



Distr.: General
3 March 2016
Original: English



**United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme**

**United Nations Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment Programme
Second session**

Nairobi, 23–27 May 2016

Item 4 (h) of the provisional agenda*

**International environmental policy and
governance issues: sustainable development
and poverty eradication**

**Resolution 1/10: different visions, approaches, models and tools
to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of
sustainable development and poverty eradication**

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report has been prepared in response to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/10, on different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, which requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to report on UNEP efforts to collect and share information on the different visions, approaches, models and tools developed by Member States of the United Nations to achieve sustainable development. Resolution 1/10 builds on the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, and on Governing Council decision 27/8 of 22 February 2013, on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, both of which highlight the plurality of approaches to environmental sustainability.

The report provides a summary of UNEP efforts to compile and document the multiple approaches that exist globally, and an overview of related work by UNEP to support Member States. In line with paragraph 2 of resolution 1/10, the information that UNEP has collected and the principal findings of its analysis will form the basis of a proposed workshop and “ideas marketplace” to be held at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in May 2016, where different visions, approaches, models and tools for achieving environmental sustainability can be shared.

* UNEP/EA.2/1.

I. Introduction

1. In 2013, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), by its decision 27/8, on the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, acknowledged that there were different pathways to sustainable development and, in paragraph 3 of the decision, requested the Executive Director of UNEP to collect such initiatives, endeavours, practices and experiences on different visions, approaches, models and tools, including the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and to disseminate them, and also to facilitate information-sharing among countries so as to support their efforts to promote sustainable development and poverty eradication.
2. In 2014 the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution 1/10, on different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve environmental sustainability in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in which it welcomed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, and took note of paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 27/8, citing in particular references in those documents to the multiplicity of pathways to environmental sustainability and poverty eradication. The resolution placed particular emphasis on the approach of “Living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth as a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable development”, also noting that “Mother Earth” was a common expression in a number of countries and regions and that some countries recognized the rights of nature in the context of the promotion of sustainable development.
3. The United Nations Environment Assembly, in its resolution 1/10, also requested the Executive Director of UNEP to provide a report on the basis of the information resulting from the implementation of paragraph 3 of Governing Council decision 27/8, and to submit the report to the Environment Assembly at its second session and consider organizing a workshop at that session.
4. The purpose of the present report is to provide information on efforts by UNEP to address the requests in resolution 1/10 of the United Nations Environment Assembly and Governing Council decision 27/8. The report describes work undertaken by UNEP to collect and share information on the wide range of approaches to sustainable development and poverty eradication that exist and presents some of the results of that work. The information that UNEP has collected and the principal findings of its analysis will form the basis of a workshop and “ideas marketplace” to be held at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in May 2016, where different visions, approaches, models and tools for achieving environmental sustainability can be shared.

II. Background

5. From the 1987 report of the World Commission on Environment and Development entitled “Our common future”, commonly referred to as the “Brundtland Report”, to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Agenda 21 programme of desired actions adopted in 1992, Governments have affirmed, as stated in principle 12 of the Rio Declaration, that “States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better address the problems of environmental degradation”.
6. Subsequently, a number of major international conferences were convened that further refined the definition and objectives of sustainable development: the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, held in 2000, which resulted in the Millennium Development Goals, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa, where world leaders renewed their commitment to achieving those goals and adopted the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which encouraged relevant authorities at all levels to take sustainable development into account in decision-making.¹
7. In 2008 the world witnessed an unprecedented financial crisis that undermined and threatened efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development. In the wake of that crisis, many Governments began to reconsider traditional economic models and concepts of wealth and prosperity. That discussion was further stimulated by increasing evidence and recognition of the risks posed by climate change and ecosystem degradation.
8. As a number of countries were considering adopting fiscal stimulus packages to address the financial crisis, UNEP introduced the idea of a “global green new deal” to encourage them to focus a

¹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 19.

portion of the packages on investments that would spur economic recovery and job creation in economic sectors contributing to environmental sustainability. Building on the success of that effort, UNEP in 2008 launched the Green Economy Initiative to outline policies and pathways for more sustainable economic growth, and in 2011 published the *Green Economy Report*, which further strengthened the economic case for sustainable development.

