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La Cumbre de la Tierra Rio+20 Vista desde la Perspectiva Europea y Norteamericana

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*La Cumbre de la Tierra Rio+20:
Las Implicancias para el Desarrollo de Chile*
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About Ecologic Institute

• Who We Are

- A private non-profit think tank for applied environmental research, policy analysis and consultancy
- Founded 1995 in Berlin, Germany
- Offices in Berlin, Brussels, Vienna, Washington DC, and San Mateo CA,
- Currently 120+ employees
- Ranked 6th among Environment Think Tanks in the 2010 and 2011 Global Think Tank Index of the University of Pennsylvania

• Who We Work With

- International Organizations (e.g. UNEP, UNFCCC, UNIDO, CBD, World Bank, OECD, NATO)
- European Union (e.g. European Commission, European Parliament, Eur. Environment Agency)
- National Parliaments and Government Agencies (e.g. German Environment Ministry, UK Department of Energy and Climate Change, US Environmental Protection Agency)
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Educational Institutions
- Foundations
- Business



Presentation Outline

- ▶ Socioeconomic and Environmental Drivers
- ▶ Expectations of Rio+20: Agenda and Options
 - Reforming Institutions
 - Re-Thinking Paradigms
 - Harnessing Transformation
- ▶ Perspectives from Europe and North America



A Glimpse at 2050 (I)

Socioeconomic Trends

- ▶ Global population grows to 9 billion
- ▶ Global economy grows fourfold; poverty continues to fall
- ▶ 25% aged over 65 in OECD (from currently 15%)
- ▶ Growth absorbed by cities: 70% live in urban areas

(Source: OECD, 2012; Brookings, 2011)



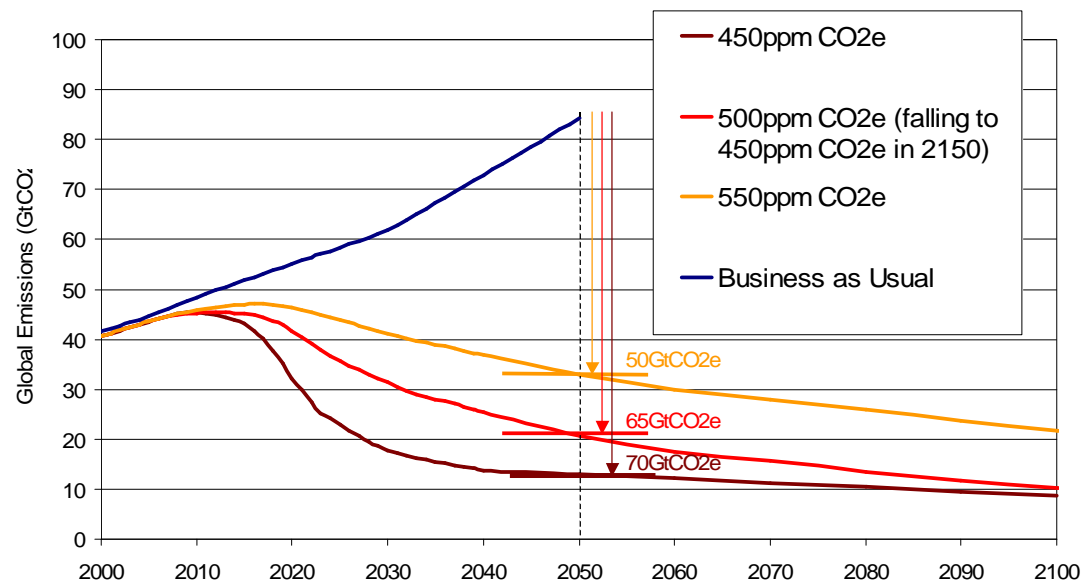
A Glimpse at 2050 (II)

Energy and Climate Change

- ▶ Energy demand grows by 80%
- ▶ Fossil fuels still cover 85% of energy needs
- ▶ Greenhouse gas emissions rise 50%
- ▶ Atmospheric concentrations reach 685 ppm

(Source: OECD, 2012)

Emissions Stabilisation Pathways



Stabilising below 450ppm CO_{2e} would have required emissions to peak by 2010 with 6-10% p.a. decline thereafter

