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# Opportunities and Constraints Confronting transformation Towards a Green Economy in the Developing Countries

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## Abstract

In the growing economy of developing countries, the environment is getting unsustainable. There is the requirement of goals that are standardized and complementary for the promotion of Green Economy Growth and developed the constraints confronting transformation and providing opportunities. Industrial civilization and inorganic products erode the healthy pathway. World global policies initiated the transformation of the planet as the result of the “Green go Economy”. This platform is an alternate vision for that developing countries' growth and development which are facing climate change, biodiversity losses, water scarcity, and negative externalities. This study aims to assess the effect of environmental factors quality of living standards, opportunities, and constraints confronting transformation towards a green economy in developing countries. The study measured the dimensions and principles of the “green economy” as a base for additional society development. The several challenges to initiating a green economy and achieving sustainable technological change need to be understood by professionals and policymakers to make adequate changes in the social setting. Effective influence on the level of echo of several important phenomena was implemented for the aspirational transformation of economic and environmental measurement. The recent developments are improving cheap, faster broader frameworks for measuring socio-economic environmental interactions. In the light of UNEP, OECD, and UN policies all the issues, challenges, and critics of the green economy that developing countries are facing are positively analyzed for promoting the green economy for sustainable development and maintaining a long-term relationship between environment and economic growth. The reviewer has many objectives for better improvement of measures in Green economy transformation. The study contributes towards the green economy development over a policy to decrease the environmental risks and progress economic growth. The study concludes that better investment in green product GDP, better interaction in the economy society environment, and ecosystem, and better economic transformation methodologies of the green economy will attain attention for a better future in developing countries.

**Keywords:** Ecological Scarcities, Poverty, Biodiversity, Low Carbon World, Organic Products, Green Economy, Sustainable Development

## 1. Introduction

The Green Economy concept was introduced by (UN) the United Nations Environment Program for improving social equity and human well-being, and to reduce ecological scarcities and environmental risks. It is considered a new approach that can promote environmentally sustainable economic development (Fedrigo-Fazio, & ten Brink,

2012). The project of the green economy has many advantages but it has been utilized for limited purposes like low greenhouse gas emissions. The technique and design adopted for this project have utilized the resources more efficiently. This has given a big contribution to generating, income and jobs to observe social equity and inclusiveness (UNEP, n.d.a).

According to the report of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the term “Go green” and “Green growth” has been introduced by the Growth institute. This organization have a different implementation approach. The definition presented by *OECD* was “Green growth as enhancing economic growth and development”, along with natural assets ensuring to provide the environmental services and resources for the country’s well-being (OECD, n.d.a). The question of the era is if efficiency and saving of this world in developing countries are required and how the individual can take initiative to develop. The basic development of nature or human beings starts with basic needs such as food, shelter, energy clothing, and transport. Without these significant goods and services, it is not possible to minimize the ratio of poverty. The green economy drives the concept of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) and jobs by generating capital income towards technologies and natural resources through which social institutions are shifting. The green economy plan/design targets the social dimension, and private investment institutions to support social reform policies. The green economy aims to emphasize the economy, capital/infrastructure, positive social/environmental outcomes, investment, and employment (Figure 1).

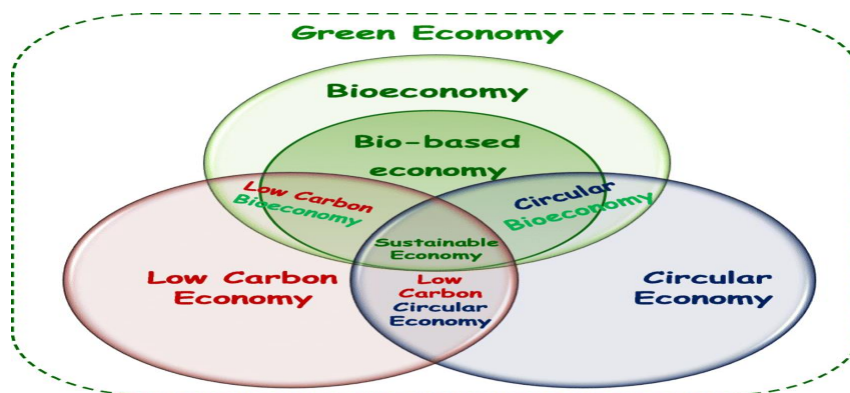


Figure 1: Venn diagram depicting various economies in the green economy

Source: Kardung and Wessler (2019); Dahiya, et al. (2020)

