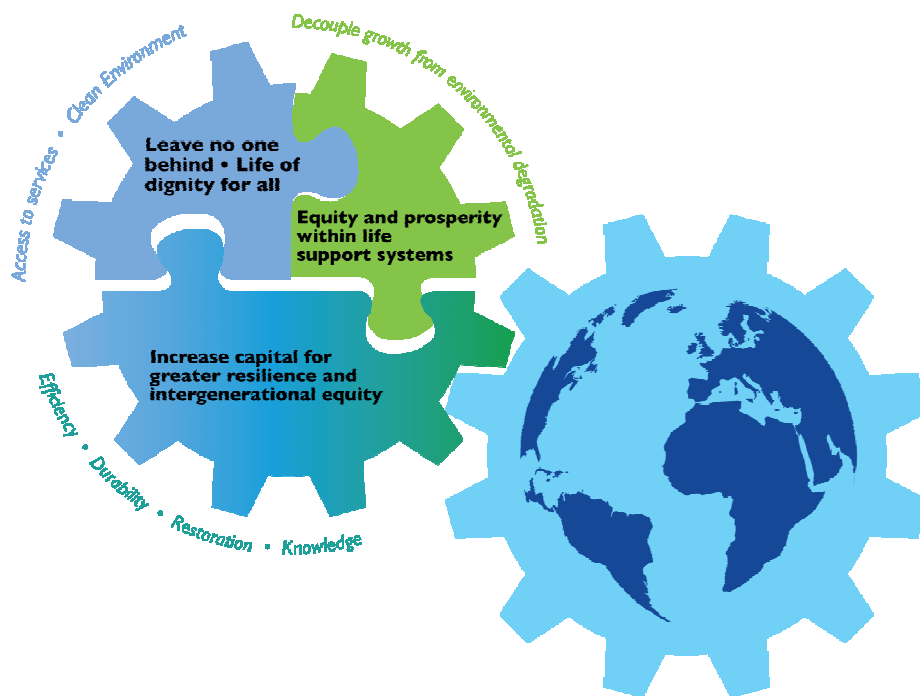


**UNEP Regional Office for Europe (UNEP/ROE)
and
the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**



*Analytical report on regional implications and perspectives of the proposed SDGs
as they relate to the UNEP ROE PoW identifying areas of alignment*

**Regional Office for Europe
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Building on the Rio+20 outcome and follow-up processes, UNEP continues to make significant advances in the implementation of the Future We Want, and actively advocating the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development through its programme of work.

In support of the ongoing intergovernmental processes on the post-2015 development agenda/sustainable development goals (SDGs), UNEP has been actively participating and putting forward a number of concept notes and discussion papers based on the latest scientific advice and guidance on how environmental sustainability can be integrated in the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

So far the intergovernmental process has resulted in 17 proposed goals and 169 targets with implications for the work of UNEP at national, regional and global levels. This would require the alignment of its work programme (expected accomplishments) with the eventual outcome of the Post-2015 deliberations.

At the regional level, the UNEP Regional Office for Europe (ROE) has been active in contributing to a number of regional activities linked to the post-2015 development agenda that fed into the intergovernmental process, including contribution to “A common UN vision for Post-2015 development agenda” for Europe and Central Asia.

In anticipation of the new development agenda, ROE has produced this analytical report showcasing the regional implication and perspective of the proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs) as they relate to the UNEP ROE work programme (expected accomplishments). This report identified areas for alignment, and accompanied by a set of recommendations to apply the UNEP integrated approach in the implementation of the work programme.

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I. Introduction

The international community has been struggling with the concept of sustainable development (originally ecodevelopment) since the founding of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at the Stockholm Conference in 1972. The term sustainable development was coined in the IUCN/WWF/UNEP World Conservation Strategy in 1980, elaborated by the Brundtland Commission in 1987, supported by a detailed action plan (Agenda 21) adopted at the Earth Summit in 1992, reinforced in the WSSD Johannesburg Programme of Implementation in 2002, and confirmed in *The Future We Want* at UNCSO Rio+20 in 2012. However, we are still far from being able to implement it successfully, to turn the tide on environmental degradation, and to meet even the basic needs of the poor third of the planet's expanding population to whom absolute priority should be given.

Sustainable development is conceived as including at least three dimensions: economic, social and environmental. Despite efforts to bring these into some kind of balance in policy considerations, they have too often remained silos of separate activities without the true integration necessary to ensure sustainability in all its complexity. Breaking down the silos became a theme at Rio+20, and remains an important challenge in implementing sustainable development.

Rio+20 also called for the preparation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which focussed on reducing poverty, but including a wider set of sustainability issues relevant to all countries. An intergovernmental Open Working Group built on an inclusive process to issue a set of proposed SDGs in July 2014 (OWG 2014), and these are now under intergovernmental negotiation for approval by a UN summit of Heads of State in September 2015. It is important to note the tentative nature of the proposed SDGs still under negotiation, on which this paper is based.

The Open Working Group issued its report on 19 July 2014, proposing 17 Sustainable Development Goals with a number of targets under each goal, 169 targets in all (OWG 2014). The UN General Assembly has accepted that the proposal of the Group be the main basis for the post-2015 intergovernmental process. Indicators still need to be developed for these targets, and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network is regularly updating its paper "*Indicators and a monitoring framework for Sustainable Development Goals: Launching a data revolution for the SDGs*", with the latest version dated 24 November 2014 (SDSN 2014).

The UN Secretary-General issued his advance unedited *Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 Agenda* on 4 December 2014 (UN 2014), in which he accepted the 17 SDGs, and rearranged them in six essential elements for a concise and aspirational agenda:

- Dignity: to end poverty and fight inequalities
- People: to ensure healthy lives, knowledge, and the inclusion of women and children
- Prosperity: to grow a strong, inclusive, and transformative economy
- Planet: to protect our ecosystems for all societies and our children
- Justice: to promote safe and peaceful societies, and strong institutions
- Partnership: to catalyse global solidarity for sustainable development.

Furthermore, at the President of the General Assembly's Special Event towards achieving the MDGs, on 25 September 2013, the UN Secretary-General presented to Member States his report entitled "A Life of Dignity for All". The report underscored and set the tone for the development of a universal UN development agenda with sustainable development

at its core while **integrating** economic growth, social justice, and environmental stewardship.

On its part, UNEP has been actively contributing to efforts to strengthen **integrated** implementation of the three dimensions of sustainable development, notably UNEP's push for an integrated approach for embedding environment in goals and targets, and a set of criteria for assessing or proposing goals and targets, and guidance on how to use them – articulated in the UNEP Post-2015 Discussion Paper and several briefs .

UNEP is also involved in the development of Integrated Approach for Environmental Sustainability in Development Planning at country level through pilot projects (UNEP 2014a). The UNEP Regional Office for Europe (ROE) wants to ensure that its up-coming Programme of Work (PoW) is aligned as closely as possible with these new global priorities as they are finalized, and this analytical report is put together to help in that direction. The World Health Organization's Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO) has recently held a meeting with governments in a similar exercise to align its European Environment and Health Process with the SDGs (WHO 2014). UNEP should also be engaged in a similar exercise with governments and stakeholders. The "Integrated Approach for Environmental Sustainability in Development Planning" project (UNEP 2014b) could shed light on how to develop and utilize sustainable development strategies as key instruments for guiding decision-making and implementation of sustainable development at national level.

