

Key messages from the NGOs Major Group

General

We recognize the importance of promoting coherence and synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

The implementation of the conventions must be based on the Ecologically Sustainable Development principles and reflect equity in all aspects of the synergies initiative.

The synergies process will be successful only if it improves the implementation of the conventions at the country level.

Joint coordination of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam convention secretariats should take place through the establishment of a joint coordinating group as the synergies process begins.

The synergies process should upwardly harmonize practices in the conventions, enhance the highest standards and best practices, and improve overall capacity, financial resources, and compliance.

A study should be conducted that examines the potential impacts of the synergies process on the implementation of the three conventions

We deeply regret the lack of civil society participation in the development of the synergies process so far and express concern over how civil society participation will be supported in the future.

We strongly recommend and request meaningful participation of Major Groups (MG) in the discussion and implementation of the synergies process since we are essential to successful implementation of the three conventions.

Participation in the synergies and implementation processes should include civil society organizations and reflect the right of communities to be involved in decisions concerning chemical safety that affect them. In particular public interest nongovernmental organizations at the local, national, regional, and global levels and during all stages of the process including policy formulation, legal drafting, implementation, enforcement, reporting and monitoring.

The review of the synergies process should include input from Parties and Observers, including civil society organizations. Document 8, paragraph 7 should include the following text: *“The review will be based on all relevant information, including information collected through consultation with stakeholders and calls for information to Parties and Observers from each of the respective secretariats.”*

To encourage civil society involvement, funds should be available to enable the contribution of a civil society citizens' report that outlines civil society activities and provides civil society perspectives on implementation of the chemicals conventions.

Increasing civil society capacity will make implementation of the chemicals conventions more effective.

Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs)

- . MEA only become relevant to people's lives when implemented effectively at the national level. Parties must fulfill their obligations to adopt national laws to implement the provisions of these Conventions. It is the responsibility of UNEP to support the efforts of Parties by providing adequate information, technical advice and financial support to Parties, with the active participation of civil society organizations.
- o. Opportunities for synergies with other conventions such as the Biodiversity Cluster should be explored.
- o. The synergies process should provide opportunities to examine exemptions created in listing decisions of chemicals with the goal of eliminating them.
- o. The Governing Council should adopt the "Draft guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters" as outlined in the suggested action in Document UNEP/GCSS.XI/8.

International Environmental Governance (IEG)

- . Concrete mechanisms should be put in place to facilitate and enable the active involvement and meaningful participation of civil society in the ongoing IEG process in the UN system. The GC should establish such mechanism as a CSO/MG Consultative Panel on IEG with regional representation from CSOs and MGs that will work closely with the Consultative Group on IEG and other future mechanisms to be created on IEG and in ensuring that the views and inputs of CSOs/MGs are taken on board. Such mechanism must be supported by UNEP financially and logistically, including in providing foras for regional and national consultations.
- 0. The function of the IEG institution related to strengthening its science base and policy interface MUST include the capacity to assess the actual and potential impacts of existing and emerging technologies on the environment. Any IEG institution should also be able to do an assessment of the actual and potential impacts of trade and economic policies on the environment, and make appropriate recommendations. The performance of these assessment functions should closely involve CSOs that can bring in their experiences in

working on the ground and expertise on technical issues.

- . UNEP should enable its regional offices to conduct annual consultations with CSOs and MGs in their respective regions, for more effective, inclusive and broader involvement of CSOs working at the local, national and regional levels. Efforts have to be made to hold periodical CSO consultations at the national level in selected countries, in partnership with CSO networks, to ensure wider participation and for more concrete inputs from CSOs working at the local level.

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

- . The preparatory discussions for the development and elaboration of the IPBES must include to CSOs, and CSO participation in such discussions must be supported.
- . IPBES implementation must involve the active participation of CSOs, tap into the vast experiences and expertise of CSOs in science-policy interface at the national and local levels. Multi-sectoral science-policy interface mechanisms and technical panels must have adequate representation from relevant CSOs.
- . The information, studies and analysis resulting from IPBES processes must be made available and accessible to CSOs and communities, especially in developing countries that are affected by threats and problems in biodiversity.

Green Economy

The definition and operational framework of the Green Economy must be based on a critique of the economic models and structures that the world is currently facing to which the Green Economy is being presented as an alternative paradigm.