Dear participant,

I would like to thank you for accepting our invitation to help shape the OECD Green Growth Strategy.

As you know, since the economic and financial crisis, efforts to promote green growth have been intensifying. The crisis provided the impetus, but green growth is not a short-term response. The dynamic will persist over the coming years with a number of initiatives being rolled out by governments and international organisations, including the OECD.

This Workshop is unique in bringing together expertise from so many different areas inside and outside government. One of the key issues we will be discussing over the next two days is that green growth is a core economic concern. It has implications for finance, employment, consumption, innovation and training, in addition to the environment. It therefore needs to be tackled with a high degree of co-ordination across the whole of government.

We also need to determine how to re-frame growth beyond GDP in a way that can help governments hold themselves accountable for performance. Our traditional definitions of “performance” and “progress” will need to be called into question.

The green growth narrative will have to resonate with a truly global audience. That means clarifying environmental risks and their implication for future economic growth across different countries.

We cannot content ourselves with identifying and analysing issues and goals. We must propose an agenda for action, including a practical policy framework and a set of tools to measure progress. This will also need to recognise the key barriers and trade-offs that the transition to green growth will present.

We have set ourselves ambitious targets, but I am confident that this Workshop and future initiatives will help us reach them.

Yours sincerely,

Angel Gurría
Secretary-General, OECD
The OECD Green Growth Strategy

When they met at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) in June 2009, Ministers from 34 countries asked us to develop a Green Growth Strategy. The aim of the Strategy is to provide a clear framework for how countries can achieve economic growth and development while at the same time preventing costly environmental degradation, climate change and inefficient use of natural resources. This entails developing specific tools across a range of relevant areas from investment and taxes to innovation, competition and employment.

The Green Growth Strategy is prepared through a multi-disciplinary inter-governmental process and is based on the work of the 25 OECD Committees actively engaged in its development. It will be a fundamental contribution from the OECD to support countries’ transition to greener growth in the coming years.

Key Deliverables of the Green Growth Strategy

The Strategy’s two main deliverables are the Green Growth Strategy Synthesis Report and the report Measuring Progress Towards Green Growth: OECD Indicators. They will be delivered at the May 2011 MCM and will provide the underlying framework for developing country-specific recommendations and monitoring work.

Work is also underway on several sector-specific Green Growth Studies. The Green Growth Strategy for Food and Agriculture draft report will be among the key documents for review at the Workshop and will be released at the 2011 MCM. Other forthcoming sector-specific studies will focus on the energy sector (a joint IEA/OECD deliverable for the 2011 MCM), green innovation, biodiversity and green growth, cities and green growth, and green growth and development co-operation.

Goal of the Workshop

This Workshop has been organised to encourage open debate around the key issues and challenges of the Green Growth Strategy. Delegates from OECD member and partner countries, stakeholders and experts will gather to deliberate on these issues with a view to provide fresh insight to ongoing work – as reflected in the key documents available. The Workshop’s ultimate aim is to ensure that the Strategy’s policy recommendations are relevant to countries’ needs. The outcome of the discussions will be reflected in revisions to the main reports under review: the Green Growth Strategy Synthesis Report, Measuring Progress Towards Green Growth: OECD Indicators and A Green Growth Strategy for Food and Agriculture: Draft Report. The deadline for written comments on the Synthesis and Indicators Reports is 28 February 2011.
Key Documents for the Workshop


All documents discussed at the workshop will be available on the International Green Growth Dialogue secure site.

Further Information


**International Green Growth Dialogue:** [https://community.oecd.org/community/greengrowth](https://community.oecd.org/community/greengrowth)

The International Green Growth Dialogue secure site is an online platform created to increase international co-ordination and discussion around green growth issues and to provide a platform to exchange lessons learned as well as best practices. All Workshop participants have access to the International Green Growth Dialogue site and will receive a regular newsletter on green growth topics. If you have difficulty accessing the site, please email greengrowth@oecd.org.

