

# ONLY ONE EARTH

*The long road via Rio  
to sustainable development*

Felix Dodds *and* Michael Strauss  
*with* Maurice Strong

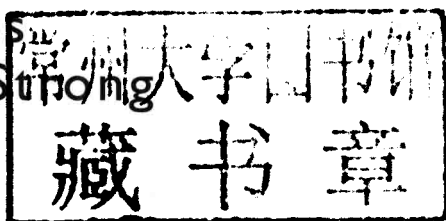
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Forty years after the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, the goal of sustainable development continues via the Rio+20 conference in 2012. This book will enable a broad readership to understand what has been achieved in the past forty years and what hasn't. It shows the continuing threat of our present way of living to the planet. It looks to the challenges that we face twenty years from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 'The Earth Summit', in Rio, in particular in the areas of economics and governance and the role of stakeholders. It puts forward a set of recommendations that the international community must address now and in the future. It reminds us of the planetary boundaries we must all live within and what needs to be addressed in the next twenty years for democracy, equity and fairness to survive. Finally it proposes through the survival agenda a bare minimum of what needs to be done, arguing for a series of absolute minimum policy changes we need to move forward.

**Felix Dodds** is the Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future. He has been active at the UN since 1990 and set up three global NGO coalitions for UN Conferences, Summits and Commissions, including the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. He is the author or editor of several books, including *How to Lobby at Intergovernmental Meetings* and *Climate Change and Energy Insecurity*.

**Michael Strauss** is Executive Director of Earth Media, an independent political and communications consultancy based in New York. Michael serves as media consultant and advisor to governments, UN agencies and civil society coalitions. For the Rio+20 Summit in 2012, he was designated Civil Society/Media Liaison by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). He has served as media coordinator for NGO coalitions since the lead-up to the 1992 'Earth Summit', and has worked extensively with NGOs, Trade Unions, Youth, Women, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Authorities at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in New York.

**Maurice Strong** served as Secretary-General of both the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972), which launched international negotiations on environmental issues and led to the establishment of UNEP, and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development ('The Earth Summit', 1992, Rio de Janeiro). He was the first Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He has played a unique and critical role in globalizing the environmental movement, as part of an extraordinary career that spanned both business and public service in the fields of international development, the environment, energy and finance. The trail that he pioneered has continued to the Rio+20 conference of 2012.

'For those who follow the story around the international sustainable development agenda, I don't know where we'd be without the publications of Stakeholder Forum. *Only One Earth* is the latest in that series, combining all the front-line insights of Felix Dodds and Michael Strauss with the experience and wisdom of Maurice Strong – a winning combination!'

*Jonathon Porritt, Forum for the Future*

'Forty years ago Oluf Palme reminded us that we must share and shape our future together – it is a shared responsibility containing difficult choices. A transition towards a green economy is one of those difficult choices. One that requires political leadership. It will not happen unless we make it happen. Let's put the world economies to work for a common, sustainable future – we can't afford otherwise. Dodds, Strauss and Strong provide some suggestions on how we might address these future challenges.'

*Ida Auken, Danish Minister for the Environment*

'Felix Dodds, Michael Strauss and Maurice Strong use their intimate experience of UN processes to detail the long and sometimes painful journey from the Stockholm summit of 1972 towards Rio+20 in 2012. The distillation of history would be useful to anyone new to the issues. But more important is the dissection of the various forces at play, including trade, competitive development, aid and environmental awareness. Those forces are still here, and will play a major role in shaping the path towards global sustainability – or not – well beyond Rio.'

*Richard Black, BBC Environment Correspondent*

'It is a privilege to review the recent history of a remarkable initiative that changed attitudes and perceptions, and introduced a new approach for determining the future of Planet Earth. Written by outstanding players that contributed effectively to the success of this major effort, it covers in detail scientific, diplomatic and strategic aspects of a process that peacefully brought together all nations.'

*Henrique B. Cavalcanti, Federal Minister of Environment in Brazil. Former Chairman of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (and Delegate to Stockholm-1972, to Rio de Janeiro-1992, and Johannesburg-2002)*

'The first Rio Earth Conference set us on three tracks to sustainable development – social, environmental, economic. In this definitive book, Maurice Strong, one of the architects of that iconic conference, joins with Felix Dodds and Michael Strauss to review the convergence and collisions on the development journey since 1992 and to consider how Rio+20 can truly become a platform for achieving 'the future we want'. Their relevant and enduring message – we are all shareholders in Earth Incorporated and have a responsibility to take the most sustainable paths to prosperity, for people and plant.'

