

ITEM 5

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Redner/in:	Jochen Flasbarth, President of the Federal Environment Agency
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I.

The concept of green economy is linked to the idea that setting suitable framework conditions can generate new economic growth and help mitigate poverty. These framework conditions are geared to the protection of the environment and the efficient use of natural resources.

Why is it so important to link the concept of growth to the conservation of natural resources?

Both the rise in the world population to over 9 billion by 2050 and the fight against poverty require a massive increase in global economic performance. Achieving this with the economic practices prevalent today would entail excessive use of natural resources and threaten our foundations of life.

In future, therefore, the growth we need must always be accompanied by the word "green". This should be viewed far more as an opportunity than as a limitation. For greening the economy can release new forces for growth. Appropriate legislation can create powerful incentives for investment and thus generate innovation, for instance in the expansion of renewable energy or the enhancement of energy and resource efficiency.

The potential held in greening the economy is particularly apparent in the case of energy efficiency: in view of rising energy prices, raising energy productivity not only benefits the

environment and climate, it is increasingly paying off economically as well. In addition, many energy efficiency measures such as building modernisation can create jobs for a great many of people with a wide range of qualifications.

II.

What does green economy mean for the countries of the UNECE region, and particularly for the EECCA states?

The UNECE countries are a highly complex mix in terms of their stages of development and their political, economic and social structures. However, the transformation process in the EECCA countries has revealed that there are many starting points for regional cooperation, especially with regard to designing legal framework conditions and setting up efficient administrative structures and suitable financing architectures. Major transformation has been accomplished in this field over recent years, thanks also to the Environment for Europe process.

However, developments in other countries indicate that up to now the transformation process has not taken energy and resource efficiency into adequate account. Greater efforts need to be made to raise energy efficiency in the industry and building sectors, to improve water utilisation and advance the expansion of renewable energies.

The measures needed for this must be taken primarily by the countries themselves. Regional cooperation can provide additional support. For this reason, we would be pleased to see this conference send a signal that cooperation will be expanded further in this direction.

What does this mean in practice?

III.

The "Environment for Europe" process offers various starting points for regional cooperation.

In order to strengthen European-Asian cooperation in the implementation of green growth, Kazakhstan has launched the Astana Green Bridge Initiative, and we now need to discuss its actual implementation. The German Environment Ministry supports this initiative and is ready to participate in specific projects, for example on setting up a technology transfer platform.

The EAP Task Force can assist by intensifying capacity building in the field of green economy. It would therefore be beneficial to have broader participation in this work.

The implementation of green growth approaches should be backed up by the regional environmental centers. The Central Asia Regional Environmental Center (CAREC) makes a vital contribution to the success of projects in the region with its local expertise and transboundary mandate.

Development banks such as the EBRD and the ADB should continue in future to assist the EECCA countries to establish a banking system which facilitates investment in improving resource productivity.

In order to go on supporting the work of the EAP Task Force, the regional environmental centers and the development banks, Germany will continue its close cooperation and provide funding.

A further challenge in the coming years will be to develop low-carbon development strategies and NAMAs at national level. These are the basis for a structured transformation to a green economy, and are also a prerequisite for gaining access to international funding. Here too, bilateral and multilateral cooperation can have a positive impact.

For example, the coming autumn sees the start of a project in which the BMU will support Kazakhstan in drawing up a comprehensive green growth strategy and assist Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in elaborating NAMAs. In another project, the

UNDP will support Ukraine in developing a low-carbon growth strategy. Both projects will be funded under the German Environment Ministry's International Climate Initiative.

IV.

In order to facilitate implementation of green growth strategies, **national and regional efforts should be underpinned with a global framework**. A global framework not only offers a forum for experience exchange and lays the foundation for regional cooperation, it also ensures equal competitive conditions.

For this reason, the EU advocates the adoption of a **UN Green Economy Roadmap** next year at Rio+20. Ahead of this, the UNFCCC summit in Durban at the end of 2011 should send a strong signal on aspects of the low-carbon economy. Other multilateral organisations such as the WTO must also play their part by restructuring their rules and guidelines accordingly.

However, to ensure the implementation of an ambitious roadmap we need more: **we need a strong global environmental organisation, and that means upgrading UNEP**. This also needs to happen in Rio, and we hope for your support in this undertaking.

V.

Together with governments, other UN organisations, the development banks and NGOs, the UNECE can take on an important role in the implementation of approaches to improve energy and resource efficiency, and in the transition to a low carbon development path.

Let us strengthen this cooperation by ensuring that this conference sends a strong signal.