

The future we need

Progressio's response to the Zero Draft document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012: Rio+20

February 2012

Progressio welcomes the Rio+20 Zero Draft, while urging a higher level of ambition and commitment. We are pleased that many of the points Progressio made in our Zero Draft submission have been articulated in this Draft.

But there is still much work to be done over the coming months to ensure the Rio+20 Summit will be meaningful, consequential, and relevant. The draft needs to reflect a greater level of ambition if it is to best serve the needs of poor and marginalised people globally. Progressio calls for:

- **Stronger focus on water for livelihoods of poor people and communities**
- **Green and fair economy for dignified, fulfilled lives, recognising intergenerational solidarity and environmental limits**
- **Meaningful participation of poor and marginalised people and priority groups, especially women and children**
- **Water and poverty eradication are central to the Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Action on climate change should be given prominence**
- **Call for effective enforcement of legislation on illegal logging**

Progressio would like to see a green *and fair* economy. We need economic policies which protect natural capital for the long term, while also building livelihoods and addressing poverty. For poor and marginalised people, protecting the environment must go hand in hand with protecting their livelihoods and improving their quality of life. **Water** is critical for sustainable development, including poverty and hunger eradication, because of the importance of water for livelihoods. Access to water must be sustainable and equitable, and **sustainable and equitable water resources management** is a key goal of the green and fair economy.

In order to reduce their poverty, poor and marginalised people, especially women and children, need to have greater influence on decisions and policies which affect their lives. They need to have the opportunity for **meaningful participation**. There needs to be a clear commitment to measures to promote gender equality, particularly with regard to women's access to and ownership of resources.

Progressio supports the **Sustainable Development Goals**. The SDGs will be a key tool to help the international community agree, plan and monitor progress on sustainable and fair development. Water must continue to be central to the SDGs, and poverty eradication must be an essential element. It is also crucial that the process of building global consensus on the SDGs is seen as fair, to specifically include the meaningful participation of poor and marginalised people.

Stronger focus on water for livelihoods of poor people and communities

- Maintain recognition of **water as critical** to sustainable development, including poverty and hunger eradication, because of the importance of **water for livelihoods**. Maintain recognition that **water is a cross-cutting issue**.
- Emphasise that access to water must be **sustainable and equitable**. Recognise **sound and equitable** water management as a key goal of the green and fair economy. This must consider and include the poorest in decision-making. Recognise that many poor communities depend directly on natural resources and natural ecosystems for their **wellbeing and livelihoods**, and can only improve their quality of life through more equitable and sustainable management of natural resources.
- Recognise **women's crucial role as water managers** for poor families and communities.
- Recognise the importance of **local communities' knowledge** of water management to sustainable and equitable water management.
- Clearly recognise the complex **links between water, energy, food and climate change** throughout the text, particularly to clearly link water and climate change.
- References to **hydropower** as a sustainable development option should be reviewed. There is evidence that hydropower can be damaging to communities and ecosystems if not managed properly. It is not sustainable per se. Reference to the importance of water in meeting energy needs is preferable, as this also recognises the role of water in other forms of energy production.

Text recommendations

We support text along the lines of (paragraph 14): **[We recognize that many of the world's populations, especially the poor, depend directly on the natural ecosystems for their cultural, economic and physical wellbeing.- G77]**

17. ... It is important to enable all members of civil society to be actively engaged in sustainable development by incorporating their specific knowledge and practical know-how into national and local policy making[, **RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES' KNOWLEDGE FOR SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**]. In this regard, we also acknowledge the role of national parliaments in furthering sustainable development.

25. We are convinced that a green **[AND FAIR]** economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should contribute to meeting key goals – ... sound **[AND EQUITABLE]** water management, universal access to modern energy services, sustainable cities, management of oceans and improving resilience and disaster preparedness, as well as public health, human resource development and sustained, inclusive and equitable growth that generates employment. It should be based on the Rio principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and should be people-centred and inclusive, providing opportunities and benefits for all citizens and all countries.

64. We reaffirm the right to food and call upon all States to prioritize sustainable intensification of food production through increased investment in local[, **SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE**] food production, improved access to local and global agri-food markets, and reduced waste throughout the supply chain, with special attention to women, smallholders, youth, and indigenous farmers. We are committed to ensuring proper nutrition for our people.

65. We call for more transparent and open trading systems and, where appropriate, practices that contribute to the stability of food prices and domestic markets; ensure [**SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE**] access to land, water and other resources; and support social protection programmes.

67. We underline the importance of the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. Furthermore, we highlight the critical importance of water resources for sustainable development, including poverty and hunger eradication, public health, food security, [hydropower **ENERGY**], agriculture and rural development. [**SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IS THEREFORE CRITICAL, INCLUDING SPECIFIC CONSIDERATION OF VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED (PRIORITY) GROUPS, RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S OFTEN CRITICAL ROLES IN WATER MANAGEMENT FOR POOR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES, AND RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES' KNOWLEDGE FOR SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE WATER MANAGEMENT.**]

Green and fair economy for dignified, fulfilled lives, recognising intergenerational solidarity and environmental limits

- A **green and fair** economy is an economy *that achieves* sustainable development and poverty eradication. **Poverty eradication** is a key objective of a green *and fair* economy.
- Tackling poverty and **strengthening the voice of the poor and marginalised** are essential to the definition of a green *and fair* economy.
- Acknowledge that the goal of sustainable development is to **achieve dignified, fulfilled lives**.
- Acknowledge that sustainable development is for **future generations** as well as all people today: this requires **intergenerational solidarity**.
- Clearly recognise **environmental limits** and the potential **consequences of inaction**.
- Clarify the nature of the special challenges facing the sustainable development of **middle income countries**. Economic growth in many of these countries is dependent on potentially fragile natural resources and ecosystems. At the same time, middle income countries still contain very high numbers of the poorest people of the world in absolute terms. Finding a model of economic growth which is effective in reducing poverty and inequality, while preserving fragile natural capital, is a pressing concern.

