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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Emerging policy issues: environment in the multilateral system

**Regional civil society statements: major groups and stakeholders'
messages to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment
Forum at its eleventh special session**

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The annex to the present note contains messages from major groups and stakeholders prepared during regional consultations and preparatory meetings for the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The messages set forth observations and recommendations related to the theme of the eleventh special session, “Environment in the multilateral system”, and its topics of international environmental governance and sustainable development, the green economy, biodiversity and ecosystems and the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

These messages also pertain to the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to be held from 22 to 24 February 2010, and their implications for major groups and stakeholders; enhancing the participation of major groups and stakeholders at the UNEP governance level; and emerging regional environmental issues.

The annex is presented without formal editing.

* UNEP/GCSS.XI/1.

Annex

Major groups and stakeholders messages to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session

Introduction

The present messages have been prepared by major groups and stakeholders for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) at its eleventh special session, to be held in February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia. The messages are the product of internet-based consultations and regional preparatory meetings convened by UNEP between October 2009 and January 2010. The messages set forth observations and recommendations related to the theme of the Council/Forum, "Environment in the multilateral system", and its topics of international environmental governance and sustainable development, the green economy, biodiversity and ecosystems, and the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The present messages also relate to the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, to be held from 22 to 24 February 2010 in Bali, and their implications for major groups and stakeholders; enhancing the participation of major groups and stakeholders at the UNEP governance level; and emerging regional environmental issues.

Asia – Pacific Regional Major groups and stakeholders messages to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session

1. Introduction

Members of Asia – Pacific civil society organisations have developed a regional set of messages that highlights priority issues in promoting environmental management and sustainable development particularly in Asia and the Pacific, and forging international cooperation for such purposes with a major focus on the thematic issues presented for the 11th Global Civil Society Forum and the 11th Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) to be held in Bali, Indonesia in February 2010.

2. International Environmental Governance (IEG) and Sustainable Development

- (i) It is vital to transform international environmental governance more effectively and efficiently through enhanced participation of CSOs in decision-making and implementation processes.
- (ii) Equitable representation of civil society organisations (CSOs) from Asia and the Pacific in IEG processes is further encouraged,
- (iii) Increased, substantial and stable resource distribution to assist governments and CSOs of the region in tackling environmental and sustainability challenges is needed,
- (iv) Training, capacity building and sub-regional/regional network activities must be supported to enable CSOs and social entrepreneurs in the region to better achieve effective partnership building for environmental management and sustainable development,
- (v) Institutional set-ups must be strengthened or newly established as required within each sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific to promote coordination and cooperation among governments and CSOs at the sub-regional level,
- (vi) Sub-regional and regional CSO consultative processes must be linked more substantively with the relevant sub-regional and regional environmental ministers' conferences and decision making processes, and
- (vii) Joint consultation and reporting mechanisms between governments and CSOs must be encouraged.

3. Green Economy

- (i) Fiscal support performance must be assessed more prudently in terms of its impact on raising economic activities, their environmental soundness and social welfare improvement,
- (ii) Multi-faceted and/co-benefit approaches must be promoted to link, for instance, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and resource/waste management to raise overall sustainability policies and their performance,
- (iii) The benefit of environmental protection and cost of inaction for pollution control must be better valued and integrated in market-based mechanisms and fiscal planning for ensuring the financial support to environment and sustainability policies and actions will be incrementally enhanced, and
- (iv) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) opportunities must be explored to promote green economy and social equity, well-being and justice through close partnerships with civil society organisations.

4. Biodiversity and ecosystem

- (i) Equitable representation of CSOs from the region must be ensured at the 10th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10) to be held in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan in October 2010, for supporting the achievement of a successful outcome.
- (ii) The international process must be supported for devising the post-2010 Biodiversity Target that is effective in promoting biodiversity ecosystem service conservation and human well-being improvement,
- (iii) The CSOs' access to information and involvement must be facilitated in the programme development and implementation in the context of the reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) framework that now promotes reforestation (REDD+) and carbon management in non-forest ecosystems (REDD++),
- (iv) Ecosystem service payment schemes and mechanisms must be further researched and supported as pilot projects through civil society consultative processes based on the due consideration to particular local conditions and recognition of free and prior informed consent,

- (v) Case studies and information sharing must be supported on good practice on such ecosystem service payment schemes and mechanisms within the region and with other regions,
- (vi) Capacity building must be supported to promote benefit sharing of ecosystem services and biodiversity at the local level,
- (vii) Mechanisms and partnerships should be forged for trans-boundary ecosystem management in the region building upon the successful experiences, and
- (viii) Ecosystem management must be promoted in tandem with climate change mitigation/adaptation, disaster preparedness, mitigation and rehabilitation.

