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Principality of Monaco, 20–22 February 2008

Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Policy issues: emerging policy issues

**Civil society statements to the Governing Council/Global
Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session**

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The annex to the present note contains civil society statements prepared during the civil society regional consultation and preparatory meetings for the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The statements set forth observations and recommendations related to the following areas which are to be addressed at the tenth special session of the Council/Forum: globalization and the environment; mobilizing finance to meet the climate challenge; and the United Nations Environment Programme medium-term strategy. These statements also address enhancing the participation of major groups at the governance level of UNEP and the fourth Global Environment Outlook report.

The annex is presented without formal editing.

* UNEP/GCSS/X/1.

Annex

Civil society statements to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session

Introduction

The present statements have been prepared by Civil Society for the tenth special session of the United Nations Environment Programme's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, to be held in February 2008 in the Principality of Monaco. The statements are the product of discussions that took place across six regional civil society consultation processes convened by UNEP between 12 October and 14 November 2007. The statements contain observations and recommendations related to areas on the agenda of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: Globalization and the Environment: Mobilizing Finance to meet the Climate Challenge and the UNEP Medium Term Strategy. They also contain discussions on Enhancing Major Group's Participation at UNEP's Governance Level and the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4) report.

African Regional Statement to the Ninth Global Civil Society Forum and the Tenth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

Cairo, Egypt, 21 - 23 October 2007.

This statement is a synthesis of the recommendations of the Regional Consultation Meeting for Africa in preparation for the 9th Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) which was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 21 to 23 October 2007.

PREAMBLE

1. We, representatives of African Civil Society and Major groups appreciate UNEP's role in facilitating our participation in the preparation for the forthcoming 9th GCSF and 10th Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF);
2. We recognize UNEP's appreciation of the role of civil society in enhancing environmental sustainability and its endeavor to engage CSO in its own work;
3. We are satisfied with the coverage of the overview of Global Environment Outlook (GEO 4) report, the introduction of UNEP's Medium Term Strategy, enhancing Major Groups' participation in UNEP's work and the introduction to the SS X- GC/GMEF theme, Globalization and the Environment: Mobilizing Finance to meet the Climate Challenge and its links to poverty alleviation;
4. We are concerned with the levels of poverty, environmental degradation and the threat and risks of climate change on our continent; and
5. We are committed to work with our governments, UNEP and all stakeholders of environmental sustainability and urge all to give due regard to the following concerns and recommendations.

PART I: GLOBALIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT: MOBILIZING FINANCE TO MEET THE CLIMATE CHALLENGE AND ITS LINKS TO POVERTY ALLEVIATION.

6. Climate change is emerging as the single biggest threat to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other development targets. Although Africa has contributed only about 2.5% to greenhouse gas (GHG) concentration in the atmosphere, the continent stands to lose more than many other regions of the world from the results of climate change. Extreme weather events (droughts and floods) have already wreaked havoc on Africa's fragile ecosystems and may retard development even in those countries that had made great strides. Africa's coastal regions and small island states will face further threats from sea-level rise and destruction of marine resources and infrastructure. All-round, climate-induced changes in ecosystems will have impacts ranging from altered disease patterns to seasonal and cyclical aberrations in food, water and energy availability.

African response to the climate challenge

7. Recognizing the urgency of limiting the impacts of the global climate, the African Union (AU), the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and ministers responsible for disaster risk reduction have sketched policies and strategies to respond to different aspects of climate change.
8. In line with Africa's response as well as global efforts to meet the challenges of climate change:
9. We recommend:
 - Stabilization followed by the reversal in the pace of climate change.
 - The mitigation of the impact of climate change on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility should be accelerated, while Africa receives its due support for adaptation to the effects of the phenomenon.
 - African responses are met with decisive support from UNEP's Governing Council through the provision of meaningful resources and technology transfer

- The role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders in society are integrated in finding solutions and practical responses to climate change

Climate Change Mitigation

10. As a low producer of GHGs, but largely experiencing the impacts of climate change, Africa has tended to focus more on adaptation measures. Mitigation measures can reduce the effects of climate change and in turn the costs of adaptation. In this regard the following key issues were identified as priority areas for action in Africa:
 - The need to consider alternative technological options, such as the use of clean and renewable energy;
 - The setting of policy and regulatory frameworks for creating an enabling environment for the transition to a low carbon economy;
 - The investment options, i.e. the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), local and private financing;
 - Provision of technologies for reducing the polluting potential of fossil fuels;
 - Provision, commercialization and financing for renewable energy technologies;
 - The need to design and implement disaster risk reduction strategies.
11. Mindful of the importance of the above issues in reducing the impacts of climate change, we advocate for alternative technological options to facilitate the transition to a “low” carbon economy by:
 - Promoting and encouraging the use of new and alternative technologies, especially for the industry and private sector.
 - Promoting and encouraging the disposal of waste and effluents in environmentally-friendly ways.
 - Promoting and encouraging the participation of private sector in climate change dialogues without profit motivation.
12. We strongly recommend that necessary policy and regulatory frameworks at local, regional and international levels to support the transition to a “low” carbon economy are put in place. Furthermore, all stakeholders should play their role to ensure that these policies are implemented within the appropriate regulatory frameworks by:
 - Ensuring that the state provides effective regulations and policies for the safety of all living things including humans against adverse impacts of climate change.
 - Supporting the active participation of all stakeholders in the formulation or review and implementation of policies.
 - Ensuring that civil society fully plays its role and pressurises Governments at all levels to enforce policies aimed at responding to the climate challenge.
 - Ensuring that Government and civil society share research findings and use them in policy formulation processes.
 - Favouring a wide dissemination of information regarding policies to the general public: encourage Government to use the media to educate the public on climate change issues/laws/policies.
13. Recognizing the centrality of financial and technical capacity for the transition to a low carbon economy, we recommend:
 - The creation of a website and clearing house mechanisms for information management on sponsors, priority issues, location of CDM projects, potential opportunities, etc.
 - The private sector is lobbied to donate part of their profits to climate change mitigation.
 - Lobbying Governments to subsidise renewable energy technologies or put in place tax incentives for environmentally-friendly technologies: set-up taxation and tariffs systems for new sources of energy, e.g. to encourage power utilities to invest in climate-friendly technologies.
 - Civil society should fund-raise internationally and locally for small projects in rural areas, through shares, etc
 - Undertaking joint planning and budgeting to ensure increased budget for mainstreaming climate change policies and plans (need to clarify between who and who).
 - That poverty reduction is addressed as a priority.
 - Payment for environmental services
 - Specific measures on finance utilization for greater transparency and accountability: (i) all stakeholders to be involved in the mobilisation and management of available funds, (ii) project budgets and reports to be published to promote transparency, (iii) evaluation of the impacts of the project and utilisation of funds, and (iv) recipient communities to be involved in the above processes.

- That additional source of funding and mechanisms should be put in place. Although different sources of finance exist through the international agencies e.g. World Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), donor Governments, the private sector and local financing through CDM projects, these are however not sufficient to address the regional challenges.

Specific recommendations for UNEP

14. As the lead agency on environment, we recommend that UNEP:

- Builds the capacity of civil society to engage Government in climate change issues;
- Supports civil society to implement climate change and climate variability activities;
- Supports Governments in promoting use of clean energy, and encourage African Governments to also address mitigation issues.

Adaptation to Climate Change

15. The main challenge for Africa, in addressing the climate change catastrophe lies in adjusting to the actual and expected effects of climate change, and strengthening the responsive capacity among vulnerable communities. In this context, the key adaptation issues identified were:

- The need to address the vulnerability of African communities and to reduce poverty;
- The identification of potential impacts on sectors of the economy and communities;
- The lack of strong political will to create an enabling environment and policies addressing the climate challenge;
- The lack of monetary value attached to the environment, the valuation of ecosystem services;
- The issue of compensation to affected communities;
- The access to finance;
- The technology transfer and property rights;
- The awareness and knowledge of complex adaptation issues, as well as the risks associated with adaptation initiatives, globalisation and carbon transfer issues.

16. Mindful of the multiplicity of Africa's challenges in coping and adapting to climate change effects, we recommend the following adaptation activities in Africa that should be articulated along building the resilience of communities especially -- women, youth, trade unions and workers, and civil society at large:

- Development of adequate response measures;
- Evaluation of the environmental losses;
- Training and building the capacity of civil society and communities to be self-sustaining e.g. through income generation and entrepreneurship skills for vulnerable groups -- women and youth;
- Conducting research; and disaggregating data;
- Monitoring and evaluation of interventions and processes.

17. Recognizing that the transition to a low carbon economy is a very expensive exercise that will affect the pace of transition across the broad economic divide affecting more particularly the poorest of the poor on the African continent, we recommend that in addressing the financing of the transition to a low carbon economy our governments, private sector, UNEP and donor agencies:

- Address the issue of compensation to affected communities, and access to finance, by vulnerable groups;
- As a matter of urgency, set up a Global Adaptation Fund;
- Adopt technology screening (for environmental impacts) and standardization measures;
- Involve CSOs in budgeting, planning and policy making;
- Develop policies for involving insurance firms in compensating victims of adverse effects of extreme weather patterns;
- Formulate and implement policies for disaster preparedness with the involvement of all stakeholders.