*H. Elizabeth Thompson, Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Coordinator UN Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 and former Minister for Energy and Environment of Barbados*

'At a time of mounting threats to the sustainability of the planet, and as we prepare for the 20-year review of the original Rio Conference, it is essential to understand the road that has brought us to this juncture, so that we can understand the momentous opportunities and tremendous challenges that we face in reaching for a sustainable future. Dodds, Strauss and Strong provide a compelling narrative of the road that brought us to this point and outline a potential path for moving forward.'

*Adnan Z. Amin, Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency*

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# Foreword

*Maurice Strong*

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This impressive and timely book illuminates thoughtfully and authoritatively the long road to Rio+20. In establishing the broader context of this landmark event it makes a uniquely important contribution to it. I am pleased at the opportunity I have had to participate in its preparation.

There have been immense changes in the world since the first UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972 put the environment on the world's agenda. Some notable progress has since been made in awareness and understanding of the issues we must address, in our capacity to do so, in the urgency of the need for decisive actions and the dire consequences of our failure to act.

The ominous paradox is that the will to act suffers today from a decline in public attention and the preoccupation of governments and people with more immediate financial and economic concerns. This is reflected in the continued lack of progress in implementing past commitments as well as the prospect of undertaking new ones at Rio+20. This recession in political will will have far more damaging consequences for the human future than the more immediate issues that give rise to it.

Indeed, it has never been more important to heed the evidence of science that time is running out in our ability to manage successfully our impacts on the Earth's environment, biodiversity, resource and life-support systems on which human life as we know it depends. We must rise above the lesser concerns that pre-empt our attention and respond to the reality that the future of human life on Earth depends on what we do, or fail to do in this generation. What we have come to accept as normal is not normal as increased human numbers, the growing intensity of human impacts and the demographic dilemma faced by so many nations are returning the Earth to the conditions that have existed for most of its existence, that do not support human life as we know it.

We must deal with this as the most dangerous security issue humanity has ever faced, threatening the very conditions necessary for the support and sustainability of life on Earth.

It is in this larger context that we must view Rio+20 as a unique opportunity to make the 'change of course' called for by business leaders at the Earth Summit in 1992. It requires fundamental changes in the way in which we manage the activities through which we impact on the Earth's sustainability. This will require a degree of

cooperation beyond anything we have yet experienced at a time when competition and conflict over scarce resources is escalating.

The decisions and policies which determine our impacts on sustainability are primarily motivated by economic and financial considerations. The transcendent importance of the actions to be taken at Rio+20 requires that they be firmly rooted in our deepest moral and ethical principles. This is why I feel so strongly that Rio+20 must endorse and be grounded in the Earth Charter. The change of course called for at Rio in 1992 requires radical changes in our current economic system, particularly by those countries, mostly Western, which have dominated the world economy during the past century and will be most resistant to change. Yet they have monopolized the economic benefits that have accompanied our cumulative damage to the Earth's life-support systems, its precious biological resources and its climate.

Rio+20 must reinforce the focus on biodiversity to which this Decade on Biodiversity is devoted so that it will lead to specific actions on implementation of the measures required to protect these resources so essential to global sustainability.

Experience has demonstrated that those countries that have been most successful in improving their environment are those, like Japan, which have been most efficient in managing their economies and reducing the energy, resources and materials used to produce their GDP. Rio+20 must provide for special measures to assist developing countries in the efficiency of their economies.

No issue is more important to the human future than that of climate change, in which the political will to act cooperatively and decisively has dangerously diminished. Rio+20 must reinforce international efforts taken at Durban and beyond to reach agreement and renewal of the Climate Change Convention and its implementation. Paradoxically, if we fail to act, the reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions could occur through the collapse of the world economy, to which none of us would aspire. After all, the roots of the environmental and climate change crises are the same as those of the economic and financial crises – the inadequacies of our current system.

Only an enlightened view of their self-interest in the security and sustainability of life is likely to induce the more developed countries to accept the principal responsibility they bear for the fundamental change of course that we must make. Developing countries must play their part but their responsibilities are of a different order of magnitude. The concept of shared but differentiated responsibilities must be strongly reinforced at Rio+20.

