

STATEMENT BY MAJOR GROUPS

Delivered on behalf of the nine Major Groups
Informal Consultation between Major Groups and the Committee of Permanent
Representatives
Nairobi, 9th September 2013

Major Groups welcome the UNEP GC decision on institutional arrangement (UNEP/GC27/2); we believe Major Groups have an indispensable role to play in the development of such a new mechanism.

The Major Groups system ushered in a new era in which the international community accorded people and their representatives' recognition as key partners in the affairs of their nations.

Non-governmental organizations, including those non-profit organizations representing groups addressed in Agenda 21, possess well-established and diverse experience, expertise and capacity in fields which are vital to the implementation and review of environmentally sound and socially responsible sustainable development, as envisaged throughout Agenda 21. The Major Groups, therefore, offer a global network that should be tapped, enabled and strengthened in support of efforts to achieve these common goals. To ensure the full potential contribution of Major Groups in the new UNEP system, the Major Group approach should be strengthened and sustained and we are ready to work with UNEP to enhance its effectiveness, inclusiveness and diversity.

We understand the importance of broadening inclusion and reaching out in new ways such as through social media, and the Major Groups are willing to support that.

Based on this background, Major Groups regard the existing 9 Major Groups system of AGENDA 21 as one which has succeeded in strengthening the participation of the citizens of the world in the UN system, notably UNEP. It also upgraded the participation of citizens and their civil society representatives not only at the international but also at the national, sub regional, regional, local and sub-national levels. We call for caution to be undertaken in the process of carving out a new model as per UNEP GC decision to ensure that the new system focuses on expertise, broader representation and commitment to substantive engagement.

In that regard we believe the following principles must apply:

- i. Independency of different stakeholders to democratically nominate their own representatives without external interference
- ii. Respect the uniqueness of each constituencies within the Major Groups
- iii. Transforming our engagement to a level that enables us to contribute in agenda setting and decision - making more effectively

- iv. Remove gender and age inequalities in composition of bodies that will be created by the new model
- v. Improve and balance regional representation to ensure the views of all global and regional actors are brought forward.

The Major Groups have walked a very long road with UNEP and has provided new options to involve global citizens and we look forward to partnering with you all to ensure the world environment is sustainable for all citizens and species of the world.