

**Proceedings of the Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF)
19 February 2008**

Opening session

Welcome remarks were given by the President of the Monaco Developpement Durable, Mr. Bernard Fautrier. Opening remarks were made by the chairman of the Major Group Facilitating Committee, Mr. Lucien Royer, a representative of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). Opening remarks were also made by Olivier Deleuze, Chief of the Major Groups and Stakeholder Branch.

Election of officers and adoption of agenda

The meeting was informed of the nomination of Mr. Bernard Fautrier as Chair of the Global Civil Society Forum, Mr. Lucien Royer from the ITUC, Ms. Mildred Mkandla from Earth Care Africa and Ms. Anas Saket from the General Federation of Jordanian Women as Vice-Chairs of the meeting and Mr. Gordon Bispham, from the Caribbean Policy Development Centre and a representative of the Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Platform as Rapporteur for the meeting. These nominations were unanimously endorsed and the Chairperson invited the officers to join him at the head table. The agenda was adopted as presented and the meeting proceeded according to the schedule.

Session 1

CSOs engaging at the GCSSX/GMEF

Mr. Lucien Royer informed the meeting that over the next three days participants would have the opportunity to observe and participate in the meetings of the Committee of the Whole (COW), the Ministerial Consultations and the Ministerial Roundtables. Mr. Royer also informed the meeting that nine seats plus one alternate would be allocated in both COW and Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) to the Major Groups and that technically the right to make interventions were at the discretion of the Chair. However, the practice at GCSS/GMEF was that the Major Groups are allowed to actively participate and we assume that this will continue. Mr. Royer further informed that the ministerial roundtable would be arranged differently. Three seats were allocated to the Major Groups for each roundtable of which there will be two parallel sessions on four occasions. Each would run for two hours and address specific issues and have assigned countries, those topics and countries will be posted from Wednesday, February 20th, 2008.

The COW and Ministerial Consultations will be opened to all participants to observe, however the roundtables will be closed meetings. The roundtables are designed to be 'experts meetings' and as such participants are expected to be knowledgeable about the issues and be ready to engage in an interactive discussion. The COW will discuss the draft decisions and recommendations on specific and concise language and make

recommendations for adoption by the Governing Council. Organizations that have been following the thematic issues should closely track the discussion and recommendations and if possible make interventions. The Ministerial Consultations are fora for Member States to discuss various topics and present country positions. In this forum more general statements could be made whether on thematic issues, policy intervention or alternative scenarios.

Session 2

Adoption of the Guidelines for improving the Global Civil Society Forum Cycle.

An overview of the process and structure was presented by Mildred Mkandla of EarthCare Africa and member of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee. Ms Mkandla informed the meeting that major groups were viewed as essential partners since the Malmo Declaration in 2000 in the context of the UNEP process. In 2002, UNEP's Governing Council decision SSV11.5 called for the convening of a Global Civil Society Forum. Ms. Mkandla further informed the meeting that the current Executive Director was requested to deepen the engagement of UNEP and Civil Society.

The unanimous recommendations from the six regional meetings, deciding on Scenario 2 were presented. This included twelve regional representatives and nine major groups representatives. The meeting gave its entire support to scenario two as it addresses best the issues of regional interest as well as major groups representation. The adoption of the guidelines mandates the civil society facilitating unit in conjunction with the UNEP Civil Society secretariat to develop the modalities. The way forward is that after the guidelines are endorsed by the executive director of UNEP it would be fully active and begin to deepen the relationship between UNEP, Major Groups and Civil Society in matters ranging from policy discussions to joint programme implementation and management

At the end of session two with some time remaining, Mr. Lucien Royer provided a summary of a discussion by the Facilitating Committee the day before about UNEP's Medium Term Strategy (MTS) – (see also Session 5, below). Mr. Royer informed the meeting that the MTS comes at a time of transformation, both inside and outside of UNEP and United Nations system. He also commented on the role of the secretariat in shepherding the process. The highlights of the strategy revolved around genuine interest for the engagement of stakeholders within a framework that consisted of practical components for implementation. The strategy was needed, so as to steer away from disconnected models of stakeholder consultation and involvement, from the global to the local and workplace levels. The strategy document should more clearly focus on its six thematic issues by establishing a basis for on-going year round engagement between UNEP, Major Groups and Civil Society. He also highlighted specific courses of action for strengthening the functioning of the Global Steering committee, as well as the regional processes, along with sub-regional and local communications and consultation systems to strengthen decision-making. He said that the Steering Committee expressed considerable enthusiasm about acting as an effective team over the next two years to help create stronger Civil Society 'arms and legs' for UNEP implementation.