The growing inequities in sharing the benefits of economic growth continue to provide a widening rich–poor divide in both developing and more developed countries, even in China, which has lifted more people out of poverty than any nation has ever done. This undermines the prospects of enabling the poor and disadvantaged to share fully and equitably in the benefits of sustainable development and will lead to social unrest, evidence of which is already emerging.

This book will help to create much greater public interest and awareness in Rio+20 as an event in itself. This is what helped to attract unprecedented numbers of world leaders, media and non-governmental organizations to the Earth Summit

in 1992 and move governments to take decisions beyond original expectations. But time is short, and the resources available to the secretariat and others preparing for Rio+20 are meagre.

However much can still be done to give greater visibility, public awareness and political priority to Rio+20 by making the event itself more attractive. This would enhance the awareness of and public attention to Rio+20 and provide further incentives for world leaders to participate.

The United Nations alone cannot be expected to take the main role in this but it can reach out to the many others around the world that are willing and able to engage. The fact that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has accorded Rio+20 and its follow-up highest priority will help create a positive response by others. The work of the preparatory committee and those who are already engaged can help to mobilize such wide spread support and ensure that the conference produces the results on which the security and sustainability of life on Earth depends.

A particularly distinctive feature of this book is its focus on the important role of 'stakeholders': those important actors which are not governments. Never has their role been more important than it is now as they take the lead in mobilizing the support and participation of civil society in the conference. The fact that the authors are themselves leading stakeholders deeply engaged in supporting preparations for Rio+20 makes their views as expressed in this book particularly authoritative.

This also gives greater credence to the many practical recommendations they make in the book. It underscores the key role stakeholders will have in implementation by governments.

In identifying the origins, the progress and the pitfalls of the long road to Rio+20 the authors of this book have made a unique and indispensable contribution to its prospects of success.



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# Introduction

*Felix Dodds and Michael Strauss*

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Twelve years into a new millennium, it doesn't look as if we or our planet are doing very well. Extreme and erratic weather events (and can anyone *really* claim with a straight face that they're not exacerbated by global warming?) have progressed from the merely atypical to the virtually incredible. Indices of the environmental quality of other critical areas – oceans, biodiversity, air quality, freshwater, forests – continue to race to the bottom of their ranges.

Most developed countries' economies are mired deep in near-catastrophic recession – although their governments refuse to reject the wholesale de-regulation of the finance industry that brought them to the edge. Efforts to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which, after all, only attempt to reach half of the billion people living below survival level – are at best only partly there.

And the level of willing cooperation among peoples and among nations – the cornerstone of progress toward resolving complex, multi-sectoral problems – sometimes feels as though it's run into a bottomless hole in the ground.

In considering the trajectory of the last 40 years of environmental, social and economic actions – and the challenges that still loom ahead – it would be easy to veer towards pessimism.

And yet ... there are repeated, refreshing reminders that there *is* cause for hope. There are abundant models of liveable communities, of integrated renewable energy systems, of non-polluting transportation and manufacturing technologies, and of organic agriculture that evoke shimmering glimpses of an exciting, attractive *and achievable* world that would be a glorious place to live. Most people in all countries want to live in such a world. Most parents want such a future for their families. Most youth and children know instinctively that there is a better way possible – and are ready to work for it.

What they, and we, often lack is a vision – a positive vision – of how such a world would look and how it could be achieved. It is up to us to provide that vision and to show in a realistic way the path or paths for getting there.

Because these past 20 years have seen considerable successes. The negotiation of intergovernmental treaties on biodiversity, desertification and climate – no matter how obstructed. The increasingly system-wide opening of UN processes to NGOs, to workers' organizations, to indigenous peoples, to local governments and, yes, to

business. And there can be many more. What has been blocking them is a distinct lack of political will at the highest level to implement the major agreements on environment, on the MDGs, and on sustainable development – agreements that governments have already signed.

We are at a critical time, one that needs enlightened leadership that builds on our better selves. We are in a period with only one major super power, the United States. Yet the US seems unable to show leadership on climate change, on biodiversity, on energy and sustainable economic transformation, or even on its own domestic environmental resources which are under threat, as is even the existence of its Environmental Protection Agency. William Reilly, the former EPA Director under President George H.W. Bush, expressed his dismay recently when he said that for “some of the most prominent leaders of the Republican Party, science has left the building” (Reilly, 2011).

The moral and intellectual energy and political will-power to redress these failures has been catalysed before, and it can be mobilized again.