PART II: GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK (GEO-4) REPORT

18. Mindful of the fact that the Global Environment Outlook process (GEO-4) was a very comprehensive and highly consultative process built through a bottom-up participatory approach as well as from well reputed scientific assessment processes such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment:
19. We recommend the:
 - Designing of a two-way relay consultative process in engaging more civil society /major groups and organizations to build more ownership of the process into civil society;
 - Strengthening of the existing coordination and partnerships with civil society for the outreach and dissemination of the GEO report to as many CSOs as possible and establish means of making the Africa Environment Outlook (AEO) report and GEO report more accessible to a diverse readership;
 - Training and support to civil society organizations to participate effectively in the GEO processes, particularly in environmental assessment;
 - Use of multimedia technologies for dissemination of reader friendly information material;
 - Widening of consultative process for subsequent AEO and GEO for agreement on the content; and
 - More transparency in the selection of GEO Collaborating Centres;

PART III: INTRODUCTION TO THE UNEP MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY

20. The UNEP Medium Term Strategy for the period 2010-2013 was introduced to the participants via a teleconference from the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. Despite a few technical hitches, the major components of the strategy were communicated. There was an opportunity for the participants to ask some questions which were responded to well.
21. We recommend that for future purposes, UNEP circulates such information beforehand so that meaningful questions are asked.
22. We further recommend that the role of CSO is clearly articulated in the document especially with regard to implementation of Bali Strategic Plan.

CONCLUSION: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS (GOVERNMENTAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL, INTER-GOVERNMENTAL)

23. The world is still faced by the environment and development challenges that were highlighted in *Our Common Future* well back in 1987. For some issues the situation has become worse especially in Africa and other developing countries exacerbated by the high levels of poverty. The Climate Change impacts are weighing heavily on nations globally but more so on Africa with its fragile ecosystems. Apart from some natural disasters, the damage on the environment is as a result of human activities. This means that the action to halt environmental degradation lies with human beings who are the stakeholders of environmental sustainability as governmental, non-governmental and inter-governmental entities. There are many recommendations for the above but these can all be summed up in five simple words: **ACT NOW OR WE PERISH!**

Asia Pacific Regional Statement to the Ninth Global Civil Society Forum and the Tenth Special Session of UNEP's Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

Seoul, Republic of North Korea, 25 - 26 October 2007

1. Introduction

“The Asia Pacific pays high price for progress”. GEO 4 Report Launch, Seoul, 26 October 2007

This regional message is on behalf of participants of the Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Consultations, which was convened in Seoul during 25-26 October 2007, as a joint effort between UNEP and the Eco-Peace Leadership Centre. 54 participants representing all major groups including representatives from various networks, advocacy groups, technical experts and grassroots NGOs, from all 5 sub-regions of the region namely: North East Asia, South East Asia, South Asia, Central Asia and the South Pacific participated in the 2 day consultations.

The consultations were to prepare Asia Pacific civil society's participation in the 9th Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) that will be held in February 2008 prior to the 10th Special Session of UNEP's Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF). The theme of the consultations was: “Globalization and the Environment: Mobilizing Finance to meet the Climate Challenge”. The meeting also deliberated on the UNEP Medium Term Strategy and options for Enhancing Major Group's Participation at UNEP's Governance Level. It also looked at issues related to poverty and environment, as a key concern for the Asia Pacific region. Discussions on the Global Environment Outlook (GEO 4) report also took place.

2. Civil Society Engagement in the Asia-Pacific

The Asia Pacific region is home to nearly 60% of the world population – approx. 4 billion out of nearly 7 billion people. It has 3 of the world's most populous countries, 3 of the world's largest countries, 2 of the least populated, 13 least developed countries, 12 landlocked countries, and 17 small island developing countries. The region is endowed with a rich diversity of natural, social, human and economic resources. The length of the coastline is two-thirds the global total, and it has the world's largest mountain chain. New directions in environmental paradigm in the region are characterised by the following:

- from growth to sustained growth, and towards well-being and happiness;
- from reactive environmental management to proactive and prevention-based and sustainable approaches; and
- from primarily global focus to regional, sub-regional, bilateral cooperation.

UNEP has identified four strategic directions for its work in the Asia Pacific. These strategic directions ensure decisions of the UNEP Governing Council are effectively implemented in the region, while taking into account regional concerns/priorities, namely:

- Promote Regional Cooperation;
- Strengthen the Environment Community;
- Identify and Respond to Emerging issues; and
- Leadership by Example through Demonstration Projects.

Within the ambit of these strategic directions, four focus areas have been identified, viz.:

- Climate Change;
- Urbanization;
- Mainstreaming Environment; and
- Atmospheric Brown Cloud.

Through the strategic direction of “strengthening the environmental community”, UNEP is enhancing engagement with civil society in the Asia Pacific. The meeting supports the strategic directions and focus areas, and encourages further civil society engagement in the Asia-Pacific.

Recommendations:

- *Enhanced civil society engagement in the Asia Pacific within the framework of the strategic directions of UNEP in the region;*
- *Need for a stronger regional platform to promote information exchange, foster partnerships and promote strategic capacity building for the civil society community in the Asia Pacific;*
- *Development of an Asia Pacific regional civil society strategy, articulating sub-regional priorities and institutions, networking mechanisms, and pilot projects;*
- *Possibility of sub-regional civil society networks and conduct sub-regional consultations prior to the annual regional consultations; and*
- *Strengthen the role of UNEP Eco Peace Leadership Centre as a regional hub for civil society engagement, with focus on networking (through the annual regional civil society consultations), capacity building (through the Leadership Programme) and applied research and pilot projects.*

3. Regional Issues and Recommendations for UNEP's 10th GCSF theme: "Globalization and the Environment: Mobilizing Finance to meet the Climate Challenge"

The Earth's surface is warming. This is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level. Other major impacts include changes in water availability, land degradation, food security, and loss of biodiversity. The projected increase in frequency and intensity of heat waves, storms, floods and droughts would dramatically affect many millions of people including those in small island states. While in the past century the global average temperature increased by 0.74°C, the best estimate of the IPCC for additional warming over the current century is projected to be from 1.8°C to 4.0°C. Some experts have identified a 2°C increase in the global mean temperature above pre-industrial temperatures as a threshold beyond which climate impacts become significantly more severe, and the threat of major, irreversible damage may be plausible. This implies emission reductions of 60-80% by 2050 in developed countries.

Recommendations:

a. Finance the transition to a "sustainable" low carbon economy, including through new investment flows and markets

- *It is necessary to take into consideration the different stages of development, various and multiple sources of financing mechanisms in the region;*
- *Need to address the disconnect between actions and benefits in existing mechanisms - benefits remain primarily at the higher national levels and actions for transition to a low carbon economy are at the micro/individual or local levels;*
- *Decisions should be at community level and information should be made available for informed decisions/choices;*
- *Community level project funding should be made available, and a bottom up collective resource mobilization and investment should be explored;*
- *Current uncertainty of the climate change regime poses a detriment for transition to a low carbon economy;*
- *Current mechanisms to promote the transition to a low carbon economy, such as CDM, require further reform and improvement in order to achieve better efficiency in emission reduction/carbon sequestration and sustainable development; a multidisciplinary approach in evaluating and assessing the impact of these existing projects and mechanisms should be done with the full and effective participation of local communities and civil society towards identifying ways forward;*
- *Need to connect CDM with medium and small scale initiatives, as opposed to large scale and easily implementable projects;*
- *Under the CDM and market mechanisms investment should be made in local technologies while making better use of local knowledge/practice;*
- *Transition to a sustainable low carbon economy can be promoted through approaches such as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Socially Responsible Investment (CSI), Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI);*
- *The Polluter Pays Principle should be applied to finance the transition to a sustainable low carbon economy;*
- *Economic incentives, such as subsidies, tax breaks, etc. for environmental services especially those by local communities should be promoted for transition;*
- *Promote the effective use of the Adaptation Fund under Kyoto Protocol, GEF and other financing mechanisms and emphasis on assistance of developed countries to developing countries under the aegis of the UNFCCC; and*
- *The corporate and business sector should be mobilized to finance the transition to a low carbon economy.*

b. Access the finance required to adapt to change, especially for countries that are most vulnerable

- *Partnerships between CSO in vulnerable countries, with investing entities in developed countries should be encouraged to promote access to finances for transition to a low carbon economies;*
- *Local champions (individuals, companies, major groups etc.) should be identified and encouraged as a means to access further finances;*
- *The role of CSO advocacy and pressure on concerned governments should be strengthened, which could lead to better access to resources;*
- *Public loans, taxes, incentives should also constitute the finance portfolio;*
- *NGO initiated financing mechanisms should be encouraged;*
- *Self-reliant finance mechanisms at the individual, corporate and national levels should be explored. To complement these, multilateral and bilateral financing (grants, loans) should also be enhanced;*
- *Enlarging adaptation funds to cover disaster prevention and mitigation could provide access to additional resources;*
- *Subsidies/rebate and support for environmental technologies can facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy; and*
- *Need to promote better access to finance and technical support and services at the grassroots levels.*

c. Create both an enabling and sustainable policy and regulatory environment for the transition

- *Strengthen government implementation and monitoring of policies;*
- *Need to strengthen governance and management mechanisms to build capacity including multi-stakeholder partnerships, technology transfer, and community mobilization;*
- *Awareness, education and advocacy efforts should be intensified;*
- *Policies to use revenues from carbon credits and taxes for public education on environmental sustainability should be initiated;*
- *In addition to regulatory policy encompassing efficiency standards and legislation, Governments should look at incentives and disincentives as policy instruments to facilitate the transition to a low carbon society;*
- *Compliance and enforcement efforts need to be strengthened.*

d. Achieve multiple environmental objectives and avoid unintended environmental consequences, through the transition and through adaptation measures

