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Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda*

Policy issues: coordination and cooperation with civil society

**Global civil society statement to the Governing Council/Global
Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fourth session**

Note by the Executive Director

The Executive Director has the honour to provide, in the annex to the present note, the global civil society statement, prepared by the Global Steering Committee for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. It provides observations and recommendations of the Committee related to the following areas which are to be addressed by the Council/Forum: globalization; ecosystem services and human well-being; gender and the environment; water and the environment; and chemicals management.

* UNEP/GC/24/1.

Annex

Global civil society statement, prepared by the Global Steering Committee for the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fourth session

Introduction

1. The present statement has been prepared by the Global Steering Committee for the twenty-fourth session of the United Nations Environment Programme's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, to be held in February 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya. The statement¹ is the product of harmonizing discussions that took place across six regional civil society consultation processes convened by UNEP between 9 October and 10 November 2006. Each of the six consultations resulted in a regional statement², which should be considered independently and in support of the present global statement. The global statement contains observations and recommendations related to four areas on the agenda of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: globalization, ecosystem services and human well-being; gender and environment; water and environment; and chemicals management. Outside of these four areas, the Global Steering Committee also wishes to draw attention to a number of overarching aims that it believes the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should bear in mind during its deliberations at its twenty-fourth session. They are listed below.

2. The Global Steering Committee would like to thank the staff of the UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch and the UNEP regional offices for their ongoing efforts in support of the work of the Committee and in the preparation of the present statement.

Overarching aims

3. The Global Steering Committee urges the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to bear in mind during its deliberations at its twenty-fourth session the following overarching aims:

(a) To promote sustainable production and consumption patterns, particularly those which promote environmentally sustainable and affordable energy sources;

(b) To ensure, wherever possible, open access to environmental data and information and full participation of all major groups and stakeholders in key decision-making processes that affect the environment;

(c) To support effective implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building as an implementing framework for the recommendations contained herein, including capacity-building and technology transfer where appropriate.;

(d) To encourage effective public education and participation regarding the principles of sustainable development and the integration of environment into development decision-making. United Nations policies on public participation, including those based on multi-stakeholder processes, social equity, and the major group concept, should be made mandatory. The Governing Council should facilitate further the establishment and strengthening of national multi-stakeholder councils on sustainable development;

(e) To promote system-wide coherence in the implementation of the present recommendations within the United Nations;

(f) To ensure that gender equality and youth involvement are recognized as overarching issues of importance for the successful implementation of the UNEP programme of work and the present recommendations;

¹ Civil society participants strove for consensus in reaching our conclusions. Nonetheless, this statement should not be interpreted as meaning that every member of the Global Steering Committee, or civil society organization, necessarily endorses every point contained in the statement.

² The six statements will be made available as documents UNEP/GC/24/INF/10/Add.1–Add.6.

(g) To engage with the private sector, key private sector associations, trade unions and the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics in the implementation of the present recommendations;

(h) To recognize the primary role of the state in relation to all aspects of environmental protection and sustainable development. States should respect the harmony of ecosystems and the role they play in the provision of key services and human health and should involve all stakeholders at every stage of policy planning and all decision-making processes. Within this context, States should particularly respect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Moreover, States should ensure that the polluter pays principle is enforced.

I. Globalization, ecosystem services, and human well-being

A. Issues

4. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment clearly illustrated that the ability of the Earth's natural systems to provide key services is declining in almost all areas and has been significantly degraded in numerous terrestrial and marine ecosystems – with a high probability that similar trends will continue over the next 50 years. This situation has increasingly severe implications for human well-being across the world, particularly for the poor.

5. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment offers the international community a new decision-making framework that highlights the dependence of social and economic goals on ecosystems. That framework underscores the increasing interdependence of societies in a globalized world and the importance of valuing ecosystem services for the achievement of poverty reduction, climate stabilization, and the Millennium Development Goals.

