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UNEP CPR Informal Consultation with Major Groups and Stakeholders:
“Experiences of MG/S with Current Engagement Mechanisms in UNEP”

Good morning, my name is Norine Kennedy, with USCIB, representing the Business and Industry Major Group. I am honored to serve as a co chair of the MGFC.

Thanks for this opportunity to provide a presentation on the Experiences of MG/S with Current Engagement Mechanisms in UNEP.

I will briefly review the main Engagement mechanisms and then offer some generalization of our experiences with them.

The current mechanisms for engagement within UNEP are many. We can think of it as a very complex eco-system – all parts linked to others, and hopefully more than the sum of our parts. We could sit for several consultations to review them all. I will only speak to a few, and quite briefly.

The MG/S mechanisms on paper and in practice have been an experience of evolution over time...A first main point -- we would like to see the forward progress continue. We would like to be – as we have been – part of the design team for that progress.

As the ED said, the existing structures do represent a foundation on which we think it makes sense to build pursuant to the GC decision 27/2.

Among the UNEP mechanisms for MG/S engagement:

- 1) The Major Groups system – this Agenda 21 listing of major societal partners provides an established and knowledgeable system of 9 extensive networks that support, contribute to UNEP’s work in many ways as noted already by the Executive Director. It also provides 9 amplifiers that take UNEP’s

outreach out to the broader world in many practical ways. Finally, this system helps provide consistency between UNEP and other UN bodies which also structure their stakeholder relations in this way.

- 2) Major Groups and Stakeholders Facilitating Committee – is made up of 2 representatives from each of the major groups to play a consultative and supportive function to UNEP’s work, predominantly centered around the GC. While we are only 18 individuals, along with stakeholder observers from the UNEP regions, we connect to vast networks – for example in my case, I connect with 2 organizations (ICC, IOE) that together represent businesses of all sectors and sizes in over 100 countries. We all work on a voluntary basis – with sweat equity, in partnership with the UNEP secretariat. No organization can claim to be inclusive of every stakeholder interest, but the MGFC does reflect and link with broad constituencies that are informed and engaged, that are vested in UNEP and the intergovernmental process, and that approach this relationship as a valuable partnership.
- 3) Global MG and Stakeholder Forum – This annual meeting before Governing Council brings together accredited stakeholder organizations for dialogue and to prepare and convey a wide range of perspectives to the GC. Regional Consultative Forums that precede the Forum gather further crucial regional stakeholder views. One example of the convening and consensus power of the Forum are the 11 Principles for Stakeholder Engagement that will be presented later this morning. A key question will be on how this Forum will be revised to relate to UNEA.

What are our experiences with these and other UNEP mechanisms? Each constituency is different and engages differently. None of the engagement systems functions perfectly, so we welcome and want to take this opportunity both to improve and evolve these mechanisms to respond a) to UNEP’s growing to-do list and b) to be in synch with discussion and evolution in other forums, many of which are linked to UNEP – such as the IPBES, Post 2015 Development Agenda and SAICM. The presentations to follow will give particular perspectives of the MGs and Regional Reps, but I want to finish my overview with 4 points:

- **UNEP is a lead for international environmental governance, and as we go forward to improve the MG/S mechanisms, we should continue to build and recognize MG/Stakeholder engagement as integral to international sustainable development/environmental governance**
- **The mechanisms provide a resource to you the member governments, that could be more fully utilized to advance and support your work.**
- **As UNEP widens its horizons (Green Economy, Eye on Earth, etc.) a variety of mechanisms will be continue to be needed to mobilize stakeholder resources in all their diversity(know-how, innovation, partnership) at agenda setting, policy formation and implementation levels.**
- **This drive to improve and enhance will have to consider how to support MG/S so that they can deliver in bigger and better ways, in the substantive and sustained ways we are all seeking.**

Thank you