

Global Agreement on Regional Key Messages

Concerns regarding participation

- Civil society organizations (CSO) from all the regions express a general concern for the inadequate frameworks that impose barriers -such as lack of funding, insufficient capacity building efforts, untimely access to meeting documents, among others- for effective participation in decision making processes. We urge for active involvement and meaningful participation of CSOs in the ongoing IEG, green economy, synergies, IPBES, Post 2010 target, IYB and Rio+20 processes.

Regional concerns on participation and partnership

- Civil Society in the regions would like to express deep concern about the diminishing support for Regional Consultation Meetings (RCM) and ask for appropriate funding to be allocated again to continue organizing them in the upcoming future, involving all nine major groups (MG) in each of the six regions. Additionally, in order for the RCM to have more effective participation, the themes for each GC/GMEF and official documentation should be made available well in advance.
- To enhance partnership opportunities, we request UNEP to appoint a fully dedicated person in each Regional Office responsible for liaising among the nine major groups and UNEP Divisions and providing support for further involvement in UNEP's Programme of Work and policy cycle.

International Environmental Governance (IEG)

- It is essential to accelerate the implementation of incremental and broad reforms.
- The IEG reforms should significantly improve the environmental dimension of all international governance bodies, such as the UNEP, CSD, WTO, the Bretton Woods institutions,
- UN Regional Economic Commissions and other UN agencies, as well as international and regional financial institutions and regional integration processes.
- We strongly urge the creation of a CSO/MG Consultative Panel, with balanced regional representation, to work closely with the Consultative Group on IEG. Such mechanism must be financially and logistically supported by UNEP and the governments, including the provision of foras for regional and national consultations. The process must take into account the principles of access to information, participation, transparency and accountability.
- It is critical for governments to turn Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) into national policies and legislation, as well as to raise awareness and build capacities to achieve full implementation.
- Provide sufficient, substantial and stable resources to assist governments and CSOs of the regions in tackling environmental and sustainability challenges.
- Capacity building and networking activities must be supported to enable CSOs to more effectively contribute to sustainable development, including the capacity to assess the actual and potential impacts of technologies, trade and economic policies on the environment, in order to make appropriate recommendations. These assessments should involve the experience, knowledge and perspectives of CSOs.

Green Economy

- Civil Society recognizes that the contemporary economic model needs rethinking to create a new paradigm for human progress that take into consideration the total resource balances on earth. True greening our global economies (and other sustainable development programs) is a must. We stress that the green economy is a multidisciplinary, multi stakeholder and multi sectoral approach.
- The Green Economy Initiative should not become an excuse for a "business as usual" scenario, it is therefore necessary to have clear definitions of concepts and principles. Additionally, these concepts could vary among different economical sectors, which needs to be assessed. Furthermore, indicators should be developed and standardized at national and international level in order to measure progress and compare among countries and sectors.
- To support green economy, a Policy Mix (i.e. Command-And-Control, Market-Based Instruments (MBI), Awareness and Education) needs to be developed, in close consultation with CSOs, by each one of the countries. Regarding this issue, it is our belief that Polluter Pays Principle and Consumer Pays Principle should lead to creative MBI.

- Green Economy Initiative should be coordinated with other UN initiatives and processes, especially those related to Sustainable Consumption and Production (Marrakech process, CSD 18/19 etc.).
- Spell out clear, precise and attainable strategies on how the green jobs will be promoted to solve various problems, especially in developing world, such as unemployment, poverty, inequity, civil unrest and development in the 21st century.

Biodiversity and ecosystem management

- Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management policies must be promoted to create synergies in the implementation of other policy objectives such as climate change mitigation/adaptation, water resource management, green economy, chemical, disaster prevention/preparedness, trade without undermining the effectiveness of conserving biodiversity and ecosystem and promoting sustainable use of biological resources.
- More research and experimentation work needs to be supported on key issues of biodiversity and ecosystem management such as economic instruments, ecosystem service payment, REDD, biodiversity inventories, gene banks and germplasm.
- Guarantee that the cosmovision of the indigenous peoples be incorporated in ecosystem services assessment and management.

ExCOPs

- CSOs and NGOs strongly express their deep concern to the adverse impacts of the hazardous waste and toxic chemicals on the environment hence hampering its sustainability.
- CSOs are also concerned about insufficient labelling of products containing chemicals that may present a threat to human health and the environment. Very little research is available about the risks of manufactured nano particles (chemicals in very small quantities) that are currently sold in over 800 unlabelled products. CSOs reinforce the precautionary principle and the public Right to Know, and reasserts that where there is a threat to human health and the environment, then commercial confidentiality is insufficient argument to prevent labelling.
- CSOs urge governments to ensure compliance to international conventions and introducing country legislations in controlling hazardous waste both nationally and transboundaries, particularly POPs, chemicals in waste (in particular electronic wastes and manufactured nanoparticles) and impacts of internationally banned weapons of mass destruction. CSOs and NGOs urge governments to work together put together all needed efforts in building national capacity and technical expertise to identify, detect, and discern hazardous chemicals to share the collective responsibility in monitoring and managing the entire life cycle of these chemicals to prevent its impact at all phases.
- Currently, CS communities bear a disproportionate ratio of the cost of health costs brought about by poor chemical management upstream e.g. ongoing health effects of exposure to hazardous pesticides and defoliants. There needs to be evaluation of those costs and Extended Producer Responsibility so that there is an incentive to design hazardous chemicals out of products, or alternatively to ban their use.
- Call upon UNEP to consolidate its role in supporting the contribution made by rendering support to CSOs and NGOs through building their capacity in the enhancement of their technical capacities and consolidation of efforts.

Rio+20 Process

- The regions would like to welcome wholeheartedly the decisions by the General Assembly (A/C.2/64/L.59) to organise a Summit on Sustainable Development at the highest possible level in 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In this regard, we take note of the many times Major Groups are specifically mentioned in the resolution text, including in the context of the preparatory meetings, both regionally and globally. Therefore, we would strongly urge members of the intergovernmental community and UNEP to make sure the voices and presence of the Major Groups are fully integrated in the preparatory work as well as the summit itself, using all principles of good governance. Additionally, the experience, efforts, thinking and analytic capacities of the major groups in the regions should be recognised and substantially involved in the development of the agenda, process and modalities for the summit.

Regional representatives from:

Asia - Pacific
Africa
Europe
Latin America and the Caribbean
North America
West Asia