6. Members of the Global Civil Society Forum note that the process of globalization affects all aspects of the subject areas under consideration on the agenda of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Globalization is a multi-dimensional phenomenon with both positive (e.g., advances in technology, health and access to information) and negative (e.g., unsustainable resource exploitation, a larger gap between rich and poor and loss of culture) impacts. Through the expansion of globalization, many multinational companies have exacerbated the destruction, contamination and over-exploitation of natural resources in developing countries. Some groups and regions of the world bear a disproportionate part of the costs of globalization (e.g., Africa, women, indigenous people and the poor) while other regions, and the people that inhabit them, benefit disproportionately (e.g., North America and Europe). Globalization has also increased the wealth gap between nations and within nations.

7. An important aspect of globalization is the inter-relationship between international financial institutions, private financing sources and United Nations environmental standard-setting and policy-making processes. Commercial banks have not adequately integrated the latter into their activities and decision-making processes.

8. Major drivers directly affecting progress in ameliorating the impacts of globalization on ecosystem services and human well-being include good governance, respect for basic human and labor rights, equity and transparency.

B. Recommendations

9. UNEP should strive to ensure that the key findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment are effectively incorporated into all relevant development decision-making processes – particularly those of finance ministries and the business community; the Global Steering Committee would like the Assessment's conceptual framework to reach far beyond the environmental community and to engage all sectors of society and thereby facilitate effective partnerships.

10. Global and regional institutions and processes governing trade practices, such as the World Trade Organization, are essential elements of globalization. There is an urgent need to ensure coherence between these institutions and multilateral environmental agreements in order to ensure that global trade practices, particularly global commodity trading, do not undermine initiatives supporting the sustainability of ecosystem services. Governments should make it clear that the World Trade Organization does not have a mandate to set rules that may in any way define or restrict the national implementation of measures in support of multilateral environmental agreements. The Global Steering

Committee calls for the development of mechanisms to ensure compliance with decisions taken under multilateral environmental agreement, including dispute settlement.

11. Policies of United Nations bodies, international financial institutions, international trade institutions and other such institutions should be rigorously evaluated to determine whether they fully address current environmental challenges and sustainable development. Such an evaluation could incorporate, among other things, fully accounting for the cost of development impacts on the environment and approaches to adequately measuring the sustainability of economic development. There should also be support for a comprehensive strategy on finance--redirecting international financial institutions and their funds to sustainable development, particularly sustainable energy sources, renewables and energy efficiency.

12. Steps should be taken to ensure that national export credit agencies comply with the policies adopted or decisions taken by multilateral environmental agreements, do not promote unsustainable energy production and furthermore reflect the findings and recommendations of key reports such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, those of the World Commission on Dams and others.

13. Policies and actions that include ecosystem services should be mainstreamed into economic considerations and decision-making across all sectors, both private and public. Ecosystem services should be fully integrated into national accounting systems. UNEP should play a facilitating role in the development and ongoing improvement of ecosystem services assessment tools for quantifying ecosystem service dependence (and impacts) in business operations and public sector investments. Steps must be taken to explore opportunities to link financing mechanisms with efforts that support the restoration, maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem services.

14. UNEP, in order to leverage economic valuation and positively influence decision-making, should work to ensure coherence between existing economic and analytical studies on the valuation of ecosystem services, particularly in pricing and national accounting systems, including mechanisms which consider other criteria such as ecosystem-regulating, spiritual, and cultural services.

15. UNEP should facilitate access to best practices and lessons learned in areas such as ecosystem valuation and the role of ecosystems in buffering natural disasters, or as a key foundation for development, in order to build awareness and promote integration of ecosystem service considerations into public and private sector decision-making.

16. UNEP should engage all sectors of society, particularly financial institutions, the private sector and inter-governmental organizations, in order to bridge the frequent disconnect between ecosystem services and development and to develop compelling arguments for incorporating ecosystem service considerations into decision-making, policy development, education and common understanding.