II. Proposed Sustainable Development Goals

As indicated by the Open Working Group, the SDGs "are action oriented, global in nature and universally applicable". Unlike the MDGs which focused on the needs of the poor in developing countries, they will apply to every country of Europe and Central Asia. Where in the past European countries and the European Union were more involved in mobilizing funds and development projects to achieve the MDGs in poorer countries, they will now be expected to assess their own trajectories towards national sustainability and to contribute their share towards planetary sustainability.

This is the first time that the international community has agreed to measure the sustainability of the whole planetary system, and to recognize that the planet imposes boundaries and limits that we must learn to live within. In some cases, scientists report that we have already overshoot those boundaries, particularly for greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss and nitrogen fixation, and must reverse course to step back inside them (Rockström et al. 2009). A system of governance based on national sovereignty and giving priority to domestic issues is poorly adapted to these global challenges. Since this dimension of sustainability is largely environmental and science-based, UNEP has an important role in bringing the science into decision-making processes at the global, regional and national levels. While only one of the MDGs was explicitly environmental, half of the proposed SDGs have a major focus on the environment and natural resources.

In this perspective, it will no longer be possible to consider policies and activities just within national borders, or within the European Union. Global systems of trade, travel and communications unite all countries, so the European footprint extends far beyond Europe, and the high European share of global consumption contributes to imbalances and environmental impacts all around the world. The SDG process will measure that impact.

While it may be relatively easy for the nations of the world to agree on aspirational global

goals, assigning relative shares of the effort required to meet them will be much more difficult. Each nation has a tendency to jockey for competitive advantage, to hold out to see what others will propose, and to settle for the lowest common denominator. If the SDGs are to be more than just aspirational, then someone has to set the pace with suitably ambitious efforts, and Europe is well-placed to do so despite its internal difficulties.

One issue with the proposed SDGs is the extent to which they will themselves be integrated across the different dimensions of sustainable development. Indicators narrowly focussed on only one measure of performance might simply reinforce sectoral approaches. It has been suggested that the goals and targets proposed by the Open Working Group are reasonably well integrated across the economic and social sectors, but that this is less true of the environmental sector, which results in some contradictions between meeting environmental sustainability goals and other measures of progress. Some of these issues are discussed below.

Growth

For example, economic growth for all is still an explicit goal (Goal 8 is to “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth”) and target 8.1 is to “sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances, and in particular at least 7% per annum GDP growth in the least-developed countries”. Yet some experts say a return to significant rates of growth is unrealistic when growing demand and global resource scarcities produce rising prices. Furthermore, the needs to respect planetary boundaries and to meet sustainability requirements require limitations on some kinds of resource exploitation and pollutant emissions which are linked to material consumption. The use of GDP as a measure of growth is also increasingly questioned as inappropriate, and target 17.19 is “to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement GDP”.

A much more nuanced approach to achieving global prosperity is needed, with growth in consumption for the poor to meet their basic needs balanced by reduced material consumption among the rich. Once a reasonable level of material human well-being is reached, further growth in consumption can be counter-productive to both social welfare and environmental sustainability. Continuing growth in the more intangible dimensions of society may be highly desirable, but there are optimum levels of many material factors in production that should not be exceeded. Sustainability requires convergence towards an optimum, rather than continuing growth without limit. UNEP, as the global voice for the environment, will need to identify where an insistence on growth has become inconsistent with environmental sustainability, and find ways to balance these conflicting interests as part of its role in the post-2015 process.

Common but differentiated responsibilities

Another challenge with global goals is to determine common but differentiated responsibilities and responses. As mentioned above, the goal to end poverty requires that the poor raise their consumption levels to a reasonable level of well-being. However, on a planet where consumption of resources and impacts on biogeochemical cycles are overshooting global capacities, the wealthier countries and populations have a responsibility to reduce their consumption levels in order to free up resources and space for the poor to meet their basic needs. The public debate on this has not yet really begun, and Europe is well-placed to be a global leader in taking this forward. Some European countries have already made successful efforts to reduce economic and social extremes

within their borders in the interest of equity and social stability, and the European Union has worked successfully to reduce differences between countries in the Union and to set community-wide environmental standards. The SDGs will extend this process explicitly to the global level.

Even within the ROE region, there are great differences between countries, that require a differentiated response on the part of UNEP ROE, and the present PoW shows this, with its emphasis on Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Implementation of the SDGs will require a wider engagement with all countries of the region, and more inter-country collaboration to explore the best ways forward. In Western Europe, the needs are more for public education on sustainable consumption and production, facilitation to build a consensus on the efforts required, cooperation on trans-boundary issues, and organizing assistance to less advanced parts of the region. Special attention needs to be given to parts of the region with special characteristics, not only the land-locked countries of Central Asia that have emerged from the former Eastern Bloc, but also the countries caught in the tension between the Russian Federation and the West, and the Balkan countries that are not part of the European Union.

The UNEP ROE, in collaboration with its UN partners, can advance two agendas simultaneously. Within the European Region, there is still much to be done, in the face of rising nationalism and xenophobia, to underline the fundamental interdependence of the countries in the region, the geographic features and environmental resources that link them together, and the benefits of reducing differences in the interests of stability and security. At the same time, Europe as an economic bloc and centre of innovation, should be one of the leading actors in rising to the aspirations of the SDGs at the global level. This will require a convergence of views, not only within the European Union, but involving all the countries of the region, on the region's fair share of the global goals, including its larger role in the globalized economy with its resource flows and trade.

Ambitious targets

One inevitable challenge with the SDG process is its ambitious global targets: end poverty, end hunger, etc. It is left to each country to set “its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances” (OWG 2014 para.18). As has been only too apparent with greenhouse gas reduction targets, the sum of all national targets generally falls far short of what is needed to reach a global goal, no matter how worthy or urgent. UNEP can play an important role for the environmental targets, both globally in showing how far the collective national targets fall short of the goal, and regionally in organizing consultations with governments and other stakeholders to determine their region's fair share of the global targets, and pushing governments to be ambitious in setting their national targets as an example to the rest of the world.

Development of indicators

One major challenge as the SDG process goes forward will be to decide on the indicators to use to measure progress towards the targets. This is an area where the European region has major competences in the European Environment Agency, OECD, Eurostat, the Joint Research Centre, and academic research programmes, among others. UNEP also has its own competence in environmental data and information processing. For remotely-sensed data, the European Space Agency can make an important contribution, and the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observation (GEO) that coordinates global satellite programmes is based in Geneva. These data will be important for many of the

environmental indicators. The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network has already made a start in proposing indicators (SDSN 2014). UNEP can encourage, support, collect and compile environmental research and monitoring data to provide a sound scientific basis for the indicators selected. Within the region, UNEP ROE can encourage partnerships where the more experienced countries assist their less advanced neighbours to set up the necessary indicator programmes.

III. SDGs and the UNEP ROE PoW

The UNEP Programme of Work (PoW) focuses on the environmental dimension of sustainable development under 7 sub-programmes, and therefore cannot be expected to cover all of the sustainable development goals, while at the same time acknowledging the necessary close integration and interlinkages with the social and economic dimensions. Deciding which goals and targets are immediately relevant to UNEP will always be somewhat subjective. Based on the proposed SDGs, eight goals are directly environmental in focus or address sustainability of natural resources (2. food and agriculture, 6. water and sanitation, 7. energy, 11. human settlements, 12. sustainable consumption and production, 13. climate change, 14. oceans, and 15. terrestrial ecosystems), and this report identifies 86 targets that concern some aspect of UNEP's PoW, including at least one in each of the 17 SDGs. **Annex I** lists relevant SDG targets under each of the 7 UNEP sub-programmes. In some cases, a target may appear under more than one sub-programme. The remaining 83 targets are essentially either social or economic in focus and not directly relevant to UNEP's mandate and programme of work.

