

**Governing Council
of the United Nations
Environment Programme**

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English only

**Ninth special session of the Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Dubai, 7–9 February 2006
Agenda item xx

**Statement of the seventh Global Civil Society Forum on
international environmental governance**

1. The annex to the present note contains the statement of the seventh Global Civil Society Forum on international environmental governance as agreed at its plenary sessions held during the Civil Society Forum. The present note and its annex are being submitted to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its ninth special session, as requested by the Global Civil Society Forum.
2. The report of the seventh Global Civil Society Forum will be published under separate cover later during the first quarter of 2006.

Annex

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Statement of the seventh Global Civil Forum on agenda item number 7: International Environmental Governance of the 9th GC/ GMEF and its subordinate topics of the Bali Strategic plan, financing mechanisms and scientific support:

Environmental authority within the UN system must be significantly strengthened and built upon a formidable scientific base from which credible political decisions may be formulated. Civil society therefore welcomes a long overdue movement to have a UN environment organisation, at a minimum situated at agency level.

We urge that membership be universal and that any new organisation be predictably, consistently and substantially funded. We see the need to strengthen the multistakeholder processes and the relationship between governments at all levels, the multilateral organizations and civil society. We seek a greater and more formal role for civil society in this new organisation. We urge more accountability, transparency and open access to all information and are aware there is much to be gained when civil society and governments together work towards sustainable development.

When creating such a new organization, we urge you to consider the following:

- a strengthening of cooperation and cohesion and harmonisation between MEAs and other UN bodies;
- a clustering of conventions and MEAs, avoiding duplication and maximizing their effectiveness;
- a strengthening of the process of the Environmental Management Group and implementation of its partnership forum;
- using legitimate powers for compliance, enforcement and implementation;
- making economic decisions and trade regimes environmentally sensitive and restructuring IFIs, WTO and other economic processes to comply with this approach
- developing a mechanism or instrument for the implementation of international environmental decisions/legislation by the national governments
- incorporating all of the Rio Principles agreed to at the UNCED conference in 1992.

We remind governments of their commitments under the Bali Strategic Plan, which could start delivering some of these requirements immediately given goodwill and resourcing.

With reference specifically to Environmental Watch proposal and to the GEO we draw the attention of governments to the considerable scientific experience and rigor civil society has to offer and urge them to give civil society scrutiny of and a greater role in the development of the conceptual framework and value base of the assessment component.

On financing, civil society has watched in dismay as our natural systems suffer for want of attention and we know there is much goodwill in this room for adequate financing. We offer our help to work with all governments to ensure the full replenishment of the GEF, for this and future rounds.

Therefore we offer to join with you in partnership to approach your finance ministries, development ministries, and other stakeholders such as IFIs, as you collaborate to implement commitments under Multilateral Environment Agreements.