- *In the transition to a low carbon economy, and through adaptation measures, key areas for multiple benefits include biodiversity, pollution control on air, water and land quality, and disaster prevention through sustainable management systems;*
- *The displacement of populations “Environmental refugees” due to migration resulting from climate change impact is an upcoming issue, which needs immediate attention for appropriate policy development and action;*
- *It is imperative to consult stakeholders, as key actors in the mitigation and adaptation processes (stakeholders include industry, villagers, youth, civil society, indigenous people and women) to achieve multiple environmental objectives;*
- *The sharing of information and transfer of appropriate technology could facilitate multiple environmental objectives;*
- *To achieve multiple benefits, a framework should be developed and used for: Prioritization of what needs to done; and Building consensus among stakeholders;*
- *Strong measures are needed by concerned agencies to ensure that development initiatives, including options for low carbon economy i.e. biofuel plantations and renewable energy projects do not impact negatively on the physical and social environment. The free, prior and informed consent of local communities host to any development initiatives should be sought before any undertaking commences and their full and effective participation ensured.*

e. Identify linkages to wealth generation and poverty eradication through the transition and through implementing adaptation measures

- *It is a recognized fact that the most vulnerable peoples and sectors of society live in some of the richest ecosystems. Their ecosystems services, such as sustainable environmental management practices and maintaining carbon sinks, are invaluable ;*
- *CDM and climate change related market mechanism should be made more compatible with sustainable development objectives and should not be narrowly restricted to mere carbon sequestration;*
- *Promote livelihood options which are closely linked to climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, such as community managed eco-tourism ;*

- *Consider eligibility of small-scale and community initiatives as CDM projects for preserving ecosystem services;*
- *Put into place mechanisms at national level for flow of funds to local level.*
- *Free trade agreements and economic partnership agreements should be promoted in a manner compatible with sustainable and rights-based development; the concept of fair trade also should be taken into consideration; and*
- *Promotion of small scale agriculture and renewable energy industries.*

Additional recommendations:

- *Integrating climate change issues in education curriculum and promoting education for women and youth;*
- *Promotion of low carbon indigenous technologies and practices, and provision of seed money;*
- *Facilitate environmental governance and Harmonization of policies and programs among and between international agencies, governments, civil societies on climate change;*
- *Promote change of individual lifestyle and behaviour towards low carbon use and encourage strong and equitable partnership among stakeholders, especially the youth, government, and UNEP;*
- *Ensure sufficient resources for UNEP in collaboration with other UN agencies to provide stakeholders with required support;*
- *Regional platform for information disclosure and sharing on environment should be established or strengthened; and*
- *Regional assessment on the mainstreaming of sustainability/environment in the educational programs particularly at university level in collaboration with United Nations should be promoted.*

4. The Global Environment Outlook (GEO4)

The meeting took note that UNEP's GEO4 is published 20 years after the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission) produced its seminal report, Our Common Future. GEO4 reports on the state of the global environment, assesses the current state of the global atmosphere, land, water and biodiversity, and describes what has changed in the two decades. It highlights progress made in tackling some of the world's pressing environmental challenges, but also highlights an urgent call for action to address persistent environmental problems, such as climate change, deterioration of fisheries, and the extinction of species.

According to the GEO4, the Asia Pacific has made “remarkable” progress in reducing poverty, improving its ability to protect the environment, increasing energy efficiency, and provision of drinking water in the last decade. But this progress has come at a price. Increases in consumption and associated waste have contributed to the exponential growth in existing environmental problems. Serious challenges remain, including urban air quality, fresh water stress, agricultural land use and increased waste. Environmental and economic policies have not been fully integrated. It states that the ecosystems and human health in Asia Pacific continues to deteriorate, while population growth and rapid economic development have driven significant environmental degradation and loss of natural resources. The report specifically recognises the Asia-Pacific’s achievements in protecting its environment, a key to tackling poverty. Several countries in the Asia Pacific have already achieved many of the MDG targets and set themselves new and more demanding goals, called MDG Plus.

Recommendations:

- *Need to focus on disseminating the GEO4 report as widely as possible in the region;*
- *Need to highlight regional issues, such as disasters and chemicals; and*
- *Develop user-friendly version of GEO4 for different stakeholders, such as for youth.*

5. Enhancing Major Groups Participation at UNEP’s Governance Level

Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and civil society organizations spans more than three decades on a wide variety of levels, from technical cooperation through to policy development and governance. UNEP has consistently welcomed an ongoing dialogue and frank exchange of views with civil society – as it has long been recognized that civil society organizations can be substantive contributors to improving our understanding of the environment, and in developing innovative solutions to environmental challenges. These organizations, in turn, have become increasingly mobilized to collaborate in the UNEP decision making process.

The purpose of the Global Civil Society Forum, is to increase Civil Society influence and inputs into decision adopted by the GC/GMEF by informing Major Groups (MGs) and relevant civil society stakeholders about UNEP’s procedures and arrangements of the upcoming GC/GMEF, providing information about the latest developments on substance, allowing the different MGs the opportunity to have an exchange of views, and to facilitate the development of possible common positions of the Major Groups related to the topics discussed at the GC/GMEF.

To this end a draft paper on enhancing Major Groups participation at UNEP’s governance level was produced and had the elements below which the meeting discussed/considered and made recommendations towards the further development of enhancing major groups participation at UNEP:

For the Global Civil Society Steering Committee, three election scenarios were proposed:

- Scenario 1: Status Quo (Regional Elections Model – 2 members from each region)
- Scenario 2: Nine + Twelve Model (Nine representatives from each major group, plus twelve regional representatives which includes 2 members from each region)
- Scenario 3: Appointed Committee Model

For development of the Global Policy Statement presented at GC/GMEF, four scenarios were proposed:

- Scenario 1: Status Quo (single statement, major groups work together);
- Scenario 2: Independent Statements by individual major groups (9 statements, each major group work independently);
- Scenario 3: Independent Statements by individual major group working independently in each region (54 statements, each major group in different regions work independently);
- Scenario 4: Independent Statements by individual major groups from different region (various statements that may be combined per group from the major group, major groups work independently in each region).

Recommendations:

- - *There was a suggestion to retain the name of the Global Civil Society Steering Committee;*
 - *There was some perception that Major Groups model lacked dynamism and potential for regional disparity;*
 - *Suggestion for a hybrid structure with another lower tier 'Sub-regional Major Groups', which would enable consultation at the sub-regional level to be incorporated into one regional statement, without prejudice to stand-alone statements from stakeholders groups, if any;*
 - *There was appreciation for Scenario 2 (9+12) as it was more representative, though participants felt that the disadvantages of this scenario were real;*
 - *There was a suggestion to retain the status quo election scenario;*
 - *Consensus on the utility of one consolidated statement rather than nine separate statements;*
 - *Resources and mechanisms available to support the implementation of the proposed options/scenarios should be mobilised;*
 - *Scenarios should provide opportunity for consensus at the local and regional levels so as to reduce time and resource requirements at the global level;*
 - *Representation should be from credible institutions/groups; while the focus should be on problem-solving; and*
 - *Consensus on the necessity to develop and support sub-regional civil society networks in the Asia Pacific region.*

6. UNEP Medium Term Strategy

A consultation paper on the preparations of UNEP's Medium Term Strategy (MTS) for the period 2010-2013 was circulated to participants. UNEP's Senior Advisor on Policy and Operational Matters in the Executive Office made a presentation on the evolving process of developing the Medium Term Strategy.

Recommendations:

- *Civil society should have been provided with actual contents of the MTS rather than just information on the process;*
- *Wider level consultations with civil society is vital;*
- *Importance of ecosystems management is underscored;*
- *Emphasis on gender and education should be highlighted in the MTS; and*
- *Call for enhanced regional presence and delivery in the MTS;*

Participants welcome the possibility to contribute and participate in the Asia Pacific consultations on International Environmental Governance, to be convened towards the middle of 2008, in Sydney.

The participants thank EPLC and UNEP for the organization of the 2007 Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Meeting, and express optimism for enhanced civil society engagement and partnerships in the Asia Pacific region in the path towards sustainable development.

European Regional Statement to the Ninth Global Civil Society Forum and the Tenth Special Session of UNEP's Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

Geneva, Switzerland, 31 October – 2 November 2007

The representatives of major groups of civil society¹ focused their deliberations on the Strategic Direction of UNEP, in particular the six cross-cutting priorities and objectives outlined in the Medium-term Strategy for the Period 2010-2013 where UNEP can exercise environmental leadership in the areas of Climate change, Disasters and conflict, Ecosystem management, Environmental governance, Harmful substances and hazardous waste, and Resource efficiency – sustainable consumption and production.

Within the context of the Medium-term Strategy, the following key messages have been put forward.

1. Climate change

UNEP is uniquely placed to help global society meet the climate challenge by taking a leading role in work to develop a low carbon infrastructure and economy.

These messages of the ROE civil society meeting underscore the key issues and areas where UNEP can make a difference

- **We call on all industrialized economies (Annex 1) countries to respect Kyoto Protocol and to agree on a strong Post-Kyoto commitment, reinforced by voluntary measures from developing countries, so as to ensure serious and long-lasting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.**
- **We encourage public investment to support a long term shift in energy policy, towards sustainable and labour intensive solutions. We do not consider nuclear energy should be proposed (taken) as a solution for the climate change problem.**
- We urge measures to be put in place i.e. mitigation measures to reduce GHG emissions with special focus on energy efficiency and conservation, promotion of public transport, sustainable building, and waste reduction. The success of implementation strategies will largely depend on public policies and national regulations. Public engagement with national efforts to address climate change can be built through green job creation, combined with re-employment programmes, training and education,
- **We demand that all major financial programmes and investments are designed and operated in ways that ensure that developments both within and outside the wider European region minimise carbon emissions, help to address adaptation and deliver mitigation measures.** The de-coupling of investment, growth and energy consumption must be seriously addressed. The example of structural funds within the expanded EU clearly highlights how economic growth can too easily result in concomitant increases in GHG emissions.
- We call for greater coherence between the many agencies and institutions, involved in development assistance, including the UN, so that development gains are not eradicated by climate change impacts.
- **We demand that Governments properly address adaptation. There is a need to ensure long term investments and fiscal mechanisms both in developed and developing countries in areas such as health, water, and infrastructure.** Governments also need to invest strategically in efforts for a proper understanding of the challenges and changes needed to address climate change across all sectors of society. We urge them to maintain coherent positions in all negotiations.

