Transparency International

Proposed amendments to the zero draft of the Rio+20 outcome document

I. Preamble/Stage Setting

2. We reaffirm our determination to free humanity from hunger and want through the eradication of all forms of poverty and to strive for societies which are just, equitable, [delete: and] inclusive [add: and free from corruption], for economic stability and growth that benefits all.

5. We urge bold and decisive action on the objective and themes for the conference. We renew our commitment to sustainable development and express our determination to pursue the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. We further affirm our resolve to strengthen the institutional [add: and governance] framework for sustainable development, [add: in line with the principles of democracy, transparency, accountability and ethical conduct]. Taken together our actions should fill the implementation gaps and achieve greater integration among the three pillars of sustainable development – the economic, the social and the environmental.

II. Renewing Political Commitment

A. Reaffirming Rio principles and past action plans

7. We reaffirm our commitment to advance progress in implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, [add: and the Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation]. The Rio Principles shall continue to guide the international community and serve as the basis for cooperation, coherence and implementation of agreed commitments.

C. Engaging major groups

17. We underscore that a fundamental prerequisite for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in [add: accountable] decision-making. Sustainable development requires major groups – women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organisations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community, and farmers – to play a meaningful role at all levels. It is important to enable all members of civil society to be actively engaged in sustainable development by incorporating their specific knowledge and practical know-how into national and local policy making. In this regard, we also acknowledge the role of national parliaments in furthering sustainable development.

18. We recognize that improved participation of civil society depends upon [add: meaningful transparency and accountability. This requires] strengthening the right to access information and building civil society capacity to exercise this right. Technology is making it easier for Governments to share information with the public and for the public to hold decision makers accountable. In this regard, it is essential to work towards universal access to information and communications technologies.

19. We acknowledge the important role of the private sector in moving towards sustainable development. We strongly encourage business and industry to show leadership [add: and}
accountability] in advancing a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

D. Framework for action

22. We commit to improving governance and capacity at all levels – global, regional, national and local – to promote integrated [add: and accountable] decision making, to fill the implementation gap and promote coherence across institutions.

III. Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

A. Framing the context of the green economy, challenges and opportunities

26. We view the green economy [add: where transparent and accountable,] as a means to achieve sustainable development, which must remain our overarching goal. We acknowledge that a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should protect and enhance the natural resource base, increase resource efficiency, promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, and move the world toward low-carbon development.

31. We note that the transformation to a green economy should be an opportunity to all countries and a threat to none. We therefore resolve that international efforts to help countries build a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication must not:

a) create new trade barriers;

b) impose new conditionalities on aid and finance;

c) widen technology gaps or exacerbate technological dependence of developing countries on developed countries;

d) restrict the policy space for countries to pursue their own paths to sustainable development [add: e) foster corruption, mismanagement and poor governance.]

B. Toolkits and experience sharing

32. We acknowledge that countries are still in the early stages of building green economies and can learn from one another. We note the positive experiences in developing a green economy in some countries, including developing countries. We recognize that a mix of policies and measures tailored to each country’s needs and preferences will be needed. Policy options include, inter alia, regulatory, economic and fiscal instruments, investment in green infrastructure, financial incentives, subsidy reform, sustainable public procurement, information disclosure, [add: anti-corruption safeguards] and voluntary partnerships.

C. Framework for action

38. We [delete: encourage] [add: call for] all States to develop their own green economy strategies through a transparent [add: and accountable] process of multi-stakeholder consultation.
43. We recognize the importance of measuring [add: and assessing] global progress [add: as a multi-stakeholder process]. In this regard, we will be guided by a roadmap that contains the following indicative goals and timeline:

IV. Institutional framework for sustainable development

B. GA, ECOSOC, CSD, SDC proposal

Commission on Sustainable Development

49. We reaffirm the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development as the high level commission on sustainable development in the United Nations system. We agree to consider options for improving the working methods, the agenda and programme of work of the Commission to better facilitate, promote, and coordinate sustainable development implementation, including measures to ensure more focused, balanced, [add: accountable] and responsive engagement with a more limited set of issues, and enhanced implementation of its decisions. We also agree to consider means to enhance the review function of the Commission, including through a voluntary review process.