## 2. Literature Review

The literature on Green growth and economic associations with sustainability addresses economic and industrial policies for various series of innovations and wealth. Among International organizations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been engaged in determining and encouraging the green economy. Their means are to create jobs and reduce poverty. The consequences arise in better-quality human well-being and social equity. The main outcome has been dropping ecological insufficiencies and environmentally friendly risks (UNEP, 2011). Around 191 UN members gathered in Rio at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development for the discussion of various crises in developing new plans for economic growth. The discussions done during this meeting turned into an International concept (Linnér and Selin, 2013; UNDESA/UNDP, 2012). The prosperity of documents and encouragement-driven assessments were introduced during increasing of Rio+20 to explain the Earth’s environment, its assets, and its populations. Moreover, the ecological crisis remains to deteriorate, despite sectoral developments. Although there had been variations in symbols and outlooks (EEA, 2012; The Royal Society, 2012). Rio+20 is considered a great transformation and shows extraordinary uprising in various directions of sustainable development (IISD, 2012). Rio+20 was called by UN General Assembly to describe two aspects: the role of the green economy in poverty extermination and sustainable development. The major focus is on the international organization, and politicians in industrialized countries and the essential of strengthening GDP growth for creating jobs (Meltzer et al, 2013).

In the indeterminate retrieval of the worldwide economy, governments established economies for developing countries, together with the UN and civil society performers. They can figure out a circumstance for a green economy. The Eco industry developed the low carbon framework to produce environmentally friendly products to reconstruct a country's whole economy (Barbier, 2012). There is an increase in 'competence productivity' or 'low-carbon economies', which has been considered to be the intersecting point at times (UNEP and CSIRO, 2011). These degree variables emphasize well-researched dematerialization, resource decoupling (UNEP, 2011a), ecosystem services appreciation (Nellemann and Corcoran, 2010), and energy competence (IEA, 2012). Underestimating usual capital also has been insinuations outside the economic ineffectiveness. It indicates both growth and deference in human welfare (OECD, 2011), which has been progressively documented by international and national organizations (MEA, 2005). Furthermore, scholars relate green growth and economy to the talented variations in the Eco industry segments, built inexpensive markets, and unstable environmental security technology to reserve exchangeable technologies (Jänicke, 2012). A collective interest in reviewing lifestyles has noted many circumstances which have been; sustainable consumption programs, the classic separation of individualists, the adaptation of universal methodologies, and the role of technical and social factors (Backhaus et al, 2012).

Tariq Banuri attended the Separation for Sustainable Development at the United Nations through Rio+20 after the suggestion to emphasize the green economy (Zarro, 2012). His words at a conference on Development (Zarro, 2012) convey life quantity of thinking after the suggestion to emphasize the green economy. The argument throughout Rio+20's discussion has deviating significances. These deviations have been observed in industrialized and developing unindustrialized nations since 1972 (Griffin, 2012). During this, Bolivia communicated with "uncertainties concerning all relevance to the green economy and any clarification for modification purposes and cycles of nature" (IISD, 2012b). Thus, confidence that Rio would change towards a green economy was diverged by reservations along with the emerging economies to execute a one-model-fits-all approach (Watts and Ford, 2012).

### **3. Methodology**

This study examines the predictable developments to access sustainability signs. With their response to basic interdependence, there have been ecological and socio-economic crises. This study aims to appreciate and differences between suggestions limited in increasing literature and policies. This investigation approves an organized qualitative examination and documented material. The term 'discourses' has been used to mention the expectations, decisions, and arguments that "hypothesis relationships, helping to describe common sense and valid knowledge" (Dryzek, 2005). This will encourage the qualitative analysis of three features supporting the socioeconomic model, theoretical economic background, and conception of progress. The corresponding reflects after the examination of inspiration for the economic directions of sustainable development on the environment and society. This has been an encouraging factor for the distinction between strong and weak origins of sustainability (Ekins et al, 2003; Neumayer, 2003; Endl et al, 2012; Hobson, 2013). From this examination, three patterns develop—explaining the lacks and restrictions, means, and reductionism separation) and the agreement involved or excluded from the papers on greening economies; these lighten up more differences between the three groups and greening about sustainable development.