¹ "Civil society participants strove for consensus in reaching our conclusions. Nonetheless, this statement should not be interpreted as meaning that every member of the Global Steering Committee, or civil society organization, necessarily endorses every point contained in the statement or the concept of the statement itself."

- **Governments should ensure that groups within civil society are fully and transparently engaged in all decision making and implementation processes with regard to tackling climate change.**
- The transition to a low carbon economy needs also to address the requirement of diversification to support economies that are currently highly dependant upon the production and processing of fossil fuels.

2. Disaster and Post-Conflict Management - Working Group

- Further development and functioning of disaster (and early warning) management system in region (sub- regions) is important
- Post-conflict should take into account post-conflict sustainable development strategy and implementation (e.g. South Eastern Europe)
- Environmental Security remain UNEP's priority and preferably considered as cross-cutting and/or energy security and climate change issues.
- Introducing Child Focused Disaster Reduction in Schools in disaster prone areas.
- Introduction of rainwater infiltration, use and management in rural and urban areas as a mitigation policy in disaster prone areas and in post conflict situations.

3. Ecosystem Management

1. **[Ecosystems services and valuation]** Their outcomes and impacts are poorly and narrowly explained beyond international rhetoric. Political and public awareness of ecosystem services' benefits does not exist in any adequate manner.
2. **[Capacity building]** Communication, Education and Public Awareness [CEPA] is a recurring UN theme that is given little but lip service. There has been no effective follow up to the Bali Declaration by UNEP or other UN-mandated agencies in this area. CEPA must be given priority in all UNEP and UN themes.
3. **[Audience]** UNEP should focus its messages well outside the environmental community to achieve effectiveness.
4. **[Management]** Successfully managing ecosystem resources necessitates priority in data and assessment [accurate and adequate inventory, monitoring and evaluation]. Otherwise, impacts to the ecosystems and how their performance will continue or be predicted to change will not be correct. Today broad general principles are commonly applied without scientific basis as to the specific ecosystem setting being adequately characterized and assessed.
5. **[Traditional local knowledge and practices]** Historical methods and understanding in ecosystems management needs more recognition and should be clearly identified, continued and adapted.
6. **[Local community and local government]** Local entities' involvement in ecosystem management is essential yet UNEP has seemingly remained unable to substantively engage with these actors in their global programs. Their absence from UNEP's outreach is a critical missing aspect of UNEP's involvement with the nine major groups.
7. **[Biodiversity conservation]** This concept is the basis for maintaining ecosystem values which can importantly influence and support sustainable development and community well-being. Despite this excellent concept, the implementation strategies for society to obtain the benefits from "Biodiversity Conservation" have not been sufficiently applied or demonstrated. This aspect could be reinforced and strengthened by UNEP as an integral component of ecosystem management.

4. Environmental Governance

We would welcome a stronger, more effective and more efficient UNEP.

To achieve this we recommend:

- Universal country membership
- Predictable and adequate funding through mandatory assessments from members
- Greater presence of UNEP at a national level, including strengthening the National Committees to carry out the following:
 - Raise awareness of environmental issues and UNEP among the public on a country level.
 - Lobby governments to mainstream environment into national development policy planning and implementation processes.
- Ministers in addition to Environment Ministers attend intergovernmental UNEP meetings.
- UNEP should initiate new Multilateral Environmental Agreement negotiations and improve co-ordination among existing MEAs to increase effectiveness.
- UNEP should initiate its own debate on the relationship between environment and trade.
- More effective civil society representation.

At the Regional Consultation Meeting in November 2007, civil society groups were asked to give an input to the UNEP Medium Term Strategy, though the existing draft of the Medium Term Strategy was not provided. In future it would be helpful for civil society to be sent relevant drafts or documents prior to the Regional Consultation Meetings to allow for meaningful engagement and comment. This will allow for enhanced representation of civil society views at the Governing Council.

6. Sustainable Consumption and Production-Resource Efficiency

Sustainable Consumption and Production should be the core issue by itself. Resource efficiency is a sub aspect of it. Especially it does not include the concept of fairly sharing the common global resources (Resource Equity). Therefore specific and separate attention is required regarding social equity and environmental justice.

As agreed in Agenda 21, “the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances.”²

Sustainable Consumption and Production should include the following elements:

- Production
 - Life Cycle thinking
 - Short production chains
 - Less packaging and environmental friendly low-cost recyclable packaging
- Consumption
 - Individual and collective lifestyle changes
 - Sustainable levels and patterns of consumption
- Investments
 - Socially and environmentally friendly practices
- Distribution
 - Balancing monetary and material flows as regards trade and transportation
 - Limiting the percentage of the product cost allowed to be used for advertising
 - A “Code of Conduct” for advertising referring to social and environmental norms

Additional important elements are

² Agenda 21, Chapter 4, par.4.3.

- Ecological fiscal reform
- Targetted CEPA Programmes for both Sustainable Consumption and Production³
- Well documented corporate responsibility and accountability requirements
- Information and public participation for Sustainable Consumption⁴

Process:

Further considerations should be given as to how better to support grass root organizations (youth groups etc.) that can be highly effective in initiating changes in lifestyle and thinking.

³ The elements are expressed in the NGO Ostend Statement towards Sustainable Consumption and Production prepared for the First European Stakeholder Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production within the Marrakech Process

(http://www.eeb.org/activities/sustainable_development/NGO-Ostend-Statement-24-11-2004.pdf)

⁴ The elements are expressed in the NGO Ostend Statement towards Sustainable Consumption and Production prepared for the First European Stakeholder Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production within the Marrakech Process

(http://www.eeb.org/activities/sustainable_development/NGO-Ostend-Statement-24-11-2004.pdf)

Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Statement to the Ninth Global Civil Society Forum and the Tenth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Monterrey, Mexico, 12 - 14 October 2007

Our greetings and recognition to the environmental authorities and organizations of the state of Nuevo León, as well as the Municipalities of Monterrey and Bustamante, for the warm welcome they extended to our delegations and their important contribution to building sustainable development. We also express our most sincere thanks to the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, the Universal Forum of Cultures 2007 and the Sustainable World Foundation.

Considering,

1. That a very positive step is the fact that for the first time the Declaration of the UNEP Regional Forum for Civil Society of Latin America and the Caribbean, which took place in Monterrey, Mexico, from 12 to 14 October 2007, will be presented as the first item on the agenda of the Sixteenth Forum of the Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. That the outputs obtained through the five-year assessment of the Latin America and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) show that, although some specific variables have undergone improvement, many environmental problems of the region not only persist but have even increased and become more complex.
3. That it is important to underscore the advances made in the past five years in the field of generating information, which has translated into numerous national reports on the state of the environment and GEO overall environmental assessments; understanding, however, that advances in citizens' access to and appropriation of such information are still lacking.
4. That the lack of data for preparing some relevant indicators to measure our degree of progress towards the ILAC objectives should not be seen only as a barrier, but also as an indicator itself, and that this information should be of use for decision making.
5. That there are significant differences between the realities of our countries.
6. That although the priorities originally established for the ILAC continue being valid, concerns expressed in this Forum indicate that major groups perceive emerging issues that must be incorporated into the Initiative.
7. That the problem of climate change is of a global scope and therefore requires a collective response. At the same time, scientific evidence is sufficiently sound and economic assessments warn us that the cost of not taking action may be higher than the cost of preventive measures.
8. The message issued by the 80 heads of State who participated in the special event on climate change convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations last September in the framework of the General Assembly regarding the need to enter into multilateral cooperation agreements that are fair and equitable for all countries,
9. That in the period 2010-2013, UNEP will, for the first time, have a medium-term strategy, which will, in principle, focus its work around six priority themes: climate change, ecosystem management, hazardous substances, natural disasters and post-conflict situations, energy efficiency and environmental governance.
10. That the United Nations system is in a period of testing a strategy to integrate its programmes under one umbrella, which implies one office, one budget and one leader, called "One UN".
11. That the document "Guidelines to improve the participation of the principal groups at the governance level of UNEP" seeks to motivate greater regional balance and representation among the new principal groups, recognizing that they have common interests, as well as individual interests.
12. That the long-term Strategy for the participation of youth in environmental issues, known as the TUNZA Strategy, indicates that UNEP will organize, support and facilitate the participation of young leaders in the sessions of the Governing Council of UNEP; and, at the same time, will establish a Tunza Advisory Council to represent youth at the Governing Council sessions to provide coordinated inputs on behalf of youth.

13. That the organizations gathered here look favourably on the efforts being made by UNEP to establish increasingly more effective mechanisms for such participation.

