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of the United Nations
Environment Programme**

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Global Ministerial Environment Forum**
Nairobi, 21–24 February 2011
Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda*

**Policy issues: coordination and
cooperation with major groups**

**Statements and recommendations from major groups and
stakeholders to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial
Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth session**

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The annex to the present note contains statements and recommendations from major groups and stakeholders prepared during regional consultations and preparatory meetings for submission to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth session. The statements and recommendations are reproduced as received, without formal editing.

* UNEP/GC.26/1.

Annex

African Major Groups and Stakeholders Statement to the Twelfth Session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF12) and the 26th Regular Session of the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC26/GMEF).

PREAMBLE

We, representatives of African Major Groups and Stakeholders embrace UNEP's role in constructively engaging us on key environmental issues to be addressed by the Member States during the GC26/GMEF;

Recognizing 'paragraph 63 of the Bamako Declaration on the environment for sustainable development' adopted during the 13th session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Bamako, that urged African Countries to continue to support processes aimed at improving the international environment governance system;

We recommend:

I. INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

1. The IEG consultations should involve more public participation at all levels with concrete input from the African Major Groups and Stakeholders;
2. All the options for broader reform be elaborate, transformational, detailed but concise and open to all other suggestions;
3. Special attention should be paid to the European Union funded African Union programme on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) being coordinated by UNEP for its expansion and promotion of synergy for effective coordination and implementation. Synergy between MEAs should also be considered as a package when talking about the environment;
4. The implementation of MEAs should be improved by reinforcing UNEP's capacity and enhancing UNEP's presence in Africa;
5. The action plan of NEPAD's Environment Initiative should be reviewed, popularized and implemented as one of the strategic tools to address environmental degradation in Africa and we urge African Governments and Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, IGAD, ECA, SADC, ECCAS and COMESA) to constructively engage African major groups and stakeholders in the implementation of the initiative.

II. GREEN ECONOMY

1. Sufficient safeguards should be put in place so as to ensure that the rights of the indigenous people and local communities are protected during the implementation of the Green Economy agenda and indigenous knowledge be adopted to provide a concrete base for technology transfer, especially concerning renewable energies as part of the Green Economy agenda;
2. An African summit on green economy should be convened and technology transfer, financing and building of the capacity of African governments and major groups and stakeholders fast tracked in the area of green economy; and setting up of concrete structures for appropriate technology transfer especially concerning renewable energies;
3. The provision of both financial and technical support to African major groups and stakeholders to build their capacities towards implementing the green economy;
4. The phasing out of fossil fuel lending by the International Financial Institutions (such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund etc) in favour of sustainable and reliable energy services for poor, and also the transition to zero or ultra-low –carbon development;
5. UNEP in Africa in collaboration with national Governments should expand the Green Economy initiative to include more number of African countries.

III. SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

1. The provision of concrete financial and technical support for the implementation of African roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production activities under the Marrakech Task Force with enhanced engagement of major groups and stakeholders;
2. The exploring of the on-going integration of African States through Regional Economic Communities to enhance the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production activities;
3. The establishment of the African Major Groups and Stakeholders platform on Sustainable Consumption and Production to consolidate Major Groups and Stakeholders views, input and expertise to the African 10 Year Framework programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

IV. RIO+20 AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. More financial support for UNEP to extend consultations and preparations for Rio+20 to the sub-regional, national and sub-national levels in Africa so as to sufficiently prepare the continent to effectively participate and signify its contribution to the Rio+20 process;
2. UN-DESA and UNEP avails predictable and sufficient funding to ensure effective participation of African Major Groups and Stakeholders during the preparatory process at sub-regional, national and sub-national levels.

Other regional matters

1. Major Groups and Stakeholders should not only be involved in meeting participation **BUT** rather be fully engaged in all UNEP environment programmes and projects in Africa;
2. Major Groups and Stakeholders engagement in the deliberations of AMCEN and AMCOW be enhanced through financial and other technical support;
3. A mechanism should be developed to update and inform African Major Groups and Stakeholders about projects, programmes, up coming events and establish an open platform for deliberating on critical issues of concern to the region;
4. Concerning technology transfer, the urgent need for the know-how for adaptive technologies to eradicate poverty and decrease natural and economical pressures on the poor communities
5. The creation of an African Environment Facility at the African Development Bank for the implementation of the action plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD with Major Groups and Stakeholder representation.

Asia and the Pacific Regional Statement for the 2011 Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum (GMGSF)

Regional Consultation Meeting. Astana, Kazakhstan. 28 – 29 September 2010

1. Introduction

The Regional Consultation Meeting for Asia and the Pacific in preparation for the 2011 GMGSF was held at the Palace of Independence, Astana, Kazakhstan from 28 – 29 September 2010 in conjunction with the Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific (MCED VI). 27 representatives of the civil society organisations in Asia and the Pacific attended the Meeting and had intensive discussions based on a series of thematic presentations made at the meeting. The participants have reaffirmed their commitment to invigorate their efforts to promote their actions toward achieving environmental management and sustainable development. They agreed to adopt the following text as a regional statement of Asia and the Pacific regional civil society group to provide inputs to the 2011 GMGSF.