**Questions** please contact greengrowth@oecd.org.

Workshop Sponsors

The OECD has organised this event in partnership with, and gratefully acknowledges the support of:

- The Official Delegation of Japan to the OECD
- The Official Delegation of Korea to the OECD
- The Official Delegation of the United Kingdom to the OECD
# Thursday 10 February 2011

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome coffee (CC04)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 13:00</td>
<td>Plenary Session (CC12)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Key Issues of the Green Growth Strategy Synthesis Report</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Listening room CC06)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Welcome and opening remarks by Pier Carlo Padoan, OECD Chief Economist &amp;</td>
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<td>Deputy Secretary-General.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This session will open the debate on key issues and challenges set out in</td>
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<td>the Green Growth Strategy Synthesis Report, focusing on:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I. The rationale for green growth strategies</td>
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<td>II. Navigating the political economy of the green transition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>This session will be chaired by Simon Upton, Director, OECD Environment</td>
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| 13:00 – 15:00 | Buffet lunch (CC04)                                                      |

| 15:00 – 18:00 | Breakout Sessions                                                        |
|              | Session A1 (CC15)                                                        |
|              | Economic Instruments                                                     |
|              | (listening room CC12)                                                    |
|              | Session A2 (CC10)                                                        |
|              | Indicators for Green Growth                                              |
|              | (listening room CC02)                                                    |
|              | Session A3 (CC06)                                                        |
|              | Food and Agriculture                                                     |

| 18:00       | Cocktail (Roger Ockrent Room, Château)                                   |
### Friday 11 February 2011

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Breakout Sessions</th>
<th>Buffet lunch (CC04)</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 12:30</td>
<td>Session B1 (CC06) Jobs and Skills</td>
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<td>Conclusions from Breakout Sessions and Next Steps</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Session B2 (CC15) Innovation</td>
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<td>Session B3 (CC10) Development</td>
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<td>(coffee break at 11:00, CC04)</td>
<td>(listening room CC12)</td>
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<td>12:30 – 14:00</td>
<td>Buffet lunch (CC04)</td>
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<td>14:00 – 17:30</td>
<td>Plenary Session (CC12)</td>
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<td>Participants will reconvene to discuss the main highlights of the individual sessions and help to distil the key messages on green growth that should be emphasised at the May 2011 MCM.</td>
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<td>Rapporteurs will report back on the discussions in the first plenary session and the breakout sessions.</td>
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<td>The Secretary-General of the OECD Angel Gurría will offer closing remarks.</td>
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**Attendees**

- Participants will reconvene to discuss the main highlights of the individual sessions and help to distil the key messages on green growth that should be emphasised at the May 2011 MCM.
- Rapporteurs will report back on the discussions in the first plenary session and the breakout sessions.
  - General discussion
- The Chairs will draw out the key messages on green growth that should be integrated in the revised Synthesis Report and conveyed to the MCM in May 2011.
  - General discussion
- Next steps in the Green Growth Strategy.

**Chairpersons**

- Bob Ford, Deputy-Director, OECD Economics Department and Simon Upton, Director, OECD Environment Directorate.

**Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General of the OECD Angel Gurría will offer closing remarks.
Plenary Session: Key Issues and Challenges of the Synthesis Report

I. The rationale for green growth strategies

The need for green growth strategies arises from the fact that the way we frame growth is incomplete. Our traditional understanding of growth and the typical standards used to guide economic policy frequently do not account for natural assets and the role they play in underpinning economic growth and contributing to human welfare. Policymakers need to look beyond the conventional conception of growth, like changes in GDP, in order to appropriately assess the role that the environment plays in supporting growth and the possible trade-offs between growth and the environment.

Issues for discussion:

➢ The Synthesis Report asserts that valuing natural assets and pricing pollution should be at the heart of any green growth strategy. But it also acknowledges that there are two difficult issues not captured by this approach. One is coping with irreversible systemic risks (involving highly uncertain tipping points); the other is path dependency, with consumer habits, technology and infrastructure all reflecting past incentive problems.

   o Is this problem analysis adequately stated?
   o Are systemic risks and path dependency usefully described?

➢ The Report asserts that the ‘growth’ element of green growth comes from: (a) new opportunities presented by innovation aimed at addressing environmental concerns, (b) more efficient use of resources through the removal of environmentally harmful subsidies and more rigorous appraisal of the costs and benefits presented by alternative policies, and (c) the avoidance of environmental damage that is costly economically.

   o Does this account of the potential benefits and growth opportunities provide adequate motivation for developing green growth strategies?

➢ The Report’s emphasis on price signals assumes that these will be the principal way in which the profile of consumer demand will be modified.

   o Are additional demand-side measures, such as improved information, given appropriate attention?
Plenary Session: Key Issues and Challenges of the Synthesis Report

The Strategy includes a very simple working definition of green growth: "Green growth is about maximising economic growth and development while avoiding unsustainable pressure on the quality and quantity of natural assets. It is also about harnessing the growth potential that arises from transitioning towards a green economy."

- Is this an adequate definition – how might it be improved?

The Strategy builds on an understanding that green growth is part of sustainable development. Green growth does not seek to supplant sustainable development or the understandings that governments have reached in its name. Rather, it proposes a more concrete policy framework which focuses on the economy-environment interface while paying particular attention to adjustment costs that may arise from policy reform.