9. The concept of a green economy gained additional international prominence in 2012 when the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was convened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the central theme of “a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”. The outcome document, “The future we want” (A/RES/66/288), recognized the existence of “different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development” (para. 56), and highlighted the green economy approach as an important tool for achieving sustainable development.

10. In 2013 the Governing Council of UNEP took note of the emphasis placed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on the different pathways leading to inclusive and sustainable economies. Governing Council decision 27/8 acknowledged the plurality of approaches and requested the Executive Director of UNEP to “collect such initiatives, endeavours, practices and experiences on different approaches, visions, models and tools including green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication and to disseminate them, and facilitate information sharing among countries, so as to support them to promote sustainable development and poverty eradication”.

11. In 2014 the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted resolution 1/10, in which it requested the Executive Director of UNEP to provide a report on the basis of the information resulting from the implementation of paragraph 3 of Governing Council decision 27/8, and to submit the report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session and consider organizing a workshop at that session.

III. Current context and the response of UNEP

A. Multiple pathways to sustainable development

12. Following up on Governing Council decision 27/8, UNEP began work to collect and share information on various sustainable development approaches and tools. With its mandate reinforced by United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/10, UNEP has been striving to respond to both decision 27/8 and resolution 1/10 across a number of work streams.

13. In April 2013 UNEP launched a project entitled “Enhancing South-South Cooperation – Building the Capacity of Developing Countries to Promote Green Economies” which, as a first response to Governing Council decision 27/8 and the subsequent United Nations Environment Assembly resolution, produced a number of knowledge products – four background papers, a 24-page brochure, five videos and a 55-page synthesis report – that highlighted four distinct national approaches to sustainable development and poverty eradication. Moreover, UNEP facilitated information-sharing on its work through four outreach and capacity-building events.

14. The project synthesis report (UNEP, 2015), entitled *Multiple Pathways to Sustainable Development: Initial Findings from the Global South*, found that the four national approaches to sustainable development and poverty eradication examined reflected the particular experiences, circumstances and priorities of the countries concerned (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, South Africa and Thailand); that they were based on nuanced visions of sustainable development; and that they used different tools to achieve their goals, as outlined below:

(a) The “living well in harmony and balance with Mother Earth” approach of the Plurinational State of Bolivia reflects a world view that holds “Mother Earth” to be a living being with the same rights as humankind, thus giving paramount importance to a balanced relationship between human beings and nature in the material, emotional and spiritual realms, and rejecting a market-based approach when it comes to enhancing sustainability. Implementation of the approach is based on a dialogue between different sociocultural groups, including the indigenous peoples of Bolivia, and levels of government to facilitate a two-way exchange of knowledge, including traditional knowledge, and practices and experience;

(b) The “ecological civilization” approach of China uses clearly defined targets and indicators to achieve resource-efficient economic growth within the carrying capacity of the environment. It is strongly embedded in the national policy framework, with incentives established for government officials to meet environmental performance targets at the national, regional and local levels;

(c) The “sufficiency economy” approach of Thailand aims to provide high-level guiding principles for the country’s sustainable development policies, as well as for the lives of its citizens, and places emphasis on moderation, rationality and resilience;

(d) The “green economy transition” approach of South Africa uses the inclusive green economy concept to improve the well-being of the country’s most vulnerable citizens and to progress towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy, and, in so doing, focuses on poverty alleviation and equitable growth when implementing policies that shift public and private investments towards green sectors of the economy and create decent, sustainable jobs.

15. The four national approaches provide concrete examples of how other countries could address similar economic, environmental and social challenges. While each approach reflects one particular country’s own, unique context and offers different tools for achieving sustainable development, what unites them is that they all expand the definitions of progress and development. All four approaches envision sustainable development as much more than simply economic growth in the traditional sense, and they all give importance to increased well-being, social equity, cultural heritage, sustainable consumption and the health of the environment.

16. The synthesis report concluded that the international community and its leaders and policymakers could benefit from exploring the multiplicity of conceptual approaches to environmental sustainability and inclusive development. Every sustainable development approach has its strengths and weaknesses, and it is clear that, to be successful, the strategies need to combine a strong and coherent vision with the necessary tools to work towards that vision. Different approaches can and must be used as complementary, mutually supporting and reinforcing concepts. Additionally, it is clear from the report that high-level political support grounded in the civil society and national cultural context is critical to the successful implementation of any national sustainable development strategy.

