

**REPORT OF THE AFRICAN CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATIVE MEETING HELD FROM  
21-23 OCTOBER 2007 IN CAIRO, EGYPT.**

**Introduction:**

1. The African Civil Society Consultative meeting was held from 21-23 October 2007 at the Workers' University Hotel in Cairo, Egypt and hosted by the Federation of Trade Unions of Agriculture, Irrigation Fishing and Allied Workers in the Nile Basin Countries commonly referred to as the Nile Basin Federation (NBF). This meeting was one of the six regional meetings organized by UNEP to prepare for the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF), that will be held in February 2008, prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Session of UNEP's Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF). The regional and global civil society forums are critical processes in the effort to incorporate all important stakeholders in shaping UNEP's agenda.
2. This report first gives background information on the regional civil society consultative meetings and then detailed description of the main discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the African civil society consultative meeting.
3. Attached to the present report you will find, among other relevant documents, the African Civil Society Statement, the list of participants, the agenda and the evaluation of the meeting.

**Regional Civil Society Consultative meetings**

4. The Regional Civil Society Consultative meetings are the main entry point for civil society and major groups participation at the governance level in UNEP's work. The regional consultative processes allow for coordinated and coherent inputs from civil society from the different regions of the world. The regional consultative meeting for the African region took place from 21-23 October 2007 in Cairo, Egypt and was hosted by the Nile Basin Federation.
5. By nature, civil society organizations are a critical source of experience and knowledge regarding the development and implementation of local, national and regional strategies for sustainable development. Therefore, prior to the Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF), each UNEP regional office facilitates a regional civil society consultative meeting to come up with a common position. UNEP provides discussion or background documents based on the key subjects of discussion during the UNEP Governing Council to facilitate

meaningful dialogue among the participants. Each region eventually develops a regional statement to be delivered to the Governing Council. This consultative meeting also serves as a means for UNEP's regional offices to strengthen relationships with civil society organizations.

### **Ninth Global Civil Society Forum (9<sup>th</sup> GCSF)**

6. The regional and global civil society forums are critical processes in the effort to incorporate all important stakeholders in shaping UNEP's agenda. This process is particularly relevant to UNEP's Regional Office for Africa (ROA), in enhancing the effectiveness of the delivery of the UNEP programme of work in Africa.
7. Globalization and the Environment: Mobilizing Finance to meet the Climate Challenge; UNEP Medium Term Strategy; the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4) and options for "Enhancing Major Groups participation at UNEP's Governance Level" were key topics for discussion during the regional consultative meeting as they are the key subjects for the UNEP Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Civil Society Forum that will be held in February 2008 in Monaco.

### **Opening Ceremony:**

8. The African Civil Society consultative meeting was hosted by the Nile Basin Federation from 21 to 23 October 2007 at the Workers' University Hotel in Cairo, Egypt. In his welcoming remarks, Eng. Mohamed Abdel-Halim, the Secretary-General of the Nile Basin Federation (NBF) welcomed the participants to Cairo and drew their attention to the importance of this meeting, which was aimed at getting the African civil society organizations' views, in preparation for the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Civil Society Forum that will be held in February 2008 in Monaco, in the margins of the UNEP GC/GMEF.
9. He noted that Africa is one of the most effected regions in the world by the climatic changes and its impact on agriculture and fishing. He mentioned that at the end of the past century and the beginning of this one, many countries in the African region had experienced serious floods, while some other African countries suffered from drought. He stressed that climatic changes had an equal impact on both the rich and the poor countries. He stressed civil society organizations need to work together towards protecting the environment and work towards finding solutions for the challenges associated with climate change.

10. In his remarks Dr. Mohamed Abdel-Monem, on behalf of the Director for UNEP's Regional Office for Africa (ROA) welcomed the participants and expressed his deep appreciation to the Nile Basin Federation for hosting this important event. He explained the objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting. He stressed the important role of the civil society organizations in contributing to the coming Governing Council next year. He observed that over the last three decades, UNEP has established strong linkages with the civil society organizations and other major groups and networks and that continuing to engage civil society in the work of UNEP is essential.
11. He highlighted that over the last months major changes in the climate change debate have been witnessed with the release of three new reports of the International Panel on Climate Change, which show that human induced climate change is a reality. No one can escape from climate change and more importantly it cannot be solved unless everyone including the civil society joins forces to address the challenges.
12. He added that UNEP is committed to enhancing strategically its collaboration with major groups and civil society through a greater commitment and a more systematic approach to partnerships and strategic dialogues. Improvements in the engagement of major groups in UNEP's work and in the interaction between major groups and governments have been made over the years. However, there remain challenges in enhancing this collaboration, through a more continuous engagement and a more targeted approach to participation.
13. Following the opening ceremony, the participants elected the meeting officers and went through the items on the meeting agenda which were adopted. Copy of the agenda is attached to this report as an annex.
14. Following are detailed excerpts from the main discussions and proceedings which took place during the three-day African Civil Society Consultative Meeting.