Session 3

Dialogue with Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP

Mr. Steiner started by thanking the Civil Society for the level of engagement thus far. He said that his vision was that the GMEF develops into a platform that the world looks for leadership and vision on environmental sustainability. He further stated that the response to global warming is addressing many areas of the environmental agenda. That he hoped the Ministerial Roundtables would look through an economic lens when discussing the various issues in the next few days. He stated that there was some evidence that some entrepreneurs in the green economy were ahead of where some governments needed to be. He said that sometimes governments discussed environment as though it was external to development. And that we all need to look at development from the point of view of global sustainability. In the context of the North/South debate he wondered whether we framed the discussion in the right political terms. Mr. Steiner stated that he believed we need to outline a vision that provides society with a concept framework that is based on truths. Further he stated that the environment is the fabric that brings society together. He also stated that environment cannot take responsibility for everything. He asked the question as to how we would provide for over six billion people with the continued environmental degradation of resources. In the politics of power, the environment is still seen as the 'poor cousin', when the reality is quite different. He informed the meeting that UNEP would adopt an evolutionary ambitious programme of work for the environment and development. The Medium Term Strategy addresses issues of real and credible results on six priority areas. Mr. Steiner stated that UNEP has both a science and political mandate in the environment and sustainability discourse. Many organizations see UNEP as an ally, a conduit and supporting institution. He gave UNEP's commitment to work on the overall agenda of sustainability with Major Groups and Civil Society.

A question and answer session addressed the issues of climate justice, the operationalization of the GEO4 report, the stalling of the IEG dialogue, the marrying of public and private finances, future of the TUNZA programme and the exclusion of potential beneficiaries from solution and implementation of action plans in Africa.

Mr. Steiner was encouraged to visit the West Asia region and work more closely with smaller civil society organizations and to also continue his work with the Trade Unions and ILO, and to continue connecting with people through the internet and other means of communications at the local level.

Participants were introduced to Ms. Angela Cropper, the new Deputy Executive Director of UNEP.

Session 4

Globalization and Environment – Mobilizing Finances to meet the Climate Challenge

The session opened with a brief statement from the Youth Major Group about the continuation of the work with it and UNEP. The substantive topic of Globalization and Environment – Mobilizing Finances to meet the Climate Challenge started with a presentation from Mr. Eric Usher, Head, Renewable Energy and Finance Unit, Energy Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE). His presentation was followed by four panel presentations from Mr. Juerg Gerber, World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD); Mr. Daniel Magraw, International Centre for Law; Mr. Marcelo Furtado, Campaign Director of Greenpeace, Brazil and Mr. John Kimani, Cogeneration for Africa Programme Manager, Energy Environment and Development Network for Africa (AFREPEN-FWD).

Mr. Usher indicated that the amount of capital needed to meet the challenge of climate change was between USD134 billion at the low end to 210 billion at the high end of the estimates. He noted that the global investment in sustainable energy was rising rapidly and had grown from USD28 billion in 2004 to USD117 billion in 2007. He affirmed that when we get the policy framework right, it attracts a lot of investment. He observed the existence of three currently active layers of investment needed, venture capital, stock markets and investment banking. He also reported that finance for generation facilities was rising from USD12 billion in 2004 to USD56 in 2007. Most of the investment took place in the industrialized countries but Brazil, India and China had made substantial investment as well. He noted that Carbon financing was becoming a real financial market and that wind energy production was larger than nuclear and hydro. Mr. Usher stated that the shifting of cash markets to credit would allow for greater expansion in the sector and increase the chances of long-term viability.

Mr. Gerber from the WBCSD indicated that business needed clear policy frameworks to act on. He stated that business recognized the impact of climate change on development and were prepared to act. He said that business also realized that under investment in energy reduces Gross Domestic Product growth. However he saw a gap in the capital needs of the sector which called for investments to the tune of approx. USD 165 billion while only USD 80 billion had been identified so far from within the business sector and another USD 11 billion from the public sector resulting in a USD 75 billion gap.

Mr. Magraw's - from the Center for International Environmental Law - presentation covered the issues of the proper role of the investors, co-benefits, workers concerns and environmental justice. He suggested that the principles of sustainability should inform the process on both the legal and ethical dimension. Further, that government and all of civil society should address them collectively.