Looking more specifically at the UNEP Regional Office for Europe, the following SDG targets relate specifically to activities in the 2014 PoW. As these programme activities go ahead in future years, they can be adapted to respond specifically to the relevant aspects of these targets, and some of the SDG indicators could be used to measure progress. Some of the targets listed here as relevant to a specific ROE project may concern more directly another UNEP subprogramme and be listed as such in Annex I. The full text of the targets is given in Annex I.

Subprogramme 1: **Climate Change**

*EA (a) **Ecosystem-based adaptation***

Pan-European Climate Change Adaptation Network

SDG targets: 1.5 (vulnerability); 2.4 (adaptation); 11.6 (impact of cities); 13.1 (resilience), 13.2 (national policies), 13.3 (capacity), 13.b (planning)

Climate change and mountain ecosystems

SDG targets: 6.6 (water-related ecosystems); 8.9 (tourism); 11.4 (natural heritage); 15.1 (mountain conservation), 15.2 (forest management), 15.4 (mountain ecosystems), 15.5 (biodiversity loss)

*EA (b) **Energy efficiency***

Mitigation plans and low emissions strategies; end use applications, buildings and cities, transport

SDG targets: 11.2 (transport), 11.b (cities); 12.c (fossil fuel subsidies)

Sectoral initiatives to make renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies bankable
SDG targets: 7.2 (renewable energy), 7.3 (energy efficiency); 12.c (fossil fuel subsidies)

Subprogramme 2: **Disasters and Conflicts**

EA (a) Environmental management to prevent and reduce risk of disaster and conflict

SDG targets: 1.5 (vulnerability); 2.4 (resilience); 11.5 (loss reduction), 11.b (urban resilience); 13.1 (adaptive capacity)

Subprogramme 3: **Ecosystem Management**

EA (a) Maintain ecosystem services

Improving extractive industry approaches in the Arctic

SDG targets: 11.4 (natural heritage), 12.2 (natural resources), 12.6 (companies to adopt sustainable practices); 14.2 (coastal ecosystems), 6.6 and 15.1 (freshwater ecosystems), 15.2 (forests), 15.3 (degraded land), 15.5 (habitats and biodiversity)

EA (c) Ecosystem services integrated with development planning

SDG targets: 2.4 (agricultural practices), 2.5 (genetic diversity); 6.1 (drinking water), 6.6 water-related ecosystems); 11.4 (natural heritage); 12.2 (natural resources); 14.2 and 14.5 (marine and coastal ecosystems); 15.1 (terrestrial ecosystems), 15.2 (forests), 15.3 (land and soil), 15.4 (mountain ecosystems), 15.5 (biodiversity)

Targets not included: 6.a (water management)

Subprogramme 4: **Environmental Governance**

EA (a) Increasing coherence of UN bodies and MEAs

Support to governments in implementation

SDG targets: 3.9 and 6.3 (hazardous chemicals); 12.4 (chemicals and wastes); 13.2 (climate change); 14.1 (marine pollution), 14.2 (marine/coastal ecosystems), 14.4 (overfishing), 14.5 (marine conservation), 14.c (regional ocean regimes); 15.1 (international agreements on terrestrial ecosystems), 15.3 (desertification), 15.4 (mountain ecosystems), 15.5 (biodiversity), 15.6 (genetic resources), 15.7 and 15.c (trafficking in protected species); 16.8 (participation in global governance), 16.10 (public access to information)

Transboundary processes

SDG targets: 6.5 (transboundary cooperation on water); 14.1 (marine pollution), 14.2 (marine/coastal ecosystems), 14.4 (overfishing), 14.5 (marine conservation), 14.c (regional ocean regimes); 15.4 (mountain ecosystems)

EA (b) Laws and institutions to achieve international environmental objectives

Human rights and environment

SDG targets: 5.5 (women's participation in decision-making), 5.a (women's rights to resources); 16.10 (protect fundamental freedoms);

MEA effectiveness and environmental law

SDG targets: 15.7 (trafficking in protected species); 15.a (financial resources for

biodiversity); 15.c (combat poaching and trafficking in protected species with sustainable livelihoods); 16.5 (reduce corruption and bribery);

Stakeholder engagement

SDG targets: 11.3 (human settlements planning); 17.16 (multi-stakeholder partnerships), 17.17 (public, public-private, and civil society partnerships)

EA (c) *Mainstreaming environmental sustainability*

Common country programming

SDG targets: 11.a (development planning); 12.7 (public procurement); 15.9 (ecosystems and biodiversity), 15.b (finance for sustainable forest management); 16.6 (effective, accountable and transparent institutions); 16.10 (public access to information); 17.14 (enhance policy coherence);

Poverty Environment initiative

SDG targets: 1.4 (equal rights to resources); 15.9 (ecosystems and biodiversity); 15.c (combat poaching and trafficking in protected species with sustainable livelihoods); 17.15 (poverty eradication)

Mainstreaming awareness raising

SDG targets: 4.7 (education for sustainable development); 5.b (ICTs for women's empowerment); 6.b (local communities water/sanitation); 9.c (access to ICTs); 12.3 (consumer food waste), 12.8 (awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles); 13.3 (climate change education) 13.b (climate change and marginalized groups); 16.10 (public access to information)

Ministerial fora

SDG targets: 10.7 (migration policies); 13.2 (climate change policies); 16.6 (effective institutions); 17.14 (policy coherence)

Targets not covered: 14.6 (fisheries subsidies), 14.c (ocean governance); 15.8 (invasive alien species)

Subprogramme 5: **Chemicals and Wastes**

EA (a) *Capacity to manage chemicals and wastes*

SDG targets: 12.4 (sound management of chemicals and wastes); 17.6 and 17.8 (international cooperation on science, technology and innovation)

EA (b) *Use of knowledge for sound chemical management*

SDG targets: 3.9 (hazardous chemicals); 6.3 (release of hazardous chemicals); 9.4 (retrofit clean industries); 12.6 (company sustainable practices);

EA (c) *Use of knowledge for sound waste management*

SDG targets: 3.2 (prevent infant mortality [from polluted water]), 3.3 (water-borne diseases); 6.2 (sanitation), 6.3 and 6.a (wastewater), 6.b (local participation); 11.6 (municipal waste management); 12.5 (waste reduction); 12.6 (company sustainable practices); 14.1 (prevent marine pollution);

Subprogramme 6: **Resource Efficiency**

This is a broad area including sustainable consumption and production, the green economy, energy and urban issues with about 35 relevant targets and some flexibility as to where they might fit into UNEP activities. It is also the most integrative topic, where different goals and targets can be considered together, and therefore almost anything can be included if desired.