#### **Overview of UNEP's 4<sup>th</sup> Global Environment outlook Assessment (GEO-4)**

15. In his presentation Mr. Charles Sebukeera, Division for Early Warning & Assessment (DEWA)-UNEP gave an overview of UNEP's 4<sup>th</sup> Global Environment Outlook Assessment (GEO-4) which is considered one of the most important reports that UNEP prepares. He mentioned that there were more than 1,500 scientists from different regions of the world who had participated in preparing the report. He also stressed the key conceptual issues

underpinning the GEO-4 assessment as related to environment and human-well being. He also mentioned the status and trends of the global environment – focusing on UNEP priority programmatic areas: climate change, ecosystem management, chemicals and disasters. The GEO-4 report contains the Following items chapters: 1- Environment for Development, 2- Atmosphere, 3- Lands, 4-Water, 5-Biodiversity, 6- sustaining a common future, 7-Vulnerability of people and the Environment Challenges and opportunities, 8- Interlinkages: Governance for Sustainability, 9- The Future today, 10- Options for Actions.

16. Mr. Sebukeera stated that the report highlights that Africa is not badly off. Africa still has resources and the whole world is looking at the continent, for example more than 60% of gold, oil and uranium are available in Africa and there is a need to guard these assets. However, the report also indicated that Africa still has challenges- Climate change due to lack of coping /adaptation capacities. As a result, for example, Lake Chad has dried up affecting livelihoods of fishing communities. Land degradation is another challenge. Unsustainable agricultural practices are leading to loss of Biodiversity.
17. The report also takes note of lack of enforcement of Multi-lateral agreements to protect the environment. Coastal and marine resources are being depleted at an alarming rate. Coastal communities need to protect the seas which are a source of biodiversity/ fish. There is also lack of freshwater, diminishing Hydro- power potential and increased vulnerability due to the effects of climate change. The issue of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and air pollution, especially in the urban areas is causing deaths to many people in the region.
18. Mr. Sebukeera highlighted the key messages of GEO-4 including the fact that the world has changed and with it has come new challenges and emerging issues. Some of these include, among others:
  - Genetically modified crops- no adequate policies to protect our people;
  - Alien species e.g. water hyacinth;
  - Chemicals- obsolete pesticides;
  - Conflicts in Africa displacing people-refugees and stressing ecosystems;
  - Bad policies by the policy makers - innovations are not being supported by policy
  - Globalization is further causing climate change

19. Mr. Sebukeera continued his presentation by stressing that the civil society and the major groups in general have a role to play towards the resolution of the above challenges. Some of the recommendations are found in chapter 10 of the GEO-4 report. These include the civil society helping in disseminating the findings of GEO-4 as well as coming up with innovative and practical solutions to some of the challenges. In addition, the civil society can act as lobbyists like was the case in Uganda, where there was a proposal to clear part of the forest for sugarcane growing, which was opposed by the civil society groups.

**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 and Environment**

20. 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.
21. A number of presentations were made related to this topic. In his presentation, Sami Kamel, Senior Economist/Carbon Finance Coordinator, UNEP RISOE Centre focused on the issue of Carbon finance and CDM, the global carbon market, how it works and how it fits as a tool for climate change mitigation. He also elaborated on how to access the finance required for adapting to change, especially for countries that are most vulnerable. Finally he looked at hoe to achieve multiple environmental objectives and avoid unintended environmental consequences, through the transition and through adaptation measures.
22. In his presentation, Mr. John Kimani from the African Energy Policy Research Network (AFREPEN) highlighted the case for a sustainable "low" carbon economy in Africa, including examples of where "low" carbon economy approaches have worked in Africa

and what were the sustainable policy and regulatory measures that were necessary for success. He also dwelt on identifying linkages to wealth generation and poverty eradication through the transition to a "sustainable" low carbon economy".

23. The presentations were followed by a question and answer session and thereafter the participants were divided into two working groups.

