

**Item 6. A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.  
Round-table parallel session 2  
Statement on behalf of the NGO Major Group**

**Green economy – not only technological fix**

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We endorse governmental initiatives to support green economy. We fully agree that we have to apply effective combinations of policy instruments to promote resource efficiency and life cycle approach, to build markets for sustainable products and services, to create green jobs, to promote green investment, to transfer environmentally sound technologies to various economic sectors and to support research, innovations, education and training to secure the achievements of a green economy.

However we believe that this will not automatically:

- lead to a **fair distribution of resources**, which is the base for an economic security and prosperity for all;
- change public **values, norms and behavior** patterns to ensure living within the **carrying capacity** of the Earth, and
- eradicate poverty and improve quality of life.

Policies on green economy should address the overarching objective of changing consumption and production patterns – highlighted at WSSD and support fair distribution of resources and eradication of existing destructive economic activities both in the demand and supply side. Current government initiatives mostly focus only on one part of this objective – improving efficiency, while neglecting steps towards sufficiency. As current approach will not bring us to sustainable development if we don't address both production and consumption patterns.

Green economy has to recognize **social and biophysical limits** to economic growth. In the finite world there cannot be infinite growth of resource exploitation and pollution. It is still a fact that current lifestyles depend on **overuse of natural resources**. So even if the production becomes more eco-efficient, increasing global population and consumption leads to total increase in resource depletion. Therefore we have to reduce natural resource use not only in relative terms, but in **absolute amounts**. Scale effect should be integral part of the green economy, which has to define clear limits of natural capital.

For a green and fair economy we have to face this reality. Focusing on technological solutions and resource efficiency, will not be enough. We need to stimulate **societal change**, where material wealth is not seen as the only criteria of prosperity. We need to encourage values and norms for a sustainable way of living. These activities should be supported by integrating the '**sufficiency**' concept into educational systems, but also in government policies and activities of all the stakeholders.

We need to establish a new set of measures and indicators of progress beyond the current focus on increasing production, consumption and exports. Nature should be recognized as the foundation of our life and the precondition of **long-term wellbeing** of our societies, and not – as currently perceived – an unlimited resource for economic growth.

Thank you very much for your attention.