

## DRAFT - PRINCIPLES FOR A GREEN ECONOMY

This first draft is based on (links and docs in Appendix):

- The 19 Feb 2012 Major groups and regions workshop Nairobi, UNEP
- ANPED - Green Economy Principles workshop
- ICC - Ten conditions for green economy
- Bioregional/Stakeholder Forum - Principles for a Green Economy
- ITUC - 10 principles for a green economy
- New Economy Network – Principles for a new economy
- Earth Charter Initiative – Principles and values for sustainable development
- Financial Stability Board - Key Standards for Sound Financial Systems

### **A resilient and inclusive economy that provides a better quality of life for all within the ecological limits of the planet**

#### **1. It delivers sustainable development**

- It is a vehicle to deliver sustainable development – not a replacement
- It addresses all three pillars (environment, social, economic), developing policy mixes that seek the best results across all three
- It integrates the cultural and ethical dimension across the three pillars

#### **2. It delivers equity - The Justice Principle**

- It delivers equity between and within countries and between generations
- It respects human rights and cultural diversity
- It promotes gender equality
- It respects indigenous peoples rights to lands, territories and resources

#### **3. It creates genuine prosperity and wellbeing for all - The Dignity Principle**

- It eradicates poverty
- It transforms traditional jobs and actively develops new, decent green jobs
- It helps build capacity and skills
- It delivers Human Development Indicators
- It provides universal access to basic health, education, sanitation, and other essential services
- It respects for the rights of workers and trade unions and delivers a just transition
- It support the right to development
- It supports sustainable, diverse economies and local livelihoods

#### **4. It improves the natural world - The Earth Integrity, Planetary Boundaries and Precautionary Principle**

- It recognises ecological boundaries and seeks to operate within them
- It delivers environmental justice
- It respects the precautionary principle
- It assesses of the potential impact of new and untested technologies before they are released
- It demonstrates the benefit for the environment through indicators
- It ensures an optimum and wise use of natural resources
- It safeguards biodiversity loss and prevents pollution
- It promotes the restoration of balance in ecological and social relations

#### **5. It is inclusive and participatory in decision making – The Inclusion Principle**

- It is based on transparency and the visibility of all stakeholders
- It supports governance at all levels from global to local

- It empowers citizens and promotes full and effective participation at all levels
- It fosters cultural values and is sensitive to ethical considerations
- It builds societal awareness, developing education and skills
- It is inclusive and participatory, giving opportunities to youth, women, poor and low skilled workers, indigenous peoples and local communities

**6. It is accountable - The Governance Principle**

- It governs markets in consultation with all stakeholders
- It promotes the development of standards to measure progress
- It promotes international cooperation and defines International liability
- It promotes democracy
- It commits to international human rights standards and environmental agreements

**7. It builds economic, social and environmental resilience - The Resilience Principle**

- It supports the development of social and environmental protection systems
- It promotes systems approaches, recognising the interdependence and integrated nature of these three systems, underpinned by culture and ethical values
- It creates resilience by supporting many green economy models relevant to different cultural, social and environmental contexts
- It considers indigenous local knowledge and promotes diverse knowledge systems
- It builds local skills and capacities

**8. It delivers sustainable consumption and production – The Efficiency Principle**

- It ensures prices reflect true costs incorporating social and environmental externalities
- It implements the polluter pays principle
- It supports life-cycle management
- It strives for Zero emission and zero waste
- It prioritises renewable energy and renewable resources
- It seeks absolute decoupling production and consumption from negative social and environmental impact
- It delivers sustainable lifestyles
- It promotes social, economic and environmental innovation
- It promotes resource efficiency
- It gives access to intellectual property rights

**9. It invests for the future – The Intergenerational Principle**

- It ensures the finance sector supports the delivery of diverse sustainable green economies
- It promotes long-term decision making above the short term
- It regulates the finance sector, constrains speculation and supports the real economy

## Appendix : Background

This document was drafted by Oliver Greenfield (Green Economy Coalition) Anna Rosemberg (ITUC), Vanessa Timmer (One Earth) in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders at the UNEP GC workshop on February 18 2012 (see footnote)<sup>1</sup>.

