

"Laura E. Williamson"  
<laura.williamson@helio-international.org>

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To "UNEP Civil Society" <Civil.Society@unep.org>  
cc "chris braun" <brauncch@gmail.com>, "Alain Guinebault" <a.guinebault@geres.eu>, "BEAUDOUIN, Pierre" <Pibeaud@aol.com>, Benoit Lebot <Benoitlebot@aol.com>, "CONNOR, Helene" <helene.connor@helio-international.org>, "GOULD, Bob" <rgould1014@hotmail.com>, "Hang de la BROSE" <delabrossehang@yahoo.fr>, "Ibrahim Togola" <ibrahim.togola@malifolkecenter.org>, "Isabelle Haynes" <haynes@skynet.be>, "JANSSEN, Rod" <rodjanssen@btopenworld.com>, "Mitra MOEZZI" <mmmoezzi@gmail.com>, "Thomas Bonduelle" <greentom@free.fr>, "Ulrich Ebensperger" <uliebensperger@hotmail.com>, Val erie Blanchot Courtois <vbc@humanventures.com>  
Subje RE: Draft Decisions for submission to the 10th. Special Session of the  
ct Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum,

Hello – thank you for the attached document. HELIO International has some suggestions that we feel should be addressed in the attached draft decisions.

We are concerned by the lack of mention of bio/agrofuels and therefore have the following suggestions:

- The issue of bio/agrofuels be raised because of its potential impact both environmentally and socially
- The term “biofuel” should be avoided because it implies that agricultural products used to make fuels are cultivated on the basis of “organic” (“bio” in French and other languages) principles, e.g. without fertilizers or pesticides and by careful use of irrigation. However, since this is generally not the case, it seems more advisable to use the term “agrofuel”.
- The production of agrofuels, if not well framed, can have quite an impact environmentally and socially. To this end we would like to stress that agrofuels should be promote in order to satisfy local energy need and reduce the dependency of the net importer countries and their vulnerability to high oil price. This means that agrofuel should be locally produced, refined and used. It is only with this focus can we assure that agrofuel can contribute to the local economic development and have an positive impact on the lives of the local community (the whole production and consumption chain is controlled by local people) . If agrofuel is developed only for export to industrialised countries we then enter the old model of southern countries being the producers of the raw material while industrialized countries reap the benefit of the final product.

Therefore agrofuel production should meet the following criteria:

- Promote local production of a fuel which is cheaper than diesel as part of a genuine local energy development plan (including electricity generation and services) in order to improve the living conditions of village producers.

- Manage the impact on food production of integrating a new cash crop into local cultivation systems (substitution for other cash crops, practice of intercropping) and on biodiversity.
- Respect low fertility lands, preserving forest surface areas and using natural fertilizers or compost cakes are necessary pre-conditions for ensuring a positive impact on the environment and climate change: Regeneration of soils, carbon storage (in plants), substitution of diesel.
- Structure the chain on the basis of medium term contracts between upstream (seed and vegetable oil production) and downstream (final distribution of energy) parties and by involving producers in final usage (based on a price compensated by provision of fuel) enabling a genuine dynamic of local development and management of social impact.
- Work with local producers where necessary to promote balanced exchanges and to encourage linkages with industrial chains interested in obtaining primary products.

Please let me know if you have any questions on the above

Regards - Laura

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Laura E. WILLIAMSON

Project Coordinator

56, rue de Passy - 75016 Paris - FRANCE

Tel: (33.1) 42.24.51.48 Fax: (33.1) 42.24.86.33

[www.helio-international.org](http://www.helio-international.org)