### **4. Dimensions of Green Economy**

The health of the Earth's population has been the priority of the green economy and is interlinked with SDG (sustainable development goal) for implementing green initiatives. It also helps countries to achieve multiple sustainable development goals (Kim, 2018).

The green economy enclosed the nutshell message of the dynamic course of economic convergence in the dimension of least-carbon industrialization. The power to gain resource allocation and standard of living throughout the population by using inventions that can generate new jobs while cutting off risks exposure in the long run (Frone & Frone, 2015) (Figure 2).

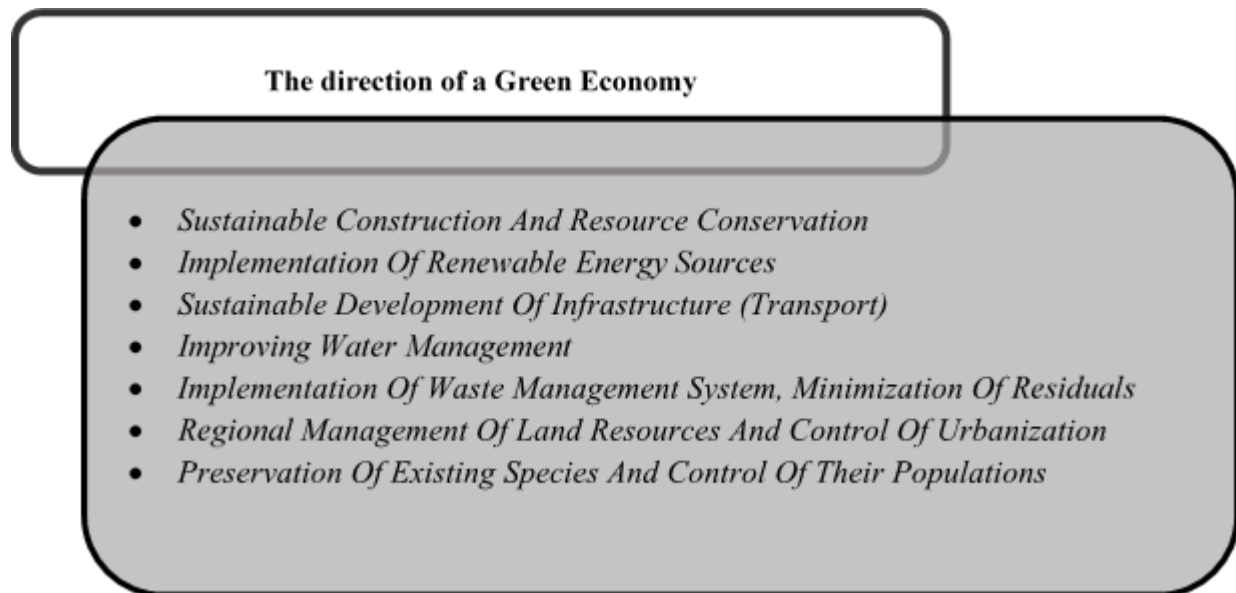


Figure 2: Direction of green economy

Source: Frone & Frone (2015)

#### 4.1. SDG 3: Good health and well-being

The SDG 3 targets have to implement major investments in the environmental and energy sector to create job opportunities and render universal access to affordable vaccines and medicines. This will help in increasing health financing and supporting the health workforce in developing countries.

#### 4.2. SDG 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions

The social and economic advantages of the green economy are supported by interdisciplinary institutes. Their major supplement is; science, economics, and knowledge across sectors by including various community aspects. There is a need for a strong financial system to serve common standards and procedures by promoting local economies.

#### 4.3. SDG 13: Climate action

Climate mitigation and restoration of biodiversity have been the recovery safeguards to restore the economies in the limited natural capital growth of natural systems. The green economy is strongly linked with the cycle of producing, consuming, recycling, and reusing different materials and products.

#### 4.4. SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production

The relationship of the green economy with the circular economy should reduce the consumption of natural resources to sustainable levels. Developmental economies should present nature-saving models and projects to work on future aspects (Kim, 2018).

### 5. Transition to Green Economy (GE)

The industrial revolution increases natural resource consumption in the future, according to natural resources guidelines which directly disturbed human behavior and would implement significant negative effects on the ecosystem. The significant rise in population sizes and a growing global population leads to a subsequent increase in demand for resources. This leads towards not having sustainable impacts that risk undermining progress. The world's transition into a green economy has proven the viability and profitability of enhancing this natural capital

as a new engine. This platform created the enabling condition incorporating broader environmental and social criteria.

