E: Resolutions on the Green Economy

E1 Resolution regarding the Rio+20 Summit

Provisional version as at 17th April 2012

Background

1. The first UN Conference on Environment and Development - the Earth Summit - was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, where Greens from around the world gathered for the first time.

2. The resulting Rio Declaration recognized each nation's right to pursue social and economic progress and established the concept of sustainable development delimited through the integration of the economic, social and environmental pillars. It addressed the lifestyle of our current civilization and acknowledged the urgent need for a deep change in our consumption and production patterns.

3. In 2000, the UN set out 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for eradicating extreme poverty; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and empowering women; reducing child mortality rates; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; and developing a global partnership for development.

4. These objectives are required to be achieved by 2015 but mainly fall a long way short of their targets.

5. The Rio+10 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in Johannesburg in 2002 to renew the global commitment to sustainable development but was widely regarded as a wasted opportunity and the agenda was over-ridden by trade interests.

6. In June 2012 the world community will reconvene in Rio for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which will focus on two themes: 'a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication' and 'the institutional framework for sustainable development'. The Brazilian government wants to make this event the largest UN conference in history, but that will serve no purpose unless there is also an ambition to produce binding agreements to take us forward on a path of truly sustainable development and of enforceable environmental governance.

7. As many as 1.4 billion people still live in extreme poverty, half of whom live in sub-Saharan Africa; one sixth of the world's population is undernourished, while food insecurity is on the rise and unemployment or underemployment remain the reality for a large proportion of the population in the developing countries; 70% of the people living on under $1 a day are women; climate change poses a serious threat to poverty reduction, human rights, peace and security and the achievement of the MDGs in many developing countries.
We, the Global Greens, meeting in Congress in Dakar Senegal on 1st April 2012, make the following declaration:

1. We recognise that the three Conventions that emerged from Rio, on Biodiversity (CBD), Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Desertification (UNCCD) were major steps in international multilateral co-operation and have generated supplementary treaties of considerable value, notably the Kyoto, Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols;

2. Rio+20 has to respond to the challenge of a world population, expected to rise to at least 9 billion in 2050, which will put even greater demands on the limited supply of natural resources and lead to an ever-growing demand for water, land and forest. This will initiate even further biodiversity loss, overfishing, ecosystem degradation, deforestation and land grabbing of indigenous peoples' lands. World population and overconsumption must be addressed through improving health, education, social welfare and women's empowerment.

3. We will make clear our demands on climate change in a parallel Resolution, but we must emphasize here that global warming and ever-increasing climatic instability provide the dramatic and urgent context against which all issues of sustainability must be measured. Recent warnings that we now face warming of 4 degrees Celsius under current global greenhouse gas emission trends underline yet again the self-destructive path that we are on.

4. Rio+20 represents a major opportunity to reaffirm the systemic vision of, and an integrated and effective approach to, sustainable development through the three pillars - environmental, economic and social - requiring a radical change from the existing order. We need an ecological and social transformation to enable us to reach the fundamental objectives of social justice, equality - particularly gender equality - and democracy, and preservation of the planet's natural resources. We urgently need to develop indicators that encompass these values and move beyond the outdated and growth-oriented economic measurement of GDP.

5. At this UN Conference, developed countries must respect their commitment to Public Development Aid Funding (at least 0.7% of GDP) and introduce a global tax on financial transactions. This is imperative for addressing the commitments of the 8 UN Millennium Goals as well as the issues of food security, conservation of and access to adequate safe water, unemployment and underemployment, climate change and energy supply, war and human rights abuses.

6. Our Oceans play a central role in global climate processes, are a major source of energy, are home to a wealth of biodiversity and provide sustainable livelihoods as well as the essential elements for life, including food, medicines, and freshwater. All of these attributes are under threat, including that from ocean acidification and industrial over-fishing. Previous UN agreements and treaties failed to address this issue, and a new Oceans Treaty is urgently needed to protect and manage this asset.