5. ExCOPs

- (i) CSOs must be assisted in participating in and supporting Rotterdam/Stockholm and Basel Convention COPs and the SAICM process,
- (ii) Governments are urged to adopt and implement the COP decisions and SAICM, and related financial mechanism must be supported to provide substantial new and additional funds to developing countries and countries with economies in transition,
- (iii) Governments and stakeholders must be supported and convention secretariats must play an instrumental role in the process to facilitate the ratification and consolidated implementation of all chemicals and waste agreements,
- (iv) Greater efforts should be made to promote the application of precautionary principle, liability and compensation, public participation, right-to-know laws, polluters-pays-principle, no data-no market for sound chemical management,
- (v) The provision of technical and financial support should be facilitated for National Implementation Plans (NIPs) to phase out POPs,
- (vi) Negotiations must be facilitated for adopting an internationally legally binding instrument to address the global mercury challenges,
- (vii) The process must be assisted for developing policy and institutional mechanisms to inspect pollution and contamination, and remediate chemically contaminated sites,
- (viii) Assistance should be given to develop the application of labelling and tracking systems on toxic and hazardous chemicals, and
- (ix) CSOs should be supported to create a platform for raising awareness and mobilizing support for environmentally sound chemical management, green chemicals, organic substitutes and alternative methods including integrated pest management.

6. Other matters

- (i) The implementation of the Copenhagen Accord developed at the UNFCCC/COP15 in December 2010 must be facilitated with increased involvement of civil society stakeholders, and
- (ii) The consensus building must be facilitated to adopt the international policy framework on climate change issues beyond 2012; the framework must be effective in reducing global GHG emissions and reflect consideration to climate justice in a sense that GHG emitting countries bear primary responsibility in reducing GHG emissions.

Africa Regional Major groups and stakeholders messages to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session

PREAMBLE

We, representatives of African Civil Society and Major Groups appreciate UNEP's role in optimizing our participation and consultation on key environmental issues to be addressed by the Member States during the GCSSX1/GMEF:

- *Recognizing* the fact that human-induced environmental change has accelerated over the last three decades and intense loss of biodiversity and ecosystems experienced;
- *Noting with concern* the rampant violation of UN conventions such as the Basel Convention on the control of trans-boundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and;
- *Recognizing* 'Decision 13' taken at the 3rd special session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) in Nairobi on climate change, that Africa, in the context of environmental justice:
 - be equitably compensated for environmental, social and economic losses;
 - be provided with substantially scaled-up finance, technology and capacity-building for adaptation and risk management in accordance with the obligations of the Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention;
- *Noting* 'Decision 8' of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its fifteenth session held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009, agreed to provide new and additional resources, including forestry and investments through international institutions, approaching US\$ 30 billion for the period 2010-2012 with balanced allocations between adaptation and mitigation;

We recommend that:

I. ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

1. Africa be supported to operationalize the Bamako Convention of 1991 and have a fully functional secretariat to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
2. The GC and governance instances to strengthen the Addis Ababa Liaison Office to work closely with African regional bodies such as the AU, AMU, ECOWAS, EAC/COMESA/IGAD, ECCAS and SADC;
3. The GC encourage cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Africa in order to support the African Union to take control of its environment programme and give direction to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);
4. The GC and Member states to review the UNEP's structure in order to strengthen its activities within the United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF) and reform its mechanism for working with Civil Society Organizations and change its modalities to constructively engage national CSOs through sub regional offices and/or UN Country Teams;
5. National Governments and UNEP improves awareness on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (and build the capacity of CSOs to hold their governments accountable and work out strategies for follow up on the implementation of the MEAs);
6. At the Global level, the GC and member states encourage UNEP to work closely with African countries to meet the goals and objectives of International Environmental Governance (IEG) and provide access to technology, resources and capacity building based on the principle of common but differentiated ability;
7. The GC encourage UNEP to promote gender considerations in all its activities;
8. The GC take a decision that allow UNEP to allocate a special Fund to support African Civil Society participation in all international conferences to boost decision making and track record on key MEAs implementation;
9. The GC empower UNEP to work out strategies to domesticate MEAs and clearly strengthen the capacity of African CSOs to monitor the implementation of Cartagena protocol;
10. UNEP supports environmental education at grass root level and work our strategies to incorporate it in African school curricula;

II. GREEN ECONOMY

1. The GC to strengthen UNEP to adequately push for African countries competitiveness in business and exports within the Green Economy Initiative (GEI);
2. Clear, precise and attainable strategies be spelt out on how the green jobs will solve Africa's wide spread unemployment, poverty, civil unrest and development in the 21st century.

III. ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

1. UNEP strengthens the generation of knowledge at national, regional and global levels, building on existing scientific networks and incorporating the use of African traditional knowledge;
2. The GC to encourage UNEP to develop programmes that increasingly integrate and utilize an ecosystem management approach for integration into development and planning processes;
3. The GC to ensure imbalances between developing and developed countries are redressed and Africa's policy platform on biology, biodiversity and ecosystem services be established.

IV. CLIMATE CHANGE

1. The GC takes a decision to empower UNEP's support to the key actors in raising the general public's awareness about environmental issues as well as in the implementation of climate policies;
2. The GC support African delegates plus African civil society organizations and provide more training on negotiations texts and contexts during UN climate meetings;
3. Regarding the Copenhagen Accords, we recommend that the GC and member states push for a process leading to a real deal which involves the following three steps:
 - i. Governments take immediate action by making decisions about the Accords toward the creation of mechanisms and international monitoring, reporting and verification guidelines very quickly.
 - ii. GC should push and strengthen UNEP to act for operationalization of the REDD-plus by providing positive incentives through the immediate establishment of a mechanism to enable the mobilization of financial resources from developed countries
 - iii. The member states should take immediate actions to push for the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund to start financing activities related to mitigation, adaptation, capacity building and technology transfer in 2010.

V. DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

1. UNEP assess and quantify the cost of environmental degradation due to conflicts and spearhead strategies for disaster mitigation and conflict resolution in cases of shared resources;
2. The Member states and GC allow UNEP to work closely with the UN Security Council towards mitigation of civil war unrest and protection of ecosystems.

VI. HARMFUL SUBSTANCES AND HAZARDOUS WASTES

1. Support is extended to African CSOs to participate in and work with their governments on adoption and implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) process;
2. Africa stockpiles programme be reinforced and more funds allocated to cover more African states.

VII. RESOURCE EFFICIENCY - SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION

1. The development of national programmes involving local stakeholders and supported by UNEP that advocate for greener lifestyles;
2. The GC should pay attention to the urgent issue of land grabbing in Africa as a result of development by foreign country investments in form of bio-energy crops versus food crops;
3. More financial resources are provided for efficient, clean and safe industrial production and consumption methods through public policies and private sector practices to avoid or reduce pollution as a result of product life cycles.

Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Major groups and stakeholders messages to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session

Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Meeting, 30 November – 1 December 2009, Panama City, Republic of Panama

With respect to International Environmental Governance

- It is necessary that the diverse levels of environmental governance management be differentiated, because each one of them has specific characteristics and, therefore, require specific efforts. In that sense, the following is recommended:
 - At the Global level, it is important that dialogue and program agreements be promoted between UNEP's Governing Council and governance instances in international trade matters, such as WTO, and financial institutions like the World Bank.
 - At the Regional level, it is essential that the environmental governance topic be taken to the regional integration processes (MERCOSUR, CARICOM, CCAD, among others) as well as to the financial institutions of the region, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank and the Organization of American States (OAS).
 - At the National level, it is essential that the diverse national agencies or ministries articulate, complement and harmonize their work managing environmental topics; in such a manner that the implementation of national policies on sustainability is truly efficient and effective.
- It is necessary that the international environmental architecture reform is resolutely aimed at strengthening UNEP in its structure, capacities, resources and regional presence, especially the regional offices. Likewise, greater transparency, ample participation of the main groups and accountability mechanisms must be guaranteed.
- It is essential that a process be undertaken for the creation and strengthening of capacities with respect to international environmental governance within and jointly with the main groups, in such a way so as to increase their potential of influencing in an articulated manner the international organizations with influence on the environmental policy of the region and the world (UNEP, CSD, WTO, World Bank, IDB, OAS, etc.).
- We encourage UNEP and national governments to provide greater dissemination of the agreements and consultations of the GC/GMEF, in order to strengthen the articulation and implementation at the local levels.
- It is essential that the political will of the Governments, United Nations Agencies and others be buttressed so as to take definite steps forward with the reforms that arise from negotiations and consultations related to International Environmental Governance.
- Guarantee that the International and Regional Financial Institutions incorporate in their priorities the commitments arising from Multilateral Environmental Agreements, so as to enable the financing of the necessary actions for their enforcement.