The question arises that why there has been a need for a transition into a green economy. The uncontrolled demands and social factors have been one of the factors to give birth to death, fresh water storage, ecological footprint, and growing unemployment.

The economic system needs more attention and focuses on its policies to do transformation. There has been an increase in resource efficiency, flexibility to overcome environmental pressure, and the leading factors causing risks. This can also be a beneficial transformation toward environmental sustainability (Green Growth Knowledge Platform, 2021).

### 5.1. What transition is required in Green Economy (GE)?

GE considers the value of natural assets of the environment in planning and decision-making. Economic growth can reduce poverty in low-income countries. The standard of working with the societies of green economy traditional environmental management lay stress on the pollution taxes and high fees. The fear of making or spreading more pollution costly more incentives for new green jobs technologies, opportunities, and investments (IBRD Funding Program; Green Bonds, 2022). Figure 3 shows the relationship of the green economy with various factors like green investment, sustainability, green consumer, green financing, ecological balance, etc.



Figure 3: Green economy and linkage with various factors

Source: Ali (2018)

The green economy concept relates to the ideas of low-carbon development and green growth (Table 2) (UNEP Green Economy Initiative, n.d.b).

Table 2: Concept of a green economy

Green Economy	Green Growth	Low-carbon Development
A transition towards an economic model considering sustainable generation of equitable social, economic and environmental benefits	The potential of green sectors and industries as engines of growth	The development emphasizes reduced use of fossil fuels as the engine for development (as climate-resilient development)

## 6. Green Economy: Achieving Sustainable Development in Developing Countries

The developing countries which are about 1.4 billion people have been deprived of electricity and 2.7 billion people utilize traditional biomass for cooking (UNEP, 2011). Governmental policies have been one of the biggest barriers to developing regions. The main reason is to produce vague guidelines for future energy policies, disburse a lack of competitive structures and manipulate the employment structures, such as independent producers face many licensing and trading issues and weak environmental regulation and enforcement (UNEP, 2011). About 18-51 billion unemployment level increased on the planet since 2007. Rising fuel prices in developing countries have a higher expenditure on energy and food. 100 million people have reached the bottom line of poverty (UN, n.d.a). In India, 480 million people (57%) earn their livelihood in small farming, informal forestry, fisheries, and animal husbandry (UN, n.d.a). Arabian Peninsula is facing a 34% loss of irrigation due to land degradation and \$5 billion of agricultural revenue per year because of desertification. Uncontrolled climatic changes can destroy the livelihood of developing and developed economies on large scale.

The world faces barriers to attaining sustainability in developing countries. They do not specification to action factors like climate change adaptation, education, agriculture, and providing organizational platforms to fulfil the need of service providers. Another biggest barrier they are facing: is the lack of solid information and the inherent uncertainty according to the surrounding lie nature, timing, and risk of climate change affecting badly the companies to take action. Most companies resist taking steps in developing countries because it is difficult to cover the greatest potential of that investment.

### 6.1. Steps Taken to Achieve Sustainable Development in Developing Countries

In 1992, Green economy policymakers presented detail-oriented international negotiations including UNCED in Rio to promote the incorporation of economic instruments and multiply environmental costs. Poor countries which are in a struggling process need to develop attention towards the green economy. Only 2% of the total wealth of the organization of economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries has provided for environmental health assets (Bierman, 2001).

#### 6.1.1. Objectives of Rio+20 and Agenda 21

Rio 20+ road map established a key thrust to unlock technological progress, in the green economy. It helped to save natural and environmental systems so that economically and socially sustainable trajectory. Rio 20+ has not only working on hard technology for producing goods and services but also on soft technologies for consumption patterns and production processes to adopt in economic lifestyle Rio+20 summits declare that three main threads **(a)** Green Economy **(b)** Green development **(c)** Sustainable development (UNCTD, 2010; Braconier, et al., 2014). The world internationally working on this project are branching into national and international summit and conferences like Agenda 21 which further elaborated the development of national strategies for sustainable development must internalize effective legal. The regulatory organizational structure has been required for more market-effective incentives and established systems for integrated environmental and economic accounting (Ali, 2018).

#### 6.1.2. Education

Education considers to be one of the pillars of sustainable development which relies on the broader, social economic, political, and cultural benefits to empower all people with knowledge, skills, and confidence to give better shape to the future (Smith, 2011; UNESCO, 2010).