B. Multiple pathways to sustainable development: outreach and capacity-building

17. UNEP analysis exploring the multiple pathways to sustainable development has been complemented by a number of outreach and capacity-building workshops and events that respond to the requests in both Governing Council decision 27/8 and Environment Assembly resolution 1/10, as described below:

(a) UNEP hosted an exhibition booth at the 2013 Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) in Nairobi, where information about the above-mentioned “Enhancing South-South Cooperation” project was shared, including the screening of three videos showcasing the ecological civilization approach of China. In addition, UNEP produced and made available at the booth a 24-page project brochure, which was also distributed at relevant Expo events. The GSSD Expo 2013 annual Leadership Award for South-South Cooperation was given to the Government of Nepal for its innovative work on the Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review, supported by the United Nations Development Programme/UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative;

(b) UNEP held a project workshop in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2014 with the objective of facilitating knowledge exchange between countries in the Association of South-East Asian Nations region and building capacity for locally appropriate indicator systems. Participants from 10 countries met to share information on sustainable development approaches and to discuss the lessons learned and good practices, as well as the key challenges involved in implementing the approaches. The workshop included presentations on the above-mentioned four national approaches – “living well in harmony and balance with Mother Earth”, “ecological civilization”, “sufficiency economy” and “green economy transition” – and provided participants with technical training on the use of relevant indicators. Representatives from China, Indonesia and South Africa presented their countries’ experiences of using indicators for target-setting and policy formulation and assessment;

(c) A second project workshop, held in Seoul in April 2015 and co-hosted by UNEP and the Global Green Growth Institute, built on the progress of the Bali workshop by incorporating a wider range of stakeholders sharing information on national sustainable development approaches from a larger number of countries;

(d) In the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2), Heads of State and Government requested the Secretary-General, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and Member States, to begin developing a system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 2007. Accordingly, the action plan has been developed in consultation with Member States, indigenous peoples and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, of which UNEP is a member. The consultations identified the need for concerted action to implement the Declaration, especially at the country level. The primary aim of the action plan is to increase the coherence of the United Nations system in addressing the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples in its work, including in support of Member States, with the ultimate goal of implementing the Declaration, with the effective participation of indigenous peoples, at all levels and within the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The principle of environmental sustainability ensures recognition of the close link between environmental factors and the realization of the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples, including indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge as a contribution to sustainable development, throughout the activities set out in the action plan, which will promote partnership and collaboration between the United Nations system, civil-society organizations and multilateral bodies, such as regional development banks and human rights special procedures and commissions;

(e) UNEP has provided, and will continue to provide, support to the realization of indigenous peoples' rights in the implementation and review of Agenda 2030. As a general principle, it is important to ensure that efforts by the United Nations system to assist Member States in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals include, where possible, a focus on indigenous peoples, who are among those lagging the furthest behind in striving to achieve the Goals;

(f) During the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, a side event entitled "Indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources" was held on 23 September 2014. The event focused on the contributions and rights of indigenous peoples as recognized in a series of international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security;

(g) At the third Scientific Conference of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, held in Cancún, Mexico, in March 2015, UNEP, in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, launched its study entitled *Pastoralism and the Green Economy – A Natural Nexus? Status, Challenges and Policy Implications*. The study focuses on pastoralism's current and future potential for securing sustainable management and green economy outcomes from the world's rangelands. It synthesizes existing evidence and uses practical examples from mobile pastoralism in Europe, Latin America, North America, Asia, Australia and Africa. The study shows the system's inherent characteristics for adaptive sustainability and some of the key opportunities and challenges for promoting development in rangelands. Finally, the study identifies the key enabling conditions required for pastoralism to deliver on its potential role in a green economy. The publication was subsequently presented at the 2015 Global Land Forum organized by the International Land Coalition in Dakar in May 2015, and at the 2015 Global Landscapes Forum held in Paris in December 2015;

(h) UNEP released the project report, *Multiple Pathways to Sustainable Development*, with a soft launch during the April 2015 Seoul workshop. The official launch event, held in Geneva in July 2015, was attended by the representatives of 17 permanent missions to the United Nations and a number of international and non-governmental organizations, and featured a panel discussion on different pathways to sustainable development that built on the discussions at the above-mentioned workshops by incorporating the newly proposed Sustainable Development Goals.