With respect to the ExCOPs

- During the extraordinary simultaneous meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, which will discuss the Decisions on joint activities, we request that a place be allotted to the recommendations of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group (AHJWG) with respects to the dissemination and awareness creation activities. Likewise, we remind the broad capacities base and successful experiences existing in the civil society to contribute to the process.
- It is important that support be given to the developing integration process and request awareness and education instances for the civil society on the consequences of their management of synergies between the three conventions and their implication in the national implementation of the same.

- Enhance the activities of Regional centers of the conventions.
- Strengthen financing, implementation and better articulation between conventions at the Regional level.
- Strengthen financing and adopt financing mechanism of chemical follow-up process.
- Include line items in the financial institutions to empower the articulation and supply the financial needs for the implementation of the conventions at the Regional level.
- The convention should adopt the model used by SAICM where the actors including civil society, participates in the national planning processes and in the decision-making committees.
- Strengthen links with the chemical safety process in:
 - Pesticide Management ⇒ Ecosystems
 - Toxic Chemicals ⇒ Biodiversity
 - Contamination ⇒ aquatic habitat

Biodiversity and Ecosystems

- Creation of economic instruments to support the involvement of the main groups in general, and the scientific-academic sector in particular, in the current ongoing initiatives in biodiversity and eco-systemic services matters (IPBES, TEEB, etc.).
- Guarantee that the worldview of the indigenous peoples be incorporated in the processes for the evaluation and management of the ecosystems' assets and services.
- In accordance with the timetable for the TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity) initiative, its second phase will produce five reports, one of which -D4- will be aimed at citizens and consumers, and will take the shape of a website. Regarding this matter, it is requested that diverse dissemination tools be considered (including audiovisual resources), that these be available in different languages and that the capacities of civil society organizations in pedagogic mediation be considered in their elaboration.
- With respect to the IPBES it is of vital importance that, in their conformation, this platform considers the relations between science, politics and business, particularly paying attention to the economic interests behind the financing of the scientific research and that it is concerned with guaranteeing an independent and comprehensive science.
- Training for technocrats and politicians so that they acquire the capacity to communicate with each other in this matter.
- Create an alliance with indigenous communities to translate indigenous knowledge, expertise, and technologies in relevant solutions and programs.
- Gender-related needs must be broadly incorporated in all work programs.
- With respect to international agreements related to biodiversity, we recommend that a process of articulation and search for synergies be undertaken, similar to the model applied to the chemicals cluster.

Green Economy

- Economic support that favors developing countries in the matter of knowledge heading towards the creation of green jobs, training workers.
- Creation of fiscal and economic instruments by each one of the countries to support the green economy, in particular small and medium enterprises.
- We construe as essential that the Council of Experts of the Marrakech Process establishes clear, transparent and effective mechanisms to expand participation of the civil society involved in diverse topics linked to sustainable production and consumption.

With respect to other matters,

- We express our support to the holding of the Children and Youth International Conference for the Environment (CONFINT) to be developed in Brazil, on June 5 – 10, 2010, in the understanding that it will constitute an important space for education and awareness-creation regarding global environmental challenges.

North America Regional Major groups and stakeholders messages to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session Key messages from the UNEP North

American Civil Society Consultation, 8 January 2010

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) Biodiversity and Ecosystems;
- d) Chemicals Conventions;
- e) The International Year of Biodiversity.

While consultation participants support the overall statement and its principles, the various groups present do not necessarily endorse every conclusion.

With respect to International Environmental Governance (IEG)

• **The role of civil society in IEG**

Civil society participation in international environmental governance is critical to its effectiveness as major groups bring resources, knowledge, and legitimacy into governance processes. Recognizing the contemporary political negotiations on IEG reform facilitated by UNEP, North American civil society urges that governments and UNEP create opportunities for substantive input from civil society into these discussions through policy dialogues in the regions or globally, position papers, etc.,

• **Organizations responsible for IEG**

International environmental governance suffers from excessive fragmentation, which has led to unnecessary competition for limited resources, time, and attention from governments and has hampered effectiveness. A more systematic analysis of various reform options is necessary, including the proposal for creating a World Environment Organization (for example, to address total global natural resource demands and capacities, and advise/support national governance organizations in their efforts to achieve sustainability within their sovereign territories) as well as of existing governance arrangements such as UN Water and UN Energy, and of improving the work between the Bretton Woods Institutions and UN organizations. It would be real value added if such reform could, for example, make the multilateral development banks ensure in advance and throughout that their projects comply with environmental law and their own safeguard policies.

