



UNCOVERING PATHWAYS TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMY

A SUMMARY FOR LEADERS



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Message from Achim Steiner

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MESSAGE
FROM ACHIM
STEINER

We live in a world of imminent ecological thresholds and environmental tipping points, continuing social disparities and persistent poverty. Emerging global threats to “Our Common Future” require much greater collective action, improved benefit sharing from natural resource development and greater financing to enable transformative action. And driving this change we need a new moral imperative linked to equitable outcomes, shared concerns, and equal claims, including the rights of future generations. We need to evolve to a new economic model, capable of progressing and achieving the goals of sustainable development, and one that matches the ambition of countries as they embark on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

An **Inclusive Green Economy** (IGE) has evolved from earlier work on Green Economy. In its simplest expression, such an economy is low carbon, efficient and clean in production, but also inclusive in 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 up by strong institutions that are specifically geared to safeguarding social and ecological floors. And it recognizes that there are many and diverse pathways to environmental sustainability.

This paper speaks to the multiple benefits – economic, health, security, social and environmental – that such an approach can bring to nations, mindful of the differing challenges faced by states along the development continuum, be they developed, developing, emerging, or in conflict. It argues for policies that are nuanced, context-dependent, and modulated. An integrated approach can help states understand how to maximize, prioritize, and sequence the different benefits to human well-being that can be derived from a healthy environment.

At the end of the day, an inclusive green economy must provide not only for jobs and income, but for our health, our environment and our future. This is our common challenge: creating the conditions for enhanced prosperity and growing social equity, within the contours of a finite and fragile planet.



Achim Steiner

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

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Any remaining errors and omissions are the responsibility of the core authoring team.



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