EA (a) Assessments and tools for sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and green economy applied, including in urban practices

Resource use assessments

SDG targets: 6.4 (water use efficiency), 6.5 (integrated water resources management); 12.2 (sustainable management of natural resources); 13.2 (integrate climate change in national planning); 15.3 (desertification and land degradation), 15.5 (degradation of habitats, loss of biodiversity), 15.6 (benefits from genetic resources), 15.7 (trafficking in protected species), 15.8 (invasive alien species)

10YFP for SCP secretariat and clearing house

SDG targets: 12.1 (implement 10YFP for SCP); 17.6 (science, technology and innovation knowledge sharing), 17.7 (technology transfer), 17.16 (global and multi-stakeholder partnerships)

Green economy and SCP policy tools for resource efficiency

SDG targets: 7.1 (access to energy); 7.2 (renewable energy), 7.3 (energy efficiency), 7.a (access to and investment in clean energy technologies); 8.4 (resource efficiency and decoupling); 9.4 (retrofit industry with clean technology); 17.6 (science, technology and innovation)

Resource efficient cities

SDG targets: 11.6 (reduce environmental impact of cities), 11.7 (access to green and public spaces), 11.c (sustainable buildings in LDCs)

EA (b) Uptake of SCP and green economy management practices in sectoral policies, business and financial operations

SDG targets: 12.3 (food waste); 17.16 (multi-stakeholder partnerships)

EA (c) Enabling conditions for sustainable consumption

Sustainable public procurement

SDG targets: 12.7 (public procurement)

Targets not covered: 4.7 (education for sustainable lifestyles); 12.a (scientific/technological capacities for SCP)

Subprogramme 7: **Environment under Review**

EA (a) Environmental information on open platforms

SDG targets: 17.6 and 17.8 (science, technology and innovation, knowledge sharing), 17.18 (disaggregated data), 17.19 (measurements of progress beyond GDP)

EA (c) Capacity to use environmental information

SDG targets: 17.8 (capacity building and enabling technologies), 17.18 (capacity building for disaggregated data), 17.19 (statistical capacity building)

Coherence and gaps in the UNEP ROE PoW

The above mapping of the SDG targets on the ROE Programme of Work for 2014 shows the large coherence between UNEP's action in the region and the proposed SDGs. There is of course much more that UNEP could do in the region if the resources were available, and some of the targets that are not well covered at present might suggest opportunities for future activities. There are some gaps in the ROE PoW relative to the environmental dimension of the SDGs that should be considered in planning the future work programme.

Two significant areas of resource efficiency do not appear to be covered in the ROE programme, although they are of great importance to Europe and for the impact of Europe on the rest of the world. The first is agriculture, with targets: 2.1 (access to food); 2.3 (agricultural productivity); 2.4 (sustainable food production systems); 2.a (investment in agricultural production capacity), where the EU Common Agricultural Policy has impacts far beyond its borders. Although, the cases studies put together by ROE for successful implementation of sustainable agriculture techniques by small farmers in six countries of Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus could be expanded to address this challenge. The second is ocean fisheries, with targets: 14.4 (end overfishing and restore fish stocks), 14.6 (fisheries subsidies), 14.7 (benefits from marine resources), 14.a (marine research and technologies for developing countries), 14.b (access for artisanal fishers). Subsidized European fishing fleets have a major impact on fisheries far from Europe, so these targets should be seen as a European responsibility even if their application is in countries far away. Ships flagged in European countries or owned by European entities are an extension of Europe even if operating in other seas. While the main responsibility for these topics within the UN lies with FAO, ROE should consider whether there are environmental and sustainability dimensions to which it could usefully contribute, such as in the areas of integrated land and water management and regional seas, as well as Europe's impact on global sustainability goals.

More generally, apart from the Black Sea and Caspian environment programmes, and the Arctic Agenda 2020 Programme in the Russian Arctic and other UNEP work in the Arctic (UNEP 2013), the oceans and coastal areas seem absent from the present PoW, yet Europe has a significant impact on Goal 14 and its related targets, and has often fallen short in its own attempts at management of the marine environment. Ocean acidification (target 14.3) is another emerging issue linked to CO₂ emissions, where the strong research capacity in Europe could be directed towards possible responses.

Another topic not covered is sustainable tourism, with targets 8.9 (sustainable tourism) and 12.b (tools to monitor impacts of tourism). In addition to the sustainability within Europe of tourism and the natural resources on which tourism is often based, climate change is expected to have significant impacts on tourism in the years ahead. Furthermore, given the importance of Europeans as tourists all around the world, Europe has a responsibility to support efforts to make tourism sustainable wherever Europeans go.

Migration (target 10.7) is another issue where UNEP and its UN partners could provide a useful perspective on a politically-sensitive question. Environmental degradation is already one pressure pushing people to migrate, and climate change and related sea level rise are expected to increase the number of permanently displaced people by orders of magnitude, including within Europe. If not properly anticipated and managed, this could lead to political

and humanitarian crises. Proactive measures are needed to consider the multiple facets of migration from a regional perspective, including the responsibility for solidarity resulting from European greenhouse gas emissions; the social, environmental and economic capacities to receive migrants; the institutional arrangements necessary to manage the problem; and the necessary education of receiving populations to see migrants not as a threat but as an opportunity. This issue was featured in the regional consultation on the post-2015 development agenda in Istanbul in 2013 (UN 2013b). Furthermore, UNEP should use its recently granted observer status to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Council to sharing knowledge and expertise in the fields of environment sustainability, including in the areas of climate change migration vulnerability, natural disasters, and build capacity for early warning and response.

A new Europe-wide perspective on sustainability

While the present ROE projects are largely concentrated in Eastern Europe and Central Asia where the needs of governments are greatest, the SDGs suggest a new need for ROE to engage more actively with Western Europe to define the appropriate trajectory for the wealthiest and most developed countries of the region as they take on the SDGs. The issue is not only sustainability within each country or within the region. There may be a need to help the region to address its impacts on the rest of the world and its larger role in achieving the global aspirational goals and targets. One dimension is the region's role in development assistance, and thus in achieving the many targets for the needs of the poor, the least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). UNEP ROE should explore with the UN ECE, the Council of Europe, the EU institutions, the European Environment Agency and other potential partners the best ways to take this dialogue forward and the roles that each could play in the process. Some of the relevant issues have been discussed above.

In support of this process, UNEP should consider what it could do to facilitate the equitable global sharing of responsibilities for achieving the global environmental goals and targets. This could include providing global environmental assessments of planetary capacities and forecasts of the projected environmental damage, and compiling a global perspective on the efforts required to meet the environmental SDGs, as a basis for determine collective national responsibilities. The next step would be to provide a scientific basis for sharing the effort between countries, for example by determining historical responsibilities (shares of global damage, impacts of colonialism, etc.), and measuring the environmental impacts of imported primary commodities and the outsourcing of production of finished products on environmental degradation in other countries and regions. This global perspective could then be regionalized by each UNEP Regional Office as a basis for consultations within each region.

IV. The challenges of integration across the dimensions of sustainable development

The Open Working Group has emphasized that “these goals constitute an integrated, indivisible set of global priorities for sustainable development.... The goals and targets integrate economic, social and environmental aspects and recognize their interlinkages in achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions.” The SDGs are a package, and need to be addressed by each country in an integrated way, with each determining its share of responsibility in achieving the aspirational global targets. While the UN as a whole probably covers all the goals, UNEP will be more concerned by those that are directly

environmental and linked to the priority issues in its work programme: climate change, disasters & conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals & wastes, resource efficiency and the environment under review. It has also received from Rio+20 responsibility for sustainable consumption and production, now included in resource efficiency.