• **IEG for climate change response**

Climate change adaptation and mitigation present an opportunity to rethink IEG architecture and create a more nimble and effective network of institutions. An effort to this end could take the form of a climate governance initiative analyzing the achievements and challenges of major institutional arrangements in the UN and other governance structures, drawing key lessons, and developing institutional scenarios and recommendations.

• **Clearing house for IEG**

A clearing house for best practices in governance at the local, national, regional and global level should be established, including practices in chemicals management, biodiversity, climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, etc. One avenue could be the Inter-governmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) platform (see below).

With respect to the Green Economy

• **The Green Economy is necessary but not sufficient**

North American civil society recognizes that the contemporary economic model needs rethinking to create a new paradigm for human progress. Greening our global economies (and other sustainable development programs) is necessary but not sufficient to produce the changes needed to achieve a sustainable world; we

also need to pay attention to total resource balances and the numbers of people who place demands on our global ecosystems. A Green Economy can only realistically be created on the basis of shared values, in accordance with planetary limits, and grounded in social, economic, and environmental justice.

- **Clearing house and benchmarking for the Green Economy**

In support of the Green Economy concept, it would be useful to establish a clearinghouse for best practices in green economy initiatives, green careers, sustainable production and consumption, etc; and to build a benchmarking initiative from the information provided through the clearinghouse. This could be achieved through the IPBES platform (see below).

- **Civil society and business in development of the Green Economy concept**

Furthering the Green Economy concept requires a more refined definition of the term and more coherent and sustained consultation and collaboration with civil society and with the business community. UNEP could provide the platform to achieve this.

- **The Green Economy and the Bretton Woods Institutions**

The G-20 communiqué referring to the Green Economy should form the basis for systematic engagement with the Bretton Woods Institutions into rethinking economic principles and governance arrangements. Safeguard policies for biodiversity and ecosystems will play a key role in underpinning Green Economies.

With respect to Biodiversity and Ecosystems

- **The international niche for the Inter-governmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

The disconnection between science and policy-making in many countries, and globally, is a strong argument in favor of the establishment of IPBES. IPBES could have its greatest impact in informing global level policy, while both supporting and being informed by environmental decision-making at regional, national, and local levels.

- **Civil society participation in IPBES**

Civil society should be encouraged to participate in the IPBES process, e.g., through fellowships and scholarships, technological tools, clearing houses (see above), sharing of peer-reviewed publications, provision of data, etc. Civil society organizations could play an important role in calling attention not just to successful but also to failed initiatives, preventing repetition of mistakes, and enabling information exchange and learning in ecosystem management across national borders.

- **Independence of IPBES**

IPBES should be given considerable independence and freedom to make and impart its findings and conclusions consistent with the scientific information, especially to facilitate consideration of those interventions that have failed, as well as those that have succeeded; and so as not to wait for scientific consensus before recommending interventions.

With respect to the Chemicals Conventions

- **Added value from coordination**

North American civil society welcomes the promotion of enhanced cooperation and coordination among the chemical conventions. The decisions taken by Governments at the Extraordinary Conferences of the Parties in Bali, especially with respect to joint activities and joint management of the secretariats, should "raise all boats", by requiring the utilization of best practices throughout the three conventions, and must ensure that enhanced cooperation and coordination does not reduce them to the lowest common denominator.

- **Importance of civil society participation in the chemicals convention processes**

To date, civil society has been excluded from participation in the “synergies” process, leading to a lack of understanding and trust in the process on the part of many civil society organizations. Civil society welcomes the opportunity to participate as observers in the Bali Extraordinary COPs, and requests Governments to ensure full civil society access to the synergies discussions that will continue after Bali. In respect to the proposal by UNEP and FAO for “possible elements for the elaboration of terms of reference for reviewing the arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions,” we urge Governments to ensure that the review includes timely opportunities for input and comment from civil society stakeholders.

With respect to the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB)

- **Importance of the IYB**

The IYB and its importance in communicating the central contributions of preventing the loss of biodiversity towards poverty alleviation, human well-being, and the maintenance of all life on Earth is welcomed.

