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PAGE PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION
ON GREEN ECONOMY

ADVANCING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES

International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa | 10 – 11 January 2019

Cape Town Action Pathways Towards 2030

This document is the result of the discussions at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), hosted by the Republic of South Africa from 10 to 11 January 2019 in Cape Town, South Africa. The conference gathered over 500 participants from more than 50 countries. This document summarises key policy messages and action pathways that are essential to advance inclusive and sustainable economies to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Change is possible. Inclusive and sustainable economies can become a reality when political will shifts from aspirational words into meaningful action that impacts the lives of people in an inclusive manner. The 2019 Ministerial Conference recognizes that the current scale and pace of action is insufficient to achieve sustainability and various non-prescriptive recommendations and pathways were debated at the Conference with the intention to reform social, economic and financial systems. We must radically reorganise the way we produce, consume and invest and shape the future of work we want. To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the targets of the Paris Agreement on climate change, we must:

- 1. Reinvent our economies as inclusive green economies.** This implies fundamental shifts from linear economic models of production, consumption and investment towards sustainable and circular economies that recognise and account for the value of nature and sustain, rather than consume and perpetually erode, the world's natural capital basis. Making finance fit for purpose – safely serving society - requires transforming financial systems into real drivers of sustainability and social inclusion to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Economic and social systems change only when a critical mass of people and institutions drive such change. Participation and inclusion of all stakeholders especially the excluded brings essential insight and support to build such critical mass, which can be further fostered with education, skills, knowledge and awareness.
- 2. Anchor green strategies and policies in long-term development frameworks** and promote collaborative governance based on trust, political will and broad citizen participation and ownership. Long-term strategies and policies for a just transition are indispensable in managing social and employment impacts of moving away from carbon and resource-intensive economic systems. These include inter, *alia an*, enabling environment with market based incentives for the private sector, investment in sustainable infrastructure, natural capital approaches, effective social dialogue with strong labour market institutions, knowledge generation and transfer, a mix of both policy-oriented and practical skills and training and expanded social protection systems.
- 3. Focus on economic, social and political inclusion** to ensure that agendas are shaped, acted on and reviewed by diverse and often left out people and institutions, and that no one is left behind in accessing equitably the benefits and opportunities arising from economic, social and environmental progress. Inclusive societies require democratizing the ownership of means of production and engaging those negatively impacted from economic crisis, social disruption and environmental degradation. Inclusive economies require commitment, cooperation and confidence between government, the private sector, organised labour, communities and civil society to shape common pathways to a more sustainable future. Realising the demographic dividend is only possible with the

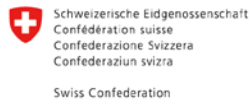
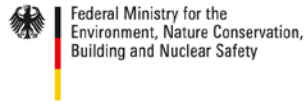
participation of young people and women as they bring energy, creativity and innovation into economic and social transformation towards greener and low carbon economies.

4. **Create the future of work we want** in a changing climate where we must reorganise our economies towards greater resource efficiency, sustainability and resilience. Work is a fundamental aspect of human dignity. It is a means of livelihood and realisation of aspirations of all women and men in their working lives that must be promoted and protected. Small and medium enterprises and agriculture farms represent inclusive ways of creating jobs for the poor and less educated and skilled – but they need tailored support in the form of policy that is built around them, their networks, their challenges, and their ability to give back to societies in ways beyond profit. The prevention and mitigation of climate change, beyond any other single element, will define the future of work. Only with decisive commitment we can develop the capacities to anticipate impacts of climate change and harness and develop the appropriate responses for the world of work.
5. **Strengthen partnerships and multilateralism.** Broad-based partnerships, cross-ministry collaboration, a strengthened multilateral system and effective international cooperation are vital for sustaining and strengthening a collective vision to transform economies and societies. Partnerships in research, innovation, finance and investment, and technology development are essential for ensuring evidence-based decision-making and building the business case for green economy and low carbon transitions, including robust science-policy interface. The United Nations and other actors in sustainable development, such as the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), must therefore pursue synergy, value for money and impact to better support a transition to inclusive and sustainable economies. New multi-actor approaches to policy implementation may be needed on the ground, and joint programming in the model of PAGE must be encouraged as a standard modality of UN delivery, particularly in the context of the UN reform with the aim to reach out to and support a growing number of countries towards 2030.

Going forward, PAGE envisions the following steps to support countries in the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable economies:

- Strengthen South-South cooperation to promote exchange among current and graduating PAGE countries and other countries engaged in green economy transitions, including through possible regional hubs, and taking into account existing South-South cooperation arrangements;
- Enhance PAGE national governance and delivery mechanisms to promote participation of key state and non-state actors, in particular social partners, the private sector, youth and civil society organizations, together with the governments of the PAGE partner countries;
- Expand and scale up the PAGE programme beyond its current horizon of 2020 to 2030, in order to offer services to a larger number of countries requesting support; and
- Integrate the action pathways into PAGE programming and related- programmes and promote them in global fora including the United Nations Environment Assembly, High level Political Forum and UN conferences on economic and sustainability issues.

Funding Partners



Conference Partners



PAGE Agencies

