



BUILDING THE FUTURE WE WANT

A Planet for Life
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

Building the future we want

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■ **The Agence Française de Développement (AFD)** is a public development-finance institution that has worked for seventy years to alleviate poverty and foster sustainable development in the developing world and in the French Overseas Provinces. AFD executes the French government's development aid policies. Working on four continents, AFD has seventy-one field offices and bureaus, including nine in France's overseas provinces and one in Brussels. The Agency provides financing and support for projects that improve living conditions, promote economic growth, and protect the planet. In 2013, AFD committed €7.8 billion to projects in developing and emerging countries and in the French Overseas Provinces. These AFD-financed projects will provide schooling for children, improve maternal health, promote equality between men and women, support farmers and small businesses, and bolster access to drinking water, transportation and energy. These newly-funded projects will also help mitigate climate disruption by abating nearly 3.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent annually.

More information and publications available at www.afd.fr/lang/en/home

■ **The Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI)** is a non-profit policy research institute based in Paris. Its objective is to determine and share the keys for analyzing and understanding strategic issues linked to sustainable development from a global perspective. IDDRI helps stakeholders in deliberating on global governance of the major issues of common interest: action to attenuate climate change, to protect biodiversity, to enhance food security and to manage urbanization. IDDRI also takes part in efforts to reframe development pathways. A special effort has been made to develop a partnership network with emerging countries to better understand and share various perspectives on sustainable development issues and governance. For more effective action, IDDRI operates with a network of partners from the private sector, academia, civil society and the public sector, not only in France and Europe but also internationally. As an independent institute, IDDRI mobilises resources and expertise to disseminate the most relevant scientific ideas and research ahead of negotiations and decision-making processes. It applies a cross-cutting approach to its work, which focuses on seven themes: Global Governance, Climate and Energy, Biodiversity, Oceans and Coastal Zones, Urban Fabric, Agriculture, and New Prosperity. As a Sciences Po partner, IDDRI's experts are highly involved in teaching and in developing research programs.

More information and publications available at www.iddri.org

■ **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** was set up in 1974 to deal inter alia with issues relating to sustainable development, the environment, energy efficiency and the sustainable use of natural resources. Its goal is to develop innovative solutions for achieving sustainable development. Its activities range from the formulation of local and national strategies, to proposals for global solutions, to energy and environment-related issues. TERI is based in New Delhi, and also present in many other regions of India. It has over 900 employees and is headed by Rajendra K. Pachauri who is also the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was awarded the 2007 Nobel Prize. More information and publications available at www.teriin.org

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Rajendra K. Pachauri, Anne Paugam, Teresa Ribera and Laurence Tubiana (Editors)

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Foreword

More than twenty years after the Rio Earth Summit which gave political and institutional birth to ‘sustainable development’, the nations of the world are on the verge of entering into a new era of negotiation and implementation of sustainable development policies. With three particularly important events – the Addis Ababa conference on development financing, the session of the UN General Assembly on the setting of universal sustainable development goals, and the ‘last chance’ conference on climate change in Paris – 2015 will certainly be a landmark. A two-decade long cycle of talks and experiences ends; while another begins, aiming at addressing challenges which by their magnitude and scope cannot be addressed with business as usual policies.

As recalled by the UN Secretary-General, the year 2015 offers a unique opportunity for global leaders and others to end poverty, and also to transform the world to better meet human needs and the necessities of economic transformation, while protecting our environment, ensuring peace and realizing human rights. ‘Transformation is our watchword’, the UN Secretary General emphasized.

The unprecedented challenges of the twenty-first century incentivize us – people, institutions, decision-makers – to rise above ourselves and invent solutions to old and new problems. Our three institutions have stakes in this endeavour to produce meaning and shed light on our possible futures, leaving it up to the readers, we hope, to look at sustainable development as something that tomorrow will bring.

The *Agenda 21* at Rio gave us the vision of the twenty-first century; the *Future We Want* at Rio+20 gave us the blueprint of the vision; 2015 will give us, we all hope, a common roadmap with clear goals, measurable targets and definite means to achieve them. The tasks are daunting and challenging, with many roadblocks and bumps ahead, but the people of the planet, across all countries and continents, must put their heads and hearts together and draw on all their resources to build the future we want.

On this planet earth there can no longer be islands of hope and prosperity amidst oceans of despair and poverty. Technology, economy and climate have joined us together, as never before. The remotest parts of the world are connected with each other by production systems and supply chains, ideas and information. The changing climates have linked the melting glaciers of the Arctic with the rising sea levels of the Pacific islands. We can no longer remain centred on the idea of nation-states that were created in the past; we are all part of the same planet – we will sail or sink together in future.

The Millennium Development Goals have given us the confidence to realize that together we can achieve many things that have eluded us for so long. Sustainable Development Goals should give us the guidance and the means to translate this confidence into action. Many of the goals and the targets recommended by the Open Working Group of the United Nations have already been adopted as national and local development goals in many countries. The synergies between global and national development goals should be reinforced through better technical guidance for programming, implementation and monitoring.

At the same time, we need better synergies in development assistance, which can sometimes be too thin and dispersed to create the desired impacts. Surely there is scope for better targeting and coordination to avoid duplication, just as there are opportunities for scaling up assistance from developed – and also from emerging – economies.

AFD, TERI and IDDRI have joined forces, bringing together their ideas and creating a vast network of renowned scholars and experts from across the world to share their understanding and vision of this ongoing ‘transformation’. They provide us with the incomparable narrative of its intellectual and material underpinnings, and as the reader will see, of its different meanings and perspectives in a representative set of developing and developed countries.

This anthology of ideas and perspectives from countries and regions around the planet demonstrate the challenges and complexities of the roads ahead, but at the same time captures the common dreams and the desire to move ahead for a better future.

Let us dedicate ourselves to build The Future We Want. ■

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Building the future we want

The 2015 edition of *A Planet for Life* will reach bookshelves a few months before a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015, when member states will determine a new development cooperation framework and design the 2016-2030 sustainable development goals (SDGs). In December 2015, France will host the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a decisive step in negotiating and adopting a global climate treaty. Following the same timetable, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation will devise financing modalities for the SDGs; the group will also suggest the forms of partnership and governance needed to overcome the challenges to implementing the SDGs and the climate treaty.

A superficial understanding of these events could convey the idea that global leaders will once again meet, write down lyrical declarations and leave international bureaucracy the daunting task of turning words into actions. The contributors to this book tell a different story: that the stakes at this '2015 juncture' far exceed those of other recent global talks.

In line with the increasing momentum behind this drive to make 'sustainable development' the norm internationally, *A Planet for Life* explores what the promise of the '2015 juncture' really means. Contributors to this volume report on their exchanges with a host of stakeholders involved in behind-the-scenes negotiations and the United

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