- **Role of civil society in the IYB**

Civil society, in its partnership role, can help organize and support celebrations such as Earth Day and, in the UN Calendar of Observances, World Environment Day, and participation in conferences such as the 24th International Congress for Conservation Biology, among others, through the IYB. Civil society also has an important role in encouraging governments towards establishing key commitments as part of the IYB, for example, for the U.S. government to become a party to the CBD.

- **Importance of setting ambitious post-2010 biodiversity targets.**

Governments should establish ambitious post-2010 targets to prevent extinctions, halt biodiversity loss, and maintain the provision of ecosystem services, when they convene for the CBD COP in Japan at the climax of the IYB. Such targets could include, for example, deadlines for establishing legal and technical capacity to implement each article of the CBD.

Europe Regional Major Groups and Stakeholders Messages to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session

The UNEP Regional Consultations meeting for Europe provided an adequate platform to discuss and contribution to the preparations for the next GMGSF and GCSS.XI/GMEF).

Having discussed the themes for the GCSS.XI/GMEF including: International Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development, the Green Economy, Biodiversity and Ecosystems, and enhancing synergy among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (the Extraordinary COP – ExCOP), put forward the following recommendations:

With respect to enhancing synergy among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (Extraordinary COP - ExCOP)

1. Took note of the fact that civil society organizations had not been invited to participate in the activities of the AHJWG (Ad Hoc Joint Working Group) on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions) for the Ex Cop, major groups felt that the decision not to have observers involved was guided by other considerations, the fact that civil society was excluded from the process altogether was considered a mistake, and resulted in little understanding (and probably even misunderstandings) and contributed to building serious suspicion and defiance towards the process.
2. For the initiative of the AHJWG to be successful, it is important to understand the value of involving civil society in the process, and recommend that civil society is closely associated with the project and its activities in the future. Process rules will in any case be respected, and trust between the various stakeholders and parties to the process, paramount to the success of the project will be ensured.

General NGO concerns about the process:

3. As regard Joint managements, the major groups would initially support a project likely to enhance synergies and process efficiency. They pointed however to two aspects which must be given due attention when preparing further plans: The recast of management procedure will undoubtedly impact in one way or another, the mechanisms of public participation. It would be imperative to make sure when making plans for joint management, to emphasise public participation (therefore funding of NGO participants' travel and accommodation costs is essential in order to ensure they will be able to participate).
4. With regard to joint activities and services, the major groups would welcome such an idea. They would however like to remark on a few concerns in relationship to the process. As was noted during the consultative meeting, each of the three conventions has its own internal mechanisms, and services with their own strong and weak points. The major groups would express their concerns that the development of joint activities and services could lead to harmonizing the procedures, mechanisms and efficiency of the various instruments on the basis of the weakest of the three instruments. The process should bring about a review of outdated decision-making processes like the consensus voting in Rotterdam Convention which leads to a dead lock).
5. Welcome the proposed joint UNEP/FAO evaluation, and such a process might be helpful to allay major groups' concerns, provided it's prepared in a transparent way. It is crucial that the projects proposed Terms of References mention the role for, and consultation with, major groups and relevant stakeholders during the review.
6. The synergy process should be used as a good opportunity to update the lists of wastes under the Basel Convention and also to improve and update the governing processes of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions (e.g. the consensus voting in the Rotterdam Convention)
7. The synergy process will also promote the 'one window approach' at national level to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the focal points of the three conventions
8. This process should be used to strengthen the funding base and efforts for the work of the three conventions (including NGO participation) that are underfunded currently.
9. This process should also be taken as an opportunity to broaden synergy (Cooperation and Coordination) with other MEAs of overlapping or interrelated issues such as CBD or CC.

With respect to International Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development:

1. Civil society has always been concerned with and deeply committed to improve International Environmental Governance and the meeting welcome all the work being done on this area by UNEP, and express support for the ongoing interest and work to improve the modalities and processes constituting core elements of IEG. The work on IEG should not only be confined to UNEP, but work on this area must relate to the entire United Nations system.
2. Stress that there are basic principles that IEG must rest on and always make utmost efforts to operationalise. These are the basic principles of Good Governance, of which three are crucial in any context: participation, transparency and accountability. Of equal importance is the principle of access, as expressed, inter alia, in principle 10 of the Rio Principles.
3. Efforts must be made to ensure participation of and transparency for major groups in international governance. In the recently organised COP 15 the organisers decided to close all negotiating meetings to civil society violated this basic principle of access and should not be repeated.
4. Have noted with special interest the initiative taken through the process initiated in Belgrade in June 2009, followed up by the second in Rome, called the first and second meetings of the Consultative Group of Ministers or High-level Representatives on International Environmental Governance, and followed up through several other meetings.
5. Fully appreciate the need to have a small group of people at Ministerial level to work on IEG, but also knowing that civil society is the biggest group to be affected by IEG systems, strongly urge this initiative to include as active members representatives from major groups. Establishing an advisory body on IEG, consisting solely of members from the major groups would also be a way for civil society to contribute to developing the work on IEG.