17. UNEP is well positioned to bring together national Governments, international organizations such as the World Bank and non-governmental and other civil society institutions to build educational awareness and develop an implementation strategy in response to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The Global Civil Society Forum urges the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to confer the resources necessary for UNEP to play this role effectively.

18. UNEP and the member States of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum should support relevant ministries (e.g., finance and development) with key valuation tools to guide the preparation of their country assistance strategies, poverty reduction strategy papers and the development of similar economic policies.

II. Gender and environment

A. Issues

19. We understand gender as the reflection of socio-cultural relationships between women and men. Gender, environment and sustainable development are linked in many different ways. Women and men contribute differently to environmental policy, decision-making, management and education. Women and men are differently affected by environmental problems. Gender inequality is one of the most persistent inequalities in the world, as stated in recent reports by the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank. Gender equity is key to the eradication of poverty and sustainable development.

20. Women play key roles in managing and using the environment as demonstrated in numerous United Nations documents including Agenda 21, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

(adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995) and the African Environment Outlook 2002.

21. Women and their concerns are underrepresented in decision-making and there is a dearth of strategies to ensure women's participation in policy formulation, planning and decision-making on sustainable development. Furthermore, women lack access to and control over resources at the local level and there is a lack of attention to local-global linkages.
22. Women and a gender perspective are underrepresented in environment research and training and there is a lack of gender-specific information, data and research in sustainable development. Women's organizations – natural allies in this process – are often unaware of the gender impacts of environmental policies.

Gender and UNEP

23. To accomplish its mission of providing leadership and encouraging partnerships in caring for the environment, UNEP must achieve gender equality in all of its policies, programmes and practices.
24. We commend UNEP for the appointment of a senior gender advisor and believe that this is a critical first step.
25. We commend the post-conflict assessment work of UNEP, for example the environmental consideration of human displacement in Liberia, which was viewed from a gender perspective.
26. We note with appreciation the efforts and changes being made in UNEP to implement Governing Council decision 23/11, in particular the adoption of a gender plan of action. We call on UNEP to implement the gender plan of action fully, both in its internal and external policies.
27. Efforts to implement decision 23/11 are, however, lacking in many instances at the country level. It is not only a question of resources, but also of ineffective work on networking, encouragement, the building of political support and partnerships.
28. We applaud the ongoing work by the UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment in developing an "Environment and Conflict Prevention" initiative whose aim is to coordinate and stimulate efforts to promote conflict prevention, peace and cooperation through activities, policies and actions related to environmental protection, restoration and resources. We urge governments fully to support the continuation of this process. We strongly recommend that gender perspectives be entrenched in this initiative.
29. We are concerned, however, that the outcomes of the WAVE Conference (Women as the Voice for the Environment, which took place in October 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya) have not been adequately acted upon. Many recommendations have not been adequately resourced nor fully implemented.

B. Recommendations

1. Recommendations to Governments

30. Ensure greater efforts to implement the gender plan of action at the country level, including by strengthening networks and partnerships with national non-governmental organization working on gender and environment and to ensure that gender equality is integrated into legislation in the environmental sector.
31. Develop differentiated approaches to gender-related environmental issues in developed countries, developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
32. Integrate a gender prospective into environmental education systems at all levels and encourage the involvement of young environmental leaders in gender equality issues. The United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development recognizes the need for gender integration in the achievement of its objectives, which are to improve the quality of education, reorient education to address local needs, create public awareness on sustainability issues and to build capacity in the area of sustainable development – including tutoring programmes, access to thematic information centres and technical assistance, particularly among young and indigenous women. Provide support to implement mentorship programmes for young women.
33. Ensure the increased involvement of women in all aspects of sustainable development and environmental decision-making, particularly in the context of water management. Adopt and implement

the recommendations of women adopted at the twelfth and thirteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

2. Recommendations to UNEP

34. Mainstream the gender plan of action into UNEP activities, including at the regional and subregional levels. Request donors to commit adequate resources dedicated to the implementation of the gender plan of action, including sufficient funds in a non-discretionary, fixed line of the UNEP budget, so that implementation of the plan of action is not dependent on the existence of extra-budgetary resources. Consideration should be given to the creation of a gender and environment trust fund for civil society to facilitate the mainstreaming of gender and environment in the implementation of environmental programmes.

