

**FIRST UNIVERSAL SESSION OF THE U.N. ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)
GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC)
and Global Major Group and Stakeholder Forum (GMGSF)**

**Business and Industry Major Group Statement
Delivered by Norine Kennedy, USCIB**

February 17, 2013, Nairobi

- Business and industry welcomes the first Universal Session of the UNEP Governing Council and GMEF.
- Business organizations have partnered with a wide range of UNEP initiatives involving many sectors to address environmental issues within the overall context of sustainable development. These opportunities have demonstrated the potential for public-private partnerships, and we hope that UNEP's move to universal membership will afford additional opportunities for such cooperation.
- In this regard, business wishes to thank UNEP for its steadfast and diligent support for involving all stakeholders, and for the tireless work of its secretariat across all areas.

I. Moving forward on Rio outcomes

Rio+20 assigned UNEP an important role in informing and implementing the environmental policy elements of sustainability – we see great potential in a strengthened UNEP with universal membership in both the development of SDGs and the other sustainability related initiatives, drawing on UNEP's work on geo-monitoring and assessment and its multi-disciplinary work on environment across a range of issues.

Business looks forward to working with UNEP as part of post Rio+20 multiple organization cooperation to promote efficient implementation of priorities across social, economic and environmental policies.

Business and industry supports the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and efforts to link the process with the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In these linked efforts, we need to leverage innovation and technology while working to eradicate poverty by supporting inclusive economies that promote economic opportunity and create jobs.

In contributing to achievement of the SDGs, the private sector is at its best in leveraging market- and innovation-based solutions to:

- Increase investments and mobilize existing commitments to address the SDGs
- Ensure that investments use resources sustainably, both through internal investment policy and public-private collaborations to measure and track resource use
- Working with a range of stakeholders to identify and scale innovations and new technologies to address challenges across a range of sectors in health, education and agriculture

II. Decisions and Main Issues

Sustainable Consumption and Production and Green Economy

- Business supports the objective of the SCP "10 Year Framework of Programmes" (10FYP). We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with UNEP to advance sustainable production, energy and resource use efficiency, and initiatives that enhance sustainability of consumption by reducing waste and promoting education on more sustainable practices.
- Governments have an important role to play in creating enabling policy frameworks to help promote SCP. Government intervention should enhance the market's ability to embrace sustainable outcomes rather than restricting the choices of consumers and producers – the objective should be to foster innovation, not try to mandate it.
- For business, in addition to government actions, markets must be enlisted and partnerships encouraged to catalyze the necessary diversity and scale of actions. Business understands this synergy (and sometimes tension) well, in light of multiple markets and countries where it operates, while seeking to maintain good standards of sound management and practice throughout.
- SCP concerns and involves many elements of business environmental planning and management, as well as product stewardship. Reporting is one important aspect of SCP, and businesses of all sectors and sizes are pursuing reporting in response to regulatory requirements and voluntarily. We are concerned that a narrow focus on integrated sustainability reporting risks missing the bigger picture, and distracts funding and attention from more central and cost effective efforts, whether at the enterprise or government level.

Chemicals

- On behalf of the chemical sector, we broadly welcome the draft decisions on chemicals. In particular we welcome the recognition of the important contributions of SAICM. The chemical will continue working with UNEP and other partners towards the 2020 goal on chemicals management. We also appreciate UNEP's recognition in the draft decisions of the importance of engaging the *value chain* in safer chemicals management. Deeper engagement by the *value chain* in cooperative action to address chemicals management is vital.

III. New institutional arrangements in UNEP

- Business organizations have partnered with a wide range of UNEP initiatives involving many sectors to address environmental issues within the overall context of sustainable development. These opportunities have demonstrated the potential for **public-private partnerships**, and we hope that UNEP's move to universal membership will afford additional opportunities for such cooperation.
- Business places particular importance on UNEP's efforts to strengthen its scientific base and to ensure its work is founded on sound science. UNEP's work should be supported by independent, transparent, comprehensive and up-to-date science. We hope to explore additional options to provide cooperation with UNEP on science and research matters relating to its work program. We note with interest the idea of a periodic conference on the State of The Planet, bringing decisionmakers together with scientists, business and other important stakeholders to define priorities and take note of progress.

- Business is encouraged to see a growing emphasis on sharing of scientific data and monitoring. However, we continue to emphasize the critical importance of maintaining safeguards for economically important information, such as trade secrets, CBI and IP. Principles of responsible information stewardship, to protect privacy and security and ensure information is not taken out of context or presented in a non-misleading manner, are needed to ensure information is presented credibly and clearly, without unintended consequences.
- Business supports UNEP in its efforts to strengthen its **scientific base** and to ensure its work is founded on sound science. UNEP's work should be supported by independent, transparent, comprehensive and up-to-date science. We hope to explore additional options to provide cooperation with UNEP on science and research matters relating to its work program.
- Business welcomes the role of UNEP as the Secretariat of the UNFCCC Center for Technology Cooperation (CTCN). UNEP has an opportunity to focus on the conditions needed, including networks, to facilitate deployment and adoption of more climate friendly technologies and management systems, as well as the importance of developing predictable regulatory frameworks and good governance to attract investment. We also wish to underscore the fundamental importance of working with business in the CTCN's activities at all levels.

IV. Enhancing the Engagement of Major Groups and Stakeholders

In addition to the common principles agreed by the GMGSF, business wishes to add the following:

- Business is a central partner and stakeholder and part of civil society, and its role in UNEP should be enhanced from substantive and procedural standpoints.
- Business and other stakeholders are indispensable to informing agenda development, policy formulation and decisionmaking and implementation.
- We welcome the opportunity to consider how to enhance stakeholder role in meetings. We think the possibility of dedicating a day of the UNEP Governing Council to consultation with stakeholders and major groups is one possibility to explore further.
- Clear and recognized entry points for business will assist involving business people to provide resources and support to inform UNEP activities – the current models and opportunities do not respond or deliver the potential that business has to offer. Business can contribute in numerous areas, including: Economic practicality, supply- and value- chains (SCP), technological innovation and deployment, and the science-policy interface.
- The success and potential of several key UNEP work areas depend on business involvement and uptake, so upgrading business's relation with UNEP can and should be approached as a win-win arrangement. Such clear and recognized entry points are also clearly relevant for other major groups.