#### 6.1.3. Green Growth Policies and Strategies

Green growth policies play an integral role in the structural reform of green economy sustainability.

- Opening new economically productive green markets to stimulate green goods, services, and technologies



- Contributing to fiscal consolidation by generating antipoverty programs such as water supply and sanitation
- By mobilizing the green taxes and implementing cost-effective planning for green product growth
- By reducing risk factors that affect green product agriculture and subsidiary resources (What is sustainability? n.d.).



Figure 4: Integrated policy cycle for three pillars of sustainability

Source: *What is sustainability?* (n.d.).

## 7. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

UNSDG have set some attainable objectives. Their guidelines have been proven to develop states or countries by maintaining their sustainable platform. These are as mentioned below:

- Economic growth should promote equality and provide sustainable jobs to improve overall nutrition and help eradicate poverty.
- Healthy solutions ensure major physical and mental illnesses for a large portion of the population.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and a necessary gender equality foundation for a peaceful and sustainable world.
- Affordable supply of energy, and clean and accessible water.
- Sustainable economic growth creates the conditions to have valuable jobs in sustainable cities and communities.
- Infrastructure, reduced inequalities, and responsible production/consumption.
- The climate crisis has been a global challenge affecting everyone that required careful management of the global resource, life on land, combat desertification and halt biodiversity loss.
- Access to justice peace and strong Institutions for revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development (What is sustainability? n.d.).

## 8. Green Economy in the Developing Countries – Opportunities and Constraints

Opportunities encouraging the latest innovation of the “green economy” in the world are now transmitted every year. Nevertheless, economics leads to progress and affects their vitality. Industrialized countries with upraised GDP per capita have been frequently applying for environmental conservation programs. Therefore, unindustrialized countries with the least standard of living have been foreigners in innovating new technologies. Rather than expecting one of the problems they are facing by unindustrialized opposition of the state and initiatives to modify technologies and reverse environmental conservation. The industrialized countries have been elaborated for environmental degradation and the lack of strategic ideas, which could not affect the negative implications. It can cumulative effect which can decrease human welfare and the country’s potential. Nonetheless, the developed country has a significant impact of introducing friendly environment technologies and has been complaining about the already recognized standard of living. The constraints confronting the transformation of the green economy in developing countries are how the civil society role models can play in the developing countries and the project “The Future we want” with zero degrees draft will reveal deep conflicts regarding the green economy approach.

- Encourage subsidiaries and financial aid to increase taxes and penalties for non-agreements with recognized standards and minimize the negative impact on the environment.
- Raising the control on the activities of initiatives with environmental impact and ecosystem to be constant.



- Encourage the management and communication skills between the businesses and individuals, creating attractive maps on all sides of developing a "green economy", and generating a quick response sets to criticism.
- Data on production technologies are transparent and affect economic individuals in the ecosystem, against the monopolist market and generating free competition, where the priority is to manage the ecological state and regulate information policy.
- Criticism of the green economy dread the financial support from industrialization-based countries into the green-based economy
- To reduce the poverty and to bring international equality all social dimensions of developing countries should be considered. A lack in any one of the aspects will never make a strong framework.
- Institutional and infra-structure green-based economies are fear full to facing competitors and need to root sustainable protection in the form of Eco-labelling, eco-customs, and eco-taxes. Intellectual property regulators and other barriers encounter the trade established in industrialized countries (Allen, 2012).

## 9. Confronting Transformation to a Green Economy

### 9.1. Global governance and its economics

New kinds of governance in developing countries always bring new strategies according to their support system which is sometimes beneficial to life support systems. *Control of pollution in highly populated regime*: Complex economy-wide adjustment use technology to change increase and rapid urbanization of society and transform the industrial revolution. This industrial civilization will fail crucially for social development.

### 9.2. Behavioral impacts and their effectiveness

Industrial civilization does not only bring reform in technology but it brings change to the energy supply which is not sufficient for the green economy. A green economy cannot build equal good and services to industrial technologies specifically when the customer demand to analyze the shape and its customer's values concerning belief in greener energy products.

### 9.3. Racial influence and inequalities

In developing countries, many efforts are made to practice racial influence which leads to unsustainable and undesirable behavior transformation in society. Many nations are addicted to conflicts within ethnic groups and subclasses of society (Netzer & Althaus, 2012).

