

## **Regional Workshop on Environmental Citizenship Cairo 15-16 October, 2003**

Representatives of 14 NGOs from 14 countries, met in Cairo on 15-16 October 2004, in response to the invitation of the Council of the Arab Ministers Responsible of the Environment (CAMRE), United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA), UNEP's Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), and the Arab Network for Environment & Development (RAED) to participate in the Regional Workshop on Environmental Citizenship.

**Having:** reviewed the Environmental Citizenship Document that was adopted by the Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment and discussing the concept of environmental citizenship in connection with the use of water, solid waste and environmental human rights.

**Realizing that:** the environmental citizenship concept should be firmly established and supported in order to engender environmental citizenship as a way of life.

### **Accordingly the meeting recommended that:**

A) Arab Governments are urged to:

1. Enhance the religious dialogue such that it is focussed on societal needs to give a clear explanation of the concept of environmental citizenship
2. Facilitate the procedures of establishing new Civil Society organizations that are concerned with the environment
3. Open the door for public participation in efforts towards achieving environmental citizenship goals.
4. Include an article in the Arab constitutions regarding Arab citizen's rights to live in a clean environment.
5. Identify clear concepts of environmental legislation in order to integrate it within school and university curricula.

B) Media Sector are urged to :

1. Spread the concept of environmental citizenship through the different media.
2. Organize environmental competitions related to environmental citizenship in the audio, visual and printed media.
3. Implement a capacity building programme for the media on environmental citizenship, its aspects and techniques to support it.
4. Publicize successful initiatives that have promoted environmental citizenship.

C) Private Sector are urged to:

1. Encourage partnerships between the private and public sector, especially towards recycling of solid waste.
2. Enhance and develop the concept the environmental citizenship through practical projects in coordination with the environmental Civil Society organizations.

D) Civil Society Organizations are urged to:

1. Direct their activities towards establishing the concept of the environmental citizenship.
2. Understand and absorb the connection between the protection of the environment and economic and social issues in order to reorient the behaviour of different levels of society.
3. Clarify the environmental indicators that determine the level of accomplishment of the concept of environmental citizenship.
4. Activate the role of the family in achieving the principle of sustainable consumption as part of the promotion of environmental citizenship.
5. Increase the interaction among the Civil Society organizations to benefit from others experience in enhancing the environmental citizenship.
6. Implement the Environmental Citizenship Regional Project