35. Involve civil society fully in the implementation of the plan of action, including the Network of Women Ministers of the Environment and civil society organizations working at the nexus of gender equality and the environment and United Nations "sister" entities with expertise on gender equality and human rights and alliances with women's environmental citizens networks. UNEP should facilitate the establishment of women's environment networks in regions where they do not yet exist (particularly Africa).

36. Implement the four main outcomes resulting from the UNEP WAVE conference of 2004, ensuring resources and broad support for regional WAVE conferences to be organized in cooperation with civil society partners.

37. Ensure that special attention is given to traditional knowledge and the wisdom of women from indigenous peoples and in rural communities on the contribution of such knowledge and wisdom to environmental conservation.

38. Play a leading role on the issue of protection of women in post-conflict situations in regard to access to land and resources.

39. Broaden gender perspectives in multilateral environmental agreements.

40. Analyse the process and outcomes of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum from a gender perspective

III. Water and environment

A. Issues

41. According to the World Health Organization, more than 1.1 billion people worldwide do not have access to safe drinking water (a number expected to increase to 3 billion by 2025), 2.2 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation, 90 per cent of wastewater discharged to waterways in developing countries goes untreated, and 4 million children die each year from water-related diseases. The situation is especially critical in Africa.

42. Many regions in the world are either "stressed" or "severely stressed" in terms of water supply. Water scarcity is expected to increase due to increased water demand accompanied by an increase in population in drought-prone areas, possible future decreases in precipitation and unsustainable practices such as irrigation.

43. Water stress, a direct result of water scarcity, may result in conflict over shared water resources in many regions. There are more than 260 river basins crossing international boundaries, with a third of these involving more than two countries. Many of these countries are heavily reliant upon these rivers for the provision of freshwater. These basins are frequently heavily polluted. There is thus a great potential for conflict between States that are sharing these resources.

44. As human influence on climate is becoming increasingly apparent, water managers must design adaptation strategies for increased climate variability. This poses a serious threat to agricultural production, fisheries and forestry.

45. We believe that the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals hinges on the quality and quantity of available water. Freshwater plays a disproportionately powerful role through its impact on such factors as food production, hygiene, sanitation and health, food security and vulnerability and maintenance of ecosystem services. Water security is an increasingly important issue.

1. Recommendations to Governments:

46. Recognize access to safe water as an essential human right, essential for sustainable development and poverty alleviation. Gender must be considered in all water-related issues, including increased involvement of women in all aspects of water management and decision-making. Furthermore, the rights of indigenous peoples to control and manage water resources within their territories and sites of traditional use should be recognized, valuing their ancestral knowledge in this area.

47. Recognize that each State should assume its role as the foremost regulating authority, guaranteeing water availability and quality for all users, rather than pursuing further privatization of water services.

48. Reinforce national commitments under Millennium Development Goal 7, especially in relation to ensuring access to clean water by 2015, and promote action by adopting annual strategic plans and budgets at the community and regional levels to meet the Millennium Development Goal targets of reducing by half by 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe water and sanitation.

49. Ensure that all national and trans-boundary planning on water resource management is based on the ecosystem approach and facilitate the involvement of stakeholders and the development of comprehensive laws and regulations. Incorporate the best available science and technology in the management of water and river basins and incorporate integrated water resource management approaches, including pro-poor policies which safeguard the environment.

50. Adopt and periodically revise integrated water resource management plans to achieve efficient use of limited water resources and to reach a balance between demand and supply. Integrated water resource management plans should focus on achieving the maximum efficiency in agricultural use of water. Incorporate the potential effects on the environment, particularly in coastal areas and key biodiversity areas, and other environmental issues in addition to socio-economic aspects in the development of integrated water resource management plans. Link integrated water resource management to integrated coastal zone management.