- Is this articulation between green growth and sustainable development sufficiently clear?

II. Navigating the political economy of the green transition

Identifying the policies that a green growth strategy should encompass is only a first step. There remains a wider challenge of making reform happen. In other words, how decisions are made, and in whose interest. How reform is promoted or obstructed and why.

Green growth strategies cut across many of the traditional categories governments use to organise their actions, so policy coherence is essential. Moreover, designing and implementing green growth strategies faces an additional challenge in that governments need to find satisfactory compromises not only among the conflicting objectives of different strands of society, but also within government itself.

The various aspects of economic adjustment and policy reform associated with the transition to greener growth also need to be considered. This includes an assessment of the nature and extent of adjustment costs that can be expected as a result of resource re-allocation between different sectors of the economy and how to deal with associated distributional impacts.

Issues for discussion:

- What are the key barriers and trade-offs that governments will need to address during the transition to green growth? Are these adequately framed by the Report?

- How can "green protectionism" be avoided?

Session A1: Economic Instruments

The most appropriate policy action to achieve greener growth will involve a mix of instruments, tailored to address the specific circumstances of a given country. The choice of the appropriate instruments for green growth policies will depend on a set of criteria, including: cost-effectiveness, adoption and compliance incentives, ability to cope with uncertainty, effectiveness in stimulating innovation and the diffusion of green technologies, and the extent to which instruments can facilitate international coordination. OECD analysis suggests that no single instrument scores well on each of these criteria.

Selecting the best policy mix to achieve green growth in a given context will require the optimal combination of both market and non-market instruments. Market-based instruments aim at addressing market failures mainly through price signals. These include environmentally-related taxes, tradable permits, and subsidies for reducing pollution. The strength of taxes and permits is that they set the incentives for reducing environmental damage with the least resource cost and provide incentives for innovation. Yet, adoption and compliance incentives are low. While the opposite is true for subsidies, they often fail to achieve cost-effectiveness and can lead to lock in into inappropriate technologies.

Non-market instruments include direct environmental regulations, active technology support policies and voluntary approaches. They generally provide no intrinsic mechanism for ensuring that environmental targets be attained at the least economic cost. However, as the costs of implementing these instruments are less visible or fall on all tax-payers, incentives for adoption and compliance can be strong.

Session A1: Economic Instruments

Issues for discussion:

- What are the most promising avenues for policies aiming at improving both the environment and growth prospects? What are the most acute trade-offs between these two objectives?

Market-based instruments

- Is there an untapped potential for shifting the composition of taxes towards energy, pollution and other environmentally related bases?
- In cases in which subsidies can be justified (e.g. when the subsidized activity is a strong substitute for the dirty activity and pricing is difficult), what mechanisms can be put in place to evaluate their cost-effectiveness and ensure phasing them out over time?
- There has been limited progress to date in phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies. Why and what more can be done?

Non-market instruments

- Under which conditions and which areas or sectors can non-market instruments usefully complement market ones in promoting green growth?
- To what extent can non-market instruments generate concerns about trade and investment openness? How can these concerns be best addressed?

Chair: Richard Price, Chief Economist, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), United Kingdom

Lead Discussant: Joe Grice, Executive Director, Office for National Statistics, United Kingdom

Robin Miège, Acting Director for Strategy, Directorate-General Environment, European Commission

Markku Wallin, Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Strategy and Foresight, Ministry of Employment and the Economy, Finland
Session A2: Indicators for Green Growth

Monitoring progress towards green growth requires a supporting framework, definitions and comparable data. The OECD measurement framework for green growth indicators explores four inter-related groups of indicators: (i) reflecting the environmental efficiency of production and consumption; (ii) of the natural asset base; (iii) monitoring the environmental quality of life, and (iv) describing policy responses and economic opportunities.

Overall, a set of around thirty indicators has been identified according to the criteria of relevance for monitoring green growth, methodological soundness and measurability. Of the thirty indicators, twenty are measurable today. A small set of ‘headline’ indicators is also proposed to track the most central elements of the green growth concept and represent a broader set of green growth issues.

A few messages already begun to emerge from the data at hand: (i) there is a broad trend towards relative decoupling of environmental pressure from economic growth but not necessarily absolute decoupling; (ii) in the area of CO₂ emissions, there is some evidence of displacement effects from OECD to non-OECD countries; (iii) on the supply side of OECD economies, the environmental goods and services industries today still account for a modest share of value-added and employment.

Session A2: Indicators for Green Growth

Issues for discussion:

- Two green growth headline indicators are currently proposed – one carbon-related and one related to food, agriculture and nutrients. Are these indicators representative enough to provide a first approximation to whether a country is on a path towards greener growth? Are they easy to understand and interpret?