With respect to Rio plus 20 summit (or UNEP plus 40):

6. Welcome wholeheartedly the decisions by the General Assembly of December 21, 2009, (A/C.2/64/L.59), to organise a Summit on Sustainable Development at the highest possible level in 2012, and we have taken note of the suggested thematic agenda for the summit. We have also taken notice of the many times MGs are specifically referred to and mentioned in the resolution text, including in the context of the preparatory meetings, regionally and globally.
7. We would strongly urge members of the intergovernmental community in general, and UNEP in particular to make sure the voice and presence of the Major Groups are fully integrated in the preparatory work as well as the summit itself, using all principles of good governance referred to earlier in this document as a minimum standard.
8. The standards of access, participation etc must not be made lower than they were during the two previous summits, the one in Rio in 1992, the UNCED and the one in Johannesburg, the WSSD in 2002. On the contrary these standards should be seen as absolute minimum standards.
9. We urge UNEP to make use of the opportunities to synergise efforts in preparatory work for the 2012 Summit at all levels between the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and UNEP, utilizing the opportunities that offered by the almost similar organisational setup around the MGs between the two said UN entities to assure maximum participation of major groups in the preparatory work for the Summit.
10. The experience, efforts, thinking and analytic capacities of the major groups should be recognised and substantially involved also in the development of themes under the caption 'emerging issues' and in the development of process and modalities for the summit as well as in the other areas of the summit agenda, inter alia in 'assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development' such as for instance in revisiting, and upgrading national sustainable development indicators and index etc

With respect to Biodiversity and Ecosystems:

1. Raising awareness and capacity building on national, regional and local levels about the biodiversity issues, such as CBD, etc.
2. To encourage efforts of national, regional and local governments to enforce biodiversity policies in order to protect and halt the loss of biodiversity. There is a problem of compliance/implementation of existing international and national legislation of biodiversity as well as reinforcement the coherence with other policies on water, agriculture, climate change, land management etc.
3. Better involvement of local people (like indigenous peoples, farmers, people engaged in small-business) in the preservation of biodiversity. Using traditional knowledge in the environment protection and recognizing this knowledge at global level as well as rewarding and creating

incentives for local people of making efforts of preserving biodiversity and providing eco system services.

4. To ensure synergies with other policy areas such as climate change, green economy, chemicals, trades, etc. without losing the biodiversity protection.
5. To increase efforts on research on biodiversity inventories, collection and exchange of good practices and measures to preserve and increase the biodiversity.
6. One of the pillars of the Green Economy should be the ecosystems approach with biodiversity protection and enhancement as a priority.
7. National Governments should develop strategies for green infrastructure and ecological connectivity, and integrate these with policies on landscape and spatial planning. UNEP working with stakeholders within the UN system and with civil society should have a role in preparing guidelines on green infrastructure for national governments.

With respect to the Green Economy:

1. Green Economy Initiative should not become an excuse for « business as usual” scenario by just adding word “green”; In order to stop abusing the term “green economy” which could end with “greenwash economy”, UNEP needs to define term “green economy” and all terminology associated with it
2. Indicators for Green Economy should be developed and standardized at international level in order to measure progress and compare among countries
3. Green Economy Initiative should be coordinated with other UN initiatives and processes, especially those related to Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech process, CSD 18/19 etc.)
4. Economical indicators based on growth and quantity (like GDP) should be supplemented with social and environmental indicators based on quality in order to measure real impact of Green Economy
5. Different economical sectors should be assessed and then agreed what is meant by Green Economy initiatives in these subsectors
6. There should be an opened debate about ethics and fundamentals of economical model which is based on growth while eco-system and natural resources are limited (degrowth etc.)
7. Link between green Economy and biodiversity should be strengthened (total nature capital, ecosystem services etc.)
8. Green labels and certificates should be internationally standardized and their application should be controlled to avoid abuse but should allow for regional and local adaptation to meet specific needs.
9. Polluter Pays Principle and Consumer Pays Principle should be implemented
10. Governments have to abolish perverse subsidies and have to improve taxation policies in order to internalize external costs and make conditions easier for green businesses
11. Governments and UNEP should at national level and global level include all nine major groups in development of Green Economy initiative because each one has added value and a specific and active role in realizing this process.
12. Education and training have to be provided on Green Economy for businesses, policy-makers and consumers

