Reference: DTIE/10YFP/EO/2013/AZ/yo

2 August 2013

Dear Major Groups Organizing Partners,
Dear Members of the Major Groups Facilitating Committees,

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) marked an important moment in our collective history. Rio+20 reaffirmed our commitment to the common goal of sustainable development and poverty eradication as well as recognized that fundamental changes in the way societies consume and produce are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development. In this regard, one of the main concrete and operational outcomes of Rio+20 is the adoption of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) as contained in document A/CONF.216/5.

The adopted document, A/CONF.216/5, provides the vision, goals and values of the 10YFP, as well as its functions, organizational structure, means of implementation, criteria for programme design and an initial, non-exhaustive list of five programmes. UNEP has been requested to serve as the Secretariat of the 10YFP.

The 10YFP is a global framework for action to enhance international cooperation to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in both developed and developing countries. To that end, the framework will support capacity building, and facilitate access to technical and financial assistance to developing countries. The 10YFP will develop, replicate and scale up SCP and resource efficiency initiatives, at national and regional levels, decoupling environmental degradation and resource use from economic growth, thus increasing the net contribution of economic activities to poverty eradication and social development. The framework will encourage innovation and cooperation among all relevant stakeholders and UN agencies.

The 10YFP adopted text includes a provision that “Governments should be invited to designate Sustainable Consumption and Production Focal Points for engagement with the 10 Year Framework of Programmes, with a view to ensuring contact and coordination with the Board and the Secretariat; other stakeholders should also be invited to designate sustainable consumption and production focal points in this regard;” (paragraph 4.d).

I am, therefore, pleased to invite you to nominate one global and five regional Focal Points and their alternates for each of the nine Major Groups to support the 10YFP. This nomination should be made in close consultation between your two groups: the Major Groups Organizing Partners accredited by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Members of the Major Groups Facilitating Committees accredited by the UNEP Governing Council.
The role of focal points will be to enhance coordination and cooperation among stakeholders and encourage active engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the 10YFP mission, objectives and functions. The designated representatives of each Major Group will facilitate information exchange with the 10YFP Secretariat. They will communicate on SCP activities carried out by Major Groups, provide proposals to build synergies and cooperation, and support work and activities of the 10YFP and its programmes. The Global representative will be working in cooperation with, and be supported by, five regional representatives of her/his related Major Group.

In addition, having the Focal Points designated at the regional level will allow the 10YFP Secretariat to have a more active engagement of the stakeholders in the regional activities and meetings, as well as give more ownership to stakeholders on the regional initiatives and partnerships. The global or regional stakeholders Focal Points will be invited - subject to availability of funds - to the relevant international or regional meetings on the 10YFP.

The guidelines for the Major Groups and Stakeholder Focal Points, and proposed selection criteria are outlined in the attachment (Annex I). We would be grateful if you could return the nomination form also attached (Annex II), by 30 September 2013.

We are seeking your active engagement in the 10YFP. In previous years, your groups have been working actively to promote SCP, including supporting the Marrakech Process and other important SCP initiatives.

For further information, please contact Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke, Acting Head of the 10YFP Secretariat, at e-mail, Charles.arden-clarke@unep.org and Ms. Adriana Zacarias Farah, Coordinator, 10YFP Secretariat at e-mail, Adriana.zacarias@unep.org.

I look forward to your valuable support and future collaboration implementing this global framework of action to achieve SCP patterns.

Yours sincerely,

Achim Steiner
Executive Director