

Code	Description	Example
Basic Human Rights	This code is used for references to sustainable development as a human rights issue, or as a way to rectify previous rights-based injustices: speakers often refer to a universal right to clean, sustainable economic development. This code may also refer to basic human rights as a necessary precondition for sustainable development.	“In this regard, we must acknowledge that, as much as sound environmental practices, peace and security, good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law are also pre-conditions for a sustainable future.” Canada, 2002
Beyond Limits to Growth	This code is usually a reference to this exact phrase, signifying optimism about our ability to overcome resource constraints and pursue boundless economic expansion.	“Twenty years ago, some spoke of the limits to growth. Today, we realize that growth is the engine of change and the friend of the environment.” USA 1992
Common but Differentiated Responsibilities	This code usually signifies the use of the exact term. However, if the sentiment of the paragraph was clearly in line with this phrase, it was also coded as such.	“The principle of common but differentiated responsibility has to be fully respected” Belarus, 2012 “I believe that the gains would be immeasurably increased if we were to proceed on the basis of a global partnership that demands from each according to capability and shares equitably the benefits derived from a development that would then be sustainable.” Guyana, 1992
Consumption	This code is used to signify instances when unsustainable patterns of consumption of natural resources – and unsustainable patterns of production – are referred to as a fundamental problem. This includes natural resource exploitation.	“Only when we change our behaviours towards promoting sustainable patterns of production and consumption can we improve the state of the world and eradicate poverty and hunger which haunt millions of poor people in all parts of the world everyday.” Namibia, 2002
Countries Manage Own Resources	This code denotes a focus on countries retaining control of the resources they have, or a concern with having to sacrifice/abandon these as a result of international priorities.	“I wish to reaffirm our view that every country has absolute sovereignty over its own resources, that agreements must be reached voluntarily and, at the same time, that such agreements must recognize clearly that the cost of preserving those resources must be shared, guaranteeing decent living standards for those who currently earn their livelihood by exploiting them unwisely.” Guatemala, 1992
Global Poverty	This codes mentions of the role of poverty as a catalyst and the main source of vulnerability in connection to unsustainable practices. Also, mentions of how the poorest regions/towns/communities are the frontline for environmental battles are coded. Finally, mentions of the problems of poverty generally and	“This represented a major turning point for the international community as we collectively agreed that it was impossible to address effectively the problem of environmental degradation without at the same time resolving the problems of social and economic development and in particular of poverty.” Barbados, 2012

	how this is a part of the calculations that developing countries must make when attempting to bring about sustainable development.	
Debt as Obstacle to Environmental Action	This code refers to explicit references to a country's debt and how this hinders a move toward more sustainable development. This is often found in conjunction with appeals for debt relief.	"Therefore, the heavy debt burden of such States, in which Ethiopia is included, and the increasing poverty of their people can hardly be seen as problems that can be effectively addressed without the requisite genuine international cooperation in which democratic governments can play significant roles." Ethiopia, 1992
Destructiveness of Market Forces	This codes instances of anti-capitalist rhetoric, often claiming that sustainable development is undermined by economic interests (often neoliberal) of both private and state actors, especially (but not exclusively) in the developed world. Often the speaker sees capitalism and sustainability as incompatible.	"Capitalism is marked by the wrong relationship between humans and Mother Earth. Capitalism and the need for unlimited economic growth, are incompatible with the survival of the planet." Venezuela, 2012
Development and Cultural Diversity	This codes instances where the speaker cites the importance of the protection of cultural heritage of vulnerable communities, by enhancing their development status with an eye on the environmental requirements / consequences of doing so. This also codes mentions of traditional communities and their role in providing possible solutions for treating the environment in a respectable and potentially profitable manner, as well as the value of cultural diversity more broadly.	"Dear Presidents, it is not possible that a civilization of 200 or 300 years can disrupt the harmony enjoyed by indigenous populations for more than 5000 years, this is our distinguishing factor between West and Global South, especially when considering those social movements that exist in harmony with Mother Earth." Bolivia, 2012
Development as a top-most priority	This code is used when a state emphasizes that environmental protection is necessarily secondary to development and economic needs of their population. The code is usually used when a state specifically says that development must take priority, as opposed to happening concurrently with sustainability measures.	"Only when certain thresholds of satisfaction of basic needs are reached can efforts be made to conserve natural resources." Argentina, 1992
Development can be Managed	This code is used when a state claims that development is a cause of pollution, but can be managed in a more environmentally sound way. Often the state gives	"Thanks to ten years of hard work, China's strategy of sustainable development has now run through all aspects of the country's economic and social development efforts, which effectively promoted a sustained and harmonious development of the

