events. In Ecuador, adaptation to climate change and mitigation of climate risks is a priority. The country supports the creation of an international Climate Justice Tribunal to determine historical responsibility for climate change and provide reparations for developing countries. In Uruguay, the government has formed a national response system and plan that identifies the actions necessary for society to adapt and the impacts of climate change for the different sectors of development.

FORESTS

The Future We Want calls for “enhanced efforts to achieve the sustainable management of forests, reforestation, restoration and afforestation” and supports “all efforts that effectively slow, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, including promoting trade in legally harvested forest products.” The forests theme is intricately linked to biodiversity, water, energy, poverty, climate change, and employment as well as the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples.

Africa. Countries in Africa flagged deforestation as a significant problem. Reforestation was identified as a priority in numerous national reports from the region, among them those from Benin, Burkino Faso, and Cote d'Ivoire. The economic benefits of forest resources was cited in reports from Kenya, which stressed the country's near-complete reliance on wood for energy, and Liberia, which noted that forests resources generated significant economic resources, among others. Both Uganda and Zambia flagged the encroachment of agriculture as a danger to forests, as did Gambia, which also cited brush fires as a threat. Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia both noted participation in REDD and placed emphasis on the greenhouse gas sequestration services of their forests.

Asia Pacific. Countries in the region stressed the economic benefits of forests but expressed concern that the pursuit of such benefits had degraded forest environments. Bhutan, with hundreds of community forests, pledged to strengthen forest management to reduce poverty. Tourism has contributed to ecosystem degradation in the mountainous forests of Nepal, but, as in Bhutan, the community-management of forests has helped alleviate poverty in that country. The Solomon Islands noted that extensive logging, which had taken place unchecked in pursuit of economic growth, had resulted in environmental degradation. Timor Leste cited forestry as a major source of employment, yet noted that deforestation and forest fires had caused erosion, leading to mudslides and floods. Vietnam called for better laws to protect forests.

Arab States. The report from Lebanon argued that policies enacted to prevent deforestation by various different parts of the government suffered from poor coordination, which limited their effectiveness; it called for a national plan. Morocco called for greater forest protection and reforestation efforts to control erosion, fight silting, and support biodiversity.

Europe and CIS. Reports from this region cited conservation and preservation efforts as key to sustainability and reducing deforestation. In Armenia, forest protection laws reduced large scale deforestation in the last two decades and promoted reforestation efforts. Belarus underscored the importance of forest protection for biodiversity; pests were cited as a threat. Serbia was sanguine about its forest resources, noting that they are extensive and are being used in a sustainable manner.

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Latin America and the Caribbean. Most countries in the region recognize the importance of forests for their national economies and have national forest legislation and management policies in place. Antigua and Barbuda, sadly, noted that almost all its original forest, with the exception of mangroves, had been destroyed; Haiti is likewise extremely deforested, with less than 2 percent of its land in forest. Guyana, on the other hand, is approximately 87 percent forested, with more than 8 percent designated as Protected Areas. The Forestry Commission Act (2007) and the Forest Bill (2009) put its rainforest under long term protection. Paraguay views protection and recovery of the forests as essential to the water cycle, the climate, biodiversity, flood protection, and the preservation of ecosystems; the report also notes that forests are home to indigenous peoples and other traditional communities.

BIODIVERSITY

The Future We Want recognizes “the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services” and calls for “urgent actions that reduce the rate of, halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity.” Biodiversity loss and the risk it poses to sustainable development received significant attention in national reports; most of them discussed it. Greater emphasis was placed on the instrumental value of biodiversity, such as its current and potential economic benefits for tourism and ecosystem services, than on its intrinsic value. The creation of protected areas and zones was an approach found in all regions. Threats to biodiversity included climate change, alien species invasion, erosion, farming and run-off, fires/slash-and-burn, logging, desertification, overfishing, pollution, degraded habitats (for wildlife), and overexploitation of natural resources more generally.

Africa. The economic benefits of biodiversity were a primary focus in reports from this region. In Botswana, biodiversity was key to green economy plans and green jobs, particularly in the tourism sector, and community-based natural resource management was seen as key to biodiversity protection as well as livelihood creation. Kenya noted that biodiversity is mostly exploited through primary industry including food, tourism, and ecosystem services, and supports many livelihoods. Liberia noted the need to preserve biodiversity to sustain natural environments and resources that have potential for revenue creation. Uganda emphasized the need to protect biodiversity and recognize the economic value of environmental assets, calling for greater measures to ensure these resources are not depleted and harvested unsustainably. Tanzania placed priority on conserving its unique biodiversity and natural ecosystems to ensure that valuable resources continue to contribute to socio-economic development.