**Group discussions on "Globalization and the Environment: Mobilizing Finance to meet the Climate Challenge and its links to poverty alleviation Management**

24. The participants were divided into two groups with one group looking at the issue of Mitigation and the other group looking at the issue of Adaptation in the context of mobilizing finance to meet the challenge of climate change and its links to poverty alleviation. The two groups looked at mitigation and adaptation by considering the following issues:

- a. Background – definition of mitigation and adaptation respectively;
- b. Key issues related to mitigation and adaptation;
- c. Mitigation and adaptation activities;
- d. Mobilizing Finance to address mitigation and adaptation issues
  - Sources of finance
  - Utilization of finance
- e. Elements for message to UNEP special session (key issues and recommendations)

Both groups then deliberated on the findings of the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) process looking at the following issues:

- a. Background – on process
- b. Key issues related to GEO process
- c. Civil society involvement in GEO process
- d. Elements for message to UNEP special session (key issues and recommendations)

**Introduction to UNEP Medium Term Strategy and discussion**

25. The session was to introduce the UNEP's Medium Term strategy for the period 2010 – 2013 and provide an opportunity to discuss the strategy in the context of emerging and current challenges in the environment field. After the decision of the UNEP Governing Council in February 2007, UNEP has been engaging the permanent representatives, other stakeholders as well as holding discussions with the civil society organizations, and will have even more consultations to explain this process.

26. The UNEP Medium Term Strategy for the period 2010-2013 was introduced to the participants via a teleconference from the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. Conference call was conducted by Mr. John Scanlon, the Strategic Implementation Team (SIT) Team Leader and Special Advisor on Policy and Operational Matters to the Executive Director of UNEP. 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. In response the participants recommended that for future purposes, UNEP circulates such information beforehand so that meaningful dialogue can take place. They also recommended that the role of civil society and major groups is clearly articulated in the document especially with regard to implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan.
27. The teleconference session was followed by a presentation by Eng. Mohamed Abdel-Halim, the Secretary-General of the Nile Basin Federation. He explained the role of the Federation towards addressing environmental problems that face many countries in the African continent, especially in the countries where the Nile Basin Federation is present. He mentioned that the Federation has a certain policy that calls for raising awareness and building the capacity of its members regarding environmental conservation. He also mentioned that the Federation has been participating in promoting UNEP'S one billion tree campaign in Africa.

#### **Election of African Representatives to the GCSF**

28. The next agenda item was the selection of four representatives to attend the Global Civil Society Forum and the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2008 in Monaco. The following is detailed table of the results of the selection process.

Country	Name	votes
Egypt	Eng./Mohamed Abdel-halim	12
Kenya	Dr. Dorcas Otieno	7
Kenya	Ms. Margaret Koli	9
Kenya	Prof. Michael K. Koech	5
Zimbabwe	Ms. Mildred Mkandla	15
Kenya	Mr. John Kimani Kirari	6
Togo	Mr. Mensah Todzro	16
Mauritius	Mr. Rajen Awotar	6

Therefore, Mr. Mensah Todzoro of Togo, Mrs. Mildred Mkandla of Zimbabwe, Eng. Mohamed Abdel-Halim of Egypt and Ms. Margret Koli from Kenya will represent the African region the Global Civil Society Forum and the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2008 in Monaco.

### **Closing Ceremony**

29. Eng. Halim of Nile Basin Federation, expressed his gratitude for the successful completion of the meeting. He encouraged participants to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by UNEP and fully participate in the work of UNEP. He called for the launching of more environmental multi-stakeholder partnerships.
  
30. Mr. Mohamed Abdel-Monem, again on behalf of the Director, UNEP's Regional Office for Africa, thanked the Nile Basin Federation for its efforts in hosting and organizing the meeting in Cairo, and concluded by declaring his personal appreciation for the participants' hard work over the three-day meeting.

### **Annexes:**

- I. The African Civil Society Statement
- II. Final List of Participants
- III. Final Agenda of Work

## **ANNEX I**

**AFRICAN MAJOR GROUPS STATEMENT**  
**to the**  
**9TH GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM GCSF**  
**and**  
**10TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL**  
**ENVIRONMENT FORUM (GC/GMEF)**

**This statement is a synthesis of the recommendations of the Regional Consultation Meeting for Africa in preparation for the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> GCSF and 10<sup>th</sup> 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)**

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!**

## Annex II: list of participants

### List of participants for CSO preparatory meeting, 21 – 23 October 2007, Cairo, Egypt

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12	Libya	Mr. Mansour Hussien Etbika	The Libyan Federation for Agriculture and Cooperatives	Tel: 218 213608643; 218 21600722 <a href="mailto:info@apacu.org">info@apacu.org</a>
13	Algeria	Mr. Adel Rahmani	(LE SOUK Association) TUNZA Youth Advisor	Cité BOUNAAMA DJILLALI bt52 n°5 Tel: +213 54 76 46 00 fax: +213 21 23 75 55 E-mail: <a href="mailto:adeltall@yahoo.fr">adeltall@yahoo.fr</a>
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## Annex III: Agenda

**Regional Consultation Meeting for Africa**  
**in preparation for the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF)**  
**Workers' University Hotel, Cairo, Egypt**  
**21 - 23 October 2007**  
**Draft Programme**

### Sunday, 21 October 2007

08:30 – 09:00    **Registration**

09:00 - 10:00    Opening session

- Welcome remarks by the Nile Basin Federation
- Welcome remarks by the Regional Office for Africa
- Opening remarks by the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch

10:00 - 10:15    Election of meeting officers and adoption of the meeting agenda <sup>i</sup>

10:15 – 10:30    Coffee break

10:30 – 12:00    **Session 1: Overview of UNEP's 4<sup>th</sup> Global Environment Outlook Assessment (GEO-4)**

Presentation by the Division for Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) –  
UNEP:

- Overview of the GEO-4 process
- Environment and Human-well being – key conceptual issues underpinning the GEO-4 assessment
- Status and trends of the global environment – focusing on UNEP priority programmatic areas: climate change, ecosystem management, chemicals and disasters
- Regional Highlights
- *Back to our Common Future: Environment for Development* - The successes and failures of Policy processes since the World Commission on

Sustainable Development (The Brundtland Commission 1987)

- Environment-Development Interlinkages and challenges of meeting MDG targets

Q&A and discussion.

12:00 – 13:30

**Session 2: Enhancing Major Groups Participation in the GEO Assessment Process**

Facilitated by DEWA:

- Using the GEO-4 findings in the work of civil society
- Role of Major Groups in the GEO Assessment Process:
  - At the different levels: (i) Regional, (ii) Sub-regional, (iii) National, and (iv) City.
  - Enhancing synergies and supporting the GEO Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) process.

Q&A and discussion.

13:30-14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 16:00

**Session 3: 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”**

How, in a just and equitable manner, to:

- a. Carbon finance and CDM, the global carbon market, how it works and how it fits as a tool for climate change mitigation
  - Access the finance required to adapt to change, especially for countries that are most vulnerable
  - Achieve multiple environmental objectives and avoid unintended environmental consequences, through the transition and through adaptation measures,

*by Sami Kamel, PhD, Senior Economist/Carbon Finance Coordinator,  
UNEP RISOE Centre*

*b. Case for a sustainable "low" carbon economy in Africa, including examples of where "low" carbon economy approaches have worked in Africa and what were the sustainable policy and regulatory measures that were necessary for success, by John Kimani, AFREPEN*

*c. Identify linkages to wealth generation and poverty eradication through the transition to a "sustainable" low carbon economy", by Mr. Arif Tanveer, ELCI*

Q&A and discussion.

16:00 – 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 – 18:00 **Session 3 (Continued)**

18:00 Reception

**Monday, 22 October 2007**

08:30 – 10:30 **Session 4: Group discussions on “Globalization and the Environment: Mobilizing Finance to meet the Climate Challenge and its links to poverty alleviation”**

The major groups will hold discussions on the themes in groups. They will design key messages to deliver to the SS.X-GC/GMEF.<sup>1</sup>

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 – 13:00 **Session 4: Continued**

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

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<sup>1</sup> Modalities for discussions and template for key messages / statement will be made .available to participants.

14:30 – 16:30 **Session 5: Report back from the Group discussions**

Definition of the key messages and recommendations and/or statements to the 9<sup>th</sup> GCSF and 10<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the GC/GMEF: the session will provide an opportunity for synergies building (commonalities between major groups' views and messages, between topics, etc.) on "Globalization and the Environment: Mobilizing Finance to meet the Climate Challenge and its links to poverty alleviation."

Q&A and discussion.

16:30 – 16:45 Coffee break

16:45 - 18:00 **Session 6: Review of the discussion paper on "Enhancing Major Groups Participation at UNEP's Governance Level"**

Discussions will focus on the way forward to engage major groups in the work of UNEP.

**Tuesday, 23 October 2007**

08:30 – 10:00 **Session 7: Introduction to UNEP Medium Term Strategy and discussion**

The session will introduce the UNEP Medium Term Strategy for the period 2010-2013 and provide an opportunity to discuss the Strategy in the context of emerging and current challenges in the environment field.

Conference call with Mr. John Scanlon, SIT Team Leader and Special Advisor on Policy and Operational Matters to the Executive Director of UNEP, from Nairobi.

10:00 – 10:15 Coffee break

10:15-11:00 **Session 8: Selection of major groups representatives to the GCSF and SS.X-GC/GMEF**

Delegates will be invited to select four representatives per region to attend the GCSF and the GC/GMEF, including two members of the Global Committee.

- 11:00 – 12:00    **Session 9: Finalization of the key messages and recommendations and/or statements to the 9<sup>th</sup> GCSF and 10<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the GC/GMEF**
- 12:00 – 13:00    **Closing session**
- Closing remarks by the chair of the session
  - Closing remarks by the Director, Regional Office for Africa
- 13:00 – 14:00    Lunch
- 14:00 – 18:00    **Field visit / Excursion (optional)**

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**<sup>i</sup> Evaluation of the meeting**

Evaluation questionnaires will be circulated and collected at the end of the meeting.