We declare,

Advances in the implementation of the Latin America and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)

14. That we are concerned about the results of the ILAC follow-up and assessment report and we understand that efforts to attain its objectives should be expanded. This leads us to rethinking our development model, with firm and active State intervention in social management and market control.
15. That, in the framework of the ILAC, a participatory communication approach giving priority to local spaces should be adopted so that citizens may know about this Initiative and adopt it as their own in order to actively and constructively participate in its definition, follow-up and implementation.
16. That we are committed to collaborating in the dissemination of ILAC and the ILAC assessment results presented to this Forum through our organizations, networks, dialogue spaces and other means available to us.
17. That there is a need to evaluate the pertinence and usefulness of the ILAC indicators in order to propose alternatives for cases in which the experience accumulated over five years indicates they do not reflect the reality and needs of our region. This process should be carried out in conjunction with civil society, comparing the relevance of indicators and the veracity of data with the principal groups.
18. That there is a need to invest in initiatives for data generation, compilation and harmonization for cases in which the indicators found to be pertinent lack sufficient statistics for their construction. The Forum specifically recommends concentrating efforts on evaluating the existence and operation of the National Councils on Sustainable Development and other similar entities for participation of the principal groups.
19. That, because of the interrelations among the issues addressed by the ILAC, it is necessary to incorporate some indicators to establish cause-and-effect relationships. This Forum specifically recommends analysing and reporting on the linkage between climate change and health.
20. That in the compiling, analysis and presentation of the advances of the ILAC it is imperative for the indicators to provide a breakdown by different sub-regions. Similar criteria should be adopted whenever possible for cases of urban and rural communities. Similarly, to gain a more realistic vision of the regional situation it is essential for the percentage values to be accompanied by their corresponding absolute numbers.
21. That this Forum considers it vital for the ILAC to incorporate, as a priority, the measurement of environmental risks and impacts of trade liberalization processes, agreements of a neo-liberal nature and infrastructure mega projects in the region, with special emphasis on IIRSA and the Puebla-Panama Plan. We understand that these hinder sustainable development, which is why civil society is paying increasingly more attention to these efforts.
22. That we demand monitoring of the progress achieved in the field of institutional frameworks, both in terms of the consolidation of governmental environment authorities and in relation to their intersectoral links, to address the need for cross-cutting management that includes other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Globalization and Environment: Mobilizing financing to face climate change

23. That it is important for the international community to apply the principle of common but differentiated responsibility with regard to climate change, so that those who generate the most greenhouse gases will change their production and consumption patterns, assume the weight of the compensatory measures and facilitate mechanisms to favour the prevention, mitigation and adaptation to the impacts in the countries affected, especially those that are most vulnerable.
24. That there is a need to introduce and implement political, economic, institutional, and legal reforms that will translate into improvements in energy efficiency and the development of alternative energies.
25. That we are concerned about the uncontrolled progress of biofuels, since they compete with food sovereignty and security and endanger biodiversity, forests, water, etc. and, at the same time, consolidate a production model based on extensive landholdings (latifundios) and single-crop farming, which generates agriculture without farmers and expels millions of men and women into rural migration, causing strong social and environmental tensions.
26. That it is essential to generate and strengthen alliances among the environmental and socioeconomic sectors in the framework of the National Strategies for Sustainable Development in order to implement climate change prevention, mitigation and adaptation policies and projects.
27. That it is important to analyse the barriers that have prevented this theme from being addressed in spite of the strong scientific evidence that has existed for more than a decade.
28. That addressing this problem will generate benefits that are not only environmental, but also economic and social, in terms of job creation, improved balance of payments and incentives for local industry and communities.
29. Recognize that climate change can be addressed not only in the framework of an environmental proposal but also from the perspective of development. Consequently, we declare it necessary to identify and make use of mechanisms that are alternatives to environmental compensations to finance projects to address climate change.

International Environmental Governance and the UNEP Medium-term Strategy

30. That increasing and effective participation of civil society in the UNEP decision-making bodies is of fundamental importance, that the opportunity to formulate declarations in ministerial dialogues should continue being provided and that these declarations should be included in the related reports.
31. That it is essential for the UNEP Medium-term Strategy to include mechanisms to increase the influence of national environmental authorities, principally in the countries' economy, finance and planning cabinets.
32. That it is important for this strategy to promote the decentralization of UNEP activities and, in this line, to incorporate regional initiatives such as the ILAC. For that purpose institutional strengthening of the Regional Offices is of fundamental importance, especially with regard to their capacities for dissemination and civil society involvement.
33. That it is vital to strengthen UNEP and its participation in the joint programming processes of the United Nations in the national sphere, especially in terms of "One UN" and in projects to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

"Guidelines for improving the participation of the principal groups at the governance level of UNEP"

34. That it is important to establish mechanisms to ensure that the Global Civil Society Steering Committee serves as a channel for the voices of the principal groups and that the regions express themselves at global entities in which UNEP participates through consultation and collective agenda building processes.
35. That we ask UNEP to continue supporting the efforts of civil society organizations to strengthen our capacities and consolidate our participation, all through training activities on a national and regional scale.

36. That we are interested in UNEP taking into account that the new participation models of the principal groups should improve and not endanger the space won over the years by civil society. In this framework, the Tunza Council members are selected by their peers to represent the youth of each region and their capacities should therefore be strengthened and their opportunities to participate in the meetings of the Governing Council of UNEP should be expanded.
37. That the organizations present, accredited by the GC/GMEF, are committed to collaborating with those who may decide to request their own accreditation.
38. That we request UNEP to distribute the civil society consultation documents within three months simultaneously in the official languages of the United Nations. If there is a genuine desire to incorporate the recommendations of the interested parties, it should translate into a commitment to gradually eliminate these barriers.

We wish to salute the efforts of the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in recognition of the experiences our organizations have gained to improve global environmental governance; and we are confident that the national environmental authorities will appropriately value and incorporate them into the related political instruments.

Finally, we reiterate the commitment of our organizations to continue contributing to the sustainable development of our societies, in a broad spirit of partnership and cooperation between civil society and governmental authorities.

North American Regional Statement to the Ninth Global Civil Society Forum and the Tenth Special Session of UNEP's Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

Washington DC, USA, 1-2 November 2007,

1. Executive Summary

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for North America (RONA) held its annual Civil Society Consultation at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on November 1-2 2007, in Washington DC. Attended by some 50 participants representing 43 organizations, the consultation was held in preparation for the ninth UNEP Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) and the 25th UNEP Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) meetings to be held in February 2008 in Monaco. The consultation was one of six regional meetings held worldwide.

The aim of the meeting was to provide input into the key items on the agenda for the Governing Council, focusing particularly on the substantive issue: *Globalization and the Environment: Mobilizing Finance to Meet the Climate Challenge*. The meeting also aimed to provide input into UNEP's 2010-2013 Medium-Term Strategy, and to guidelines for improving civil society participation in the UNEP consultation process. The meeting also discussed the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO-4) Report.

Several key issues and recommendations emerged from the consultation, including the following points:

- Speakers highlighted the role adaptation could and should play in the international response to climate change, but also recognized the financial challenges of such a strategy.
- Speakers and roundtable discussants identified a need for an effective regulatory framework for addressing climate change in the post-2012 period.
- The importance of environmental education was emphasized, particularly for youth.
- A need for partnerships across groups and increased dialogue between groups was suggested, especially if major groups were to write individual statements. Collaboration and cross-over should be encouraged to help provide a more succinct message to policy-makers.
- Equity in the consultation process and in the outcomes was deemed essential. The regional meeting recommended that resources be made available to marginalized groups to help them to organize and mobilize internally and to further engage with the consultation process.
- The provision of background material in advance was encouraged, in order to allow time for processing complex information. An arena for discussion on the issues prior to the event was also encouraged, making use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and other tools.
- Participants called for moving beyond process consultation into action and implementation, in order to ensure the ongoing relevance of the consultation process and to take full advantage of the strengths of civil society organizations.

2. Introductory and Welcoming Remarks

Lara Hansen, of WWF-International provided welcoming remarks and spoke on the urgency of addressing the issue of climate change. Her main message was that the implications of climate change are emerging now, not in the future, and thus the choices made today will affect us in the longer term. Hansen encouraged civil society members to incorporate the issue of climate change into all of their activities and every aspect of planning.

Elisabeth Guilbaud-Cox, Officer-in-Charge in UNEP's Regional Office for North America, thanked WWF for offering their premises for the meeting, and thanked the participants for attending the consultation. She expressed the importance of the NGO community as one of UNEP's most important constituencies. Ms. Guilbaud-Cox noted that UNEP readily

acknowledges its own limitations, and that civil society makes a considerable difference to UNEP's work, by bringing new skills and resources to the table. Furthermore, she noted that UNEP could benefit from the diversity of perspectives that civil society brings to discussions, and reiterated that the conference was an opportunity for civil society to air their views before the UNEP Governing Council meeting in February. Ms. Guilbaud-Cox highlighted that civil society could help raise public awareness and engage the general public on key environmental issues, and that the research and advocacy functions of NGOs were crucial, alongside the political support they offered.

Hilary French, Special Advisor to UNEP's Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, welcomed participants to the event on behalf of Olivier Deleuze, the Chief of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch. She explained that the consultation was part of the ground-up input into the UNEP policy process, and that the Washington DC event was one of six regional meetings feeding into the global process.

The two co-facilitators, Melanie Nakagawa and Tom Hammond then made introductory remarks. Nakagawa summarized her experience at the Civil Society Forum of February 2007, and noted that UNEP's Executive Director, Mr. Achim Steiner, had expressed a strong interest in involving civil society in UNEP's work. She stated that at the last forum, there was an open exchange between Mr. Steiner and civil society representatives, as well as with the authors of UNEP background policy documents on the four thematic issues under consideration by the GC/GMEF. This year, only one theme was selected (Globalization and the Environment: Mobilizing Finance to Meet the Climate Challenge) to allow for a more cohesive discussion.

Tom Hammond then reviewed the meeting agenda and its objectives, and noted a full record of the meeting would be taken and made available following the consultation. He expressed UNEP's desire for an open and frank discussion on the items on the agenda, and said that everyone who wanted to speak on any substantive item on the agenda would be given the opportunity to do so. He added that any additional comments could be made to UNEP staff, Nakagawa or himself, or could be emailed to civil.society@unep.org.