	examples of how this has been done. This code is different from 'Development leads to Environmental' in that in this code development need not improve the environment, merely fail to harm it.	economy, population, resources and environment and delivered remarkable successes. With reform and opening up, China's GDP increased by 158% in the past decade or so." China, 2002
Development leads to Environmental Protection	This codes an understanding of the relationship between development and environmental protection that emphasizes that growth and wealth are necessary preconditions for environmental quality (environmental Kuznets curve). The policy implication is that if countries prioritize economic development, they will eventually "outgrow pollution"	"This makes the quest for growth even more important. Reducing poverty is the single most effective way of improving the environment for billions of people throughout the world." Sweden, 1992
Development through Trade	This codes calls for or lists of measures to ease LDC's access to world markets (especially in connection to agricultural products), or when a state cites trade as an integral part of a development strategy.	"A market economy and free trade are other important instruments to fight poverty and bring prosperity to more people around the globe." Sweden, 2012
Development Gap	This code highlights contrasts between countries on the two ends of consumption/production extremes, as well as their capacity / willingness to give up existing standards. Often this code is used when a developing nation cites the need of its people to undertake unsustainable activities in order to survive, highlighting the struggles of the poor which seem to be ignored by rich countries. This code is also used when a state mentions specific challenges that follow from the structural positions of LDCs and their inability to address them effectively on their own.	"We must face up to the common responsibility of protecting our Mother Planet while recognizing that countries are at different stages and levels of development." China, 2012 "The unacceptable levels of poverty and underdevelopment which still exist in developing countries underscore the wide gaps between developed and developing countries and between social groupings within our countries. These need to be addressed urgently." Jamaica, 2012
Environmental Crisis	This codes environmental motivations (e.g. catastrophic events) for acting on sustainable development. This includes ecological crises.	"Up to this point in time, the devastating impact of climate change and sea level rise had increased both in momentum and magnitude. Just a few weeks ago, a period when the weather was normally calm in Tuvalu, unusual waves flooded the capital island of Funafuti. A number of households were evacuated from their homes. It was at low tide with no strong winds when 10 meters waves washed

		right across the land and straight to the lagoon side. It was a very scary experience.” Tuvalu, 2002
Economic Crisis	This codes economic motivations (e.g. crisis of late 2000s) as motive for action. This is often cited as a hindrance to sustainable development.	“The efforts to achieve sustainable development have been undermined by sequels of the global financial crises, the emergency of a so-called digital divide as a result of fast-evolving information and communication technologies, the spread of dangerous infectious diseases, in the first instance, HIV/AIDS.” Belarus, 2002.
Environment and Development are Linked	This codes statements recognizing the connection between the concept of sustainable development and economic development, but not necessarily specifying the causal relationship.	“There is not an environmental crisis, a development crisis, an energy crisis. They are all one.” Austria, 1992
Environment Leads to Development	This codes the idea that if the environment is protected, development will follow: only sustainable practices can lead to long-term, grounded, and lasting economic growth (contrast this position to “development leads to environmental protection”). Often this code is used when a speaker points out that if a nation’s environment is destroyed, economic development may be impossible.	“This includes, among others, the sustainable management of water, arable land, healthy and productive oceans and seas, biodiversity, as well as the provision of sustainable energy for all, improved resource efficiency and in particular, management of waste. These areas underpin millions of livelihoods and can help alleviate poverty. They could become areas for future economic growth and global markets.” EU Commission, 2012
Existential Crisis (Nation/People)	This code is used when the continued existence of a nation or a specific group of people is threatened by environmental change. For example, small island nations often point out that their state will likely simply disappear if sea levels continue to rise.	“We want the islands of Tuvalu, our nation, to exist permanently forever and not to be submerged underwater merely due to the selfishness and greed of the industrialised world.” Tuvalu, 2002
Existential Crisis (Human)	This code is used when a speaker points out that the ability of the human species to exist is called in to question by environmental change; failing at sustainable development means imminent end to our ability to survive on Earth.	“Twenty years ago, on June 12th, 1992, in this same hall, Fidel Castro Ruz, leader of the Cuban Revolution, said: “An important biological species is at risk of disappearing due to the rapid and progressive elimination of its natural habitat: humankind.” That which could have sounded alarmist then is today an irrefutable reality.” Cuba, 2012
Fair International Economic System	This code denotes calls for fair trade, finance, and monetary system. This code is often connected with calls for development through trade, or debt relief.	“We reiterate our opposition to the continued application of subsidy systems which not only distort production and the market but also tend to validate practices which deplete natural resources.” Argentina, 1992
Future Generations	This codes references to intergenerational equity as a	“We wish that with the decisions from this Conference, the coming decades can