In 1972, under commission by the Secretary-General of the approaching World Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Barbara Ward and René Dubos authored a report called *Only One Earth*. It sounded an impassioned call to arms, an urgent alarm about the impact of human activity on the planet. The authors maintained a tone of optimism that humans could together address the challenges we all faced. The slogan, ‘Only One Earth’, became the rallying cry of Stockholm. And – as relevant today as it was then – is the title we take for this book.

Today, ‘Only One Earth’ attempts to help re-mobilize that energy among people – and re-build that political will – by reminding us of how we got here in the recent past, and suggesting some of the directions in which we need to go.

Part I of this book takes the reader from the preparations for the Stockholm Conference in 1972 to preparations for the World Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. As we write this, we know that 2012 will not be like Stockholm nor like the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio. It will not be a place of agreement on major conventions and action plans, but more a launching pad for initiatives, for sustainable development goals and perhaps for future conventions. We hope it will mark the re-emergence of sustainable development as the key organizing framework for how people live on this planet.

It’s clear that the past provides us with lessons for the future. As always, though, the question is, will we learn them?

Part II tries to describe some of the frustrating roadblocks to implementing what was agreed in Rio and Johannesburg, and to identify achievable strategies and pathways for moving around them. Its chapters look at the implementation gap, the democracy gap, and the governance gap between promises and actions, and the multiple challenges of transforming the economy in a sustainable direction. It then presents a ‘survival agenda’, with specific, realizable actions that can help nations, economies and people to move onto a sustainable path.

Nations face numerous challenges as they start to define the second decade of the third millennium. The multilateral system that governments have created for

environment and sustainable development is weak and fragmented compared to those established for trade and finance. If we are to secure a fair and equitable world for all people, this must change. There is no reason that the same sense of creative compromise and necessary cooperation cannot pertain.

Our democracies are fragile, as we have recently realized, as politicians fail to live up to even their own professed values, and public support for them drops to the lowest levels on record. At the same time, seemingly out of nowhere, a courageous and vibrant people's movement has emerged in the Middle East, in Russia and even in the US and elsewhere that transcends culture and governments. It offers a hope for a re-invigoration of democracy and a renewal of idealism. The recognition that governments need to govern with the support of key stakeholders – and all the people – has become clearer since Rio. We are starting on a path to towards participatory democracy at the same time as the threats that surround us are increasing.

Our economies have been built on unsustainable consumption patterns. We challenge completely the soundbite philosophy of US President George H.W. Bush in 1992 who said that 'the American Way of Life is non-negotiable'. One may choose to negotiate or not to negotiate. But the sad irony here is that by not doing so, that same country has brought the risk and reality of degradation to its 'way of life' far closer.

Instead of embracing and defining a new direction, and providing the resources for developing countries to choose a more sustainable way of developing, much of the last 20 years has been wasted. China and India have eagerly adopted the consumption patterns of the West and now China is the biggest absolute carbon dioxide producer. So the challenges are now much greater than they might have been.

The question then is do we 'together' address the challenges of the emerging agenda of environmental security, or do we fall back on selfishness and fear? The kind of world that could emerge in the second scenario will be far less democratic, less fair, less hopeful and less sustainable. Perhaps US Senator Robert F. Kennedy summed up the stakes of our future challenges best:

For when you teach a man to hate and to fear his brother, when you teach that he is a lesser man because of his color, or his beliefs or the policies that he pursues, when you teach that those who differ from you, threaten your freedom or your job or your home or your family, then you also learn to confront others not as fellow citizens, but as enemies. To be met not with cooperation but with conquest, to be subjugated, and to be mastered. We learn at the last to look at our brothers as aliens. Alien men with whom we share a city, but not a community. We learn to share only a common fear, only a common desire to retreat from each other, only a common impulse to meet disagreement with force. Our lives on this planet are too short, the work to be done is too great. But [if] we can perhaps remember, that those who live with us are our brothers, that they share with us the same short moment of life that they seek as do we, nothing but the chance to live out their lives in purpose and in happiness, surely this bond

of common fate, this bond of common roles can begin to teach us something, that we can begin to work a little harder, to become in our hearts brothers and countrymen once again.

(Kennedy, 1968a)

As for ourselves, we are unabashed multi-lateralists and supporters of the United Nations. We believe governments need to adequately fund the UN – a body that, however imperfectly, has been committed to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war for over 65 years, that promotes the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and that has empowered social progress, freedom and better standards of life for hundreds of millions of people on every continent.