7. There are new forms of migration such as environmental and climate-induced displacement, and we therefore call for the establishment of a new migration
policy addressing the challenges of international environmental and climate induced migration, recognising that people have the right to move to survive, and to be accepted in other countries.

8. With regard to the Summit theme of ‘a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication’, the Global Greens reiterate that the global economy must shift rapidly to an inclusive green economy, defined by the following:

- Incorporates the true costs of increasingly scarce natural resources and recognises the value of common goods and services of nature;
- Adopts innovative technology and eco-efficient and low carbon practices;
- Commits to durable goods and the end of inbuilt obsolescence;
- Proposes new forms of organisation of solidarity economy creating new bottom-up opportunities for all and investing in education;
- Shifts from consumer-based economies to a focus on wellbeing, culture and healthier communities, with the full participation of civil society;
- Must be inclusive and reduce inequalities and poverty.

Therefore the Global Greens:

- Insist that the emphasis on green economy should reflect the acceptance of limits to economic (GDP) growth in both developed and developing countries and the need to choose genuinely sustainable and low or zero net carbon forms of economic development;
- Insist that the emphasis on the green economy should reflect true innovatory thinking, such as the concept of a Green New Deal which provides employment in jobs that protect, rather than damage, the environment; and in training, education and development of green technologies. The new Green economy should not be a cover for corporate green-wash or divert attention away from the need for sustainable practices, but should facilitate a shift in the production and consumption patterns of developed and emerging economies;
- Underline the need for addressing new and emerging challenges in global commerce, such as the scarcity of resources, the ever-escalating cost of commodities, the need for transfer of green technologies to emerging countries, the long-term consequences for economic and social stability of such matters and the need to redistribute wealth from developed to developing countries, and within countries. Mechanisms and means to meet these challenges include transfer of green technologies between all countries, both developed and developing and international regulatory policies for the equitable distribution of wealth and revenue;
- Stress that the transition towards a green economy requires urgent action as regards ecosystems protection, efficient and sustainable resources and natural capital, while promoting sustainable consumption and production;
- Recognise that food sovereignty will require protecting and promoting familial agricultures, including intensive agro-ecological techniques, thus
encouraging a modern rurality, allowing the poorest half of humanity, often women, to supply their own food with dignity;

f. Insist on much stronger regulation and control of the World Economy by the people. The needs of people and the planet should be the focus of our economy. Participation of many is the tool to build a more sustainable and socially just economic system. These changes should include more progressive socially and ecologically just taxation systems all over the world and the provision of public services such as health, education and housing by democratically controlled states.

9. With regard to the Summit theme ‘the institutional framework for sustainable development’, the Global Greens:

a. Understand that the challenges which lie ahead are mutually related, interdependent and urgent, and that the UN Sustainable Development process must be given an on-going and coherent structure, including the need for a coordinated approach between the three Rio Conventions (Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification);

b. Call for an upgrade of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) within the institutional framework of the United Nations and consider that the UN Environment Programme and other related UN agencies should be transformed inside the UN system, by the creation of a democratically accountable World Environment Organisation;

c. Call for the establishment of clear goals, targets and indicators for measuring sustainable development which guarantee outcomes by 2020 and 2050;

d. Call for the recognition of the substantial stress imposed on cities due to unsustainable development and rapid urbanisation processes, as well as the significant role cities can and should play in implementing more sustainable modes of development. There needs to be representation of local authorities at the UN level, and they should be given new tools and financial support for planning sustainable cities with green buildings, eco-efficiency and renewable energy, water savings, adaptation and mitigation commitments and a revised green infrastructure for urban mobility and public spaces;

e. Believe that environmental accountability should be incorporated into all institutions of Global national and local governance and insist on the immediate adoption of a Green GDP;

f. Call for an international environmental court, so that global environmental legislation becomes more binding and enforceable, and that this higher body can resolve conflicts between social and environmental imperatives, and trade rules (particularly of the World Trade Organisation).
E2 Resolution on A Sustainable Economic System