West Asia Regional Major Groups and Stakeholders Messages to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session

Management of Chemical Substances:

- All West Asia CSOs to coordinate with each other in an active effective role in order to raise awareness on hazardous chemical substances and emphasize on relevant government agencies to strengthen the means and mechanisms for monitoring, storage and disposal of chemical waste with regard to relevant conventions and international treaties.
- West Asia region environmental CSOs call on governments to put out all necessary efforts in building national capacities to enable them to use all various means to detect harmful chemicals composing manufactured and imported products; appeal to regional governments to activate the system rules and regulations for the strategic prudential management, compliance with the system, assure appropriate ways and mechanisms for monitoring verification and compliance with rules.
- West Asia CSOs call on UNEP to duplicate interest and contribute to regional capacity building to enable them to participate in activating treaties regarding prohibited hazardous chemical substances and means of detection, and defining legal rights of the affected countries.

The Green Economy:

Environmental CSOs of the West Asia Region, assure their concern on what came in the United Nations third millennium statement and the Johannesburg's statement of which calls to reduce poverty rates, mortality rates of infants at birth and before their fifth year caused by low levels of health care and high rates of poverty and malnutrition and lack of access to safe drinking water, healthy housing, and sanitary sewer, and going with the advantages of this data, the CSOs are calling for the following:

- Enable CSOs to strengthen their efforts to contribute in shifting towards a green economy and green constructions, and to facilitate private investment in renewable energy projects and to commit to the sustainable use of natural materials and use of environmentally friendly construction materials.
- Demand from regional governments to work on increasing attention to these guidelines (the green economy) of what benefits it has to the environment, human and sustainability of resources, in addition to what will be taken out from lowering consumer spending over medium and long-terms.
- CSOs in the region support the Arab Council of Ministers responsible for the Environment (CAMRE) resolution at its twenty-first session, regarding the New Green Global Initiative launched by UNEP, and calls for deep cooperation with CSOs to translate those resolutions into action plans, appropriate national mechanisms and work programs.
- CSOs demand from relevant official bodies in their countries to enact legislation for healthy housing standards and work to ensure such healthy and environmentally safe standards, and consider indoor air quality (IAQ) one of the basic criteria of green buildings.
- Invite governments to promote green economy, increase concern over sustainable procurement (staying away from unsustainable consumption patterns) as long-term investments, develop required skills and capacity building, especially for future generations by adopting all possible means with an emphasis on including such knowledge in curricula of various grades to ensure proper guidance of youth and giving focus on environment-friendly industries such as reusing and recycling of materials.

Biodiversity:

CSOs in the West Asia region note a wide range of problems and challenges that face biodiversity in arid environments (deserts) and forest areas rich in ecosystems, in addition to negative effects of external coercive factors such as war, international and national conflicts, and other forms of unguided development which puts those ecosystems to forms of exploitation and depletion of wildlife aquatic resources including marine environments, therefore:

- CSOs call upon all official bodies and civil society sectors to work on limiting loss and decline of biodiversity of freshwater ecosystems in the Arab region as a result of urbanization of coastal parts and fertile agricultural regions and forested areas, as it emphasizes the importance of preserving sensitive desert and "Badeia" ecosystems.

- CSOs for environment recommend that regional countries establish gene banks and germplasms to ensure conservation of biological diversity and give necessary attention to biodiversity in arid and semi-arid regions by establishing representative reserves for various natural environments.
- CSOs for environment look into the seriousness of groundwater salinization as a result of sea-water intrusion due to attrition of water, and call the competent official bodies to take adequate actions to reduce and stop such problems.

Other urgent issues:

- Precautions on dangerous waste materials resulting from wars in the region, including nuclear waste and calls on governmental intervention to prevent and mitigate risks and ensure that they are not placed in rivers, bays and seas and to address and solve out its serious impact upon the environment.
 - CSOs call their governments to reconsider using the additive MTBE substances in motor fuel because of its adverse effects on health, water resources, soil and air.
 - Supporting the use of renewable energy except that it should not be at the expense of food availability, staple food of the poor and environment sustainability.
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