	justification for action. Often, the speaker cites leaving an inhabitable planet for future generations as a universal justification for sustainable development.	ensure the sustainability of the Planet for the wellbeing of the future generations.” Angola, 2012
Gender and Environment	This codes references instances where a speaker mentions the importance of gender equity to environmental progress, often through development generally.	“Majority of the world's poor are women. In many regions, it is the women who take care of farming and basic production. It is the women who make the daily decisions on purchases. It is the women who hold the key to sustainable development. Thus girls and women must have better education, equal inheritance rights and access to land tenure.” Finland, 2002.
Global Equity	This codes normative references to the differences behind levels of economic development and calls for remedying all differences; calls for the North to assist the South as a matter of fairness, and to equal treatment of states by one another.	“In a world that has been won for democracy, we find powerful nations laying down terms even for participating in a democratic process. We find scant regard for the principles of fairness and equity. We find that even the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 have been watered down at insistence of the powerful and the rich.” Malaysia, 1992
Good Governance (Domestic)	This codes instances where the speaker highlights the importance of good political governance to the success of sustainable development or to the success of environmental protection. This ‘good governance’ usually refers to democratic institutions. This code refers to good governance within a state.	“It is only in the firm and undivided discharge of the common task before us, through the creation of democratic and just institutions to discharge our environmental responsibilities, and by proceeding to forge a new and a more equitable economic order as a precondition for this assignment, that we can be part of a truly global partnership.” Ghana, 1992
Good Governance (International)	This code refers to international good governance, which includes transparency with regard to managing environmental funds; transparency with regard to the running of unrelated funds in environmental friendly and economically viable way; strengthening or creating international institutions with the aim of furthering SD; transparency and accountability with regard to ODA, targeted funds, international organizations’ work.	“At this Summit we are advocating for a good governance of the international threats, in order to minimize the negative impacts on our internal plans and needs. So the responsibility of the communities requires also a global answer, including financial, commercial and ethical foreign responsibilities.” Bolivia, 2002
Green Economy	This code is used when the speaker mentions the ‘green economy’; this is primarily a 2012 code, referring to calls for economic expansion in ‘green’ industries and energy production.	“Barbados has defined the Green Economy as “An integrated production, distribution, consumption and waste assimilation system that, at its core, reflects the fragility of our small island eco-systems”. We are prepared to share our experiences with other developing countries, especially small island developing states (SIDS) and will utilize every opportunity to do so.” Barbados, 2012
New International Order	This is a call for replacing the strategic imperatives of the cold war with a new guiding principle to govern state action. This code is	“However, the revolutionary changes resulting from the demolition of cold war regimes command us to open up new horizons of cooperation on the basis of a "New International