While UNEP is directly responsible for the environmental aspect, it needs to identify linkages with the social and economic aspects and ensure that they are progressing as well in cooperation with other parts of the UN system and relevant partners. The *UNEP Integrated Approach to the Post 2015 Agenda* (UNEP 2014a) is an important step in this direction. ROE will need to collaborate in or establish mechanisms to ensure this large scale integration for both country and regional projects. In its own activities, it will need to be conscious of and take into consideration these interlinkages.

The *UNEP Integrated Approach* discusses different approaches to integration. One is integration through clustering. An objective is selected, such as achieving food security through sustainable agriculture. The key issues that contribute to achieving this objective are identified and brought together towards a common goal. In this example, the food, water, energy, rural development as key sectors, are complemented by emerging issues such as food loss and waste, and nutrient management, to achieve sustainable agriculture and poverty alleviation. Such an approach is relevant where a country has a single sector economy, or has met basic development needs and is moving towards achieving an inclusive green economy. This approach helps to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development, and establishes a definitive scope, thus helping to speed up delivery. In such an approach, all relevant sectors would be expected to prepare their sectoral plans so as to contribute to the common objective. In doing so, they define and discuss areas of convergence, synergies, and how to manage trade-offs and unintended consequences. All sectors are held accountable to measuring their progress towards the common approach. However, care must be taken to include all relevant sectors, and to build a coalition of actors and partners.

A more holistic approach is to view all the objectives as a comprehensive package. While this approach is more complex than the previous, it is quite feasible. An analysis is conducted on how each objective or goal influences the achievement of another goal. A solutions tree can be constructed, based on a country's particular situation (UNEP 2014a).

In order to eradicate extreme poverty and achieve sustainable development as called for in the SDGs, an integrated approach needs to be taken to the implementation of the goals and targets. Such an integration would bring different sectors together for win-win benefits. Poverty eradication can be irreversibly attained if it is achieved through a universal commitment to sustainable development. The SDGs have three common denominators that demonstrate the convergence between the MDGs and the Rio processes: a) leave no one behind; b) ensure equity and dignity for all; and c) achieve prosperity within the earth's planetary boundaries. This would be a more integrated way to cluster the goals and targets. Their implementation can be achieved through integrated solutions. The *UNEP Integrated Approach* gives examples (below) of such interlinked solutions (UNEP 2014a).

Eradicating extreme poverty and inequality, and providing decent employment through an inclusive green economy (Goals 1,8 and 10)

This would link the poverty agenda to the issues of green economy, and green and decent jobs. Income-based poverty measures are too narrow in focus. Poverty is a lack of many other assets, including education and skills, health, sanitation, water, shelter, security,

natural capital, energy, and formal or informal means of production. Similarly, measures of wealth and growth focus only on a few economic indices. Redefining poverty and economic growth would show the true state of a nation's wealth and the sustainability of its growth. Investments in green and decent jobs will provide the foundation for sustainability. It is also necessary to invest in improving the sustainability of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and animal husbandry that the poor depend on, so as to protect existing jobs and reduce rural to urban migration. A combination of nationally appropriate green economy measures at macro, meso and microeconomic levels, and social policy tools, offers a viable pathway for reducing extreme poverty, increasing inclusiveness and addressing environmental and economic risks.

Sustainable Consumption and Production and economic growth (Goals 8 and 12, with benefits to all other goals)

Interlinked solutions would include valuing, maintaining and increasing natural capital. There would be a focus on sustainable innovation and dematerialization processes, such as industrial ecology, resource substitution, and biomimicry, as well as on policies to redirect investment, transfer technologies and establish measures to retrain workers for sustainable production, and on sustainable public procurement, since governments are the largest consumer in many national economies. Sustainable agricultural systems tend to be more labour intensive, and this replaces often-toxic or polluting chemical inputs. Sustainable consumption is about consuming better, more responsibly and efficiently, with less risk to our health, environment and society; it can be promoted through a mix of policy, economic and voluntary instruments, including formal and informal education.

Sustainable water and energy services (goals 1, 6, 7, 13)

There are interlinked solutions that work on water and energy simultaneously. Capacity development and investment in technologies can improve water resource efficiency, equitable water allocation, and resilience to climate variability and change. Universal access to modern sustainable energy services for cooking, water extraction and productive use, through widespread and off-grid investment in renewable energy, will provide important benefits for health, local economic development and climate change mitigation, and reduce a special burden placed on women. Much can be done to improve water and energy efficiency in buildings and cities. Urgent reforms of wasteful fossil fuel subsidies are needed to provide a level playing field for transformative improvement of global energy systems.

Food security through maintaining and repairing our life support system (goals 2, 5, 13, 14 and 15)

Measures should include a major shift towards eco-based production, water-use efficiency, energy efficiency in food production, reversing and restoring degraded lands to their natural potential, and recognizing the value of ecosystem services and natural capital. It is also necessary to address unequal access and rights to natural resources and empowering smallholders and rural women as critical agents for food security and protection of agrobiodiversity. Ensuring tenure for smallholder farmers and women allows them to invest in and protect their land from degradation. A major shift towards sustainable diets can minimize environmental impacts, increase nutritional value and ensure sustainable livelihoods for farmers. Policy reforms can address issues such as access regimes, fiscal structures and perverse subsidies, innovative public/private sector partnerships, innovative management and financing mechanisms, and enforcement of measures to improve the state of the oceans and their resources.

The rural-urban continuum, sustainable cities and infrastructure (goals 9, 11, 12)

Well-planned, compact cities that offer a mix of land uses, building typologies, transport and jobs generally also offer higher levels of well-being at lower rates of resource use and emissions. Strong urban-rural linkages for regional infrastructure and ecosystem services, smart and low-carbon cities and balanced territorial development will ensure sustainable economic growth. Integrated solutions include: using land in a resource efficient manner; minimizing sprawl and landscape fragmentation and maximizing the conservation of peri-urban agricultural land and rural habitat; promoting land tenure and strengthening the rights and livelihoods of rural and urban tenants alike; and promoting national policies that support the balanced development of territories.

Health, chemicals and the environment (goals 3, 4, 15)

The overall aim should be a clean and healthy living environment, free of chemical pollution and contamination, nutrient overload and hypoxia, plastic litter (including marine litter) and other waste. Switching to cleaner fuels and alternative sources of energy, and more efficient production and use of fuels and energy, are effective ways to address air pollution exposures and thereby improve health, and derive other benefits, such as reduced deforestation, increased access to modern energy services and a reduction in black carbon. Sustainable land, water and forest management, along with conservation and restoration, will protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services, and result in greater food security thus reducing malnutrition, and provide a clean and healthy environment to nurture cultural, social and recreational activities that are important to our mental health, and economic growth for local populations and businesses. Reducing water-related diseases and protecting water quality from all sources of wastewater pollution is essential for sustainable development. Measures to reduce impacts from climate change can address threats to public health. Phasing out of the remaining ozone-depleting substances, and the sound management of existing ozone-depleting substances will prevent millions of cancer-related deaths.

