



**Global Institute for Water  
Environment and Health**

Leadership For Positive Change

## Next steps following Rio+20

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This meeting aimed to present the views of the UNEP, WTO, UNECE and IISD concerning the achievements reached during the Rio+20 event as well as the challenges which still need to be tackled. These feedback elements will be further discussed during the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.

### **UNEP's perspective**

According to the UNEP, the outcome of the Rio+20 event was positive in the way that it is a good foundation to develop solutions on. Moreover, the fact that the discussions did not only focus on environment but also included related topics was beneficial in order to get a broader view of the different challenges. However, the lack of a global structure and solutions to tackle the current challenges makes it difficult to develop and apply recommendations. Indeed, the UNEP considers that there is too much interagency competition and overlap which creates over-negotiation issues and compromises hard to reach. The UNEP therefore recommends developing more partnerships in order to propose new solutions and respond to the world and countries' needs.

### **WTO's perspective**

The WTO considers that "The Future We Want" document establishes a good framework to work on. Thus, it offers alternative pathways and puts poverty eradication as well as people at the center of discussions. Nevertheless, the document mainly reconfirms the points from 1992 and lacks of concrete goals and solutions. The WTO recommends more involvement from the private sector and the civil society in the development of recommendations. Moreover, opening the global market on green products and services would be beneficial.

### **UNECE's perspective**

While considering the document as a good step stone, the UNECE underlines the importance of focusing on points that need immediate action instead of reconfirming the elements from the 1992 event. Thus, the current goal is to launch a new phase of working together as a community in order to develop recommendations and solutions. However, global solutions cannot be applied everywhere since each country faces different challenges. Therefore, the UNECE recommends to build up priorities and solutions at the regional level first and then grow on that by sharing with other regions best practices and knowledge.

### **IISD's perspective**

According to the IISD, the Rio+20 event failed in most aspects to reach concrete results, except in the field of green economy. Thus, in addition to government reforms failure, the UN agencies are in competition with each other which makes the decision making and solution process inefficient. The IISD considers that the organization of summits gets lower results than it gave in the past and therefore other means should be found in order to develop concrete solutions and recommendations. Indeed, this process should not only focus on governments taking all the decisions. The civil society should contribute in a more important way in the decision process. The IISD agrees with the UNECE on the fact that taking first regional actions may be more efficient than trying to develop global solutions. The key would be to understand how each stakeholder (governments, private sector and civil society) can contribute in the development of solutions and collaborate with each of them directly.