The Green Economies Dialogue and The Sustainable Development Goals

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International Business Green Economies Dialogue
(Resources for the Future)
See: www.green-dialogue.org
Green Economies Dialogue: Objectives

• Create a pro-active forum to engage governments, business and thought leaders in the lead up to Rio+20

• Improve awareness and understanding of business views, experience and suggestions for promoting a greener economy, green growth, technologies and jobs… especially through international actions

• Encourage approaches that work to stimulate economic growth while greening activities and outcomes
Green Economies Dialogue Project

Green Economy On the way to Rio + 20 (2011-2012)

• Green Dialogues:
  Washington, Paris, Beijing, Tokyo, Brasilia, and at Rio + 20


Sustainable Development Goals & the Post 2015 Development Agenda (2013-15)

• Green Dialogues:
  Paris (2), New York, Nairobi (2), ...

• Green Perspectives:
  New Academic, peer-reviewed Green Perspectives papers: trade, investment, metrics for nations and firms (in progress)
Green Economies Dialogue: Themes

Green Economy and…

• Jobs
• Development
• Investment
• Innovation
• Energy
• Others…. 

Same themes for each Dialogue but significantly different discussions in keeping with national circumstances and priorities
SDGs: Enabling Factors for Business Contributions

Although specific goals are still to be agreed, business has highlighted essential enabling frameworks that will promote our contribution

- Good Governance & Rule of law
- Innovation
- Trade
- Investment

Implementation will need to reflect national circumstances and priorities and function in an increasingly linked global economy.
Government’s Role

- Establish stable policy/regulatory environment
- Build societal capacity
  - Education/training especially in science and engineering
  - Fundamental Research
  - Infrastructure
- Create enabling frameworks
  - Governance and rule of law
  - Intellectual Property Rights
  - Investment
  - Technology deployment
  - Access to markets
  - Technology transfer
  - Efficient and predictable regulatory and permit processes

A proper enabling framework is an essential precondition for most private investment, but not enough... projects must also generate economic returns
Private Sector’s Role

• Create goods and services that meet demand: Business to Consumer, Business to Business, Business to Government

• Grow shareholder and societal wealth, create jobs, innovate

• **Investment Drivers**: growth, productivity, turn over of capital stock, Health, Safety and Environmental improvements, risk management, strategic change through innovation ...

• **Green Drivers**: efficiency (energy, resource, waste), consumer demand and preference, reputation, policy and regulation ...

• **Investment Inhibitors**: Policy and regulatory uncertainty; missing infrastructure, capacity and skills; permitting delays ...

Private sector functions best in a market-based economy... in which companies bear the risks and benefit from rewards
Investment, Finance and Green Growth Policy

- Decisions on major capital expenditures by private firms are based on a risk-adjusted expectation of adequate returns.
- Many of the innovative technology systems that show promise for green growth face high costs, limited or no commercial experience and political controversy.
- Higher costs, potential for permitting or regulatory delays, public acceptance, and policy and legislative uncertainty add to perceived risks and raise costs.
- Public-Private Partnerships help to identify and resolve potential barriers.
- Effective policies will need to work with mainstream project investment and financial processes, local and national approval processes, and global markets.
- Business seeks sufficient clarity to plan, propose and implement projects with confidence that they will be commercially viable and proceed in a timely fashion.

The key issue in Financing the Green Economy is not so much raising funds, as confidence in returns from successful projects.
Thank You

For more information: www.green-dialogue.org