

“The Green Economy is not the future that WE want”

Position paper Submitted Nigeria’s National Rio+20 Consultative meeting, March 8-9, 2012 Nigeria

As the world prepares for the UN summit in Rio June 2012, the **Bread of Life Development Foundation**, calls on stakeholders, social justice movements, and the Nigerian government to reject the corporate driven ‘Green Economy’ agenda being promoted by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), a concept that could replace ‘sustainable development’ as the dominant discourse.

We recall that in February 2011, the UNEP launched a 700 page ‘[Green Economy](#)’ report (GER) which argued that the environment can be saved and faster growth achieved if governments cut environmentally damaging subsidies (fossil fuels, fisheries, etc.) and use these funds to invest in new technologies. Massive investment could enable the transition from the ‘brown’ to the ‘green’ economy, the report argued.

- We reject this report because it ignores the deeper causes of the ecological crisis and because of its emphasis on economic growth, technology and market-based approaches.
- We also reject the zero draft outcome document for the Rio +20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development titled: “*The future we want*”, and its section on: “*The green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.*”
- We call on all stakeholders in Nigeria meeting in Abuja to counter the financialization of nature being promoted under the banner of the “green economy” which is to form the basis of the Rio+20 Earth Summit discussions in June 2012.

As the Working Group on Green Economy, of the World Social Forum notes in Feb, 2012:

“The postulates promoted under the Green Economy are wrong. The current environmental and climate crisis is not a simple market failure. The solution is not to put a price on nature. Nature is not a form of capital. It is wrong to say that we only value that which has a price, an owner, and brings profits.”

As an NGO working to promote citizens right to improved water supply and sanitation services, the **Bread of Life Development Foundation** is concerned that: “the corporate agenda of the Rio + 20 Summit will pave the way for; greater commodification of water services in the name of creating green innovation; the promotion of large infrastructure projects and agribusiness in the name of green energy that will prevent communities from protecting their water resources and; market-based models of water allocation and governance including water markets and payments for ecological services, which will result in the loss of local control and enable multinational corporations greater resource rights”.

- *The main challenge for the eradication of poverty is not to grow forever, but to achieve an equitable distribution of the wealth that is possible under the limits of the Earth system.”*
- We urge all stakeholders and the Nigeria governments to say No to the Green economy for its anti people, anti nature, anti development, monetarist framework.

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