Asia Pacific. Countries from this region likewise placed a high value on the economic benefits of biodiversity. For instance, in Bhutan, biodiversity is a major source of livelihoods for rural communities and considered a valuable national resource. The Timor Leste report notes that biodiversity is essential to the economic well-being of the island, given its heavy reliance on farming, fishing, and forestry. Both Bangladesh and the Solomon Islands call for greater enforcement of existing biodiversity protection laws. Vietnam suffered significant biodiversity loss as a result of war and fears the effects of climate change.

Arab States. Lebanon reports substantial biodiversity degradation due to human activities in unsustainable fishing, hunting, deforestation, agriculture, and urban encroachment. Since 1992, the government has enforced laws protecting biodiversity and done regular reports and assessments. In Morocco, a national biodiversity committee and action plan seek to preserve areas and promote conservation efforts; focus areas are erosion, pollution, fish stocks, and awareness-raising.

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Europe and CIS. Armenia has recently increased its protected areas to 12.8 percent of the country. Belarus plans to increase its protected areas to 8.3 percent of national land. Serbia's report notes that the country's extensive biodiversity needs to be protected by strengthening existing and developing new mechanisms for ensuring biodiversity sustainability and promoting these measures in the public and private sectors. They also cited the need to cost the ecosystem services provided by biodiversity.

Latin America and the Caribbean. Overall, the countries in this region recognize the importance of biodiversity for their national economies and as a natural resource. Most countries have biodiversity/protected areas legislation and management policies in place. In Costa Rica, a system of protected areas with an important marine component and a program of payments for environmental services has become the main tool of biodiversity conservation; consolidating and reinforcing progress and incorporating biodiversity in institutional plans and sectors of public policy is a continuing challenge. In Antigua and Barbuda, unplanned housing, hotel and industrial development, uncontrolled livestock grazing, unsustainable farming practices, poor watershed management, fires, pollution, dredging, sewage disposal, sand mining, boating activities, drought, and hurricanes have joined forces to threaten biodiversity.

DESERTIFICATION, LAND DEGRADATION AND DROUGHT

This area, particularly land degradation, was flagged as critical in reports from all parts of the world. Though the causes of land degradation varied by country and region—ranging from chemical run-off and salination to slash-and-burn agriculture and deforestation—all found it a grave concern. In *The Future We Want*, countries “recognized the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation” and reaffirmed their resolve, “in accordance with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to take coordinated action nationally, regionally and internationally, to monitor, globally, land degradation and restore degraded lands.”

Africa. Land degradation is a more serious threat to lives and livelihoods in Africa than elsewhere, particularly in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel region, areas that face devastating cycles of drought and famine. Anti-desertification programs are underway in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali, to name just a few. In Ethiopia, land degradation is the chief cause of low agricultural productivity. In Kenya, the quality of land is generally declining due to unsustainable farming practices, effects of climate change, soil erosion, pollution, and toxicity from agro-chemicals. Madagascar and Mauritius are including droughts in their alert system and disaster mitigation plans.

Asia Pacific. Salinity intrusion, land erosion, desertification, and population pressures are driving land degradation in Bangladesh, whereas in the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste, slash-and-burn agriculture and forestry are driving the problem. Chemical run-off is a chief concern in Vietnam.

Arab States. Desertification is a serious concern in Morocco, whereas urban sprawl was flagged as a contributor to land degradation in Lebanon.

Europe and CIS. Decades of chemically-intensive farming, drought, and erosion have stripped the land of its productivity in this region. In Moldova, as in other countries in the region, there is a new focus on recovering the regenerative potential of soil and preserving it for sustainable agriculture; improving irrigation, mitigating droughts, improving soil fertility, stemming erosion, employing techniques like crop rotation, and more are central to this effort.

Latin America and the Caribbean. Land degradation and drought were common concerns in the reports from Latin American and Caribbean countries; several countries have legislation and policy in place to address this issue. In Uruguay, 30 percent of the country’s land suffers some degree of erosion, and land degradation impacts the entire productive system because it makes it necessary to increase use of fertilizers and tilling. Erosion, poor soil quality, and landslides have been among the results of deforestation in Haiti.

CHEMICALS AND WASTE

In *The Future We Want*, countries reaffirmed their “aim to achieve, by 2020, the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste in ways that lead to minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.” A reading of the national reports highlights that meeting this aim in just seven years will be a significant challenge. Countries in Europe and CIS, with decades of, for the most part, highly polluting industrial development behind them are grappling with this issue but have, at the very least, plans and some capacity/expertise in place, even though they may lack resources to implement the most technologically advanced approaches and methods. Other developing regions, and particularly the poorest countries within them, for the most part lack knowledge and assessments of their current situation with regard to chemical hazards, much less plans, technologies, capacity, and resources to deal with them. For many, dealing with rubbish, excreta, and wastewater, much less hazardous materials, remains a significant challenge.

