

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

“Green economy” has always existed, as for grey economy is an invention of humanity. Recognizing ourselves as an integral part of nature, also involves taking into account what we do to nature and to ourselves, i.e., our responsibility towards the maintenance of ecosystems.

How do we transition back from grey to green? Addressing massive market distortions by:

1. Eliminating perverse subsidies and implementing relevant economic indicators.
2. Investing substantial savings emerging from the former stated in the three sectors exposed to greatest environmental impact: food and beverages; transportation; and the built environment.
3. Implementing a socially progressive tax shift so that polluter enterprises are taxed, rather than those employers attending acceptable sustainable standards.
4. Scaling up successful local models of green economy through specific local and national programs that support both rural and urban communities
5. Capturing land value and natural resource rental/usage for public revenue to
  - a. Protect the environment;
  - b. Encourage economy-strengthening activities such as productive labor; and
  - c. Forward global society, collectively, to a fair economy that protects and improves life in all its forms and expressions.

The critical question the NGO MG would like this forum to address is: Who will truly benefit from green economy and who will be neglected? There is a need to hear from the people not properly represented in this forum, which are those who will be most affected by the decisions that we collectively agree upon.

Thank you.