C. Revisiting the green economy concept

18. Following the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, and in line with Governing Council decision 27/8 and United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/10, UNEP embarked upon an internal discussion and engaged the International Institute for Sustainable Development to investigate ways in which UNEP could best meet countries' requests for support that reflected the broad range of national contexts. The Institute concluded that the UNEP green economy concept should be updated to emphasize the connection between planetary boundaries

and economic growth, to consider governance and institutional drivers of sustainability, and to put more focus on the means by which the green economy could mitigate growing inequality.

19. In response to the findings of the internal discussions, UNEP developed the inclusive green economy concept created in consultation with a wide range of internal stakeholders from across the Organization's various programmatic areas. The inclusive green economy concept significantly expands the scope of the original green economy concept to describe how a green economy can help to address cross-cutting issues such as health, growing inequality and humankind's relationship with nature. By including a focus on institutions, governance and the norms and rules that guide societal decisions and market behaviour, the inclusive green economy can help to shift attention and financial resources for better management of our common wealth and natural resources.

20. In its simplest expression, an inclusive green economy is a low-carbon economy that is efficient and clean in terms of production but also inclusive in terms of consumption and outcomes, based on sharing, circularity, collaboration, solidarity, resilience, opportunity and interdependence. It is focused on expanding options and choices for national economies, using targeted and appropriate fiscal and social protection policies, and backed by strong institutions specifically geared towards safeguarding social and ecological "floors". An inclusive green economy supports equal rights for men and women, especially the poor and vulnerable, to economic resources, basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technologies and financial services, including microfinance, as expressed in Sustainable Development Goal 1, on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere.

21. The Executive Director of UNEP launched the inclusive green economy document *Uncovering Pathways Towards an Inclusive Green Economy: A Summary for Leaders* (UNEP, 2015) at a high-level panel discussion held during the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in New York in September 2015.

22. In November 2015 the Partnership for Action on Green Economy – a joint initiative of the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research – hosted a week-long Regional Green Economy Forum for Latin America in Cartagena, Colombia, which set out to support the analysis, dissemination and exchange of knowledge and experience, policy instruments and strategies to promote the adoption of green and inclusive economies in Latin America. Given the specific interest in Governing Council decision 27/8 and United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/10 in the region, UNEP gave a presentation to the Forum participants in plenary session on the inclusive green economy concept and the work of UNEP on the multiple pathways to sustainable development, which helped to raise awareness within the region of UNEP efforts in that regard.

D. An inclusive green economy and the Sustainable Development Goals

23. The Sustainable Development Goals present an opportunity to reframe economic policy around the core elements of sustainability, and achieving the Goals is central to Agenda 2030. While the transition to an inclusive green economy can contribute to many of the Goals, the various elements and associated policies of such an economy are most relevant to the achievement of Goal 8, on decent work and sustainable economic growth, and Goal 12, on responsible consumption and production. Through its focus on conserving and creating natural capital and public wealth, technological innovation and job creation, an inclusive green economy can contribute to sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all (Goal 8). The inclusive green economy approach can help to achieve this in large part by complementing the capacity-building work under the 10-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production patterns through supporting an array of policies and measures that redirect public and private investment to achieve a shift in consumption and production patterns (Goal 12).

E. Sustainable consumption and production and the 10-year framework of programmes for sustainable consumption and production patterns

24. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development reaffirmed the promotion of sustainable patterns of consumption and production as one of the three overarching objectives of – and essential requirements for – sustainable development. At that conference, Heads of State adopted the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns to serve as a global framework for action to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production in both developed and developing countries. The transversal role of sustainable consumption and production as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was affirmed with the inclusion of a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal to ensure sustainable consumption and

production patterns (Goal 12) as one of those adopted at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

25. “Life cycle thinking”, which can be defined as a mostly qualitative approach to understanding how our choices influence what happens at each of the stages of the life cycle of an industrial activity, from raw material acquisition through manufacture, distribution, product use and disposal, is at the core of efforts to guide the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns in such a way as to avoid shifting environmental and social impacts between the life cycle stages. The life cycle thinking approach provides a strong scientific foundation for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, which should also be reflected in policies and efforts supporting transition to an inclusive green economy. In order to be effective, the approach needs to be adopted by Governments, industry and consumers, given the influence of all those stakeholders on patterns of production and consumption. For that reason, a multi-stakeholder approach to the design and implementation of policies and other measures for sustainable consumption and production is required in order to influence both the production of and the demand for more sustainable and resource-efficient goods and services.