## 10. Opportunities towards a Green Economy (Developing Countries)

- a) Green Economy Initiative:** According to a report in 2008, (United Nations Environment Programme) UNEP proposed an agenda for the Green Economy Initiative to analyze the investment support in green sectors and for greening resources in highly populated sectors. From 2009 to 2011, The (Global Green New Deal) GGND made a significant share for funding green sectors and made three objectives: (i) Recovery of the state economy (ii) strategy reducing poverty (iii) Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and ecosystem degradation to support domestic and international policies (Chalil, 2020).
- b) Provision of Green Jobs:** This report was assembled by UNEP world lead forwarding steps in low carbon world sustainability to prove the evidence of existing jobs for the future in the major sectors of renewable energy, building and construction, agricultural, chemical, and paper industry. These jobs are the initiatives for long green life with a safe future that will protect the ecosystem playing the same role as an industrial civilization in damaging the world but the results will be the opposite. This report acknowledges that it will minimize air, land, and water pollution, protect ecosystem diversity, and reduce energy material. The project will work on the high strategies of decarbonization of the economy, target-based and attainable government policies for indispensable carbon markets, target reforms, regulatory tools, feed-in tariffs, eco-labeling, R&D development, and international financial support (Renner, 2008).

- c) **Facilitating the opportunities in the GE economy:** Green growth economy policies implemented the platform of services to reduce unemployment but the risk is to facilitate the reallocation of workers from the contract and expand them to different sectors of the state. Labour policies must strengthen to focus on and preserve employment for the adjustment of skilled people quickly in different cultures. The emerging green innovation must bring economic change by including new opportunities like sharing adjustment costs by transition (OECD, 2018).

## 12. Discussion

Green economies' definitions have a very broad vision for the future and have very effective measurements and approaches and multiple levels of governance. This aspect of the world which continues with 'Green New Deals' and progress at Rio+20 was examined and introduced in national policy frameworks in developed countries. The reviewer has many objectives for better improvement of measures in Green economy transformation. They are as mentioned below:

- Better investment in green product GDP
- Better interaction in the economy- society environment
- Better economic transformation measure
- Introduction to implementing methodologies of the green economy (Kaufmann, 1993).

Global Green's new deal objectives have been ideally standing to reduce the poverty, carbon dependency, ecosystem degradation, and water scarcity, and create protective vulnerable employment services (UN, n.d.a).

The preservation and protection of the ecosystem are at the root of the green investments and green economy agenda. Green economic evidence provides 2.3 million employment in developing countries to generate renewable energy. The efforts of China have acknowledged the working on jobs in recycling output to provide 10 million jobs. A green economy offers to develop countries to attain economic and social gains. They consist of improving resource efficiency through investment in green products, increasing food security in every state of developing countries, make easy and emerging green goods and services in markets (UN, n.d.a). The target function leads to generating a system of "green economy". This transmission to the "green economy" is difficult without sufficient funding. The usage of funding programs has related to minimal efficiency in unindustrialized countries, where the government has to be controlled the environmental standard of living and affect the development of green technologies.

## 13. Conclusion

The environment of the planet has been closely linked with the economic system, impact of factors that increase the change and outcomes leads to macroeconomic indicators forming a new system called a "green economy". It is necessary to exist in political situations with applicable laws and regulators that minimize negative impact. The ecosystem is mostly considered in developing countries which affects the standard of living throughout the countries. Investing in the development of green technologies does not guarantee a positive impact because of the lack of non-transparent use of funding.

However, the green economy has been scaled up to form integrated and sustainable development pathways for pro-growth and pro-jobs. For green economy policies, the government expenditure policies with private investment both need to play a major role in long-term effectiveness. Globally, Green economy opportunities in water protect the population. 15 to 35% of irrigation should be sustainable. At least \$1 should be invested in the Safe drinking water project. 90% of energy and 70% of water savings can be achieved by recycling industrial and municipal waste. A small investment in flood prevention, and control, pandemic control, and water resource management control should be made on regular and proper checks.

The agricultural industry increases the productivity of the conversion of organic products into inorganic products (UN, n.d.b). UNEP/ILO has been dedicated to working on green employment to make a strong social-economic green investment. UNEP/WTO marks a better understanding of the association between trade practices and

policies and the control of climate change barriers. The study has presented the importance and suggestions of greening for sustainable development that seeks to address the persisting weak explanation of sustainable development.

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