3. Briefing and Question and Answer Session on GEO-4 Report, and on Google Earth Partnership

Ashbindu Singh, the Regional Coordinator of UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) provided a briefing on the recently-released UNEP Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4) report and on UNEP's partnership with Google Earth.

GEO-4 Briefing

Singh highlighted that the GEO-4 report was a synthesis of previous work rather than new research, and introduced the report with a short video. The film conveyed some progress and success stories such as the Montreal Protocol on ozone depletion, but also highlighted a number of persistent environmental problems that nations had failed to adequately address. On climate change, it noted that only 60-80% cuts in Greenhouse Gases could prevent irreversible damage, and argued that the benefits of action outweigh the costs. It also highlighted the importance of an engaged and educated public demanding action from governments. Singh noted that the report was launched globally in 40 cities on October 25, 2007, with a seminar in Washington DC, and the North American launch in Ottawa. The report itself went through an extensive peer review process, with approximately 13,000 comments received on the draft.

Google Earth Partnership Briefing

Singh offered a review of the process that led to a partnership between UNEP and Google Earth. Following the success of the UNEP Atlas *One Planet Many People*, UNEP approached Google to consider a partnership. UNEP provided the content for the website, while Google assisted with the outreach. Singh noted that images are particularly compelling to the human mind and helped to connect evidence of environmental change with the public. Singh provided a virtual demonstration of Google Earth and the UNEP input into the content, and noted its success, as 300 million people have already downloaded Google Earth. The “featured content” was especially popular, and contained UNEP input, but making the information available so users could personalize it for their own requirements remained a key future challenge.

Discussion

A question and answer session followed, focused on the impact of the work, and how the partnership between Google Earth and UNEP might stimulate action. Singh commented that it was much easier to convince people to take action once the factual evidence of environmental change was presented, as in the Iraq 2001 wetlands study. Questions were also raised regarding availability of outreach and educational materials, to which Singh commented that Google had run a campaign for involving school-teachers, and packages were developed to distribute to school deans.

4. Globalization and Environment: Mobilizing Finance to Meet the Climate Challenge

Two keynote presentations were made on the main substantive item on the agenda of the Ministerial Forum: *Globalization and Environment: Mobilizing Finance to Meet the Climate Challenge*.

4.1 Keynote Presentation: Lisa Petrovic, UNEPFI

Lisa Petrovic, of the UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI) introduced participants to this public-private partnership between UNEP and more than 160 financial institutions worldwide, including commercial and development banks and insurance and re-insurance companies. She discussed the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), and explained that the UNEP mission was to promote sustainable finance. She added that the working group on climate change has 20 members who review the risks and opportunities for the finance sector in relation to climate change. UNEP FI has written a number of technical papers, including a landmark study in 2002, on the financial implications of climate change.

Petrovic noted that climate change will create both investment opportunities and risks, and that there is now a wealth of information available on the topic, with numerous studies on the economics of climate change such as the Stern Review, and the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as a recent report of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), providing an in-depth analysis of the investment flows required to stabilize emissions at a reasonable level.

Petrovic then provided a brief overview of the key scientific findings on climate change from three major reports, including the IPCC report which highlights that greenhouse gas emissions are the highest in the past 650,000 years. And according to the Stern Review, average global temperatures would rise by 2-3 degrees in the next 50 years if we continue to follow current trends. The Stern review also showed that a 5-6 degree warming would result in an annual loss of 5-10% of GDP, and would be worse for developing countries. The UNFCCC 2007 report on finance was summarized, which noted in particular the key role of the private sector, and a need to engage other stakeholders given the limits of government resources. She emphasized the urgent need for mitigation and action now rather than in 20-30 years, while also noting the importance of addressing adaptation issues in policy discussions.

Petrovic summarized the finance sector's current response to the climate challenge, and noted a rapidly expanding carbon market, with US \$30 billion in carbon equivalent traded in 2006, three times more than 2005. She also noted that cleantech investment and energy efficiency were rapidly growing sectors. Petrovic discussed various financial products addressing climate change, such as the Barclaycard "Breathe" programme, where 50% of their Environment Credit Card's net profits go towards climate change projects. Petrovic noted that many companies believe it important to reduce their own carbon footprints before dealing with their clients, as illustrated by HSBC, the first bank to go carbon neutral. She concluded with a call for regulatory certainty post-Kyoto for the business community and long-term investors, and policies that would create incentives to change behaviour.

4.2 Keynote Presentation: Lily Donge, Calvert

The second keynote speaker was Lily Donge from Calvert Asset Management Company. Donge emphasized that shareholders, brokers, and financial markets are currently debating climate finance, and that this is an opportune moment for civil society to voice their opinions on these issues. Donge explained that there was a high rate of growth in sustainable investment funds, noting that Calvert Alternative Energy Fund had grown from 2 million to 50 million over the past five years, with a 20% rate of return, and that there was a lot of money to be made given the increasing "green" wave of investment. Donge noted that climate finance is a key issue, and that a climate fund is launched every week in Europe. She highlighted, however, that businesses invest when policy signals are supportive, reiterating Petrovic's comments on the need for a post-2012 policy and regulatory framework. She emphasized that the sector is performance driven, and if funds in such areas were not successful, investors would be likely to return to traditional energy investment funds. In conclusion, she emphasized that private capital ultimately follows the best return, and that an enabling policy environment can significantly influence this process.

4.3 Discussion on Globalization and Environment: Mobilizing Finance to Meet the Climate Challenge

Participants raised questions about the role of voluntary carbon markets. The panel responded by saying that investment would be unlikely to be channeled into a voluntary market on a sufficient scale. Two specific questions were raised concerning the degree to which civil society has a voice in determining the direction of investments in mobilizing finance to address climate change, and the degree to which these investments are equitable and meeting the needs of the poor or disadvantaged. Several participants raised concerns that business and industry were getting too much of a voice, and queried the definition of civil society, debating the merits of combining private and public interest organizations in such forums. Issues of corporate responsibility also arose, in the context of encouraging investors to make investments that were not only profitable but also responsible in the long-term. Lisa Petrovic noted that the PRI aimed to tackle this, and that companies were thinking a lot more about the sustainability of their investments. Speakers highlighted that financial decision-making was based on profitability, therefore civil society needed to show that sustainable options could be profitable over the long term.

5. Major Groups Roundtable Discussion

The keynote presentations were followed by a Major Groups roundtable discussion, preceded by opening comments from five panelists.

5.1 Mike Eckhart, American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE)

Mike Eckhart provided a summary of ACORE and its approximately 500 members and 11 full-time staff members. Eckhart noted that around 20% of all capital being invested in the energy sphere is in renewable energy, but this capital is not flowing to developing countries. Similarly, whilst \$100 billion was invested in clean energy in 2004 (increasing by 15-20% per year), almost all of this investment was directed to developed countries. Eckhart highlighted a key challenge of diverting these investment flows to developing countries, alongside the need to set big goals, as significant financing will only be mobilized through a compelling vision and business plan.

5.2 Violet Ford, Inuit Circumpolar Council

Violet Ford introduced participants to the Inuit Circumpolar Council, an organization that represents 155,000 Inuit across the world, and the people of the Arctic. She welcomed the attention to climate change but expressed that the Inuit People had been alerted to this over 30 years ago. Ford highlighted inequality in the power of major groups, noting that those with greater financial resources are often more influential. In this context, the Inuit have found it very difficult to obtain financial support, as they are based in developed countries, and therefore do not meet the criteria for capacity building grants. On this note, Ford highlighted that some groups regularly fall through the funding “cracks” and are thus left out of the dialogue on issues such as emerging carbon markets and mobilizing finance to address climate change. Ford emphasized the unique challenges posed for Inuit groups, as the IPCC fourth assessment noted that the Arctic would be disproportionately affected by climate change.

5.3 Rebecca Pearl, Women’s Environment and Development Organization

Rebecca Pearl of the Women’s Environment and Development Organization focused on the gendered impacts of climate change, noting that in all disasters, women are often disproportionately affected. She explained that men and women hold different responsibilities and play different roles in their communities, with women typically in higher poverty, with greater mortality rates and discrimination in resource access. In times of disasters, such inequalities are further exacerbated.

Pearl made several recommendations on how to finance an equitable climate change solution. As a prerequisite to responding to climate change and its impacts, Pearl suggested an urgent need to recognize gender equality, an increase in women’s access to climate friendly technologies, and the financing of women’s green entrepreneurial initiatives. Regarding carbon markets, she argued that the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is not benefiting the poorest, particularly women. Pearl also called on participants to encourage recognition of the role of women in adaptation measures, noting that they were disproportionately affected by climate change. Finally, she highlighted the need for capacity building and technology transfer measures that reflect the priorities of women and poor communities.

5.4 David Foster, Blue-Green Alliance

David Foster, the Executive Director of the Blue-Green Alliance (a partnership between the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club) offered a trade union and labor perspective, noting that markets are imperfect in dealing with global warming. The Stern report noted that climate change is the greatest market failure the world has ever seen, and that it compounds other market imperfections. Foster said that the United Steelworkers and Sierra Club both supported the ratification of the Kyoto agreement, but recognized the need to develop a more effective international framework to move forward.

5.5 Andrew Deutz, Nature Conservancy

Andrew Deutz of the Nature Conservancy addressed the relative costs of mitigation versus adaptation to climate change. He explained that the cost of mitigation to the economy was around 1-3.5% of GDP, whereas the cost of adaptation was in the tens of billions of dollars a year. He emphasized that the key challenge of resourcing funds for adaptation remained, as there was no existing pool of money to use for adaptation, and current ODA flows are an imperfect vehicle.