Africa. Management of rubbish, excreta, and wastewater was cited as a challenge by several countries, among them Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Madagascar has carried out studies on its capacity for the disposal of hazardous waste. Different international conventions on the matter have been accepted and ratified. Ethiopia has endorsed the precautionary principle and adopted the “polluter pays principle.” The report from Equatorial Guinea notes that accelerated industrial development has increased the generation of solid, liquid and gaseous wastes. The country has awarded a large number of permits for the export of these wastes to other countries for proper treatment, yet, overall, management of hazardous wastes is inadequate.

Asia Pacific. Most reports from this region noted the lack of waste management infrastructure as an impediment. Vietnam’s report noted that chemical waste laws had not been effective. Bangladesh flagged a unique challenge, ship breaking, a major contributor to untreated chemical waste pollution.

Arab States. Waste collection and treatment infrastructure and wastewater treatment infrastructure were flagged in national reports from this region.

Europe and CIS. The needs cited in these reports were quite specific, indicating that this region has greater experience with and capacity for dealing with hazardous wastes. Processing hazardous wastes and improving recycling were frequently cited. The Armenia report noted that the country already requires registration of waste products, itemization of hazardous waste, registration of waste generation, recycling, and processing sites, and the creation of a national waste cadastre. Belarus flagged the need to improve collecting and sorting capacities for recycling, introducing greater responsibility of producers and importers.

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Latin America and the Caribbean. Chemicals and waste was not a salient topic among the RBLAC country reports, but some countries identified urban and industrial waste as important concerns, and several countries have legislation and policy in place to address this issue.

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

This area received less focus and fewer detailed discussions than others in the national reports. Most concern was directed at energy consumption patterns. Some developing countries, especially in Latin America, argued for a shift in focus to questions of global rather than national patterns of (inequitable) consumption and production. *The Future We Want* likewise focused chiefly on energy: “Countries reaffirm the commitments they have made to phase out harmful and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption and undermine sustainable development. We invite others to consider rationalizing inefficient fossil fuel subsidies by removing market distortions, including restructuring taxation and phasing out harmful subsidies...to reflect their environmental impacts.”

CONCLUSION

Overall, national reports tended not to pinpoint specific areas of need for development assistance with regard to the sectoral areas explored in this paper, though there were some exceptions. The reports, taken in aggregate, did point to larger priority areas of support for sustainable development more broadly. These areas are discussed in the UNDP/UNDESA document [“Synthesis of National Reports for Rio+20.”](#) That paper identified five key priorities for advancing sustainable development. They are listed below, with an example of how the area might apply to forests, climate change, oceans, and other topics reviewed in the paper.

Key priorities for advancing sustainable development

Key priority 1: Strengthening institutions and governance systems, building capacities for collaboration and coordination at all levels for integrated planning and implementation within and across sectors and levels of government as well as among government, civil society, and private sector actors, and overcoming fragmentation such that disparate groups see themselves as working together toward a common goal. Addressing “wicked” problems with many causes, like climate change, requires coordinated, coherent responses not just from different parts of national governments but also from the international system.

Key priority 2: Unpacking and operationalizing the “green economy.” Countries need assistance in moving from a focus on trade-offs to a more deliberate strategy that also creates triple wins and identifies the elements of inclusive, integrated green economy policies. In **forestry**, for example, countries need support developing approaches (like community management of forests) that allow local people to sustain their livelihoods and traditional ways of life and protect forests from encroachment from agriculture to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem services like GHG sequestration.

Key priority 3: Reinforcing the connection between the SD agenda and the MDGs. Many priority areas in this paper exist at the intersection of the MDGs and the SD agenda. The health of fisheries, for example, a vital component of healthy **oceans and seas**, is also key to ensuring food security and combatting extreme poverty for low-income coastal communities in developing countries.

Key priority 4: Meaningfully engaging stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and the private sector. *The Future We Want* notes that effective governance “representing the voices and interests of all is critical for advancing sustainable development.” Participation is key across all the sectors explored in this paper. For instance, involving people themselves in discussions on the safe disposal of **wastes and hazards** is vital for government accountability and human and environmental health.

CONCLUSION

Key priority 5: Measuring development progress in a way that looks across the three pillars of sustainable development. The axiom “we manage what we measure” underscores the critical importance of measurement in assessing problems, identifying priorities, gauging effectiveness, and tracking progress. If national systems look only at economic performance, then people cannot hold their leaders accountable when it comes to progress on social and environmental matters. For instance, new and more tailored metrics that track the sustainability of production would encourage better environmental outcomes than strictly economic measures like GDP, which “rewards” countries for highly polluting **production and consumption** patterns (both the original production and the costs of cleaning up the mess it creates are “counted” as economic activity by GDP).



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Resilient nations.*