26. Life cycle thinking and actions to promote the shift to sustainable consumption and production are also at the core of efforts to establish a circular economy, which, according to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, is an economy that is “restorative and regenerative by design, and which aims to keep products, components, and materials at their highest utility and value at all times”.² A circular economy distinguishes between technical and biological cycles and is designed to minimize waste, return nutrients and water to ecosystems, and reuse technical inputs to the greatest extent possible. It is inspired by ecosystems in the natural world that, in their intact state, are founded on cyclical flows of resources and energy and that are also self-sustaining. The value of the circular economy goes well beyond simply recycling and managing waste: among its objectives is that of extending product lifespans, including through reuse, refurbishment, reconditioning and remanufacturing. The transition to a circular economy requires the same type of broad shift in the mindsets and behaviours of consumers, Governments and businesses as is required for the shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns.

27. While the majority of UNEP work to date on sustainable consumption and production has been focused on the global, regional and national levels, there is an increasing focus on interventions at subnational levels, particularly that of cities, which, now being home to more than 50 per cent of the global population, are important centres of resource consumption and determine the quality of life and health of their inhabitants. According to the report *Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication* published by UNEP in 2011, “with a population share of just above 50 per cent but occupying less than 2 per cent of the earth’s surface, urban areas concentrate 80 per cent of economic output, between 60 and 80 per cent of energy consumption, and approximately 75 per cent of CO₂ emissions” (p. 461). Huge increases are anticipated in levels of urbanization and in the number of middle-class consumers in urban areas in the coming years; the growing global middle class, which was estimated to number 1.8 billion in 2009, is expected to live longer as a result of improved health care, growing to 4.9 billion by 2030, and to have increased purchasing power. Although cities are the source of many environmental problems, they also offer governance structures, more connected communities and, hence, opportunities for enhancing resource efficiency and fostering sustainable lifestyles. UNEP, through the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities, supports a comprehensive approach to enabling cities to become more resource efficient. Work on sustainable cities and lifestyles can directly contribute to the achievement of a number of the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production.

28. The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns generates collective impact through multi-stakeholder programmes and partnerships that develop, replicate and scale up sustainable consumption and production policies and initiatives at all levels. UNEP serves as the secretariat, and there are currently six thematic and sectoral programmes serving as “umbrellas” within the 10-year framework, bringing together actors, expertise and resources to deliver sustainable consumption and production in an operational manner and on an increasing scale. The focus for that delivery is on the regional and national levels, guided by both regional road maps and the national focal points in Governments. Some 123 Governments have thus far designated such focal points. The first target of Sustainable Development Goal 12 is to implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, all countries taking

² <http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy>.

action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries. The 10-year framework of programmes will also have a transversal role in guiding efforts to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, thereby contributing to target 8.4 of Sustainable Development Goal 8 on sustainable economic growth.

F. Addressing social inclusion: the Poverty-Environment Initiative

29. The Poverty-Environment Initiative is a joint effort initiated by the United Nations Development Programme and UNEP in 2005 that works to catalyse major innovative changes to government policy and budgetary priorities in developing countries, drawing on the comparative advantages of the two bodies. More specifically, it supports Governments in including pro-poor, environmental and natural resource sustainability objectives in national development plans and ensuring their implementation through sector plans and budgets. The Poverty-Environment Initiative is contributing to efforts to build an inclusive green economy and enhance climate resilience in supported countries in the following ways:

(a) Ensuring that environmental sustainability is an objective of national sustainable development and poverty eradication plans: the Kyrgyzstan national strategy for sustainable development for the period 2014–2017 and its related government programme for transition to sustainable development now integrate green development, gender equality and disaster risk reduction based on the national identity and priorities;