Mr. Furtado from Greenpeace suggested that we examine the real world and recognize that the environmental agenda had not been mainstreamed in the development agenda. Traditional politics has not yet fully incorporated environmental (or climate) matters and dirty energy is moving forward because investors still prefer established technologies. He noted that while in the real world the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) obtained a Nobel Peace prize at the BALI Climate Conference the reference to its work about concrete targets was relegated to a simple footnote. He pointed out that the role of

civil society was to mobilize change and be a watchdog of international negotiations and not become part of the system or attempt to act as government. Civil society must get more strategically integrated and work together while not competing over differing agenda (poverty, development, environment, labor etc.). Climate Change is a debate that is taking place within a shifting development paradigm and encompasses a multiplicity of issues that need financing for a revolution to promote sustainable development, stop deforestation and develop a clean energy matrix. To tackle mitigation, vulnerability and adaptation we will need public and private investment. Society can be very influential because the private sector needs a social license to operate. We need more resources and political will to ensure a socially just and environmentally sound future. For that, the debate needs to be at the fore front of the Heads of State. UNEP and environmental ministers can play an important role in making that happen.

Mr. Kimani from AFREPEN indicated the need for clear policies and targets for low positive results. Also the need to use more existing innovative options and mechanisms. We also need to explore a mix of renewable energy sources. Accessing finance for adaptation work was difficult and very limited. However there is a precedent by the African Development Bank in providing some financial resources for this type of work.

Question and Answers

Questions included the real scenario of bio-fuels, equity from renewables, issues of liberalization of goods and services. It was suggested that we should realize that not all bio-fuels were the same, that the issue of food security and biodiversity needed to be studied, and that we need to have a blend of private and public capital to adequately address the issues. Participants were also reminded that it was no longer the case of rich countries versus poor countries but rich communities versus poor communities.

Session 5

Panel Discussion on the UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2010-2013

Mr. John Scanlon, Principal Advisor, Policy and Operational Team Leader, Strategic Implementation Team, Executive Office, UNEP gave a presentation on the MTS¹. Mr. Scanlon informed the meeting that the MTS was developed in direct response to the Governing Council request. He reported that six priority areas were selected based on four main factors. Those were:

1. The scientific evidence of GEO 4.
2. UNEP mandate.
3. Priority emerging issues from global and regional fora.
4. Potential of making a transformative difference.

¹ See comments about MTS by Major Groups and Global Facilitation Committee, delivered by Lucien Royer, described on Page 1, above for session 2.

The strategic framework would comprise of sub-programmes, objectives with indicators, expected accomplishments, strategy and external factors.

The six priority areas are:

1. Climate Change.
2. Disasters and conflicts.
3. Ecosystem management
4. Environmental Governance
5. Harmful substances and hazardous waste.
6. Resource efficiency – sustainable consumption and production

Questions and Answers.

Questions were asked in relation to the status of the MTS, levels of youth engagement, promoting more GEF funds, addressing the issue of rights. The answers indicated that the strategy framework is prepared by the Executive Director for the Secretary General of the UN following a template provided by the New York office. The sub-programmes have in-depth details and address the specifics of stakeholder participation and budgets. Further that the UNEP strategic point of departure was the Cartagena Package of 2002.

Closing Session

Mr. Olivier Deleuze, Chief of Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch thanked the participants for their hard work and contribution to the UNEP Secretariat.

The Chair of the meeting thanked members of the Global Facilitation Committee, UNEP's Mr. Deleuze and Ms. Fatou Ndoeye, with their support team, for the high level of cooperation and collaboration received. He also thanked the participants for their hard work and commitment to the process of engagement.

Some significant issues were highlighted by the meeting:

- Communities, Major Groups and Civil Society need to continue to be involved in the development of solutions and in the implementation of UNEP action plans.
- UNEP needs to continue efforts to deepen relations with all stakeholders, from the global, regional and subregional levels, all the way to local and workplace decision-making
- UNEP must continue to promote greater coherence in the sustainable development discourse.

Specific recommendations made by Civil Society representatives in the course of the meeting:

- UNEP should keep the TUNZA youth programme alive.
- UNEP to work more closely with small organizations.
- For UNEP to continue and expanded Global Environmental citizen programme implemented in the Latin America and Caribbean region to other regions.

- UNEP to continue to promote greater coherence in the sustainable development discourses.
- UNEP to support more research and development activities for business ventures.
- UNEP or the appropriate UN agency to examine the issue of environmental and wildlife refugees.
- The relevant UN agency to examine the question of bio-fuels and food security.

The meeting ended at 5:30pm