OR

Sustainable Development Council

49. The work of the Council should be based on fundamental documents on sustainable development such as Agenda 21, the Rio principles and related outcomes. The Council should, inter alia, fully carry out the functions and mandates of the Commission for Sustainable Development. It would be guided by the need to promote [add: transparency and the] integration of the three pillars of sustainable development, promote effective [add: and accountable] implementation at all levels and promote effective institutional coherence. It should help in enhancing the involvement of all stakeholders, particularly major groups, in the follow-up of Rio+20.

C. UNEP, specialized agency on environment proposal, IFIs, United Nations operational activities at country level

54. We recognize that sustainable development must be given due consideration by the International Financial Institutions, especially the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the regional development banks, UNCTAD and the World Trade Organization in regulating global trade. In that regard, we request the international financial institutions to review their programmatic strategies to ensure the provision of better [add: more effective and more accountable] support to developing countries for the implementation of sustainable development.

D. Regional, national, local

61. We underline the need for more coherent [add: transparent] and integrated planning and decision-making at the national level. We therefore call on countries to establish and strengthen, as appropriate, national sustainable development councils to enable them to coordinate, consolidate and ensure the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues in the highest decision-making bodies, with the integration and full participation of all stakeholders.

V. Framework for action and follow-up

A. Priority/key/thematic/cross-sectoral issues and areas
Water

69. We renew our commitment made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) regarding the development and implementation of integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans. We reaffirm our commitment to the 2005-2015 International Decade for Action “Water for Life”. We encourage cooperation initiatives for water resources management in particular through capacity development, exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned, as well as [add: building institutions, implementing anti-corruption measures, and] sharing appropriate environmentally sound technologies and know-how.

Forests and biodiversity

90. We support [add: accountable] policy frameworks and market instruments that effectively slow, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, [delete: and] promote the sustainable use and management of forests, as well as their conservation and restoration, [add: and guarantee the highest standards of environmental, governance and social safeguards.] We call for the urgent implementation of the “Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests (NLBI)”.

Education

98. We recognize that access by all people to quality education is an essential condition for sustainable development and social inclusion. We commit to strengthening the contribution [add: and governance] of our education systems to the pursuit of sustainable development, including through enhanced teacher training and curricula development.

C. Means of implementation

Finance

113. We call for the prioritization of sustainable development in the allocation of resources in line with the priorities and needs of developing countries, and for substantial increases in the provision of financing to developing countries for sustainable development. [add: This necessitates the fulfillment of climate finance commitments under the Cancùn Agreement, whereby developed country Parties to the UNFCCC committed to a goal of jointly mobilizing USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. To ensure that public and public-private blended climate finance achieves effective, equitable and efficient green growth and sustainable development, we call on governments and businesses to adhere to best governance practices. This requires that decision-making is consultative, representative and democratic. Effective adaptation and mitigation expenditure necessitates in-built safeguards against risk, including robust and comprehensive fiduciary standards and rules on reporting, mutual transparency across financial flows, independent oversight, clear chains of accountability, and legal and administrative mechanisms to determine liability and respective penalties in cases of fraud or abuse.]

114. We call for increased aid effectiveness, taking into account the Paris Declaration, the Accra Action Agenda and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in ensuring that aid is effective, [add: transparent], accountable and responsive to the needs and priorities of developing countries. There is a need for greater coherence at both the international and national levels, including effective oversight of resources to ensure that developing countries have steady and predictable access to adequate financing, including by the private sector, to promote sustainable development.
116. We reaffirm the key role of the private sector in promoting sustainable development including through multi-stakeholder partnerships. Public policy should create a stable investment climate and regulatory framework conducive to long-term investment, [add: corporate accountability] and socially [add: , ethically] and environmentally responsible behaviour by business and industry.