Environment for peaceful and resilient societies (goals 13, 14, 15, 16)

Sound stewardship of natural assets, sustainable ecosystems management and improved environmental governance are critical to the development of peaceful societies that are resilient to social, economic and environmental shocks. Customary and statutory processes should be accessible to all, and the relationship between the two should be clear. Governments and businesses need to commit to sustainable and transparent practices and accountability frameworks. Peace agreements and peace-building interventions should address grievances related to the environment and natural resources, including about access, use or ownership of land and water. Preventing illegal and illicit exploitation, including trafficking in wildlife, timber or minerals, reduces conflict drivers and improves the chances for sustainable development. Inclusive decision-making processes should ensure fair representation and participation of those who are affected by natural resource overexploitation.

Implementing an integrated agenda

The integrated approach is applicable to all three phases of a cycle: global and national agenda setting; implementation and delivery; and monitoring, reporting and measurement of an integrated agenda. ROE will be particularly interested in agenda setting at the regional and national levels, using the SDGs as a guide. For implementation and delivery, the above examples from the *UNEP Integrated Approach* can suggest how the existing ROE PoW can evolve to deliver more interlinked solutions within the SDG framework. This would also reinforce the UN effort for delivery as one, through partnerships with other agencies.

UNEP has always been a leader in environmental data and information, from the Global Environment Monitoring System and UN System-wide Earthwatch set up after the Stockholm Conference, to the Global Resources Information Database (GRID), World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and UNEPLive today. In response to the need for monitoring and assessment of the SDG indicators, the UN Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG 2014) has prepared a report: *A World That Counts: Mobilising The Data Revolution for Sustainable Development*, calling for a global consensus on principles and standards for data, a network of data innovation networks, capacity development and funding, a UN-led Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to mobilize and coordinate data collection and analysis, and an SDGs data lab to develop the initial indicators and dashboard. With much of UNEP's data expertise based in Europe, it should play a leading role in the environmental dimension of these initiatives. In particular, given the expertise available within the region, ROE should be able to help to close key gaps in access to and use of data across the region: between developed and developing countries, between information-rich and information-poor people, and between the private and public sectors. The IEAG report notes that: "data on many environmental issues is particularly sparse. There is almost no useful data on chemical pollutants, despite toxic waste dumping being a serious environmental and health issue in some countries. Likewise, we lack sound and agreed-upon metrics for tracking excessive flows of reactive nitrogen." (IEAG 2014, p. 14)

Integration needs to be pursued in multiple ways simultaneously. The first is the integration across disciplines and the dimensions of sustainable development described above. The Open Working Group has gone to great efforts to build such integration into its proposed SDGs, but some governments, in an effort at simplification, have wanted to cut this back. Since governments are divided into ministries by sector, and the academic world trains people by discipline, there is a natural tendency to resist interdisciplinary work, since this can make life more difficult by introducing the complexity of issues today. The environment is often the dimension that gets marginalized since it may constrain an economic system still wedded to growth and short-term targets. The continued marginalization of ecological economics and the resistance in some quarters to the green economy proposed by UNEP show that the effort at integration through transdisciplinary approaches must continue.

Beyond what might be considered as the intellectual integration of subjects or disciplines lies the challenge of rethinking the institutions of society and the processes by which it functions, including governments, the private sector, academia and civil society. These too often reflect a "silo" approach to the functions of society disregarding larger impacts and implications. Bureaucracies are notorious for not wanting to collaborate. Institutional reform is one of the most difficult issues in the move towards sustainability, with enormous inertia and resistance to change. Europe is already struggling with this. ROE could at least look for examples of institutional innovation and changes in processes that facilitate integration within the region, and encourage their replication.

Ultimately, the concept of sustainability and the necessary integration to achieve it need to be understood and accepted by each individual, requiring a change in mind-set, if not in the whole paradigm of development. The transition to sustainability will ultimately be a transition in thinking, which will then be expressed naturally in institutions and activities. This is one of the goals of the Global Action Programme for Education for Sustainable Development (UNESCO 2014). There is little effort at present to train people in complex systems thinking, with a vision of the whole, and to cultivate the ability to communicate across the disciplines. A good example of what is needed is Fritjof Capra's recent book

“*The Systems View of Life*” (Capra and Luisi 2014). UNEP ROE might consider what it can do to respond to this need, as it did a few years ago with the UNEP/University of Geneva Environmental Diplomacy programme which provided interdisciplinary training to diplomats. Such activities in building the human capacity for complex systems management and sustainability, even at a small scale, can have a catalytic impact across the region and beyond. It should build on its work on environmental education, and in particular use its engagement in the Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) to create new mind sets, and share sustainability solutions and mainstream the environment and sustainable concept.

V. Recommendations for applying the UNEP integrated approach

Based on the above analysis, the following recommendations may be useful as UNEP ROE plans to integrate the SDGs into its future Programme of Work, beyond what is already covered.

Common country programming

The SDGs, with 169 targets and probably many more indicators, will represent a challenge at first to each government as it considers how to integrate them into its national strategies, policies and programmes. The same way that ROE has worked on to develop this analytical report will repeat themselves for each government and organization. How do the SDGs map across existing actions? What is missing, and what should be strengthened or reoriented? What can be done with existing resources, and where will outside assistance and support be necessary? The UNEP project “Integrated Approach for Environmental Sustainability in Development Planning”, in which ROE is implementing as a pilot in Azerbaijan, will provide lessons that can be replicated in other countries.

Assistance with national planning on SDGs will thus be needed, and ROE and its UN partners should consider how to make this as efficient as possible, either as part of common country programming, or on an ad hoc basis. Planning tools, training courses, consultant assistance, on-line support, examples of good practice, and ultimately strengthened statistical services, will all be needed to put the SDGs into place at the national level.

There may even be a need for a country to consider institutional reforms, legislation, new planning procedures, and retraining of civil servants as they rise to the challenges that the SDGs represent and try to develop more integrated approaches.

Poverty and environment

The elimination of poverty has been an absolute priority for sustainable development since the Brundtland Commission, and is still central to the SDGs, building on the partial success of the Millennium Development Goals. The ROE Poverty Environment Initiative responds to this priority, and the SDGs provide a new framework to see where UNEP can contribute to advancing these goals wherever poverty occurs in the region. This can link both to improved natural resource management and to green job creation where they aim to reduce poverty and generate revenues. The examples from the *UNEP Integrated Approach* above show how this can be done.

Natural resources management

A significant number of the SDGs refer to sustainable management of natural resources, and in Europe these often have transboundary dimensions, whether in river basins,

mountain regions, or seas and coastal areas. The transboundary mechanisms that UNEP has pioneered are particularly appropriate in Europe and Central Asia, and should be continued, possibly with a new focus on the SDGs. There may be potential to extend this to invasive species, which generally do not respect national boundaries. There will also be growing challenges to adapt resource management to climate change.

The Europe and Central Asian Regional Consultation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in 2013 made several proposals to address natural resources, sustainable consumption and production, and green cities (UN 2013b). These included ensuring that the valuation of natural capital and ecosystems is integrated into policy and decision making, encouraging sustainable consumption and production to balance human needs and planetary boundaries, and accelerating the shift from the brown to green economy through policy frameworks, investment, procurement and sustainability appraisal (including environmental impact assessment). For cities, it called for urban planning, governance, technology and citizen participation to move towards smart, resilient and green cities (UN 2013b).

The energy transition

One of the greatest challenges to a sustainable economy is to replace the energy subsidy represented by cheap fossil fuels. Energy is essential for advanced civilization and development. There was already concern about “peak oil” even before climate change made it apparent that most of the existing fossil fuel reserves would need to be left in the ground to prevent run-away global warming. The IPCC has warned of the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems, and called for substantial and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (IPCC 2014).