The following documents and processes also informed the drafting process:

i. ANPED - [Green Economy Principles workshop](#)<sup>2</sup>

- **The Earth Integrity Principle:** The Earth, her natural communities and ecosystems, possess the inalienable right to exist, flourish and evolve, and to continue the vital cycles, structures, functions and processes that sustain all beings. Every human has the duty to protect her.
- **The Planetary Boundaries Principle:** The Planetary Boundaries Principle clearly establishes that human development is dependent on intact ecosystems and that there are limits to economic growth. Safe economic systems must respect such limits and governments need to set clear long-term targets to maintain a reliable operating space.
- **The Dignity Principle:** The Dignity Principle upholds that every human being, now and in the future, has the right to livelihood. Poverty eradication and redistribution of wealth should be the main priority of governance and measured in those terms.
- **The Justice Principle:** The Justice Principle upholds fair sharing of all benefits and burdens. This includes the use of natural resources, access to goods and services, and the responsibility to avoid and compensate for damages. All institutions, corporations and decision-makers need to be subject to equal standards of accountability and personal responsibility for their decisions.
- **Precautionary Principle:** The Precautionary Principle should be applied to ensure that new products and technologies do not have destructive or unexpected effects on environmental, social, or human wellbeing. The 'burden of proof' lies with the developer or initiator and problem shifting needs to be avoided.
- **The Resilience Principle:** The Resilience Principle emphasises that diversity and diversification are preconditions for sustainability and quality of life. A diversity of organisational models and governance levels needs to be cultivated, along with diversified economic activity that minimizes commodity dependence.
- **The Governance Principle:** The Governance Principle states that subsidiary democracy must be upheld and revitalised in accordance with the principle of prior informed consent. All policies, rules and regulation need for

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transparent and participatory negotiations that include all affected people. Structural transformation should be driven by appropriate public investments that guarantee benefit sharing.

- **The Beyond-GDP Principle:** The Beyond-GDP Principle recognises the inherent limits and distorting effects of using GDP as a measure of progress and welfare. Policy goals and monitoring need to be guided by integrated measures on environmental, social, human and economic wellbeing, taking into account diverse interpretations of human welfare.

## ii. ITUC – 10 principles for a green economy

1. Equity between and within countries.
2. Inclusiveness and participation (youth, women, poor and low skilled workers)
3. Transformation of traditional and creation of new green and decent jobs.
4. Respect for the rights of workers and trade unions.
5. Fulfilment of social objectives and satisfaction of human needs in the long term, including universal access to water, food, housing, energy, land, health, education, transport and culture.
6. Based on the efficient use of natural resources, prioritisation of renewable sources, internalisation of social and environmental costs, life-cycle analysis and aiming at being zero carbon and zero waste.
7. Focus on materials' productivity rather than on cutting labour costs.
8. Just Transition for workers and communities that might be affected by change, including widening social protection schemes and developing social dialogue mechanisms on green economy policies.
9. Promotion of democracy.
10. Based on the real economy and be non-speculative.

## iii. New Economy Network – Principles for a New Economy

<http://www.csrwire.com/blog/posts/209-economy-reset-principles-of-a-new-economy>

## iv. The Earth Charter Initiative – Values and Principles for a sustainable future

<http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/pages/Read-the-Charter.html>

## v. Stakeholder Forum / Bioregional – Principles for a Green Economy

<http://www.earthsummit2012.org/publications-and-resources/principles-for-a-green-economy-new-analysis-by-stakeholder-forum-earth-charter-and-bioregional>

## vi. Financial Stability Board - Key Standards for Sound Financial Systems

[http://www.financialstabilityboard.org/cos/key\\_standards.htm](http://www.financialstabilityboard.org/cos/key_standards.htm)

## vii. ICCs ten conditions for a transition towards a "green economy"

[http://iccwbo.org/uploadedFiles/7%2010%20Conditions%20Green%20Economy\\_FINAL.pdf](http://iccwbo.org/uploadedFiles/7%2010%20Conditions%20Green%20Economy_FINAL.pdf)