(b) Introducing environmental sustainability variables into national poverty reduction schemes: in August 2014, the Dominican Republic launched an environmental vulnerability index at the household level, the first of its kind in the world, to influence national social policy systems and to ensure that cash transfers to the very poor also addressed their high level of vulnerability to environmental issues and extreme climate disasters;

(c) Integrating poverty, environment and natural resources into national accounting: Bhutan has adopted a full-cost accounting system as the basis for its new national accounts to enable the Government to formulate policies, allocate resources and present budgets that properly account for the value of natural, human, social and cultural wealth, in addition to that captured with conventional accounting mechanisms;

(d) Mobilizing increased financial commitments from Governments for sustainable development and poverty eradication: Rwanda has established a national environment and climate change fund that is addressing the country's need to invest in the implementation of environmental sustainability objectives by generating increased public and other investment for sustainable wealth creation and poverty reduction. The fund has already secured \$37.4 million in seed capital from the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and \$18.3 million in leveraged external finance.

30. The Poverty-Environment Initiative provides guidance on the mainstreaming of pro-poor environmental objectives into national planning and budgeting processes, together with the various tools described above, through the implementation of an integrated approach in initiative-supported country programmes and knowledge products, as captured in the recently revised Poverty-Environment Initiative handbook *Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development: A Handbook to Strengthen Planning and Budgeting Processes*.

31. The Poverty-Environment Initiative has been catalysing institutional reform for environmental sustainability through South-South cooperation. In 2015, a good number of South-South exchanges resulted in the piloting of poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools in policy-making and budgeting processes. Work in Mongolia on mining sector planning and a related public investment management system has built on learning from earlier work done in the Philippines; Burkina Faso has learned from the experience of Rwanda in establishing its national environment and climate change fund; Burkina Faso, Malawi and Mozambique have banned plastic bags, inspired by the leadership and success of Rwanda in the region; Mauritania has adopted a programme-budget approach inspired by the experience of Burkina Faso in applying such an approach in 2014; and in Myanmar, the financial model for assessing mining proposals draws heavily on that developed by the Lao People's Democratic Republic with the support of the Poverty-Environment Initiative.

G. Global Environment Outlook and UNEP Live

32. In response to the request in paragraph 4 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/10, the Executive Director of UNEP has taken the following steps to incorporate the various visions, approaches, models and tools for achieving sustainable development referred to in the consultation processes for *Global Environment Outlook* and UNEP Live:

(a) The sixth edition of *Global Environment Outlook* will incorporate into the assessment the indigenous and local knowledge identified in peer-reviewed scientific literature. Approaches for incorporating such knowledge from grey literature are still under development and will not be ready for use for the sixth edition, but statistical methods for addressing outlier observations are being explored.

(b) A “traditional knowledge” tab has been added to the UNEP Live online platform, on the global and region- and country-specific web pages, and ethnic group mapping is available on the global and country pages. The traditional knowledge tab will host maps, data, video clips and any other information related to traditional knowledge. UNEP Live currently presents maps, pictures, documents, stories, music and films related to the Arctic region.

IV. Highlighting multiple pathways to environmental sustainability at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

33. UNEP will produce a publication expanding on the scope of the *Multiple Pathways to Sustainable Development* report mentioned above by considering additional countries and their unique approaches, visions, models and tools for working towards sustainable development. The approaches covered in the second report will include the circular economy approach, the payment for ecosystem services approach and the gross national happiness index. Findings from the report may be presented, along with those from the first report, at the proposed workshop and “ideas marketplace” at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in May 2016 (see para. 35 below).

34. UNEP will conduct regional outreach and capacity-building work around the multiple pathways to sustainable development in the lead-up to the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly. Such efforts will help to further disseminate information about the plurality of approaches to sustainable development, including the inclusive green economy approach.

35. In response to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/10, UNEP is proposing to host a workshop and an “ideas marketplace” expected to run throughout the second session of the Assembly. The proposed workshop will build on the results of the two UNEP reports on multiple pathways to sustainable development, taking stock of initiatives from around the world, as requested by resolution 1/10, with ministers from selected countries sharing information on their countries’ national sustainable development initiatives. The proposed “ideas marketplace” would provide an opportunity for countries to share materials and provide information on national initiatives.