The defining agenda of the last few years has been that of the financial crisis – a crisis caused by excessive short term thinking and by outright greed. The need to reform the global economic system to address both its own stability and the sustainable development of all countries could not be more apparent. Faced with a need for financial stimulus to keep national economies from collapsing, some countries have focused their recovery packages on green jobs and investment (South Korea and China are among the few examples). Others have focused exclusively on regulation without investment (as in the EU), or investment without regulation (the effective reality in the US) – propping up the very individuals and institutions who had caused the problem.

But few countries tried to integrate the fundamental principles of ecosystem and resource limits into their existing economic plans. They should have – the crisis presented an unusual opportunity to. As Anil Agarwal (1992) put it: ‘Do not worry about the Gross National Product; preserve and promote the Gross Natural Product’.

As governments move towards the UN’s Millennium Development Summit in 2015 we will see how far what was started in Rio in 2012 has gone to reshape the economic agenda. We will see if we have provided the intellectual and political stimulus to reinvigorate multilateral cooperation, which remains the only answer to many of the most intractable problems facing the world today. And we will see if we have captivated the energies and enthusiasms of the next generation to become the agents for change that their world so desperately requires.

We do believe this is a turning point, a time of hope and more importantly a time of sharing this one and only earth among all of its varied passengers. As Adlai Stevenson, a candidate who was criticized as being ‘too intelligent’ to be elected to the presidency of a major nation, once said in his role, instead, as Ambassador to the UN:

We travel together, passengers on a little spaceship, dependent on its vulnerable reserves of air and soil, all committed, for our safety, to its security and peace. Preserved from annihilation only by the care, the work and the love we give our fragile craft.

(Stevenson, 1965)

We would like to thank some of the people who have made this book possible with their advice, their support and their significant input – Tim Hardwick and our

friends at Earthscan. Derek Osborn, Eela Dubey, Farooq Ullah, Georgie Macdonald, Jack Cornforth, Jeannet Langan, Richard Sherman and Kirsty Schneeberger at Stakeholder Forum. Megan Howell and Sheila Shettle, who, in an earlier age, helped build the foundations of their respective organisations to the levels they are today. And Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, who epitomizes the best of being an NGO and has always been there as both a colleague and a friend.

We want to cite some of the individuals along the 20-year road from the original Earth Summit at Rio who at critical points have provided invaluable dedication and wisdom to making multi-stakeholder cooperation work on the international stage – Barbara Bramble, Clif Curtis, Peter Padbury, Martin Khor, Chee Yoke Ling, Vicky Corpuz, Tom Goldtooth, Saradha Ayer, Neth Dano, Pauulu Kamarakafego, Federica Pietracci and Chantal Line Carpentier, to name only a few.

We also would like to thank for their specific help with this book – Paul Clements Hunt, for his substantive input on the finance, capital markets and the green economy sections, David Taylor, Rachel Kyte, Maria Figueroa Kupcu, Bill Mankin, Mohammed El-Ashry, Hannah Stoddart, Bedrich Moldan, Margaret Brusasco-Mackenzie, Sondra Sullivan and David Le Blanc.

In particular, we'd like to acknowledge Maurice Strong – former entrepreneur, energy company CEO, NGO, Executive Director of UNEP, Secretary-General of the UN conferences at Stockholm *and* at Rio, author, president of the council of the UN University for Peace, and professor at Peking University – who in some ways can be said to have single-handedly invented the intergovernmental environmental and sustainable development governance process. Besides the obvious professional debt, our personal thanks for the lessons learned from years of observing – up close or from a distance, sometimes as rivals but usually as friends, always with awe and admiration.

Since the original Earth Summit at Rio, we have lost some of the leading champions who helped create the sustainability movement from both in front of and behind the scenes. This book is dedicated to them: Joke Waller-Hunter, Michael McCoy, Bella Absuz, Chip Lindner, Wangari Maathai, Svend Auken, Peter Thacher, Richard Sandbrook, Ken Saro Wiwa, Anil Agarwal, Maximo Kalaw and Chico Mendes. Their contributions have helped us, inspired us and given us hope that we can move towards a more sustainable future.

As Vaclav Havel, another peaceful warrior who left us in 2011, put it in two comments that remind us what it takes to lead a benevolent revolution:

None of us – as an individual – can save the world as a whole, but ... each of us must behave as though it were in his (or her) power to do so.

