

**Promoting economic integration and global  
competitiveness in the ECE Region**

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on Sustainable Development 2012**

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# Global role of UNECE region

- Most developed part of world (GDP total, GDP per capita, intl. trade)
- Most integrated region but high level of sub-regional disparities (G8, G20, OECD, EU, EIT)
- Positive: Diversity of economic cooperation/major ODA donor (MDGs)
- Biggest consumer of resources (e.g. ecol. footprint)
- Challenge: Reduce mat. and energy intensity of econ., to be leader in global tech. innovation, to be competitive and fair player in intl. trade

# Multiple Crisis and UNECE

- Heavy impact on UNECE
- 2009: GDP slowed
- 2011: vital ecosystems under huge stress
- Impossible to continue with current patterns towards 2050's world population of 9 billion
- Equal sharing of benefits vital to ensure sustainable economic growth (good political, economic, social and envi. governance at all levels)

# Multiple Crisis and UNECE (ctd)

- Seeking a new paradigm as a base for sustainable economic growth
- Promising concept:
  - ✓ Green Growth Strategy (OECD)
  - ✓ Green Economy (UNEP)
  - ✓ Green Economy in the context of SD and poverty eradication (UNCSD, Rio+20)
- Understood in integrated and holistic manner

# Green Economy/Growth

- 1 of tools for achieving objectives of SD
- Contribution to poverty reduction + job creation
- Core element - recognition, evaluation and investment in natural capital (ecosystem services)
- Key tools –innovation and R&D, taxation
- Need for modified indicators beyond the GDP
- All related issues need to be embedded in context of SD!

# Rio+20: State of play & next steps

- Rio+20 (4–6 June 2012): deliver outcomes on two themes to achieve threefold objective
- A lot of work done so far: Synthesis report, work of UN entities etc.
- Further steps determined by PrepCom-2 decision
- Inputs for inclusion in compilation text: 1 Nov 2011
- Zero-draft of outcome document: early Jan 2012
- Series of informal informals: three-day meeting in Jan 2012; one full week for negotiations in Feb, Mar and Apr 2012
- PrepCom-3: Rio de Janeiro, 28–30 May 2012

# Role of UNECE in preparations

- 2 Bureau members designated to liaise with UN regional commissions
- Year 2011 will be crucial for regional inputs
- Forums for voices from the UNECE region:
  - UNECE regional preparatory meeting for Rio+20
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”
  - OECD Ministerial Council meeting etc.
- Reflect other processes, e.g. preparation of Secretary-General’s Report on global economic governance and development for the 66<sup>th</sup> UNGA session
- Send as clear and concrete messages as possible for inclusion in a compilation text

# Possible results of Rio+20

- Pending on inputs from UN MS and entities, including UNECE, and forthcoming negotiations
- Examples:
  - ✓ UN green economy roadmap
  - ✓ Toolbox of best practices
  - ✓ Decision on IFSD, including strengthening coordination role of UN regional commissions



**Thank you for your attention**

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