2. Major group and stakeholder involvement in the UNEP work programme development and implementation

- UNEP efforts were appreciated to enhance the effective involvement of major group and stakeholders including regional group representatives in the dialogues on the UNEP work programme development and its implementation.
- UNEP needs to continue its efforts to facilitate administrative procedures of civil society stakeholders' accreditation and participation in meetings, and to mobilise financial resources to enable civil society stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific to meet and effectively discuss environmental and sustainability policy achievements and challenges, and to provide substantive inputs to support the GMGSF
- UNEP should pay due consideration to the regional, gender and sectoral balance in the representation of civil society members including youth group in the UNEP work programme at the global level.

3. Green Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production

- Policies for promoting green economy reinforce effective environmental and sustainability policies in the region and increased efforts must be made to facilitate green growth promotion policies in the context of promoting sustainable development and not to undermine ongoing and/or emerging sector specific processes,
- Green economy dialogues must be promoted in conjunction with the ongoing preparation for the Rio+20 particularly on green economy in the context of promoting sustainable development and reducing poverty.
- The scope and content of green economy depend substantively on varying socio-economic and environmental conditions of respective locality, countries, sub-regions, regions and the world, and the programmes should be developed through multi-stakeholder dialogues in a way to meet the varying conditions at multiple levels.
- Comprehensive, multi-factor and life-cycle impact assessment must be ensured in assessing the environmental soundness and sustainability of policies and projects.
- Multi-stakeholder platforms and mechanisms must be developed and strengthened to promote the exchange of good practices, access to environmentally sound technologies and capacity development, and to promote multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder partnership particularly through involving those

stakeholders who have operationalised models of green economy and materialised paradigm shifts at the level of localities, countries, sub-regions, and regions.

- UNEP should be given a mandate and funding source and operate such multi-stakeholder platforms and mechanisms through its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific particularly through involving stakeholders in different countries including small enterprises and farmer groups at the regional and inter-regional levels for sharing and transferring good practices and through bilateral or multi-lateral partnership in collaboration with other like-minded agencies and organisations.

4. Institutional arrangement for sustainable development and international environmental governance

- The momentum and process for reviewing and revitalising international environmental governance (IEG) must be supported more widely with the greater involvement of civil society stakeholders including the UNEP Civil Society regional forum representatives and members.
- IEG dialogues must be promoted in conjunction with the ongoing preparation for the Rio+20 particularly on institutional arrangements for sustainable development.
- UN efforts to promote stakeholder participation in IEG discourse should be continued and enhanced including the promotion of equitable stakeholder participation through the Civil Society Organisations IEG Advisory Group recently established.
- Discussions on IEG revitalisation should be promoted from the holistic viewpoint to reflect not only UN and international agency and their programme transformation, but also the multi-level institutional and programmatic frameworks and their mutual interface based on the proper assessment of needs, priority, efficiency, effectiveness, and policy relevance.
- Effective environmental governance should be explored based on the pivotal principle of (i) access to information, (ii) public participation in decision making, and (iii) access to justice in environmental matters,
- Mechanisms should be developed and strengthened at multiple levels particularly to provide platforms to facilitate (i) awareness raising, (ii) multi-stakeholder policy dialogue, (iii) capacity development, (iv) good practice studies and information exchange, (v) catalytic assistance to the pilot projects, and (vi) strategic research on environment and sustainability issues.
- Such mechanisms should also respond to address trans-boundary ecosystem and environmental management and sub-regional interests in light of the growing merits and dynamisms of sub-regional cooperation.
- The Asia and the Pacific CSO Regional Forum supported by UNEP/ROAP and operating as a leading regional environmental network for the region must be further expanded and institutionalised with enhanced communication, operational at multiple levels, financing mechanisms and sub-regional institutional set-ups, and UNEP must intensify its efforts to mobilise and provide increased support for such regional networks.

5. GEO5

- UNEP's efforts to promote the assessment process in a participatory manner should be continued and enhanced as it provides useful information.
- GEO5 information content should be tailored to promote the better use of information by major groups and multi-stakeholder groups.
- GEO5 should include not just the assessment on biophysical and environmental conditions, but

identify persistent and/emerging policy and institutional gaps, good practice and options of policy prescriptions

- Windows of information provisions and flows to support the UNEP GEO5 should be ensured for all the interested stakeholders without unduly undermining the efficiency in the assessment process.

