

Scientific and Technological Community Major Group Statement For the 29th GC/GMEF

The International Council for Science (ICSU) is honoured to have been selected as the lead organization for the Scientific and Technological (S&T) Community within UNEP's Major Groups. The S&T Major Group appeals to the GC/GMEF delegates and to the UNEP Executive Director:

- To recognize that environmental policy decisions need to be based on sound scientific knowledge, which should be an integration of natural and social sciences. We ask the governments and UNEP to support this integrated approach for science for sustainable development;
- To reinforce UNEP's effort to strengthen its science base. We welcome UNEP's decision to appoint a Chief Scientific Advisor. We hope that this person, who we understand will be within the Division of Early Warning and Assessment, will enhance the role of science in UNEP and strengthen its links with the wider scientific community;

and more specifically,

- 1) To strengthen support for the increased involvement of scientists, especially early career scientists, in the implementation of UNEP's six priority areas.
- 2) To support on going efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the Scientific and Technological Community and UNEP, with the aim of enhancing International Environment Governance.
- 3) To support the development of an international framework for action to minimize the availability, accessibility and use of mercury.
- 4) To increase investment in research and development (including action research) and deployment, which should speed enhancements within the Green Economy.
- 5) To identify and remove barriers to the wider use of existing, open-access/public domain, low cost, and appropriate technologies for sustainable development.
- 6) To strengthen science education at all levels and to further develop scientific capacity building, as prerequisites for sustainable development.
- 7) To strengthen the Global Observing Systems, especially the terrestrial component. This should include ground-based efforts that complement remote sensing with the collection of on-the-ground socio-economic data so that analyses can be done within geo-referenced Geographical Information System (GIS). All countries can contribute to and benefit from a coupled global observing system. Likewise, equitable and open access to these data is imperative.
- 8) To enhance the dialogue and partnership between the Major Groups and governmental delegations in a more meaningful and effective way.

In conclusion, scientific and technological information and knowledge are central to the achievement of UNEP's goals.