

First Universal Session of the UNEP Governing Council

Ministerial Roundtable #1

February 19, 2013

Business and Industry Major Group Intervention

Thank you Madame Chair, even though you asked us not to thank you – my name is Norine Kennedy, from the United States Council for International Business, speaking for business groups here. I will cover 2 points from the list:

- 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 options to provide 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 we have heard from speakers for increased stakeholder role in UNEP's work. We see enhanced stakeholder involvement – and in that context enhanced business involvement -- as indispensable to UNEP's growing role and universal membership.
- Major groups and stakeholders, including business, have agreed common principles on participation and you have already heard specific proposals arising from those principles from the NGO intervention just a few minutes ago. In addition to those, business wishes to add a few brief points:
 - Business and other stakeholders are needed to inform agenda development, policy formulation and decision-making and implementation.
 - 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: in addition to the science policy interface, economic practicality, greening economic activity, supply- and value- chains and SCP, and technological innovation and deployment.