6. Rio+20

- Rio+20 process should be used to mobilize and enhance a wide range and high level policy and public support to address and tackle environment and sustainability policy challenges, and enhanced regional and international cooperation.
- It is important to provide opportunities for stakeholders in the region to properly assess progress, gaps and challenges in terms of policies and activities toward achieving effective environmental management and sustainable development and UNEP is particularly requested to intensify its efforts to mobilise resources to support such processes.
- It is essential to ensure that stakeholder groups, government and international agency representatives and other partners should have a sufficient number of occasions to exchange views to develop and adopt effective action plans at the Rio +20 Summit for promoting environmental management and sustainable development.
- The countries in Asia and the Pacific must prioritise and intensify their efforts to formulate legislations and develop policies and programmes in the Rio+20 preparatory process in order to operationalise at the national, sub-regional and regional levels the guidelines adopted at the UNEP GC/GMEF in February 2010 with respect to access to information, participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters, and the development of domestic legislation on liability, response action and compensation for damage caused by activities dangerous to the environment.
- Governments and private sector are encouraged to explore concrete regional and inter-regional collaborative programmes in cooperation with stakeholder groups to invigorate innovation in policy development, technological application and social mobilisation to promote environmental management and sustainable development.
- It is vital to promote the linkages of major regional and international meetings to address environmental and sustainability policy issues in the proper sequence of contexts, and to enable stakeholders to participate in major meetings in order to ensure the continuity of environmental and sustainability policy discourse and to undertake effective preparation for the Rio+20.

**Statement/ Recommendations of
the European Regional Consultation Meeting of Major Groups and Stakeholders
in preparation for 12th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF-12) and twenty-six
session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum
(GC-26/GMEF)**

27 October 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

We, the participants of the European Regional Consultation Meeting of Major Groups and Stakeholders in preparation for 12th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF-12) and twenty-six session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-26/GMEF), gathered on 27 October 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland, agreed on the following Statement/ Recommendations.

The European statement reflects views and comments from a diverse spectrum of Major Groups and Stakeholders representing a large geographical area within the European region who also participated in the two day global consultation on International Environment Governance (IEG) and Green Economy held on 25 and 20 October 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland

IEG Reform Recommendations to the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-26/GMEF):

IEG at the national level:

- Governments should build environment capacity within and between each sector to be able to respond to the environmental related challenges;
- Enhance the role of National Committees and utilize National Committees to support UNEP national level activities;
- World Environment day 2011 should encompass Rio+20 as its core message.

IEG at the interagency level:

- The Environment Management Group to become a sub-committee of the Chief Executives Board
- Support the clustering of conventions; welcoming the clustering of chemicals and the proposed clustering of biodiversity related conventions as an import step in the right direction; improve vertical integration and administration of MEAs by means of proportionality and subsidiarity principles.

IEG at the global level:

- UNEP should be the global voice for the environment within the UN Family
- UNEP should have a stronger scientific base
- UNEP should enhance stakeholder participation and engagement
- UNEP should strengthen the regional offices of UNEP to have a high profile in the region
- UNEP should develop a knowledge base for all environmental conventions at all levels
- UNEP should lead an umbrella organization which would include all clustered environmental conventions
- UNEP should have as a major function, an ability to respond to emerging challenges
- UNEP should ensure transparency, public participation and accountability are foundational and essential elements of sound environmental governance, both at international and domestic levels and must be fully incorporated and realigned in the environmental governance system.

Green Economy Recommendations to o the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-26/GMEF):

- Set the main goal of GE (suggestion: we need to reach an economy within the limits of carrying capacity and taking into consideration the social dimension) and set roadmap with clear targets;
- GE should be based on a joint effort from governments, civil society and the private sector;
- Do not reinvent the wheel, but base the implementation on the agreed language of Rio, Johannesburg Plan Of Implementation, Agenda 21 and Marrakesh process;
- Implement the commitment to enhance corporate social responsibility and accountability through transparency;
- Speed up the phase out from the brown sector through a financial and legal framework;

- support awareness raising and education (formal and informal) at all levels, taking into consideration tools for governments, private sector, CSOs and all stakeholders;
- Support and convey fast track of technology transfer;
- Ensure transparency of products (such as life cycle analysis).

