

February 20, 2013

FIRST UNIVERSAL SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL

MINISTERIAL PLENARY: “Rio+20: From Outcome to Implementation”

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY – Norine Kennedy, USCIB

- We welcome and celebrate the strengthening of UNEP with universal membership. In addition to its own defined work, we see UNEP catalyzing Rio+20 action, the development of SDGs and playing an important place in other sustainability related initiatives.
- Business looks forward to continuing to work with UNEP, including as part of the post Rio+20/post 2015 multiple organization cooperation to promote efficient implementation of priorities across social, economic and environmental policies, and a strengthened science policy interface. The complexity of institutions and entry points for Rio+20 and related post 2015 deliberations is challenging for business and we encourage and look to UNEP to provide clarity, efficiency and partnership opportunities as we prepare for 2015 and beyond across a very broad water front.
- A key role for a strengthened UNEP is in greening economic activity. There is an opportunity and need for enhanced business engagement directly into the international process taking green economy approaches forward, and we see UNEP as a vital partner and focal point for this.
- We need to leverage investment, innovation and technology. Many opportunities exist and progress must involve the entire economy including all sectors and across supply and value chains. We should avoid sectoral silos, or focussing only on green technology sectors, they are the up and comers, but they are just part of the big picture. UNEP can provide an important focus on sound enabling frameworks that promote investment and innovation and account for “green” externalities
- Business places particular importance on UNEP’s efforts to strengthen its scientific base and to ensure its work is founded on sound science. In that connection, we hope to explore business community cooperation with UNEP on science and research matters relating to its work program. We note with interest the idea of a periodic conference on the State of The Planet, bringing decisionmakers together with scientists, business and other important stakeholders to define priorities and take note of progress.
- **We appreciate the strong support from so many of you for increased stakeholder role in UNEP’s work. We also wish to recognize the unwavering support and diligent hard work that UNEP has dedicated to major groups and stakeholders. Thank you to the ED, his team and to all of you for this.**

- **We see enhanced stakeholder involvement – and in that context enhanced business involvement -- as indispensable not only for strengthening UNEP, but also an important amplifying element supporting UNEP’s role in carrying forward Rio+20 action.**
- **In addition to the common principles on participation agreed by the major groups and stakeholders here in Nairobi, business wishes to add the following:**
- The success and potential of several key UNEP work areas depends on business involvement and uptake, so upgrading business’s relation with UNEP can and should be approached as a win-win arrangement.
- Clear and recognized entry points for business will assist in involving business people who can provide resources and support to inform UNEP activities – the current models and opportunities do not yet fully respond or deliver the potential that business has to offer. Business can contribute in numerous areas, including: Economic practicality, green economic activity, supply- and value- chains (SCP), technological innovation and deployment, and the science-policy interface.
- In closing, collectively, with universal membership, with engagement of stakeholders and major groups, we can better face and share responses to the implementation gap. Collaboration between business, government and other stakeholders, including here in UNEP, provides the best hope for an accelerated transition to green and inclusive growth, and to a sustainable future in line with the vision of Rio+20.