Deutz proposed possible scenarios for adaptation post-2012, including an increase in the amount of foreign aid aimed at adaptation, and adaptation funds based on the clean development mechanism (CDM), or a 2% tax on global carbon credits which could generate \$1-3.5 billion (assuming a carbon market at 25 times the current ETS levels). He explained that a current legislative proposal in the US senate could create a cap and trade regime in the USA. Deutz argued there was also a need for effective private sector mechanisms to drive funding for adaptation to the poorest of the poor.

5.6 Roundtable Discussion

The five presentations were followed by a lively discussion among consultation participants. The discussion highlighted deficiencies in the international decision making process, including that most private and multilateral funding bodies are male-dominated and conversely that the concerns of women at the community level were all too often ignored. Participants also discussed the role that consumer power could play in influencing decision making and outcomes. Some participants pointed out that civil society could influence long-term profitability, and thus investment decisions, by advocating for public spending on research to develop green technology with marketable applications. Also, the importance of providing green-collar jobs was highlighted.

Participants emphasized the importance of assigning monetary value to ecological services provided by nature, such as climate regulation, noting that the costs and benefits of environmental services continue to be hidden and that incisive research would make it easier for civil society as well as policymakers to make better informed choices.

Youth representatives suggested that the issue of education for youth was extremely important but often overlooked. They also added that the youth constituency urgently needs to be brought into discussions given their future role in society. It was also suggested that sustainability issues in formal education in North America needs to be given greater attention, but also that educational materials should be available also to other age groups to bridge education gaps.

Some participants expressed a frustration with the current weaknesses in the civil society engagement process, particularly the lack of translation of the outcomes of discussion in these meetings into policy or action. They also emphasized the need to address the fundamental issue of improving equity and justice for all stakeholders in climate change debates and in the dialogue over the most effective mechanisms to raise financing to address this challenge.

A number of participants expressed doubt that a consensus on issues could be found across the 9 major groups due to significant inequalities and access to resources across them, raising the fear of major group “ghettoization”. Participants suggested that emphasis should be placed on finding common ground, not dividing efforts. Some felt that the institutions involved already had their own biases, while others felt they had very limited ability to take part in the climate change negotiations due to a lack of funding. It was recognized that greater integration across major groups was required. Although they often do not hold the same values, it was important to find common ground across these groups wherever possible, given the importance of the environmental issue at hand.

6. Introduction to UNEP’s Medium Term Strategy (MTS) and Discussion

The second day of the consultation focused on a review of two UNEP processes—the Medium Term Strategy (MTS) and the proposed guidelines for improving civil society input into UNEP processes.

The session commenced with a teleconference briefing from John Scanlon, Special Advisor to the Executive Director. He explained why the MTS was being prepared and the process undertaken. Scanlon explained that the MTS was being prepared following a resolution passed by the Governing Council in February 2007, which obliged the Executive Director of UNEP to prepare a MTS for 2010-2013, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to UNEP’s Governing Council.

A CPR working group was created to lead this process, which authorized a consultative process beyond the CPR, including civil society and the private sector. A first draft outline of the strategy has been produced for internal review. Preparation of a first full draft will come shortly, with a view to having a final draft ready for endorsement in Monaco in February 2008.

Participants were briefed on the MTS' purpose as a high level strategic document of approximately 15 pages, offering a background on the current state of the global environment and major trends, and setting out a vision of what UNEP will be like by 2013. The MTS will also outline key priorities and objectives for each of six identified issue priorities: 1) climate change, 2) ecosystem management, 3) environmental governance, 4) hazardous substances, 5) natural disasters and post-conflict, and 6) resource efficiency (encompassing sustainable consumption and production). In addition, the MTS emphasizes the role of UNEP as the hub on a wheel, engaging with many partners in UNEP's decision making process and in the implementation of the strategy.

Discussion

One participant asked whether education and the Marrakesh process on consumption and production were incorporated in the MTS. Scanlon responded that provisions on awareness raising and resource efficiency addressed these issues respectively, and that the document specifically endorsed and supported the Marrakesh process.

Questions were also raised regarding the breakdown of the budget. Scanlon commented that the emphasis was placed on mobilizing contributions to the "environment fund," with a view towards minimizing earmarked contributions.

Representatives from the business community commented that they supported the results-based management approach of the MTS, as it reflected norms in the business community and should enhance UNEP's ability to improve the effectiveness of implementation. Scanlon emphasized that the MTS represented a move towards ensuring UNEP's program of work was entirely results-based, supporting global processes towards improving aid effectiveness. He also noted that UNEP was moving away from sub-programmes linked to particular UNEP divisions, but was instead emphasizing sub-programmes tied directly to stated results.

Responding to a question about authorship, Scanlon informed the participants that the input and comments on the draft MTS were drawn from throughout UNEP and Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) secretariats, but that UNEP's strategic implementation team (headed by Scanlon) was the lead author of the strategy.

7. Review of Discussion Paper on "Guidelines for Improving the Global Civil Society Forum Cycle".

A review of the paper entitled "Guidelines for Improving the Global Civil Society Forum Cycle" was facilitated by Tom Hammond and Melanie Nakagawa, in their capacity as UNEP Civil Society Global Steering Committee Members. Hilary French first provided background on civil society interaction with UNEP over the last six to 10 years. She explained the first Global Civil Society Forum was held in Malmö, Sweden in February 2000, and that the process has become increasingly formalized since then, with regional meetings providing input into the global process. In recent years, each of the regional meetings produced statements that contributed to the development of a global civil society statement for presentation to the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

Hammond and Nakagawa summarized the "Guidelines" paper and its key recommendations. Hammond explained that the current strategy recognized geographical balance but neglected major group representation. A proposed scenario of a "9+12 model" for the committee was suggested, with 12 regional representatives (two from each region) alongside one representative from each of the nine major groups. Each of the major groups would conduct their own process to select a facilitating body and representative. It is expected that this strategy will help to improve the balance between regional and major group representation, and allow the identification of individuals best able to represent the views of each major group.

The guidelines also recognized that a global statement diluted the diversity of views aired at the regional meetings. Instead, it was proposed that each of the nine major groups would be free to produce their own statement, with cross-collaboration encouraged wherever appropriate. In addition, the guidelines suggested that steering committee representatives should hold a two-year position instead of the current one-year post to promote greater continuity.

Discussion

In the ensuing discussion, one participant suggested referring to the example of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), which was reported to be a successful model for major group engagement, although it was also noted that the business sector as one of the major stakeholders withdrew from the process.

Several participants stressed the fundamental need to improve equity in the consultation process, and ensure equitable outcomes given that some major groups have fewer resources. It was suggested that the private sector often dominates due to influence and access to resources. Attendees stressed that participation must be equitable and fair, not just in terms of participation, but also in terms of the resulting outcomes. The group agreed there was an urgent need for funding and resources to be made available for the more disadvantaged or underrepresented major groups (such as indigenous people and youth), so that they could mobilize and have a voice at the table beyond the UNEP policy and decision-making processes. In response, the co-facilitators said they would recommend that additional funding be made available to proactively assist more disadvantaged groups.

With reference to developing statements, participants highlighted the potential risk associated with presenting too many statements to the GC/GMEF. Several commentators felt that partnerships between groups and joint statements would be useful and should be encouraged. Participants noted that it was crucial for groups to think strategically in terms of partnerships to convey common goals and ideals rather than focusing on their individual group's interests.

They also expressed concern that the topics were technically complex and difficult to process in the short time frame, and thus noted that advance provision and discussion of material would be beneficial. Hammond suggested maximizing use of existing innovations in ICT, such as an online web forum or discussion area where participants could access resources in advance and exchange ideas prior to the conference, but suggested that such a system would need to be effectively moderated.

Participants emphasized that civil society did not have proactive input into the agenda setting process, and noted a disconnect between their input and resulting policy formation and action. They stressed an absolute need to move into collaborative implementation and action, rather than just process consultation, to ensure that civil society remained engaged.

8. Closing Session and Adjournment

Hilary French thanked participants on behalf of UNEP, and expressed her appreciation to the co-facilitators for their work over the past year. She added that any further suggestions for improvements or feedback on the meeting and the process could be sent to her at hf@rona.unep.org. Melanie Nakagawa and Tom Hammond reiterated French's thanks and commented that they greatly appreciated all the input provided by the participants. They summarized key issues and recommendations that had emerged from the discussions. (See Executive Summary above.) Hammond then informed participants that a summary would be circulated for comment, but in the meantime any comments or questions could be submitted to civil.society@unep.org and handled by the major groups and stakeholders branch in Nairobi. Evaluation forms were distributed to all participants and the meeting was closed.

West Asia Regional Consultative Meeting in preparation for the Ninth Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the Tenth Special Session of Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Manama, Bahrain, 11- 14 November 2007

Introduction

West Asia Civil Societies would like to express their appreciation to UNEP and UNEP ROWA for the invitation to participate in The Regional Consultation Meeting for West Asia in preparation for the 9th Global Civil Society Forum and 10th Special Session of the Governing council held in Manama from 11 to 14 November 2007. About 20 participants contributed in the meeting representing different NGOs in different areas with gender and sub-regional balance.

The theme of the consultation was "Globalization and the Environment: Mobilizing Finance to meet the Climate Challenge". The meeting also discussed the UNEP Medium Term Strategy; the Guidelines for Enhancing Major Group's Participation at UNEP's Governance Level, and the Global Environment Outlook (GEO 4) report.