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Recommendations to the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-26/GMEF):

- We appreciate the work of Marrakesh Process (MP) but we want this work to continue in a much more active pattern. Reinforcing of MP means to improve visibility and coordination, provide necessary resources, including by UN, involve major groups, and enable participation from countries in transition, orient more towards outputs;
- We propose UNEP to facilitate international dialogue between different stakeholders, including international organizations like WTO, ILO, ISO on designing effective practical measures on tackling driving forces of unsustainable consumption and production and establishing sustainable consumption infrastructure;
- UNEP to concentrate on promoting equal shares of environmental space for each citizen globally (One Planet concept and cap of consumption);
- UNEP is to organize support framework for national policy development and local demonstration projects implementation on SCP;
- Support major groups independent monitoring of SCP national implementation and outreach campaigns;
- Close interconnection between SCP implementation and GE concept should be developed and kept further;
- UNEP should support sustainable life-styles and encourage cultural change redefining “good life” through education, marketing, awareness raising and new/ modified behavior models implementation.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONSULTATION TO
UNEP'S GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS FORUM****Cozumel, Quintana Roo, from 24 to 26 November****INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE**

1. Considering the weak existing global environmental architecture, a reform is necessary to raise the political level of UNEP to strengthen its structure, capabilities, resources and regional presence, especially that of ROLAC, so that UNEP assumes a strong leadership in light of the serious environmental situation affecting our planet and to allow the coordination and promotion of environmental programmes at Global and Regional levels, with transparency, broad participation of major groups and accountability mechanisms.

2. It is essential to undertake a process of building and strengthening capacities on international environmental governance within and in conjunction with major groups, to inform, in a coordinated action, international environmental policy and the implementation of incremental structural reforms.

3. We welcome the creation of the *Major Groups and t Stakeholders Advisory Group on International Environmental Governance*, conceived as a regionally balanced forum. We believe that its work is essential to ensure direct channels for information exchange between the Advisory Group members and organizations actively involved in the decision cycle of UNEP policies, both globally and regionally.

GREEN ECONOMY

1. Create mechanisms and indicators to recognize the value of environmental services provided by Latin America and the Caribbean region to humanity.
2. Create mechanisms that value environmental services and that these are effectively internalized by the economic system and the decision-making processes.
3. Establish fiscal and market mechanisms that encourage sustainable economic activities and discourage unsustainable economic activities.
4. Support capacity building and technology transfer for sustainable economic activities, with emphasis on the business sector, particularly small and medium enterprises, accompanied by a fair transition that includes the necessary adaptation of the workforce.
5. Change the way wealth and economic development of countries is measured, considering environmental and social issues that are currently outside of the traditional national accounting.
6. Establish mechanisms to encourage energy efficiency and use of sustainable alternative energies, including research on new technologies, considering the local and traditional knowledge.
7. Promote environmental education within civil society to recognize the value of ecosystems and the environmental services that they provide to human wellbeing.
8. Implement public policies in educational institutions, particularly primary and secondary education, consisting of workshops on new consumption practices based on a sustainable economy.
9. Review the development models of countries, including those of Latin America and the Caribbean, whose economies are based on the extraction of natural resources, particularly minerals, which are often abusive and contrary to the paradigm of a green economy.

PREPARATION FOR THE 12TH GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS FORUM (GMGSF-12) AND TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/ GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM (GC-26/GMEF)

1. Underlining the great importance of the review process of the Guidelines for the Participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders in the Policy Design at UNEP in 2011, we reiterate our request that it be made well in advance and actively involving the Regional Consultation Meetings, by ensuring the presence of this process in their respective agendas.
2. The above Guidelines express, on several opportunities, the importance of achieving a regional balance in the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) and the Major Facilitation Committee of Major Groups (MGFC). We welcome the efforts made in this regard during the 2010 cycle and we hope to deepen them in the coming years, particularly with regard to geographical balance in the composition of MGFC.
3. Urge the new representatives on the MGFC to continue the practice of preparing a joint document that contains consensus aspects from all regions.
4. With regards to the electronic Major Groups and Stakeholders platform, promote awareness of its existence, functions and criteria for participation, as well as conduct a participatory process to improve this tool, to ensure better use by major groups and regions.
5. Reiterate the suggestion that the UNEP regional offices coordinate the process of accreditation of organizations representing the major groups in their respective regions.
6. Urge governments, and through them UNEP, to ensure that every year, the Regional Consultation Meetings are conducted in the 6 regions, promoting the participation of the 9 major groups, to achieve a more systematic input from Major Groups in the decision cycle of UNEP.

MARRAKECH PROCESS: SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

1. Promote public awareness of the importance of environmental issues and their influence in all areas to transform knowledge, values, skills and attitudes towards sustainable lifestyles through formal, non-formal and informal media.
2. Create alliances with media and advertising and marketing companies to ensure an environmental ethical communication in TV advertising and newspapers.
3. Promoting sustainable tourism in Latin America and the Caribbean countries with the participation of all actors of the society, considering the local specificities.
4. Promote policies that argue in favour of lifestyles in Latin America and the Caribbean that are consistent with sustainable development.
5. Promote policies addressed to the construction sector and certification processes, considering local perspectives and knowledge.
6. Replicate the successful initiatives of sustainable consumption and production in Latin America and the Caribbean, bringing attention to practices of native peoples and local communities.
7. Encourage fiscal, legal and market reforms, to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.
8. Get the commitment from all public and private sectors in developing and implementing joint strategies for sustainable consumption and production.
9. Promote and strengthen civil society participation through clear, transparent and effective mechanisms on issues related to sustainable consumption and production.