Text recommendations

We support the text interventions by various parties to include a reference to future generations in the first four paragraphs.

We support the text intervention by the Holy See: 21. We also recognize the need to [**reflect/promote intergenerational solidarity by recognizing** – Holy See] the views of children and youth as the issues we are addressing will have a deep impact on the youth of today and the generations that follow.

25. We are convinced that a green [**AND FAIR**] economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should contribute to meeting key goals – in particular the priorities of poverty eradication, food security, sound [**AND EQUITABLE**] water management, universal access to modern energy services, sustainable cities, management of oceans and improving resilience and disaster preparedness, as well as public health, human resource development and sustained, inclusive and equitable growth that generates

employment. It should be based on the Rio principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and should be people-centred and inclusive, providing opportunities and benefits for all citizens and all countries.

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

Meaningful participation of poor and marginalised people and priority groups, especially women and children

- Make more **explicit mention** of poor and marginalised people's meaningful participation in decision making, particularly women and children.
- Clearly articulate the **role of women** in sustainable development.
- Clearly **state the measures** that will be taken to promote gender equality, particularly with regard to women's access to and ownership of resources.

Text recommendations

RETAIN and MAKE EXPLICIT the text in paragraph 17 on participation in decision-making and policy, especially for the poor and marginalised, women, children and youth. RETAIN 'meaningful participation' and/or qualifications that participation must mean to 'play a meaningful role' and to be 'actively engaged'.

Strengthen links to the affirmation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation ("Enhance partnerships between governments and non-governmental actors, including all major groups ... at all levels"¹) and Rio Principle 10 (the "participation of all concerned citizens"²) in other parts of the text.

40. We strongly encourage business and industry – organized by industrial sectors, cooperating across countries and in consultation with governments, [**CIVIL SOCIETY,**] workers and trade unions and other stakeholders – to develop green economy roadmaps for their respective sectors, with concrete goals and benchmarks of progress, including for net creation of jobs.

Water and poverty eradication are central to the Sustainable Development Goals

- Retain **water as central to the Sustainable Development Goals**, in particular access to water resources by people in poor communities.
- **Poverty eradication** must be an essential element of the SDGs and this should be marked in the text.
- The **process** of building consensus on SDGs must specifically include poor and marginalised people, as by definition, it is these people who are most likely to be overlooked.

¹ http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf

² <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>

Text recommendations

106. We invite all stakeholders to join this process and request the UN Secretary-General to coordinate this process. **[WE REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF PRIORITY GROUPS IN THE PROCESS, INCLUDING POOR AND MARGINALISED PEOPLE.]**

Action on climate change should be given prominence

- Climate change is given a specific section in the Draft and this is to be commended. But progress on reducing CO₂ emissions via the UNFCCC process remains tortuous and slow, and it would be a missed opportunity if the UNSD conference fails to **give action on climate change clear support and political momentum**.
- Links between water and climate change and language on vulnerable populations are noted in the text. **These should be protected**.

Text recommendations

88. We reaffirm that climate change is ~~[one of]~~ the greatest challenge[s] of our time, and express our deep concern that developing countries are particularly vulnerable to and are experiencing increased negative impacts from climate change, which is severely undermining food security and efforts to eradicate poverty, and also threatens the territorial integrity, viability and the very existence of small island developing states.

~~[We welcome the outcome of COP17 at Durban and look forward to the urgent implementation of all the agreements reached.]~~ **WE COMMIT TO THE URGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL THE AGREEMENTS REACHED AT COP17 AT DURBAN.]**

Call for effective enforcement of legislation on illegal logging

- Illegal logging fails to get a mention in the document, but the problem is **far from being resolved**. Recent legislative initiatives in the US, EU, Australia, etc are welcomed. But failure to address **weak governance in developing nations** and **lack of corporate and consumer responsibility in developed nations** mean this problem is not solved.

Text recommendations

90. We support policy frameworks and market instruments that effectively slow, halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation and promote the sustainable use and management of forests, as well as their conservation and restoration. We call for the urgent implementation of the "Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all Types of Forests (NLBI)". **[WE WELCOME THE LEGALLY BINDING INITIATIVES MADE BY CONSUMER COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO STOP ILLEGAL LOGGING, AND WE CALL FOR THEIR EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT. SIMILAR EFFORTS NEED TO HAPPEN AT NATIONAL LEVEL IN TIMBER PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THIS WILL SERVE AS A DETERRENT TO THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO OPERATE ILLEGAL PRACTICES WITHIN THE TIMBER SUPPLY CHAIN.]**

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