GEO 4

Civil Societies of West Asia appreciate the presentation of GEO 4 and thank UNEP for giving them the opportunity to discuss it. CSOs requested UNEP to elaborate on the role expected of them and whether their participation is anticipated only in marketing and making use of the existing report or if they will play an active role in the preparation of the new report. It was agreed that CSOs are different in their line of work, capabilities and possible roles.

Raising Awareness:

- Civil Societies of West Asia request UNEP to organize more workshops for CSOs to understand the GEO report and how to participate actively in the process of generating the report
- Civil Societies of West Asia request UNEP to work towards a wider public awareness at the global, regional, and local levels.
- Civil Societies of West Asia believe that more emphasis should be put on equity in collaboration with government and private sector.
- Civil Societies of West Asia encourage themselves and other NGOs to work as pressure groups on governments. Support is needed for the few CSOs in the region that play the role of pressure groups. This should encourage other CSOs to collaborate in this line.

Capacity building:

- Civil Societies of West Asia suggest improving networking between major groups and building a coalition of CSOs for collective action under one umbrella
- Civil Societies of West Asia strongly believe that capacity building is complementary to raising awareness, therefore urge UNEP to help the relevant CSOs combine theory with hands on experience and how they can use this information on the ground.
- CSOs urged UNEP to support their efforts to save the environment in their regions through provision of technical support, references and expertise to make their effort more efficient and productive.

The civil societies ensure the need for developing the Arab Environment Outlook "AEO" in order to have an integrated environmental assessment

Potential role:

- Civil Societies of West Asia support an integrated approach where priority is to establish partnerships between CSOs and UNEP to support the outreach of GEO
- Civil Societies of West Asia need to be supported to raise funds for implementation of projects that also promote the dissemination of the GEO findings and concentrate on effectiveness of programmes
- Civil Societies of West Asia agree that GEO key findings need to be communicated to specific target groups. They should be customized and messages to address different target audiences can be in form of booklets, cartoons, etc.). Some CSOs can help in this process in collaboration with UNEP to make them available for all the other CSOs in the Arab region.
- Civil Societies of West Asia suggest to UNEP that regional perspective of poverty, accessibility to clean water, areas under occupation particular in West Asia should be taken into account.
- Civil Societies of West Asia finds GEO 4 a credible UN report which can be used for more active and efficient participation by their governments, and decision makers such as the Parliament
- Civil Societies of West Asia can facilitate the process by being a focal point to support outreach activities – need to be recognized as real partner by UNEP / stakeholder to be part of the decision-making process in the GEO process (e.g. priority issues setting)

Civil Societies of West Asia urge CSOs, UNEP and governments to work together towards Strengthening Data and Information for Environmental Assessment.**Mobilizing Finance to meet the Climate Challenge**

Civil Societies of West Asia acknowledge the challenges for meeting the mitigation and adaptation costs will require addressing the question: how to create enabling environment to address issues such as, use of greener technologies, find alternative sources of energy, energy efficiency / green building, agriculture / alternative production, disaster management and water issues.

We identify cross-cutting issues such as, increase knowledge base, research and development, networking, setting up of regulatory frameworks and technology transfer and capacity building along the principles of the Bali Strategic Plan.

West Asia Civil Societies support achieving multiple environmental objectives and avoid unintended environmental consequences through adaptation measures for the transition to a low carbon economy by strengthening the institutional framework, ensure proper monitoring of implementation, and accountability

Civil Societies of West Asia support wealth generation and poverty eradication through implementing adaptation measures like mobilizing private sector for sustainable low carbon economy and encouraging ecotourism and sustainable tourism; CSR; and Green building

UNEP Medium Term Strategy

Civil Societies of West Asia have the following views on UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2010 - 2013 (Environment for Development):

Climate change

Civil Societies of West Asia suggest to UNEP to deal with the issue of climate change through the following means:

- Addressing the root causes instead of mitigating and adapting
- Transfer of clean technology as one means of reducing the impacts of climate change: issue of equilibrium between developed and developing countries

- Public awareness raising and capacity building: important in priority setting for addressing the basic needs of the communities
- Incite the private sector to invest in the Green technologies, renewable energy and carbon trading, etc.
- Setting up of the legislation: consolidate / initiate / enhance the legislation to address climate change – taxes and incentives in place

Ecosystem management

Civil Societies of West Asia acknowledge that the issue of ecosystem management needs our special attention and believe that prevention is better than cure, therefore linkages between population increase and ecosystem services should be noticed, and equitable benefits distribution considered. CSOs expressed great concern towards the loss of marine ecosystems due to dredging and reclamation processes. We also encourage sustainable use of resources and implementation of land use and coastal zones management legislation.

Environmental Governance

Civil Societies of West Asia support restructuring UNEP to become an Organization not a programme in order for it to be the regulatory body for the environment. CSOs also expressed their hope that UNEP will develop and strengthen its support to the CSOs.

Civil Societies of West Asia call upon the GC to assess and evaluate the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) in the context of the UN Reform i.e. restructuring the CPR, and in providing technical and scientific leadership

Civil Societies of West Asia urge the governments to consider CSOs as equal partners to achieve sustainable development and to consider environmental issues as human rights issues.

Hazardous substances

- Civil Societies of West Asia call upon governments to enforce international treaties that prohibit dumping hazardous wastes and to stop developed countries using either the deficiencies of developing countries legislations or by violating international treaties; we urge GC to take punitive measures and severe penalties
- Civil Societies of West Asia call upon UNEP to build capacities of CSOs to handle the enforcement and monitoring, including proper disposal of E-waste in West Asia
- CSOs of WA call upon UNEP to study the current situation of hazardous substances in critical areas of the Region such as Iraq

Environmental dimension of disasters and conflicts

- Civil Societies of West Asia call upon all nations to arrive to peaceful conflict resolutions and avoid armed conflicts and weapons trafficking
- The Region voices its concern in respect of the use of depleted uranium, cluster bombs that affect the vulnerable, the needy, etc. This is a major concern in the Region and GC should take note of the situation.
- Disaster warning system is needed in the region, and information also made available to CSOs to play their awareness role
- Civil Societies of West Asia call for strong measure to define responsibility and accountability of environmental destruction related to wars and armed conflicts
- Civil Societies of West Asia acknowledge that in the issue of conflict, environment always loses out against security: environment insecurity is equally important
- Civil Societies of West Asia call upon the international community to undertake post-conflict assessment;
- Civil Societies of West Asia recognize UNEP's initiative in producing desk study for Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon.
- CSOs also call upon UNEP to initiate a mechanism to attach a unified price tag to each type of environmental damage (e.g. loss of a 1M³ of coral reef or chemical pollution of 1M³ of drinking water or loss of 1 hectare of trees) regardless of nationality of the owner.
- Civil Societies of West Asia call upon UNEP to initiate a mechanism for defining fines to be paid by the aggressor, and training CSOs in the region in environmental valuation.

- Civil Societies of West Asia call upon UNEP to initiate a process to define and deal with Environmental crimes (e.g. in Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon)
- Civil Societies of West Asia stress the fact that war is a global issue imposed on the West Asia Region and it also has global consequences which must be met by the whole world.

Resource efficiency – sustainable consumption and production

Resource efficiency is a first priority in West Asia, therefore we have the following views on this subject:

- Civil Societies of West Asia encourage the private sector to invest in use of greener alternatives for energy sources and establishment of energy efficiency mechanisms.
- Civil Societies of West Asia urge governments, CSOs in the region and the public to promote Intra-regional trade which represents less than 10% of trade: activate pan-Arab treaties
- Civil Societies of West Asia call upon UNEP to promote cleaner production centre as well as programmes that were adapted in most regions except in West Asia
- Civil Societies of West Asia urge governments of the region to allocate sufficient resources to further encourage regional R&D centres and to encourage transfer of knowledge and technology from developed countries to developing countries and to encourage success stories and best practices to be replicated in the region.
- Civil Societies of West Asia call for Governments of the region to impose incentives and disincentives for efficient use of energy and water
- CSOs of West Asia urged the Governments to support the private sector initiatives for sustainable consumption and production.
- CSOs of West Asia urge governments and the private sector in the region to make substantive investment in research and studies in this field.
- CSOs of West Asia urge governments and the private sector in the region to make substantive investment in public awareness and preparing consumers to play their role in sustainable consumption and promote sustainable production

General comments

- Civil Societies of West Asia call upon UNEP and GC to consider local, social and cultural value systems of the region.
- Civil Societies of West Asia stress that raising public awareness is essential in all the above issues.
- Civil Societies of West Asia stress that capacity building on all levels, CSOs, governments, and public must take place to improve behavior and professional attitude towards the environment

Guidelines

The meeting unanimously voted for the adoption of the main recommendation as contained in the Guidelines, for the Nine+12 Model. This enables all the 9 major groups to participate actively in the cycle and increase the efficiency of the work.

Overall Conclusion

- The problem of climate change is of a global scope and needs a collective response; economic assessments say that the cost of not taking action will be higher than the cost of preventive measures.
- It is important for the international community to apply the principle of common responsibility with regards to climate change.

- In dealing with climate change, it is important for the international community to address the root causes and not just the mitigating and adapting measures
 - Introduction and implementation of, economic, institutional and legal reforms are needed for improvements in energy efficiency and the development of alternative energies.
 - Addressing the climate change will generate benefits that are environmental, economic and social in terms of job creation, improved balance of payments and incentives for local industry and communities.
 - UNEP has to continue supporting the efforts of civil society organizations to strengthen their capabilities and consolidate their participation, all through training activities on national and regional scale. More consultation and communication with the CSOs in the region will help in pushing this process forward.
 - Civil Societies of West Asia urge UNEP to appreciate the difficult situation that people and resources in West Asia region live under because of wars and forced occupation.
-