



# RACE TO RIO EARTH SUMMIT

## What is *Rio+20*?



*If we were logical, the future would be bleak, indeed. But we are more than logical. We are human beings, and we have faith, and we have hope, and we can work.*

Jacques Cousteau

In June 2012, the Government of Brazil expects some 150 presidents and prime ministers will join 50,000 leaders and citizens in Rio de Janeiro for the Rio+20 Earth Summit, commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic first Earth Summit in 1992. It is anticipated that countries, corporations and communities will make promises there to take action on energy, green jobs, oceans, cities and other key areas.

### 1992 was ground-breaking...

- ◇ Over **100 heads of state** made sustainable development a global priority
- ◇ Established **international conventions** shaping global action for two decades

### Now, 2012 will be transformative, by addressing...

- ◇ How do we use IT and social media to **create accountability**?
- ◇ How do we make **corporations, local governments** and **civil society** part of the solution?
- ◇ How do we **catalyze a new generation** of forward-thinkers?

## Expected Outcomes

- ◇ **Concise, inspiring political document signed by every world leader**
- ◇ **New and scaled-up programs from governments, private sector and civil society**
- ◇ **An online global registry of commitments to promote accountability and track progress of the commitments made at Rio+20**

### KEEPING PROMISES

#### What can Rio+20 deliver?

- End subsidies to **DIRTY ENERGY!**
- Rapidly scale up **CLEAN ENERGY!**
- Stop **EXTREME OVERFISHING!**
- Curb **PLASTIC OCEAN POLLUTION!**
- GREEN JOBS** now!

## Four Priorities



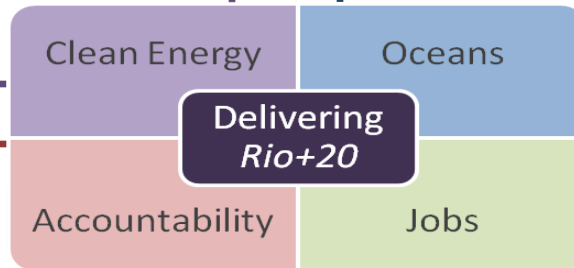
Perverse subsidies, short-sighted investments and “limitless” growth plans continue our fossil fuel addiction and drain much-needed resources. Natural capital is being extracted from the Earth for pennies on the dollar: it’s time for governments to wake up, by:

- **Phasing out regressive and environmentally-harmful subsidies**
- **Scaling up renewable energy and energy efficiency**



Governments and corporations consistently refuse to believe that our planet’s oceans have limits. We’re destroying the largest biodiversity reserves on the planet and need action now, by

- **Reducing plastics production to protect the oceans**
- **Stopping destructive fishing practices**

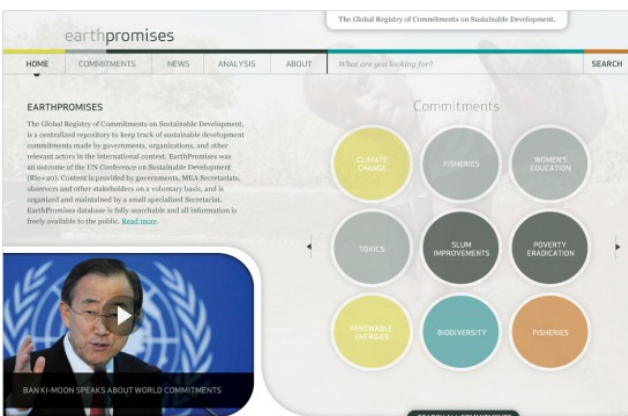


Our leaders have been making pledges to act on global sustainability problems for four decades. Where have these promises gone? There is no clearinghouse for recording these pledges and tracking progress towards goals. We need:

- **A web-based global registry of sustainability commitments**

Clearly, there is no path toward a greener economy if the rising workforce is only given brown economy education and training. Governments and corporations need to accelerate:

- **Green jobs training and education programs**
- **Full environmental and social cost accounting in economic metrics such as GDP**



## Why should I join the Race to Rio?

### The Future We Want

We will be living with the decisions made at Rio – both successes and failures – for the next decade or more. If we don't raise our collective voice now, nations will spend months arguing about abstractions that simply maintain the status quo. Instead, Rio+20 should generate real actions to immediately put us all on a more sustainable path, to prove that a *global consensus is possible*, and that **commitments demand action**.

### Too Many Problems, Not Enough Solutions

Countries have passionately lambasted the Rio document's lack of "vision", "ambition", "balance" and "action-oriented outcomes"; yet, few are able to propose anything beyond copy-and-pasting what has been going through the UN system for two generations.

### Promise of action : "Cloud of Commitments" Targets Accountability

Several countries, corporations and civil society organizations are spearheading new initiatives outside the formal process in advance of Rio. We could potentially see hundreds of new or scaled-up partnerships delivering real benefits the day after the Earth Summit.

A web-based registry of sustainability commitments unleashing the power of connectivity is the ideal platform for making the current international system more relevant, efficient, and effective.

*"If the Rio+20 document is simply plagiarized from previous UN conferences, we will have failed to recognize this historic opportunity."* -- St. Vincent and the Grenadines



## How Do I Join?



**#FutureWeWant.** Tell the world what *you* want out of the summit by visiting [facebook.com/UNRioplus20](https://facebook.com/UNRioplus20) or tweeting [#FutureWeWant](https://twitter.com/FutureWeWant)

**Demand leadership.** Remind presidents, prime ministers, mayors and governors that you're watching. Visit [facebook.com/nrdc.org](https://facebook.com/nrdc.org) and click on *Earth Summit*.

**Organize.** On campus, in your community, at home. Get letters of support from student councils & college presidents, local chapters & community leaders. Contact your Brazilian consulate about virtual participation.

**Keep informed.** Read our blogs at [switchboard.nrdc.org/earthsummit.php](http://switchboard.nrdc.org/earthsummit.php) and join our mailing list to keep up-to-date. Contact Michael at [mdavidson@nrdc.org](mailto:mdavidson@nrdc.org) for more information.

## About NRDC

### About NRDC

The Natural Resources Defense Council is an international non-profit environmental advocacy organization with more than 1.3 million members and online activists. NRDC has been actively engaged in global environmental challenges since Stockholm in 1972. If you are interested in working with us on the Rio+20 Earth Summit, please contact our team:

### Race to Rio Campaign

Jacob Scherr (Director): [jscherr@nrdc.org](mailto:jscherr@nrdc.org)  
 Jake Schmidt (Climate & Energy): [jschmidt@nrdc.org](mailto:jschmidt@nrdc.org)  
 Lisa Speer (Oceans): [lspeer@nrdc.org](mailto:lspeer@nrdc.org)  
 Michael Davidson (Youth Outreach): [mdavidson@nrdc.org](mailto:mdavidson@nrdc.org)

Philip Goo(Governance): [pgoo@nrdc.org](mailto:pgoo@nrdc.org)  
 Yiting Wang (Social Media): [yiting.wang@nrdc.org](mailto:yiting.wang@nrdc.org)