51. Create and strengthen river basin councils, including through the involvement of key stakeholders and civil society groups in decision-making and implementation of more effective water management and efficient use policies.

52. Conduct comprehensive assessments of the vulnerability of water resources to environmental change, particularly climate change, for all river and lake basins; such assessments are urgently needed to manage vulnerability risks through adaptation and mitigation measures and integrated management options.

53. Support partnerships in the area of water and sanitation, particularly those which support implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. Further, encourage funding for partnerships from new and additional resources from intergovernmental organizations, Governments and other stakeholders.

54. Promote reuse, recycling and alternative sources of water to reduce demand on available resources. This includes making use of the potential for rainwater harvesting as a supplement or alternative to limited local water resources and integrating this into the mainstream water development agenda and making better use of wastewater, ensuring a reduction in the pollution of waterways and coastal areas.

55. Develop policies that encourage the production of environmentally appropriate crops in the countries where they are indigenous, including modernization of irrigation methods to reduce waste and avoiding the use of genetically modified seeds and other modern techniques unless proven safe for health and the environment.

56. Ensure that full participatory environmental impact assessments are undertaken in accordance with the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams and that decisions taken consider the potentially negative impacts on the environment and local development.

2. Recommendations to UNEP

57. The UNEP leadership in achieving implementation of the Millennium Development Goals can enhance other United Nations water-related efforts. UNEP should assist developing countries to take practical steps to adapt to the impacts of climate change while they gain practical experience in water resources management.

58. UNEP should investigate with other relevant bodies the application and utility of decentralized environmental wastewater and sanitation systems such as plant-soil wastewater filters and urine diverting sanitation systems.

59. UNEP should assume a leading role in support of initiatives to assist developing countries to build capacity in education, training, and raising awareness in water governance and watershed management, particularly shared watersheds, including the use of existing measures such as UNEP toolkits.

IV. Chemicals management and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

A. Issues

60. The need to ensure environmental sustainability and eco-security is a prerequisite for poverty alleviation. The importance of mainstreaming chemicals management and addressing poverty in all sectoral policies should be a priority.

61. Chemicals, including pesticides, industrial chemicals and consumer chemicals, have become indispensable in many economic activities and are increasingly used in the industrial, agricultural and consumer sectors of society. Evidence suggests that chemicals can contribute to environment and health problems at various stages during their life cycles from production to disposal. Of the approximately 100,000 chemicals on the global market, less than 10 percent have been tested for health effects. Children and women, including women of childbearing age, are particularly vulnerable to chemical exposure, some of which have no safe exposure limits.

62. It is now widely recognized that chemicals need to be managed properly in order to achieve a sustainable level of agricultural and industrial development and a high level of environmental and human protection.

63. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a plan for ensuring that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

64. Civil society organizations welcome and support SAICM and the concept that it will lead to the adoption of a legally binding international instrument.

65. For the implementation of SAICM in developing countries and economies in transition, the key challenges are lack of capacity, the need for financial support and technical assistance, inadequate legislation, lack of awareness, political barriers, poor compliance and the often low priority given to environmental issues by national Governments.

66. The gap between developed and developing countries needs to be recognized and reduced in terms of human, financial and technical resources for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

67. Some regions have a special responsibility as major chemicals producers and consumers to set a leadership example in the area of chemicals management and to avoid outsourcing or exporting harm through global trade.

68. There is a need to establish an early warning system, including technical know-how and capacity building, to improve international chemicals management.

69. Some regions have a special responsibility to ensure that the transboundary movement of nuclear and radioactive and other hazardous wastes ceases.

Mercury, lead and cadmium (heavy metals)

70. The heavy metals mercury, cadmium, lead and others pose special concerns because of their permanence and potential for serious harm to the environment and to future generations.