RIO + 20 AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. We invite the Ministers of Environment to promote the participation of all Heads of State and Government as well as ministers responsible for various public portfolios, and to ensure that the national progress reports on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation are the result of a participatory process and are a true reflection of reality.
2. Considering that United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/C.2/64/L.59 refers to the role of major groups in the preparatory process for Rio +20, we call upon governments, and through them to UNEP, to implement the necessary means to ensure participation of major groups that actively and systematically participate in the UNEP policy decision cycle, establishing direct channels for their engagement, at the global, regional and national levels, facilitating comprehensive dialogue platforms to ensure that their views are considered.
3. We urge governments to allocate resources to ensure national consultation processes with major groups in preparation for the Rio +20 Summit.

4. Promote meetings with governments and various sectors at the national level, involving the media, to improve the understanding that Rio +20 is not a summit on environment, but a summit on sustainable development.
5. Request GC / GMEF to convey to the UN General Assembly the need to deepen joint efforts for the preparation and development of the Rio +20 Summit.

LAC REGIONAL ISSUES/PROCESSES (GEO 5)

1. Widely disseminate the opportunities to participate in the GEO integrated environmental assessments, including GEO5, to increase the participation of all major groups of civil society, particularly local communities and youth, considering the experience in the development of GEO Youth.
2. Encourage UNEP to ensure that the policy recommendations emanating from the GEO-5 firmly tackle the environmental problems identified in the report.
3. Disseminate widely the results of the GEO process, using both alternative media and new information and communication technologies.
4. Urge that the GEO-5 executive summary for policy makers to be also available in Portuguese, since the Rio +20 Summit will be held in Brazil.
5. Express the need to create mechanisms to disseminate and monitor the results and recommendations from the GEOs and encourage governments to create them.

In preparation for the 12th UNEP Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (UNEP GMGSF) and the 26th Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF)

**Friday, November 5, 2010
Hosted by World Resources Institute
10 G Street, NE, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20002**

Key Messages from North American Civil Society

Key points raised by participants in the UNEP North American Civil Society Consultation are enumerated below, structured under the following themes:

- a) International Environmental Governance (IEG),
- b) The Green Economy,
- c) The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

These key messages reflect areas of general consensus from the meeting; however, the various groups present do not necessarily endorse every conclusion.

With respect to International Environmental Governance (IEG)

• **Civil society engagement in defining and participating in IEG**

Civil society plays a critical role in environmental governance at all levels. Although an Advisory Group on IEG was created in 2010 (following the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum in February 2010 in Bali), many discussions continued to be conducted behind closed doors and did not benefit from the substantive input, resources and legitimacy which civil society actors can contribute. Civil society's representation and participation in the international environmental governance process, including in meetings of the Consultative Group of Ministers or High Level Representatives on International Environmental Governance, should be assured.

Participants in the North American civil society consultation call on governments to adopt the following principle in relation to IEG:

"Transparency, public participation and accountability are foundational and essential elements of sound environmental governance, both at the international and domestic levels, and must be fully incorporated and realized in environmental governance systems"

• **Creation of a Forum for Dialogue on Environmental Governance Institutional Reforms**

A forum to enable dialogue including civil society should be created to facilitate information sharing, analysis and discussion on environmental governance institutional reforms.

Discussions about function (i.e., how to create an effective global environmental governance system) should precede discussions about form (i.e., whether to enhance UNEP, create a World Environment Organization, or pursue an alternative institutional arrangement). The goal is to improve global environmental protection through strengthening the role of environmental institutions and overcoming fragmentation and lack of coordination.

- **Increasing contributions to UNEP's funding base**

Regardless of the form of institutional enhancements, countries should increase contributions to UNEP as the organization's funding is currently woefully inadequate for it to fulfill its mandate.

Prioritize transparency, public participation and accountability in IEG through information sharing and an Environmental Mediation Program UNEP should develop an explicit policy on access to information as a tool for ensuring participation and engagement of civil society in its work. This policy should include provisions for providing information proactively without a request in appropriate languages and it should be made publically available.

A system should be put in place to allow for environmental complaints to be lodged, such as those found in the international trade and human rights regimes. UNEP should establish an Environmental Mediation Program to help prevent environmentally related conflicts within and between nations.

UNEP should explicitly focus on engaging academia – students and faculty alike – in developing new and innovative ideas and implementation mechanisms for international environmental governance.

- **Monitor country commitments**

UNEP should have a role in monitoring country commitments.