As adopted at the 1 April plenary session of the 3rd Global Greens Congress - Dakar 2012

Provisional version as at 17th April 2012

Realising that the current belief in continuous economic growth has shown to
● be a basic threat to the Earth’s ecosystem;
● cause a widening of the gap between rich and poor nations; and
● cause increased gap between rich and poor inside each country,

and noting that
● the world has ever increasing human and technical resources;
● people of the world deserve a better future; and
● governments have the power to work for a sustainable future,

the Global Greens Conference urges Greens throughout the world to:

● work for valuing of Nature;
● work for growth of quality of life rather than economic growth;
● promote the use of human and technical resources to create a sustainable world; and
● promote using economic tools like
  ○ tax on pollution including carbon tax;
  ○ Tobin tax on international currency transactions with revenue used for environmental reforms; and
  ○ progressive taxation systems.

Action:

Realizing we as Greens need to work out proposals for a global Green economy which is both sustainable for the North as well as for the South;

Calls on all Green Parties to structurally debate on a global green economy, inter alia by setting up a Green Economy Network in the context of the Global Greens.
E3 Resolution on Making ACTA History

as adopted at the 1 April plenary session of the 3rd Global Greens Congress, Dakar 2012

Provisional version as at 19th April 2012

1. ACTA is non-transparent, non-democratic and exclusive

The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) was negotiated by the EU, the USA and a small group of other states supported by industry lobby groups behind closed doors without the participation of parliaments and civil society. As the attempt to push for stricter enforcement rules of intellectual property rights failed in multilateral fora like the WTO and the WIPO, the states pushing for ACTA, decided to negotiate in an exclusive group without developing countries. We Greens strongly oppose this move away from international fora and to start a policy of closed shops and intransparent processes.

2. ACTA threatens the freedom of information on the Internet

Although ACTA does not (anymore) oblige the treaty parties to control and inflict IP infringement, it still lists these provisions as goals to be reached. The signatories shall, for example, work towards a stronger cooperation between internet providers and IP right holders. This would entail a more rigid right enforcement by the providers because they fear to be made responsible for alleged IP infringement if they don't do so, and also support the idea of privatized right enforcement outside of the regular formal legal procedures.

3. ACTA endangers access to medicine

Patients all over the globe, but especially in developing countries, depend to a large extent on the cheap generic medicines often produced in other developing countries, such as India, but shipped through the EU. As ACTA also covers trademarks, border guards can seize generics in transit if they resemble a patented medicine package. ACTA will facilitate the destruction of confiscated medicine - now only possible in very limited circumstances. Forced information disclosure in the production chain will be made easier for right holders and thus cause a chilling effect for producers of generic medicine- that means out of fear for punishment decrease or stop production. All these measures go beyond TRIPS, curb the developing countries’ TRIPS flexibilities and threaten the trade with legitimate generic medicine.

4. ACTA paves a wrong way of how to deal with copyright

A more and more rigid way of copyright and IPR infringement became more dominant in the last years. We saw TRIPS that made life difficult for developing countries. Companies can patent new forms of broccoli or Amazonas plants. Pharmaceutical companies patent every tiny change of a medicine. We Greens want a reform of the IPR system so that is based on a fair balance of right holders and users. We Greens are discussing therefor the best ways to modernize and reform copyright and IPR legislation to reach these goals. ACTA however would cement the old, rigid approach for the years to come.
5. ACTA does not even hold what it promises

The Commission and other ACTA proponents claim that ACTA wants to fight counterfeit products. In reality, ACTA is useless in preventing the production of faked Gucci sun glasses since the biggest producer country of counterfeit products, China, is not even part of ACTA. ACTA cannot prevent the trade with faked, dangerous medicine.