71. The risks from these metals need to be addressed further by appropriate actions at the local, national, regional and global levels. We therefore urge the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and Governments to authorize and initiate work on legally binding global instruments and to explore the value of regulating heavy metals under existing multilateral instruments; to reduce the mercury supply by ceasing primary mining of mercury, restricting mercury exports from developed nations, and managing mercury from the closure of chlor-alkali facilities; to establish a

mercury use reduction goal (70 per cent by 2017) and achieve this goal by reducing mercury use in products, chlor-alkali plants and small scale gold mining; to reduce the demand for and supply of lead and cadmium by phasing out lead in transportation fuels and replacing lead and cadmium in products with less hazardous materials; to improve the management and disposal of wastes containing heavy metals; and to require manufacturers to assume responsibility for products that contain hazardous metals throughout their life-cycle by, for example, implementing practices identified and recommended by the Lifecycle Initiative developed by UNEP and the Society for Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

B. Recommendations

1. Recommendations to Governments

72. We urge all Governments to adopt, implement and strengthen SAICM as an essential element of global governance. We also urge Governments to address related issues such as pharmaceuticals, food additives and radioactive chemicals.

73. Implementation of SAICM must embrace core principles and approaches, including the precautionary principle, best environmental practices, the polluter pays principle, liability and compensation, public participation, comprehensive right-to-know and measures to phase out and acquire safer substitutes and solutions for chemicals causing significant impacts on human health or the environment under current conditions.

74. The ratification and consolidated implementation by all countries of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and of other chemical- and waste-related agreements should be promoted. Such agreements include the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, and relevant regional chemical- and waste-related agreements.

75. Extend producer responsibilities, zero-waste and 3Rs policies, emphasizing source recovery. Community ownership should be adopted wherever possible.

76. Ensure that the SAICM process addresses the need for gender-differentiated data and gender differentiated implementation measures, including multi-sectoral and multi-stake-holder processes. Institutional arrangements for implementation of SAICM must be dynamic and fully participatory.

77. Increase public awareness of effective chemicals management through the provision of information, knowledge and education at all levels.

2. Recommendations to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

78. Urge the World Health Organization to review its DDT and malaria policy regarding DDT as a central tool for malaria prevention in the light of the Stockholm Convention.

79. Support the strengthening of chemicals management capacity in developing countries, as recommended in the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.

80. Improve country reporting with regard to chemicals management, including the listing of new regulations and management strategies for, among other things, chemical disasters and incidents.

81. Form an international coordinating mechanism of the three main conventions dealing with chemicals and hazardous wastes.

82. Mandate UNEP to develop (with appropriate financial support) mechanisms for local authorities and governments adequately to address obsolete stockpiles of persistent organic pollutants.

83. Initiate a coordination process among all multilateral environmental agreement and United Nations agencies, identifying priority areas for synergies, including the need to address major policy and implementation gaps among multilateral environmental agreements.

84. Pursue all available funding mechanisms (including the Global Environment Facility, multilateral trust funds, official development assistance, focused partnerships and private financial flows) to support sound chemicals management in developing countries and economies in transition. New and additional funds should be made available for SAICM implementation.

85. Strengthen the capacity of the Chemicals Unit of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics to facilitate the implementation of chemicals-related multilateral agreements and

initiatives and to assist Governments and civil society in global action for sound chemicals management.

86. The Global Steering Committee appreciates the follow-up to the Dubai Declaration, including regional SAICM meetings, the Quick Start Programme and the establishment of SAICM focal points for Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. These SAICM implementing activities should be fully supported and encouraged with enhanced provision of financial support. Additional efforts should be made to accredit non-governmental organization focal points alongside SAICM national and regional focal points.

V. Conclusions

87. The Global Steering Committee calls upon the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-fourth session to consider the above statements as contributions toward the betterment of our environment and achievement of sustainable development goals and urges all Governments and stakeholders to support UNEP in the implementation of the recommendations made herein.

88. The Global Steering Committee and the Global Civil Society Forum will work to support UNEP in its endeavours to implement these recommendations and to ensure a healthy and sustainable global environment.