With respect to Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and the Green Economy

- **Defining the Green Economy**

UNEP can facilitate clarifying definitions of and guiding principles for the green economy in consultation with stakeholders including civil society and the business community, to reduce the danger that “green economy” be perceived as green-washing. Guiding principles would be used to assist in the development of definitions for “green economy” that are regionally appropriate, but common in their themes and orientations. These definitions could also identify how a transition to a green economy ties into advancing sustainable consumption and production patterns.

- **Identify a Roadmap for Guiding the Transition to a Green Economy including a Gap Analysis**

UNEP should develop a roadmap guiding the transition to a green economy, with recommended metrics and a baseline for measuring progress. This also requires undertaking a “gap analysis” to further understanding of what is needed – in terms of research, human and financial resources, policies, institutions, models, and other areas – to achieve a green economy.

- **Facilitating the Role of Civil Society in SCP and the Green Economy**

Facilitate the role and contribution of CSOs in the transition to SCP and a green economy. Suggested initiatives would include: a global directory of CSOs active in the development of SCP and a green economy, the creation of a global forum through which SCP and green economy research, models and experiences could be shared and communicated, and capacity-building programs to empower CSO action. Civil society, for its part, should develop a statement on the green economy, organize itself, and create action programs, e.g. an annual celebration of a Low-Carbon Lifestyle Day.

- **Establish a Green Economy Working Group for Civil Society**

UNEP should support development of a civil society working group on the Green Economy as a consultative input mechanism and to involve civil society in each region in UNEP's work on this topic.

- **Develop Domestic Policy Frameworks on SCP and the Green Economy**

To accomplish a move toward the Green Economy countries need to develop a domestic policy framework, shape institutions to undertake it, as well as coordinate actions and create national sustainability strategies and a regional policy framework that includes better communication and cooperation.

- **UN leads by example in advancing SCP and the Green Economy**

The UN should lead by example in the actualization of SCP and a green economy. Suggested initiatives would include procurement by UNEP and the broader UN system through small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to promote the development of local markets and economies. UNEP RONA should promote and lead development of a North American Sustainability Plan.

With respect to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

- **Maintain a focus on all three objectives and two themes of the conference**

The official objectives are 1) Securing Political Commitment to Sustainable Development; 2) Assessing Progress Towards Internationally Agreed Commitments; and 3) New and Emerging Challenges; and the two themes are a) Green Economy in the context of Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development; and b) Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development.

- **Identifying and Supporting Specific Outcomes of the Conference**

Among possible outcomes of the conference could be adoption of specific measures to implement the green economy for sustainability (e.g., tax on financial transactions, new economic metrics beyond GDP, green accounting frameworks) and progress on governance (e.g., enhancing UNEP, clustering the international environmental conventions, transforming the UN's Trusteeship Council into a Sustainable Development Council, evaluation and reporting on environmental sustainability, and national parliamentary action to implement environmental legislation).

Additionally, there is an opportunity to reignite the „spirit of Rio“, rebuild National Councils on Sustainable Development, and support Local Agenda 21 efforts. Other areas where action should be taken include sustainable tourism, specific activities on water, ethical considerations including animal welfare practices, toxic substances, persistent organic pollutants, remediation, habitat and species protection, fostering environmental literacy, and engagement of the business community.

Other steps might be further progress in implementing REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries), signing of a mercury protocol, endorsement of a Declaration of Mother Earth Rights, and consideration of conventions on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters, a forum for accountability for implementing agreements and actions, and corporate accountability.

- **Creation of a Global Implementation Movement**

Rio +20 provides a critical opportunity to ensure implementation of existing international environmental agreements and to build momentum for action.

- **Coordinate with other major international environmental fora planned for 2012**

Concerns regarding the proliferation of major international environmental meetings planned for 2012 could be ameliorated by demonstrable coordination of objectives and processes.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Consultation on *Mobilizing the Green Economy*

In preparation for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – “Rio+20”

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

The Presidio

San Francisco Film Centre, Palm Room

1. Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for North America convened a consultation on the Green Economy in preparation for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20 – at the San Francisco Film Centre on November 17, 2010. In attendance were 50 participants from businesses and non-governmental organizations. Representatives from the Canadian Government and the California EPA also attended the Consultation.

The consultation's objective was to facilitate dialogue on the green economy and to brainstorm about concrete green economy initiatives, which could possibly be launched at the Rio Conference. Participants were addressed by the Director of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) via videoconference. A panel on potential initiatives for mobilizing the Green Economy focused on finance, clean technology and enabling policies at the subnational level. Participants engaged in lively and substantive discussions in plenary and in breakout groups and identified ten ideas on potential initiatives, which they agreed to further develop in working groups as a follow-up to the meeting.

