

GDD

**Statement by UNESCO delivered by Hubert Gijzen, Regional Director, UNESCO regional Science Bureau in Jakarta, Indonesia:**

UNESCO thanks the Government of Thailand and ESCAP for organizing and hosting this important regional High Level Policy Forum on Sustainable Development. I would like focus on two main points: 1) a call to develop a long term vision, and 2) the strategic positioning of education, science and culture as drivers and enablers for a sustainable future.

***Long term vision:***

We believe that the upcoming transition from the MDG era to a new agenda beyond 2015 presents a unique opportunity to look again at the overarching goal of sustainable development. This calls for the development of a global long-term vision of a sustainable world in which, by mid century, 9 billion people can live thriving, peaceful and healthy lives, while safeguarding the Earth's life support system, on which the welfare of current and future generations depends (a slight adaptation of the Brundtland definition). The function of a long term vision would be twofold: firstly to inform and guide the medium term Post-2015 agenda, and secondly, to ensure that approaches and solutions proposed for the medium term will seek transformational, rather than incremental change and outcomes.

***Strategic positioning of education, science and culture:***

The HLP report and several other reports on the Post-2015 agenda emphasise the need for 'transformational shifts' in a number of sectors, such as energy, food production, water management, and others. These different shifts need to be made almost simultaneously, adding further to the complexities in dealing with these transitions. Therefore, the transformational shifts towards a green economy must be based on sound science, technology and innovation. UNESCO is pleased to see that the importance of STI is well reflected in the debates. At the same time, we suggest that further deliberations should focus on the important roles of Education and of Culture.

Education: By the end of this year we will be closing the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). We should take stock of the achievements and outcomes of this decade for Asia and the Pacific region, and reflect on a successor programme, regionally and globally. During the Rio+20 Summit in 2012, Member States agreed "to promote ESD and to integrate sustainable development more actively into education beyond the United Nations Decade of ESD. The world in 2030 will not be the same as today and changes will happen at an ever faster speed. Therefore, Innovation and creativity are considered key to learning in the 21st century, and we must reflect on a vision of education and learning which needs to be promoted beyond 2015 across the educational spectrum. The view that education fulfils a much broader function in empowering children, and adults alike, to become active participants in the transformation of their societies must gain momentum. Every human being needs to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to shape a sustainable future.

Culture: Culture has a key role to play in realizing sustainable development. A number of forums and events have been held recently to highlight the significant role culture plays for sustainable development, including the General Assembly thematic debates on Culture and Sustainable Development held in June 2013 and on 6 May 2014, and the 'World Culture Forum', in Bali, Indonesia in November last year. These meetings underscored, via country level testimonies and global data how culture - in its manifold expressions ranging from cultural heritage to creative industries, from sustainable tourism to cultural infrastructure - drives and enables the social, environmental and economic pillars of sustainable development. Figures show that world trade in creative goods and services totaled a record \$624 billion in 2011. As such, Culture helps create SMEs, it generates employment and supports livelihoods, while also having a growing impact on national economies. The concept 'Culture for Development' is extremely strong in the Asia and Pacific region, and this should therefore not be missed.