

Scientific and Technological Community

1st Intersessional Meeting for the Rio+20 Conference in 2012

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Mr. Co-chair,

Several delegates have highlighted the role of science and technology in promoting the Green Economy. Let me start, however, with a more general point first.

In the debate up to now there seems to be agreement that insufficient implementation of the outcomes of previous summits must be addressed by Rio+20 and the pace and scale of implementation must be radically enhanced. Measures aimed at strengthening the environmental pillar of sustainable development must be accompanied by much enhanced measures aimed at bridging the development gap between North and South and at reducing poverty.

For the Scientific and Technological Community, the basic concept of Green Economy should be that economic growth must become decoupled from the use of fossil fuels, depletion of natural resources, degradation of ecosystem services, and increased pollution.

We, too, believe that there is no such thing as a “one-size-fits-all” green economy“. It needs to be country and economic sector specific.

The Green Economy will need to be knowledge and innovation based. [Canada just underlined this point emphasizing science based decision making. Mr Moldan referred to the scientific work on integrated sustainable development indicators.] However, in order to enable the scientific and technological community to provide the necessary knowledge, information and data, national and international research efforts, as well as scientific and technological institutions must be significantly strengthened .What we need are much enhanced investments in education, R &D, research in the natural and social sciences, and engineering, and technological and socio-economic innovation, for global sustainability.

My question to the panellists is:What role do you see for S & T in support of the Green Economy and what is needed to strengthen research in natural, social, and engineering sciences for global sustainability, and scientific and technological capacities, in particular in developing countries?

Thank you.