2. Messages from the Meeting

The group held discussions on possible initiatives both in plenary and in breakout groups. Breakout group rapporteurs presented concrete ideas that were generated in the breakout group discussions. Ideas included the following:

Group 1:

- 1.1 Use Rio+20 as a platform to encourage governments to model sustainable consumption. Governments are large consumers and need to lead as examples.
- 1.2 Involve the philanthropic sector. Money needs to be spent in socially responsible investments (SRI). Convene a forum of major global foundations and also involve the pension funds.
- 1.3 Involve insurance companies to mitigate risk and to create pre-requisites for capital flow. Start with reinsurers.
- 1.4 Seek a commitment for governments, businesses and others to internalize externalities, i.e. account for environmental damage. Aggregate research and publish true costs to governments and people. Provide tools that show that externalities are not external, but already included in the system, but not being accurately accounted for.
- 1.5 Promote energy and resource efficiency and aggregate best practices especially around implementation and financing, by sector and business type, particularly for SMEs.
- 1.6 Ensure attendance and participation of oil and gas companies and other large emitters at Rio+20 and engage them in discussions and solutions.

Group 2:

- 2.1 Create a Public-Private Partnership toolkit and find success stories to share.
- 2.2 Share best cities' practices and create a platform to do so.
- 2.3 Help reframe what the UN Global Compact is doing.
- 2.4 Help incubator projects to access investments.
- 2.5 Translate ecology into economy and vice versa.
- 2.6 Involve the youth. Collaborate with Facebook and YouTube to communicate Rio+20 opportunities. Provide scholarships for youth to go to Rio.

Group 3:

- 3.1 Develop new indicators other than GDP. Models need to incorporate externalities.
- 3.2 Launch a web toolkit for environmental finance.
- 3.3 Use social media for communicating Natural Capitalism.
- 3.4 Engage youth and higher education. Integrate environment into curriculum. Develop programs for green jobs for college graduates (entry level positions). Develop programs for experiential learning.
- 3.5 Develop a global tech showcase and funding fair at Rio+20.

Group 4:

- 4.1 Find a new definition of success. GDP is outdated.
- 4.2 Create experiential education, two-way knowledge exchange, and city-to-city learning to highlight Rio as it enjoys the spotlight from Rio+20, the World Cup, and the Olympics.
- 4.3 Ensure that there is a meaningful role for business, governments and NGOs and invite WBCSD and NGO representatives to join the UN conference planning team to create a joint session.
- 4.4 Ensure diversity at Rio+20.

Additional ideas that were discussed in plenary:

- Develop a Clean Tech Competition, coordinated at global level.
- Create sources of intermediate financing, i.e. loans at the level between that provided by microfinance and major lenders such as the IFC.
- Involve cities in the Rio Conference.
- Use the UN Global Compact or the World Economic Forum to engage private sector.
- Have UN partner with one specific sector to green it, e.g. the hotel sector.
- Pull together models of sustainability divisions of private sector.

Statement/ recommendations of the West Asia Regional Consultation Meeting of Major Groups and Stakeholders in Preparation for the 12th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) and 26th Session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-26/GMEF)

30 November- 1 December 2010, Beirut, Lebanon

We, the participants in the Regional Consultative Meeting of the Civil Society Organizations of West Asia, organized by UNEP- ROWA and held in Lebanon- Beirut between 30 November and 1 December 2010,

Recognizing the need for us to contribute effectively in the global environmental decision making process, and our role in preparing for the Twelfth Session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF-12) and the 26th session of Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environmental Forum, which will be held from 19 to 24 February 2011,

Realizing the deterioration in the global environmental systems,

Abiding by the international environmental laws, principles, mandates and conventions,

Agreed on the following statement/ recommendations:

First: International Environment Governance (IEG)

Through our support for the collective efforts being made by various bodies, within the framework of the UN reform, we reiterate our support for the United Nations system and its various agencies and stress the need to enhance its credibility and empowerment to carry out its tasks in a transparent manner and in line with the international law.

We specifically affirm our support for the efforts made with respect of the International Environmental Governance (IEG) in which the Region's Civil Society Organizations played a visible role in the different deliberations and consultation meetings on IEG, the latest being the MGS Consultation Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 25 October 2010, which confirmed the five options and their detailed amendments as a foundation for the desired reform in the International Environmental Governance. These options are as follows:

1. Creating a strong, credible and accessible science base and policy interface.
2. Developing a global authoritative and responsive voice for environmental sustainability
3. Achieving effectiveness, efficiency and coherence within the United Nations System
4. Securing sufficient, predictable and coherent funding.
5. Ensuring a responsive and cohesive approach to meeting country needs

In addition to the two options which were adopted during the said consultative meeting, namely:

1. Ensuring transparency, meaningful opportunity for public participation and accountability at all levels of environmental governance (local, regional and global) in reforming the governance system through:
 - Finding innovative ways to respond to countries with low I/EG capacity;
 - Providing enhanced IEG training, through training, awareness and education;
 - Setting standards for transparency and dissemination of transparency best practices;
 - Developing standards of public participation and dissemination of public participation best practices; and
 - Ensuring systematic processes to monitor the above practices and outcomes (transparency, public participation and accountability) within an overall institutional framework that is fully in harmony and embodies the principles of the ratified and adopted international conventions, treaties and

agreements, namely the Human Rights Charter, International Environment Law and the Women and child Rights conventions, among others.