SDG Goal 7 focusses on energy, and Europe as a region is particularly challenged by the necessary energy transition, due to its dependence on fossil fuels and highly polluting coal which have significant environmental and climate change impacts. The countries of the region need to decarbonize their economies; remove fossil fuel subsidies; accelerate their energy and raw material efficiency programmes; increase the share of renewable energy in their overall energy usage; and transfer their expertise in pursuing low carbon growth to other countries. The high income countries in Europe have great experience in uptake of green technologies and in the financing of investment in this field. Countries and the region as a whole need to create an institutional framework to foster more efficient use of energy and resources, and to build partnerships with the private sector to boost investment in environmentally friendly technologies, including setting targets and changing regulatory environments (UN 2013a). ROE is already well engaged in this field, and the need can only increase with stronger action on climate change. The energy issue can easily be interlinked with other goals as well.

Beyond the role of carbon compounds as greenhouse gases, petrochemicals are also essential to the chemical, plastic, fertilizer and pharmaceutical industries, among others. European industries will need to innovate to replace fossil sources of carbon compounds with organic feedstocks from recent primary production without destabilizing food production, increasing the pressure on natural areas, or creating undue environmental impacts. This is a medium-term challenge and proactive measures could ensure that it goes forward with sustainability at the centre of considerations.

Climate change adaptation

The impacts of climate change will be highly variable across the region, with drought more frequent in the southern areas, increased rainfall and possible cooling (if the Gulf Stream

falters) in the north, and greater extremes leading to hot spells, crop failures and flooding, not to mention water shortages from reduced snowpack in mountain areas. Sea level rise will also represent a severe challenge later in the century, for which anticipatory planning will be necessary. These are largely transboundary issues and will benefit from regional approaches to adaptation. ROE can help to bring this issue up for discussion in existing mechanisms, or propose new ones where necessary.

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP)

A major part of the European action necessary for the SDGs falls under the UNEP subprogramme for Resource Efficiency and the 10 Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP SCP) (<http://www.unep.org/10yfp/tabid/106264/Default.aspx>), with a large number of targets to be met. The 10YFP includes consumer information; sustainable lifestyles and education; sustainable public procurement; sustainable buildings and construction; sustainable tourism, including ecotourism; and sustainable food systems. This will obviously be an ongoing priority for ROE, as for all of the parts of UNEP. ROE should consider which targets are essentially a national responsibility, and which could benefit from a regional, sub-regional, or ecoregional approach.

Green jobs

Unemployment is an enormous challenge in Europe, as elsewhere, and there is general agreement that the region is not responding to the needs of its youth. There are millions of unemployed young people that may become a lost generation, not to mention the threat of social destabilization. The existing economic system depends on growth in the private sector for job creation, but the private sector seeks productivity and profit, not job creation, and forecasts suggest little growth in Europe in the years ahead.

Europe cannot wait for traditional forms of economic growth to solve this problem. Employment creation, like poverty reduction, needs to be reconsidered apart from growth as mobilizing the human capital in society, and green jobs can be an important part of that process. If young people have meaningful employment or entrepreneurial opportunities, the wealth creation will follow. The 10YFP has already identified education, sustainable food systems, ecotourism, and sustainable buildings as priority areas, and these can be labour intensive. Many renewable energy sources can also create employment opportunities, as can waste management and recycling. The innovation now taking place, often at the grass roots, in social and solidarity enterprises should be extended in its environmental dimension, and ROE could become a clearing house for good practices in green job creation.

Public education

At least in Western Europe, decades of progress have led to an expectation in politics, in business, in labour, and among the general public of an unsustainable consumer lifestyle with continuing growth and endlessly-rising purchasing power. It is only young people who are beginning to doubt that their lives will be as good as those of their parents. To reach the SDGs, these expectations will have to be questioned, replacing the goal of endless growth by a culture of sustainability, including optimal levels of well-being, greater social justice, moderation in some material dimensions of life, and qualitative improvement in other areas.

The Global Action Programme (GAP) for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) adopted in Aichi-Nagoya in November 2014 has set five priorities: advancing policy, transforming learning and training environments, building capacities of educators and trainers, empowering and mobilizing youth, and accelerating sustainable solutions at local

level, and UNESCO has provided a roadmap for their implementation (UNESCO 2014). UNEP, in its work with governments, should give high priority to the first action area: mainstreaming ESD into both education and sustainable development policies, to create an enabling environment for ESD and to bring about systemic change. It should see that the other action areas are taken up by governments in any projects that UNEP is involved in. This will also support the 10YFP on sustainable lifestyles and education.

In Europe, ROE should lead efforts to develop new visions of responsible living and the desirability of a sustainable lifestyle in the European context that can be introduced into education, the media, and other channels of public information. Public education will also be important in climate change adaptation, in preparation for increasing migration, and in the solidarity necessary to support less fortunate parts of the world in working towards the shared global goals.

Participation

A repeating theme in the SDGs and the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda is stakeholder involvement, public participation, partnerships, transparency and access to information. The unimplemented declarations, forgotten promises and ineffective top-down programmes of the past have damaged public confidence in government. In the lead-up to Rio+20, the UN and the Brazilian government took advantage of the new information technologies to open the preparatory process to widespread public participation by major groups and civil society, and the Open Working Group followed a similar process in consulting widely about the SDGs. The regional consultations in Europe and Central Asia on the post-2015 agenda emphasized the benefits of co-creating partnerships (UN 2013a), and partnerships are one of the essential elements defined by the Secretary-General in his synthesis report (UN 2014). This is an important way to reinforce buy-in and implementation, and should become standard practice in UNEP and the UN generally. There are many constructive forces in the private sector that can similarly be channeled in the transition to sustainability.

The Post-2015 consultation has clearly shown partnership with civil society and the private sector needs to go beyond just lobbying, fund-raising or corporate social responsibility. ROE can further facilitate broader roles for civil society and the private sector in the implementation of sustainable development agenda.. There is great potential in multi-stakeholder dialogue and public accountability around the SDGs. ROE and its partners can work together to promote national consultations on defining agendas, priorities and implementation, and to create issue-based alliances for more engaged and collaborative implementation. The Integrated Approach project (UNEP 2014b) can provide a model for maintaining national leadership and creating greater national ownership in a common development agenda for sustainability.

Environmental data

Environmental data of sufficient quality and frequency for assessment and monitoring is a challenge UNEP has struggled with for more than 40 years. Fortunately improvements in science and advances in miniaturization, automatization and data processing should increasingly make data collection and analysis more cost effective. The selection of the SDG indicators for environmental parameters should be integrated with the design of data collection methods that can be standardized and generalized to provide the necessary global coverage, and be implemented in countries at all stages of development without the need for costly scientific infrastructure. Europe has the scientific sophistication and experience to identify the most appropriate methods and to prepare standard monitoring protocols that can be adopted in the framework of the SDGs. ROE, the Chemical

Conventions, GRID, the European Environment Agency, and other partners could collaborate in the relevant topical areas, and UNEP WCMC with IUCN and the CBD could take the lead on biodiversity indicators. UNEPLive could now be structured in the framework of the SDGs, both emphasizing the environmental goals, targets and indicators that fall within UNEP's remit and signaling progress, and demonstrating the links to the social and economic targets and indicators that make the SDGs all together a coherent global project for planetary sustainability.