If emissions peak in 2020, we can stabilise below 550ppm CO_{2e} if we achieve annual declines of 1 – 2.5% afterwards



A Glimpse at 2050 (III)

Biological Diversity

- ▶ Terrestrial mean species abundance shrinks by 10%
- ▶ Freshwater biodiversity loss exceeds 30%
- ▶ Main pressures are climate change, commercial forestry and expanding croplands, followed by infrastructure expansion, human settlement and pollution

(Source: OECD, 2012)



A Glimpse at 2050 (IV)

Fresh Water and Health

- ▶ Global water demand increases by 55%
- ▶ Over 40% of global population live in river basins with severe water stress, 1.4 billion without access to sanitation
- ▶ Air pollution surpasses dirty water and lack of sanitation as top environmental cause of premature mortality

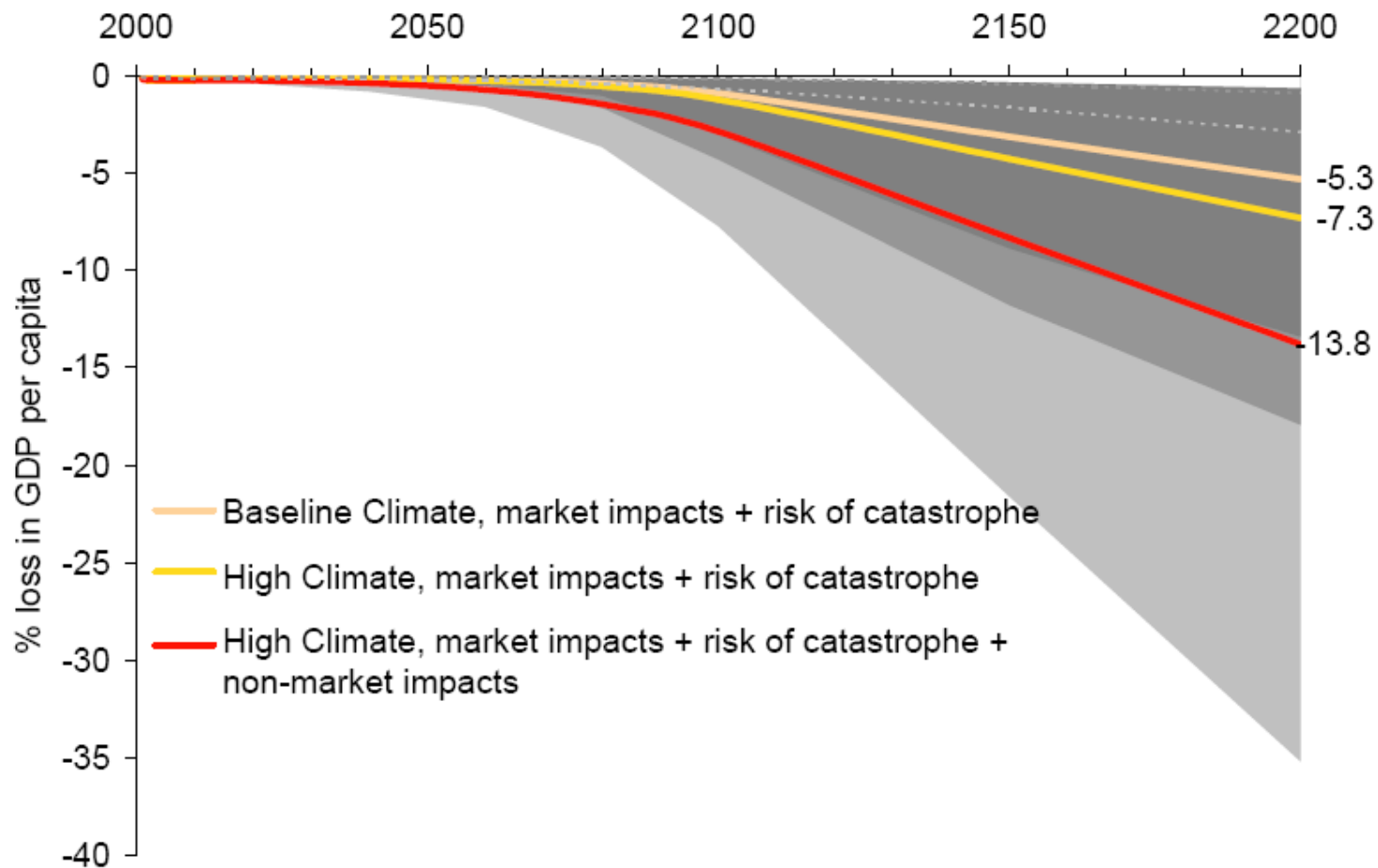
(Source: OECD, 2012)



