

## Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### Green Economy after Rio+20 – Progress and Prospects Inaugural PAGE Global Conference

March 5 - Thematic Breakout Session 09:30 – 11:15

#### Session 3b: Green Economy and Trade Opportunities

### *How can international trade be transformed to become a driver for a socially- inclusive green economy?*

Organizer: UNEP

#### 1. Background

The Rio+20 Outcome Document, *The Future We Want*, recognizes the “green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development” and re-affirms that international trade can be an engine for development, sustained economic growth and the green economy transition.

Government leaders at Rio+20 initiated a departure from conventional trade-environment debates, by emphasizing the opportunities, rather than the challenges, that lie at the nexus of environment and trade. Indeed, when accompanied by appropriate regulation, international trade and the green economy can interact in a mutually beneficial way. In this regard, UNEP’s report “Green Economy and Trade – Trends, Challenges and Opportunities” identifies and assesses prospects and enabling conditions for win-win outcomes at the green economy – trade interface.

In response to the international mandate vested in paragraph 66 of the Rio+20 Outcome document, UNEP cooperates with the PAGE partners in streamlining international and country-level activities for making trade more sustainable in the transition to greener economies while reducing the risks that instruments such as subsidies, standards or border measures, pose in terms of trade restrictions.

#### 2. Session Theme and Objectives

The session will outline the importance of, and pathways towards, sustainable trade opportunities that arise from the transition to a green economy and will identify good practices and experiences of green economy front runners on how international trade can be transformed to become a driver for an inclusive green economy. The session aims at identifying key actors, institutions and policy options to scale-up knowledge sharing and to advance action for making sustainable trade a driver of the green economy on the national and international level.

The session will focus on the following questions:

- What are key examples of the mutually beneficial relationship between trade and a green economy transition?
- What are the key actors, institutions and policy options to make trade more sustainable and to facilitate the pathway towards a green economy?

- What role can governments, the private sector and civil society play to scale-up knowledge and experience sharing in the trade and green economy debate?

The session will highlight the increasing importance of sustainable trade, featuring among others the findings of UNEP’s publication “South – South Trade in Renewable Energy: A Trade Flow Analysis of Select Environmental Goods.” It will also examine the potential for trade in environmental goods and services to unlock new opportunities and markets for countries pursuing a sustainability agenda. It will thereby illustrate the opportunities offered by greening global value chains and by trade in environmental goods and services.

### 3. Methodology and Structure

The Session lasts for 90 minutes. During the first 45 minutes, a brief introduction by the Co-chairs will be followed by two 5 minutes “setting-the-scene” statements/short presentations and a moderated and interactive panel discussion. Here, 3 other panellists will express their perspective on the issue of sustainable trade and answer questions posed by the co-chairs.

During the remaining 45 min, the co-chairs will extract and open for discussion with the audience what they heard on the three themes/objectives of the session. At the end, they will summarize relevant discussions and suggest 2-3 key take home messages/recommendations emerging from the session.

### 4. Agenda, Moderators and Speakers

#### Co-Chairs Introduction (3 min max each):

- H.E. Professor Ephraim Kamuntu – Minister of Water and Environment, Republic of Uganda
- Scott Vaughan – President of the International Institute for Sustainable Development

#### Introductory statements (5 minutes max each):

- H.E. Rolph Payet – Minister of Environment and Energy, Seychelles
- Tim Drury – Procurement Operations Director Unilever (North Africa Middle East, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus)

#### Panelists:

- Papa Kow Bartels – Director Logistics and Value Chain Division of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ghana
- Carla Vaca – Coordinator National Commission for the Promotion of Biotrade, Peru (TBC)
- Tra Huong Nguyen – Senior Expert Ministry of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam

### 5. Background documents and publications

South – South Trade in Renewable Energy: A Trade Flow Analysis of Select Environmental Goods

[Green Economy and Trade: Trends, Challenges, Opportunities](#)

[Green Economy and Trade: Solar Export Potential Study in Ghana](#)

[Green Economy and Trade: BioTrade Export Potential Study in Peru](#)

[Green Economy and Trade: Certified Aquaculture Export Potential Study in Viet Nam](#)