	also used when a speaker makes reference to this idea. Often the speaker uses the term 'new world order', or 'new international order'.	Order".” Korea, 1992
People-Centered Development	This code denotes instances when a speaker speaks about development that is focused on improving the lives and livelihood of a state’s people generally, rather than a specific focus on GDP. This might be either direct references to such approaches or indirect claims to that effect.	“Despite considerable achievements, the task before us remains daunting. It underlines the need for a new development and economic growth model which is fair and people centered.” Pakistan, 2012
Polluter Pays Principle	This code refers to the concept that those that cause environmental damage should be responsible for the costs of clean-up. Speakers often use this exact phrase.	“We must put a price on pollution. And the polluter has to pay.” Norway, 2012
Population growth	This code refers to population growth as something which damages prospects for sustainable growth, and development generally. It is often cited as the reason behind the unsustainability of past patterns of growth, origin of ongoing environmental degradation, and source of additional economic and political costs of both acting to combat the environmental consequences and the failure to do so.	“One basic achievement of this Conference is the recognition that uncontrolled population growth is one of the main causes of human pressures on the environment. We cannot implement coherent rural and urban development policies unless population growth rates are brought more fully under control world wide.” Belgium, 1992
Precautionary Approach	This code refers either to direct references to the precautionary principle or reasoning consistent with it. This is, the idea that our limited understanding of natural processes should make us cautious.	“Mr. President, the preparatory process which carried us to this Summit could have been more productive in terms of results. I am aware of the "cautionary approach" with which delegations have participated in the deliberations.” India, 2002
Primacy of Sovereignty	This code refers to an insistence on making key policy decisions with an eye on individual state interests, (perhaps with an eye on the environmental consequences but not necessarily). It can also refer to states resisting what they see as interference from and pressure by foreign governments on issues such as sustainability.	“My Government’s stresses the sovereignty of nations to invest in their natural resources, taking into account the circumstances and conditions of the countries whose economies depend on fossil fuels with promoting the use of this type of fuel in a clean manner and renewable energy resources” Iraq, 2012
Quest for Balance	This refers to the balance between the three pillars of sustainability (social, economic, environmental), in a more philosophical sense. It can also refer to an aspiration to	“Balancing social cohesion and governance, environmental protection and economic development is a dynamic art. It is simply impossible to sustain improvement in any one of these areas by acting on it alone.” Australia, 2002

	balance the need for growth with a need for sustainability.	
Reverence for Earth	This code refers to references to “mother earth,” or a traditional respect for the environment. This is sometimes in the form of reference to the religions of indigenous peoples.	“Even today, many Cook Islanders, for example, would closely identify themselves with the early native American, Chief Seattle, who wisely stated what many of us have all but forgotten: "The Earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the Earth. All things are connected like the blood which unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."” Cook Islands, 2002
Security Dimension	This code refers to sustainability as a security issue, or the security dimension of the failure to address current problems. This may be illustrative examples of how previously underestimate problems have been getting increasingly uncontrollable (for instance, control over water resources); this may also be a reference to the idea that peace is good for the environment.	“As we leave Rio de Janeiro, let us be absolutely clear – sustainable development is the only way forward. It is the best policy for peace, security and prosperity for all mankind, present and future.” Malaysia, 2012
Solidarity	This code refers to speakers citing solidarity as a justification for action, or invoking solidarity as a means of spurring on action.	“The fact that the earth and all its resources are part of the "common heritage of all humanity" creates the understanding which fosters interdependence, stresses responsibility and underlines the importance of the principle of global solidarity.” Holy See (Vatican), 2002
South Take Control	This refers to an emphasis on the ability, however limited, of less developed countries to take possession of the resources available to them and convert them into economic (and political) opportunities, or to calls for developing countries to come together and assist each other; it can be seen as the converse of calls for the North to assist the South.	“So, it is in the interest of the South, even if the North is irresponsible, to protect our own forests. I do not like the linkage of saying, "If you do not give us money, we are going to cut our forests". Whom are you hurting? Are you hurting the North or are you hurting yourselves also?” Uganda, 2002