- A distinction is made between production-based and demand-based CO₂ emissions. The latter adjusts national emissions upwards for emissions embodied in imports and downwards for emissions embodied in exports. How can these ‘carbon footprint’ indicators be best used in a policy context?

- A major gap in the available headline indicators relates to biodiversity. Land conversion information has been proposed as a way forward. Are there other, more readily available and more informative indicators to capture biodiversity and its interaction with economic growth?

- To better capture efficient management of resources, would a measure such as the intensity of domestic material consumption per GDP serve as a suitable headline indicator complementing the existing ones?

- Based on experience with the use of indicators in the area of green growth or sustainable development, can lessons be drawn about the most suitable number of indicators, their presentation or their communication? Is the proposed level of aggregation appropriate?

Chair: 

Yuichi Moriguchi, Director, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan; Vice-Chair of the Working Party on Environmental Indicators

Lead Discussants: 

Junichi Fujino, Senior Researcher, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan

Brian Pink, Australian Bureau of Statistics; Chair of Committee on Statistics
The key policy challenge for agriculture and fisheries (including aquaculture production) is to meet the global demand for food set to double by 2050, while minimising environmental and social pressures. Anticipated growth in the demand for food and agricultural raw materials due to expanding world population and growing incomes will place considerable demands upon scarce natural resources used in the sector, particularly land and water. Agriculture and fisheries will also have to adapt to climate change and contribute to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Addressing these challenges requires identifying cost-effective ways to account for environmental externalities that are not factored into producer and consumer decisions.

The agriculture and fisheries sectors have an important role to play in contributing to greener growth, in particular through facilitating the uptake of green technologies and management practices and reducing waste in the food chain. This will involve a range of policies, including: the reform of environmentally-harmful subsidies that distort efficient resource use; freer international trade; shifting towards targeted policies that will support poor and vulnerable farmers; rewarding the provision of ecosystem services; and encouraging R&D, technologies and management practices that improve the productivity of resource use. Framing appropriate “greening” policies is also a major governance issue which requires examining the incentives and disincentives generated by policies as well as the regulatory and institutional framework more broadly.

Documents for discussion:

Session A3: Food and Agriculture

Issues for discussion:

- What are the main priorities for governments in greening the food chain? How can governments identify opportunities likely to achieve the greatest benefit at the least cost?

- Can green growth policies help to re-frame intractable debates in the agricultural and fisheries sectors to provide momentum for reform?

- What “good business and policy practices” are actually being implemented in OECD and non-OECD countries that can be shown to lead to greener agriculture, food and fisheries sectors? How can other countries learn from these “success stories”?

- Are the indicators to measure progress in greening the agriculture and fisheries sectors identified in the report relevant and easy to understand and interpret?

- Are there any key messages in the Food and Agriculture Report that should also be reflected in the Synthesis Report?

Chair: Frode Lyssandtræ, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway; Chair, Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment

Lead Discussant: Rudy Rabbinge, Professor of Sustainable Development in Agriculture, Wageningen University, Netherlands
Labour market and training policy can make an important contribution to a comprehensive strategy towards environmentally sustainable growth, especially in smoothing the labour market adjustments. One key aspect of this role lies in the political realm. Much of the political resistance to effective green growth policies reflects widespread concerns that the jobs and well-being of many workers in environmentally burdensome activities would be at risk. These concerns could be tempered, at least in part, if an effective package of labour market and skill development measures is in place, which can assure that workers will receive the help they require to successfully navigate in a labour market that is being reshaped by the transition to green growth.

Quite apart from their potential to increase the political viability of green growth, policies fostering successful labour market adjustment to green growth are also valuable in their own right. By minimising skill bottlenecks and preventing potentially long spells of unemployment, these types of policies can make the transition to environmental sustainability quicker and less costly than would otherwise be the case. By helping workers to move from environmentally burdensome jobs to greener jobs, they can also help to assure a more equitable sharing of adjustment costs occasioned by the transition to a low-carbon and resource efficient economy. In sub-national regions and countries with the potential to become net exporters of green goods and services, labour market programmes can also make an important contribution to comprehensive green economic development strategies aimed at raising income and possibly also total employment.

Documents for discussion:

# Session B1: Jobs and Skills

**Issues for discussion:**

- How will the transition to green growth affect overall levels of employment and labour mobility? Is the impact on employment likely to differ between developed and emerging economies?

- Which types of labour market policies would be necessary to promote the required restructuring of labour markets, while also assuring that this transition does not leave some workforce groups behind?