2. Achieving comprehensiveness to ensure that all significant environmental threats are appropriately addressed, through mechanisms that ensure the following:
 - Continually evaluate the state of the environment and technological developments in order to identify current problems and emerging threats;
 - Respond at the appropriate global, regional, bilateral, national or local level or levels to environmental threats in a coordinated and precautionary manner, including addressing underlying causes of environmental degradation; and
 - Identify capacity building and technical assistance needs

We also emphasize the need to strengthen the science base and policy interface through supporting the developing countries' capacity building and scientific research to ensure their effective participation and solid evidence based interventions.

At the level of reform approach, we recommend, through proper and well-mediated planning, considering concurrently both incremental and fundamental reform options.

Second: Green Economy (GE)

We stress that the green economy concept represents a package of scientific tools and patterns of behavior to be followed when engaging in any economic activity in order to improve the efficiency of natural resources utilization, reduce energy consumption and protect the different environmental resources aiming at meeting the objectives of sustainable development.

We reiterate our support for the efforts made by the UN and its agencies, specifically UNEP, in adopting and disseminating the green economy concept worldwide in line with the Rio 1992 Summit and the resolutions related to climate change in collaboration with government entities, civil society organizations and the Regional Office for Western Asia (UNEP ROWA), provided that the Green Economy should include the following general principles and goals:

1. Ensuring social justice, promoting human values and providing the basic needs for human welfare and poverty elimination through the minimizing the gap between the poor and the rich and creating job opportunities based on knowledge and skills.
2. Promoting the optimum and efficient use of natural resources and waste minimization in its different forms in order to ensure the sustainability of resources for future generations.
3. Halting all forms of activities and practices that lead to the destruction of the various environment resources and stop everything that aggravate the of greenhouse effect and climate change impacts in order to ensure and sustain safe habitat on mother earth

In line with these objectives, we stress the need for the green economy concept to spring from a vision that takes into consideration the specifics of local communities (particularly in developing countries) through defining their economic development priorities and implementation means, ensuring their green economy, meeting their needs, creating new green jobs to ultimately ensure just distribution of the development outcomes, reduce poverty and increase social welfare.

Within the strategies to shift towards Green Economy, We emphasize the following development priorities:

1. Renewable energy: urge states and empower them technologically to use the solar, wind and wave energy among other available clean energy resources.
2. Green building: urge states and promote the application of the green building tools and techniques in their private and public buildings through developing and adopting environmental specifications and standards (such as the use of environmental-friendly materials and efficient techniques for energy and water use and exploitation)
3. Clean means of transport: urge states to provide reliable public transport infrastructure and operations; promote the use of environmental-friendly means through extending incentives for individual to shift to hybrid and electric cars.

4. Water management: urge governments to develop integrated water resource management strategies, and specifically improving the efficient utilization of both conventional non-conventional water resources to the largest extent possible through recycling and reuse of treated effluent of all degrees, as per appropriate specifications, in different sectors such as agriculture and industry.
5. Waste management: urge governments to adopt the integrated waste management approach aiming at reducing waste generation at source, through rationalization of consumption patterns, adopting of the green production inputs and concepts, using high quality commodities, reducing the use of packaging materials; segregating and reclaiming urban waste; ending with safe disposal of toxic waste.
6. Land resource management: urge governments to employ and use integrated regional planning basics for use of land and conserving biodiversity habitats, establishing genetic banks, promoting organic agriculture, reducing the use of agricultural chemicals to safeguard human health and the quality of environment.

We affirm the need to mobilize the efforts of governments, civil society organizations and UNEP and all stakeholders to achieve the following results:

1. Calling on governments to develop Green Economy regulations and legislations, updating and/or enforcing existing ones.
2. Urging governments to provide investment facilities for development projects which adopt the green economy guidelines.
3. Urging governments to support civil society organizations and use transparency in the relationship with them to empower them to play the supportive positive role in achieving the shift towards green economy.
4. Promoting public awareness of green economy concept and tools, and incorporating them into school curricula and educational systems of all levels.
5. Establishing and empowering regulatory entities, both scientifically and technologically, to enable them to evaluate and monitor environmental violations or any act that would prevent the achievement of the values and objectives of green economy.

We finally stress the need for United Nations Environment Program to further support the Regional Office of West Asia (ROWA) to reinforce co-operation among civil society and stakeholders organizations and the governments in disseminating the Green Economy concept and culture, building and establishing an information network for the exchange of good practice among the Region's states.