



Brussels/Capetown, 10 January 2019

## Proposals to strengthen the UNEA 4 Ministerial Declaration

Dear Madams/Sirs

On behalf of my organisation, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) I congratulate UNEA with this draft, covering many of the key policies to implement to achieve sustainable consumption and production patterns globally.

I respectfully propose **four short additions** about policies which should not be absent in this declaration, as they are essential for stimulating producers and consumers to make that shift.

In **para d)** on sustainable land and soil management, the element of “**sustainable forest management**” is missing (add after “including”).

Please add this to make this part consistent also with the Paris Agreement, article 5. It is important because the impact of forest degradation is often underestimated as source of greenhouse gas emissions and loss of biodiversity. Fighting deforestation and promoting reforestation is just one of the two major challenges in the forest sector. Forests are important providers of materials and services, and this will only increase, also because timber and fibres need to be increasingly used to reduce the environmental impacts in construction and other sectors. Sustainable forest management therewith is an essential component of a comprehensive strategy for sustainable production and consumption.

In **para k)** on consumer information, we plea to include, at the end “**and credible certification schemes**”.

Motive is that for more and more products that depend on natural resources credible certification schemes have come up which control the management of these resources as well as the supply chains so that the labels presenting these schemes are reliable evidence for consumers that they can make a sustainable choice.

In **para m)** on incentivize eco-innovative business, please add “**including through using our public procurement leverage**”

See for this subject also the Background Report of the Executive Director UNEP/EA.4.17 Public procurement forms between 10-25% of total purchases in countries. Setting specific environmental (and social) requirements in a coordinated way at all public authority levels can



upscale the demand for eco-innovative products and services very quickly and therewith help to make them introduced in society at large.

In **para n)** on financing, please add **“and implement targeted environmental fiscal reforms”**

In fact, part of the “sustainable and innovative financing opportunities and solutions” that are promoted in the draft are needed because the market conditions are adverse to sustainable production and consumption patterns. The natural capital depletion and pollution impacts of conventional practices is not being paid for. Governments have the power to create a level playing field for sustainable practices by shifting taxation from labour to unsustainable natural resource use and emissions and re-orient subsidies. That will make such sustainable practices much earlier on profitable and not needing specific financial support anymore.

Yours sincerely

John Hontelez,  
Chief Advocacy Officer FSC International,  
[j.hontelez@fsc.org](mailto:j.hontelez@fsc.org)  
mobile: +32 486 512127  
[will be present at the UNEA]