6. The people do not want ACTA

The big protest movement all over the world, especially Europe showed that European citizens do not want ACTA. The pressure from the streets showed already its impact. The European Commission itself is starting to doubt and decided to refer ACTA to the European Court of Justice. Other political groups in the European Parliament woke up and started critical debates - also after having received thousands of e-mails from concerned citizens. There is a political momentum for making ACTA history.

Therefore, we, as Global Greens:

- Strictly oppose ACTA
- Support the protest movement all over the world
- Urge the European Parliament and the national parliaments of the ACTA states not give its consent to ACTA
- Conduct ex-ante and ex-post human rights impact assessments with every trade agreement.
E4 Resolution on Supporting Cooperative Globally

as adopted at the 1 April plenary session of the 3rd Global Greens Congress, Dakar 2012

Provisional version as at 19th April 2012

The Global Greens

Acknowledge:

- The close alignment between the International Cooperative Principles and those of the Global Greens
- The significant contribution of cooperatives to global economic and social development, and to reducing poverty: cooperatives in their many forms, promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and rural communities
- The strong commitment of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) to peace, combating climate change, and securing a sustainable and renewable future for the planet
- The performance of the cooperative movement during the global financial crisis, which demonstrates the strength of the cooperative enterprise model and has resulted in a surge of global support for cooperatives

And in affirming our support for the cooperative movement and the International Year of Cooperatives 2012 (IYC2012), we:

1. Urge Greens parties and movements across the world, in consultation with the cooperative movement in their country, to:
   a. Promote and support cooperatives and raise awareness of their contribution to social and economic development, taking advantage of IYC2012 and the International Day of Cooperatives on July 8
   b. Propose and campaign for legislative and administrative provisions governing the activities of cooperatives that nurture the creation, growth and sustainability of cooperatives in the rapidly changing socio-economic environment, and provide a level playing field vis-à-vis with other forms of business, including appropriate tax incentives and access to financial services and markets

2. Support the proposed amendment to the 7th International Cooperative Principle that enhances the environmental focus of cooperatives
3. Resolve to work closely together with the International Cooperatives Alliance on issues relating to cooperatives and social business
4. Resolve that each member party send contact details of relevant MP spokesperson or Party member to the International Cooperatives Alliance to receive news / updates
We are globally in the midst of an economic and financial crisis, which is originated by a worldwide uncontrolled financial mismanagement. After the financial breakdown in USA in 2008, Greece is now among the first European countries where economic, social and environmental degradation is manifested in an unprecedented way. Amidst this crisis, society is experiencing hard austerity measures and a well organized shock doctrine that have lead both the economy and society to further depression. We Global Greens acknowledge that the way out lies in the enhancement of economic decentralization which will be developed in a common and international framework.

With respect to the European crisis, the re-conceptualization of the European vision can be realized by implementing a common European economic policy and by creating terms of social justice and real democratic governance. We aim at implementing the Green New Deal in Europe and introducing sustainable European policies that will combat the rise of inequality and social despair.

We acknowledge the importance of public investment, especially in times of economic downturn, and thus stand against requests for long-term minimization of public expenditure and investments. Nations that have been hit hardly by the crisis, like Greece, can benefit more from green investment plans that create employment and productivity gains than from efforts to increase competitiveness by reducing labor costs. For example, Europe should prioritize productivity increase through developing sustainable technologies and infrastructure. This will bring an essential boost to the European economy. An increase of the investments budget, along with the issuance of project bonds for the development of green infrastructure, is important. Countries like Greece can only overcome the parallel facets of the environmental, economic and social crisis by avoiding short-term solutions, such as the severe exploitation of natural resources (e.g. fossil fuels) and the development of large tourist resorts that destroy the natural environment.

We Global Greens welcome and are grateful for actions of solidarity between Greens. True cooperation and the development of a common vision can get us out of the global debt crisis but also out of the environmental and social crisis we are now facing.

Global Greens express their support to the efforts of the Greek Ecologists Greens to enter the Greek Parliament in the upcoming national elections to be held in a month and to represent green, sustainable and real democratic solutions for Greece.