Economic Impacts of Unsustainability

- ▶ Climate change could destroy up to 14% of annual GDP if left unabated, compared to 0.2% of lost growth for adequate mitigation action (Stern, 2006 and others)
- ▶ Annual loss of ecosystem service benefits from deforestation estimated at US\$ 2 to 5 trillion (TEEB, 2012)
- ▶ Cost of biodiversity loss to the European Union alone estimated at € 450 billion, or 2-3% growth (Gerbrandy, 2012)

Cost of Climate Change Impacts



Source: Stern, 2006



Expectations for Rio+20: Official Agenda

Official objectives set by the UN General Assembly:

- ▶ Assessing progress towards and securing renewed political commitment to **sustainable development**
- ▶ Developing a **green economy** in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development
- ▶ Establishing an **institutional framework** for sustainable development



From Sustainable Development to the Green Economy

- ▶ **Sustainable Development:** Apology or Utopia? Persistent challenges in operationalising an attractive concept
- ▶ **Green Economy:** “results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities” (UNEP, 2010)
- ▶ **Controversy** over definitions, socioeconomic implications and policy and institutional options of a Green Economy



Policy Implications

- ▶ Greater turn to **flexible incentives**, such as environmental taxes, but simultaneously reduction of **harmful subsidies**
- ▶ Increased **public investment** in sustainable infrastructure and “green public procurement” practices
- ▶ **Beyond GDP?** Towards a new cost accounting regime with direct valuation of natural capital and ecological services, and full attribution of externalized costs



Reforming Institutions

300+ multilateral environmental **agreements**, thousands of regional and bilateral environmental **treaties**, with **proliferation** and **fragmentation** of **institutions** active in the area of environmental protection. Suggested reform options:

- ▶ Strengthening UNEP to become an agency (UNEO/WEO)?
- ▶ Creating an International Court for the Environment (ICE)?
- ▶ Expanding mandate of UN Security Council and ECOSOC?



Expectations for Rio+20: European Perspectives

- ▶ **Endorses “green economy”** theme as being aligned with the European Union’s growth strategy “Europe 2020”
- ▶ Suggests “**Green Economy Roadmap**” setting out a menu of actions and a timeline for their implementation, identify key actors and set targets and appropriate indicators
- ▶ Varying perceptions of the urgency and scope of institutional reform, but **support for strengthening UNEP** and international environmental governance more generally



Expectations from Rio+20: US Perspectives

- ▶ Hopes to see “**demand-driven, market-led**” solutions adopted, such as better education for consumers and providing information to encourage “green” demand
- ▶ Greater international cooperation to **share best practices** in sustainable development, such as open source life-cycle assessment platforms, compilation of best management practices relative to sustainable intensification of agriculture, and elements of a ‘green’ educational curriculum



Conclusions

- ▶ **Open questions** and much **disagreement** remain over the objectives, priorities and expected outcomes of Rio+20
- ▶ **Expectations** for the summit are **relatively low**
- ▶ Still: given current environmental and socioeconomic pressures, “business as usual is the utopian fantasy; forging a new vision is the **pragmatic necessity**” (Paul Raskin)
- ▶ Are **enough crises** converging to yield a tipping point?



Robert F. Kennedy, 18 March 1968

Our Gross National Product... counts air pollution and cigarette advertising, and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage. It counts special locks for our doors and the jails for the people who break them. It counts the destruction of the redwood and the loss of our natural wonder in chaotic sprawl. It counts napalm and counts nuclear warheads and armored cars for the police to fight the riots in our cities. Yet the gross national product does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our wit nor our courage, neither our wisdom nor our learning, neither our compassion nor our devotion to our country, **it measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile.**



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Thank You!

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