The region's share of global SDGs

As mentioned previously, the environmental footprint of Europe extends far beyond its shores, and this needs to be considered in calculating the region's share of the aspirational global goals represented in the SDGs. UNEP, as the voice for the environment in the UN system, should lead in the global accounting of planetary environmental boundaries and the public goods represented by ecosystem services. These are the global accounts of environmental capital essential for defining planetary sustainability. Where we are overshooting these boundaries, UNEP needs to bring home to governments, through its own channels and the new global sustainable development report, what this means in terms of costs and lost opportunities. This is an important step towards apportioning responsibilities, which governments have been trying hard to avoid. With appropriate indicators, it should also be possible to show where environmental restoration is rebuilding natural capital.

Based on these global figures, ROE should help in the calculation of what this represents for the region as a whole, and should contribute to processes to allocate appropriate shares of this responsibility to each country in the region, based on the best scientific evidence available. This sharing of responsibility for the SDGs should be seen by all to be just and equitable.

VI. Conclusions

The UN Post-2015 Agenda, with its Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators and a global Sustainable Development Report, is creating a more coherent and integrated framework for national and regional policy and planning in the urgent need to transition towards sustainability. Europe has much to contribute to this global process, and can also benefit from innovating and leading in fields that will determine success in the future. While China has the resources to charge ahead in technology and industry, Europe is much better placed to take the lead in advancing the social, institutional and governance dimensions of a more sustainable society, as well as in sustainable environmental resource management. While UNEP's own resources are limited, it should maintain a broad overview of the environmental dimension reflected in the SDGs, and invite partners to take up the many things it cannot do itself. The SDG indicators will provide systems of measurement and accountability that will make it easier to demonstrate concrete results. The UNEP ROE should orient its future Programme of Work to build a regional strategy for the sustainability transition defined by the SDGs, and to support demonstration activities in countries of the region that can serve as an example for others to follow.

To use a musical analogy, the SDGs are a new symphony, the countries of the region are the orchestra, and ROE as the conductor can set the tempo and lead everyone in producing a harmonious result.

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VIII. (ANNEX 1) UNEP SUB-PROGRAMMES AND RELEVANT SDG TARGETS

Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals, 19 July 2014

INTRODUCTION

3. Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development.

13. Rio+20 reaffirmed that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions which is our overarching goal.

1. Climate change

1.5 by 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

2.4 by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality

10.7 facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

11.2 by 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

11.b by 2020, increase by x% the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, develop and implement in line with the forthcoming Hyogo Framework holistic disaster risk management at all levels

12.c rationalize inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

13.1 strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.2 integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning

13.3 improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning

13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, in LDCs, including focusing on women, youth, local and marginalized communities

14.3 minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

2. Disasters & conflicts

1.5 by 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

2.4 by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality

11.5 by 2030 significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of affected people and decrease by y% the economic losses relative to GDP caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with the focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

11.b by 2020, increase by x% the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, develop and implement in line with the forthcoming Hyogo Framework holistic disaster risk management at all levels

13.1 strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

3. Ecosystem management

2.4 by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality

2.5 by 2020 maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at national, regional and international levels, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as internationally agreed

6.1 by 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

6.6 by 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

6.a by 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

8.9 by 2030 devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism which creates jobs, promotes local culture and products

10.7 facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

11.4 strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

12.2 by 2030 achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

12.6 encourage companies, especially large and trans-national companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

14.2 by 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration, to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.5 by 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information

15.1 by 2020 ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2 by 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation by x% globally

15.3 by 2020, combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world

15.4 by 2030 ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, to enhance their capacity to provide benefits which are essential for sustainable development

15.5 take urgent and significant action to reduce degradation of natural habitat, halt the loss of biodiversity, and by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

4. Environmental governance

1.4 by 2030 ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have

equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance

5.5 ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life

5.a undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws

11.3 by 2030 enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

11.a support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

12.7 promote public procurement practices that are sustainable in accordance with national policies and priorities

14.6 by 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation

14.c ensure the full implementation of international law, as reflected in UNCLOS for states parties to it, including, where applicable, existing regional and international regimes for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by their parties

15.7 take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

15.8 by 2020 introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems, and control or eradicate the priority species

15.9 by 2020, integrate ecosystems and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies, and accounts

15.a mobilize and significantly increase from all sources financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

15.b mobilize significantly resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management, and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance sustainable forest management, including for conservation and reforestation

15.c enhance global support to efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

16.5 substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms

16.6 develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

16.8 broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

16.10 ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

17.14 enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

17.15 respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

17.16 enhance the global partnership for sustainable development complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries

17.17 encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

5. Chemicals & wastes

3.2 by 2030 end preventable deaths of newborns and under-five children

3.3 by 2030 end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases

3.9 by 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination

6.2 by 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

6.3 by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and increasing recycling and safe reuse by x% globally

6.a by 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

6.b support and strengthen the participation of local communities for improving water and sanitation management

9.4 by 2030 upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally

sound technologies and industrial processes, all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

11.6 by 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality, municipal and other waste management

12.4 by 2020 achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle in accordance with agreed international frameworks and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

12.5 by 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse

12.6 encourage companies, especially large and trans-national companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

14.1 by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

17.6 enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, particularly at UN level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism when agreed

17.8 fully operationalize the Technology Bank and STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) capacity building mechanism for LDCs by 2017, and enhance the use of enabling technologies in particular ICT

6. Resource efficiency

2.1 by 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.3 by 2030 double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

2.4 by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality

2.a increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development, and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries

4.7 by 2030 ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

6.4 by 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity, and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

6.5 by 2030 implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

7.1 by 2030 ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services

7.2 increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030

7.3 double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030

7.a by 2030 enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technologies, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies

8.4 improve progressively through 2030 global resource efficiency in consumption and production, and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production with developed countries taking the lead

9.4 by 2030 upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

11.6 by 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality, municipal and other waste management

11.7 by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

11.c support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, for sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

12.1 implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP), all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

12.2 by 2030 achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

12.3 by 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses

12.7 promote public procurement practices that are sustainable in accordance with national policies and priorities

12.a support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

13.2 integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning

14.4 by 2020, effectively regulate harvesting, and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

14.6 by 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation

14.7 by 2030 increase the economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

14.a increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacities and transfer marine technology taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular SIDS and LDCs

14.b provide access of small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

15.3 by 2020, combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world

15.5 take urgent and significant action to reduce degradation of natural habitat, halt the loss of biodiversity, and by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

15.6 ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, and promote appropriate access to genetic resources

15.7 take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

15.8 by 2020 introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems, and control or eradicate the priority species

17.6 enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination

among existing mechanisms, particularly at UN level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism when agreed

17.7 promote development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

17.16 enhance the global partnership for sustainable development complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries

7. The environment under review

12.b develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism which creates jobs, promotes local culture and products

17.6 enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, particularly at UN level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism when agreed

17.8 fully operationalize the Technology Bank and STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) capacity building mechanism for LDCs by 2017, and enhance the use of enabling technologies in particular ICT

17.18 by 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

17.19 by 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement GDP, and support statistical capacity building in developing countries

CROSS-CUTTING

17.9 enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation.