

Seoul Outcome of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for UNCSD (Rio+20)

1. The participants at the Asian and Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development met in Seoul, Republic of Korea on October 19-20, 2011,
2. Recognizing that the Asia Pacific region is one of the most diverse regional groupings characterized by high economic growth rates while being home to the largest number of the world's poor ,
3. Further recognizing that the diverse range of states in the region including, but not limited to, small islands developing states, high mountain states and land-lock states, continue to face many special and particular vulnerabilities,
4. Reaffirming the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, as well as the instruments further adopted for the implementation of Agenda 21, in particular the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,
5. Also reaffirming that the main objective of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing progress to date and the remaining gaps in implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and addressing new and emerging challenges.
6. The participants considered that the outcome of the Rio+20 conference should be:
 - Based on Rio Principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities
 - Action-oriented
 - Forward-looking
 - Consensus-based and
 - Inclusive
 - Supportive of global partnership for sustainable development
7. Participants agreed that Green Economy has to be seen in the context of the overriding objectives of sustainable development and poverty eradication. The Green Economy approach should take into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in particular, along with Rio Principles. In that regard:
 - It should:
 - Promote sustained economic growth for poverty eradication
 - Be one of means to achieve and promote sustainable development
 - Facilitate trade opportunities to all countries, in particular, developing countries
 - Address the three pillars of sustainable development in a comprehensive, coordinated, synergetic and balanced manner

- Allow sufficient policy space and flexibility for governments to pursue sustainable development strategies based on national circumstances and respective stages of development
 - Promote the inclusion of vulnerable sections of the society, women and youth
 - Involve all stakeholders
 - Facilitate technological innovation and transfer and promote access to green technologies at affordable costs
 - Address the challenges of delivering a green economy in small islands developing states in particular, along with high mountain and land-lock states
 - Increase the resilience to natural disasters
- It should not:
 - Be used as a pretext for green protectionism
8. There is a need to reform and improve the IFSD. These reforms should:
- Strengthen coherence and coordination
 - Enhance implementation at all levels
 - Strengthen the governance in all three pillars
 - Promote the spirit of multilateralism
 - Improve balance and integration among the three pillars
 - Promote institutional capacity building at all levels
 - Be aimed at enhancing the role of the United Nations at all levels including regional and sub-regional levels
9. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Government of Republic of Korea, ESCAP, UNEP and ADB for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality.
