

Statement by Aron Belinky, from Vitae Civilis Institute and Green Economy Coalition, on behalf the ten undersigned CSOs, participating in the OECD's Green Growth & Sustainable Development Forum 2012, on 23th November 2012.

Dear OECD organizers, ambassadors and forum participants,

We welcome the opportunity to participate in this important moment, and believe this can be a very relevant milestone in the road towards a greener and fairer world. To enhance our contribution, we gathered and have agreed on three main points: one on process and two on content.

### **1- Inclusive process**

**We ask OECD and all Governments to make explicit opportunities for effective civil society engagement in green economy, green growth and related processes.** Stakeholder engagement and societal buy-in are fundamental for such processes, and goes beyond participation in meetings, but as helping civil society become equal partners for development and implementation. We ask specifically that in future versions of this Forum civil society representatives are given an equal opportunity to participate in the stakeholder engagement process and also to contribute with their own presentations on green economy perspectives.

### **2- Environmental limits**

**We want green growth processes to acknowledge environmental limits and to actively pursue policies that improve natural systems.** As Professor Smil so eloquently explained in his lecture, our societies have been good in becoming more and more efficient, but also in using even more and more resources. While current inequalities between and within countries makes the case for economic development, we must accept the fact that there are environmental limits. Public policies, governance and economic frameworks must acknowledge this, steering action so we can actively improve the state of our natural systems.

### **3- Wellbeing**

**We want green growth to be explicit in its ambitions for societal development and poverty eradication taking into full account the institutional and contextual analysis, importantly in respect of land and resource tenure, among others. So we want OECD & Governments to have policies on wellbeing and link that to the process of developing SDGs.** As commented on a number of today's presentations, there still serious gaps in the models, indicators and strategies presented on what value green growth makes to societal development. However, this lack of agreed methodologies should not constrain OECD and nation states making clear their ambitions to use green growth to explicitly secure societal development and, ongoing, to further define improvements on how it does this.

Thanking for your attention,

Signed by (in alphabetical order)

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