

February 8, 2006

Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

Sustainable development policy institute (SDPI), based in Pakistan, presently representing Asia Pacific in Global Civil Society Forum. Civil society organizations welcome the opportunity of presenting their global civil society statement, UNEP/GCSS.IX/INF/7 to United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the 9th special session of its governing council/global ministerial environment forum (GMEF). Over 300 non-governmental organizations and other civil society representatives met in six regional consultative meetings worldwide to provide inputs to this statement.

We also welcome the commitment by UNEP to facilitate meaningful participation by civil society in UNEP activities and in international and national processes, programmes and initiatives. We note that participatory rights of civil society have improved in several international forums.

It is our experience that, when it comes to the implementation, the responsibility lies with the national governments. The same would be the likely case with any approach for the international environmental governance. The distinguished delegate of Rwanda, in her presentation last evening, emphasized the need for strong commitment by national governments and UNEP.

In addition, the global civil society also wishes to suggest developing a mechanism or instrument for the implementation of environmental decisions/legislation by the national governments.

We also suggest that south-south cooperation should not only focus between governments but also between governments and civil society organizations and the same may need to be reflected in Bali strategic plan for technology support and capacity building.

Thank you, Chairperson, distinguished delegates.