Roundtable on Greening the National Development Plan

Background

There is a worldwide recognition that current modalities of development are not sustainable, and the way forward is a transition to a green economy, defined by UNEP as one that “results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.” (UNEP 2011) Since the coining of the term in 1989 and subsequent discussions in Rio in 1992, the concept of a green economy has increasingly been posited as a vehicle to actualise sustainable development. To this end, countries have been making efforts towards sustainable development through integrated development planning and the utilisation of various financing mechanisms designed to catalyse a transition to more sustainable development pathways. However, challenges posed by existing political, economic, information and behavioural barriers have led to mixed results. More recently, discussions and progress on supporting green growth and a more sustainable paradigm are increasingly integrated with ongoing discussions on a post-2015 development agenda, creating momentum for countries’ efforts for a transition to a green economy.

Indonesia has embraced this. Green growth has received the highest level of commitment in Indonesia, exemplified by the statement of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono whom, at the World Economy Forum in Davos in January 2011, noted, “we will need to work together, to adapt our lifestyle and our national policies towards a green global economy, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It is in this spirit that we in Indonesia have adopted a 4-track development strategy, which is pro-growth, pro-job, pro-poor and pro-environment.” In a previous ministerial statement issued in September 2010 at the national workshop, “Mobilising the Public and Private Sector towards a Resource Efficient and Green Economy,” Indonesia had already highlighted the need for a paradigm shift to a green economy. President Yudhoyono’s statement in Davos brought Indonesian efforts to the international limelight. Successful transition to a green economy in Indonesia not only presents a more sustainable pathway for the country, but can also provide a model for other developing countries seeking to do the same.

Under President Yudhoyono’s co-chairship of the High Level Panel for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the country is deeply engaged in ongoing discussions at global, regional
and national levels on the post 2015 development agenda. This is central to a process that aims to craft a common vision for our global future, which will be presented to the UN General Assembly in September 2013. Indonesia recognises that a transition to a green economy is imperative to achieving its key priorities of economic growth, greater social equity and inclusion, and sustainable use of natural resources. It also recognises that its success can provide a critical new development paradigm for the world. The time is ripe to contribute to discussions on transformation to a green economy and promote its integration into national development strategies and plans, with a particular focus on the Mid-term National Development Strategy (RPJMN) as an entry point for realising Indonesia’s ambitions for sustainable development.

Objective

In this context, a roundtable discussion will be hosted on 21 June 2013 by the Government of Indonesia and supported by UNDP, UNEP, and UNORCID. The overall objective of this discussion is to bring together leading experts of Indonesia in specific socio-economic and environmental fields to discuss ways and means critical to promoting a green economy transition in Indonesia. The output of the roundtable is expected to help initiate discussions leading to the development of substantive indicators and benchmarks for a green economy transition in Indonesia. Leading experts in the field from academia, research institutions, and think tanks will be invited to the discussion. The discussion will be moderated by Mr. Pavan Sukhdev, UNEP Goodwill Ambassador. The essence from the discussion and recommendation from this roundtable will be synthesised for a publication for wider distribution.