May truth and love triumph over lies and hatred.

(Havel, 1994)

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# Abbreviations

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10YFP	10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production
ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination (United Nations)
ANPED	Northern Alliance for Sustainability
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
BASD	Business Action for Sustainable Development
BASIC	Brazil, South Africa, India and China
BAU	business as usual
BCSD	Business Council for Sustainable Development
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India and China
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCAMLR	Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources
CCD	Convention to Combat Desertification
CCIC	Canadian Council for International Cooperation
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEB	Chief Executive Board
CER	Certified Emission Reduction
CFC	Common Fund for Commodities
CFCs	chlorofluorocarbons
CGG	Commission on Global Governance
CHS	<i>see</i> UNCHS
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIO-ALU	Congress of Independent Organizations – Associated Labour Unions
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
COCF	Centre for Our Common Future
COP	Conference of Parties (of the UN FCCC)
CSD	<i>see</i> UNCSD
CSO	civil society organizations

DDA	Doha Development Agenda
DDT	dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DESA	<i>see</i> UNDESA
DPCSD	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (United Nations)
DREAMS	development reconciling environment and material success
DSD	Division on Sustainable Development (United Nations)
ECLAC	Economic Council for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (United Nations)
EIA	Environmental Investigation Agency
ELCI	Environmental Liaison Centre International
EMG	Environment Management Group
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESG	environmental, social and governance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (United Nations)
FCCC	<i>see</i> UNFCCC
FDI	foreign direct investment
FTT	financial transaction tax
G77	group of 77 developing countries
GA	General Assembly (United Nations)
GAPP	Generally Accepted Principles and Practices
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GDP	gross domestic product
GEC	Green Economy Coalition
GEF	[used in 1997, not defined there]
GEO	Global Environmental Outlook
GEOSS	Global Earth Observation System of Systems
GMEF	Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (UNEP)
GNP	gross national product
GPA	Global Programme of Action
HCFCs	hydrofluorocarbons
IACSD	Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICE	International Court for the Environment
ICFTU	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICZM	integrated coastal zone management
IEG	international environmental governance
IFC	International Facilitating Committee
IFF	Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (United Nations)
IFI	International Financial Institution
IFSD	institutional framework for sustainable development

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IGO	intergovernmental organisation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IPBES	Intergovernmental Panel of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPF	Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
IPRs	Intellectual Property Rights
IPSD	Intergovernmental Panel on Sustainable Development
ITFF	Interagency Task Force on Forests
ITTA	International Tropical Timber Agreement
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JCL	Johannesburg Climate Legacy
JPoI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDC	least-developed country
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MEA	multilateral environmental agreement
MOI	means of implementation
MSP	multi-stakeholder processes
NAM	'non-aligned' movement
NCSD	national councils on sustainable development
NGLS	Non-Governmental Liaison Service (United Nations)
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIEO	new international economic order
NRG4SD	Network for Regional Government for Sustainable Development
NSSD	National Strategies for Sustainable Development
NWF	National Wildlife Federation
ODA	Official Development Aid
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OSPAR	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-east Atlantic
PIC	prior informed consent
POP	persistent organic pollutant
PrepCom	Preparatory Committee (for UN Conferences and Summits)
PRI	Principles for Responsive Investment
PRS	poverty reduction strategy
PRTR	pollutant release and transfer registers
PSI	Principles for Sustainable Insurance
RIM	Regional Implementation Meeting
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development



SCP	sustainable consumption and production
SDG	sustainable development goals
SEEA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounts
SEED	Supporting Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SISD	Summit Institute for Sustainable Development
SIWI	Stockholm International Water Institute
SLUDGE	slightly less unsustainable development genuflecting to the environment
SMEs	small- and medium-sized enterprises
SWF	sovereign wealth fund
TAI	The Access Initiative (World Resources Institute)
TNC	transnational company
UCLG	United Cities and Local Government
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/Aids
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
UNCLOS	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
UN CSD	UN Commission on Sustainable Development
UNCSD	UN Conference on Sustainable Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCTC	UN Centre for Transnational Corporations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Council for Europe
UNEO	United Nations Environment Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP GC	United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFI	UNEP Finance Initiative
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session to Review and Appraise the Implementation of Agenda 21
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
US EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
WACC	Water and Climate Coalition
WBCSD	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development
WEDO	Women's Environment and Development Organization
WEHAB	Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity
WEO	World Environmental Organization