- How will the transition to green growth affect job skill requirements? Are skill bottlenecks an important barrier to achieving a rapid transition to green growth? How can “green” skill deficits best be remedied?

- How can national governments best partner with sub-national and local governments; employers and workers and their representative organisations; as well as other groups in civil society to manage the labour market adjustments which are necessary to achieve an efficient and just transition to green growth?

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**Chair:** Bo Smith, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Employment, Denmark; Co-Chair of the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee

**Lead Discussants:**

- Christine Holzer, Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Austria

- Jiweon Jeong, Deputy Director General for Skills Development, Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Employment and Labour, Korea

- Robert Strauss, Head of Unit, Employment Analysis, Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

- Bert de Wel, Advisor, ACV-CSC - Confédération des Syndicats Chrétiens de Belgique; Trade Union Advisory Committee
Session B2: Innovation

Innovation is crucial in enabling green and growth to go hand in hand. Fostering green innovation will require a combination of policies and should be based on sound framework conditions. Clear and stable market signals resulting from carbon pricing or other market instruments will help address the externalities associated with environmental challenges and strengthen the incentives for green innovation. But carbon pricing is not enough to drive more disruptive innovation and develop breakthrough technologies.

The emergence of new technologies generally requires considerable and long-term investment in basic research before being picked-up by firms. A broad portfolio of research investments will be required, reflecting the multi-disciplinary nature of research today. More specific and temporary direct support for clean technologies may also be needed to break path dependence effects that favour existing, dirtier technologies. This requires judgements as to what should be supported, how much support is required and how long that support needs to last. Governments can also use demand-side policies, such as public procurement and regulation, to strengthen the markets for green innovation. Policy makers must also consider the organisational and social changes that need to accompany new technologies.

Achieving green growth at the global level will require the widespread diffusion of new technologies and solutions across the world. Lowering barriers to trade and foreign direct investment helps strengthen the flow of technology across borders. Protection of intellectual property rights in host countries provides firms with incentives to transfer knowledge across borders. Strengthening of international science and technology co-operation helps share knowledge and costs. New mechanisms to accelerate the transfer of green innovation are emerging, e.g. collaborative mechanisms and patent pools, and require significant scale-up.

Friday 11 February 2011, 9:30 – 12:30, Room CC15 (Listening room CC12)

Session B2: Innovation

Issues for discussion:

- What roles should government play in fostering the development and uptake of new clean technologies and solutions? What lessons from national experiences should be reflected in the Synthesis Report?

- How should technology support and other policies needed to overcome path dependency be designed to reduce the risk of government failures, e.g. related to lock-in of inappropriate technologies and the problems associated with “picking winners”?

- How can command-and-control instruments (e.g. regulations) be designed so as to provide incentives for green innovation?

- What are the priorities for policy to strengthen technology transfer across borders? How should the process be accelerated?

Chair: Ken Warwick, Director of Analysis, Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), United Kingdom

Lead Discussants: Richard Johnson, CEO, Global Helix LLC, Senior Counsel and Senior Partner; Vice-Chair, BIAC Technology Committee

Arie van der Zwan, Senior Policy Advisor on International Affairs, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, The Netherlands
For developing countries, green growth should contribute to the objectives of poverty reduction and sustainable development in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In addition, as the majority of greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss is expected to occur in the developing world in the years to come, the Green Growth Strategy needs to be relevant and applicable to developing countries, including poor countries.

However, there is still a strong presumption that green growth is only for “the rich”. Indeed, for the majority of developing countries, other development issues - providing basic education, ensuring food security, and delivering essential services such as water supply and sanitation will remain overarching priorities.

How can we ensure that green growth is viewed as an opportunity rather than a burden by developing countries? This requires making clear the linkages between the different strands of green growth and the MDGs. Can OECD countries play a role to assist green growth transition in developing countries?

Session B3: Development

Issues for discussion:

- How can the Strategy contribute to a common understanding of the relationship between green growth and the Millennium Development Goals, notably poverty reduction?

- How can the Strategy better address the risks and opportunities to developing countries, including the poorest?

- Recognising common challenges and global linkages, what policies can OECD countries employ to help non-OECD countries make the transition to greener growth?

Co-Chairs:  

Maria Berlekom, Acting Director, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; Co-Chair of DAC Network on Environment and Development Co-operation  

Stephen Groff, Deputy-Director, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate

Lead Discussants:  

Zaheer Fakir, Acting Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation and Relations, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa

Lorenzo Santucci, Environmental Affairs Officer, Environment and Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Ishak Kasim Syurkani, Deputy Director, Center for International Cooperation, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia
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