

**Major Groups and Stakeholders Asia Pacific  
Meeting 2011**

**Asia – Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for  
the UN Conference on Sustainable Development  
2012**

**"The Road to Rio 2012: Charting Our Path"**

**17-18 October 2011  
Seoul, Republic of Korea**

**MEETING REPORT**

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## **Introduction**

The UN General Assembly passed a resolution in December 2009 to hold a Rio+20 Earth Summit in 2012. The conference will take place in Brazil on 4-6 June 2012 to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

From the first meeting in 1992, the participation of various stakeholder groups was seen as crucial to achieve and promote effective implementation of sustainable development policies. Participation of the stakeholder groups have been promoted with the process developed around nine Major Groups - Business and Industry; Children and Youth; Farmers; Indigenous Peoples; Local Authorities; Non-Governmental Organizations; Scientific and Technological Community; Women; Workers and Trade Unions.

The Major Groups and Stakeholders Asia Pacific Meeting 2011 was held from 17-18 October 2011, immediately prior to the Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Committee Meeting on 19-20 October, 2011. More than 100 delegates participated in the meeting. Discussions were organized under four themes: Regional and Sub-regional priorities and emerging challenges, Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, Institutional framework for sustainable development, and Access to information, public participation and environmental justice.

Many of the MGS who participated in the meeting also joined the Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting that took place Oct. 19-20, 2011 in Seoul, where they had an opportunity to share the MGS Asia Pacific statement, which was shared by the elected Vice-Chair, Chee Yokeling, from Third World Network. Different major groups were also able to share their statements during the meeting, which is annexed to the Asia Pacific Statement given below.

### **Asia-Pacific Regional Statement for the 2011 Global Civil Society Forum**

Below are summarized the key issues, challenges and courses of action that have been identified and affirmed in the Major Groups and Stakeholders' meeting.

#### ***On Regional Priorities and Emerging Challenges***

1. As a diverse region that comprises developing countries, including small island developing states, land-locked nations and least developed countries, as well as developed countries, the Asia Pacific region has many common but also particular sub-regional priorities and challenges.
2. As a region that is home to the largest part of humanity, the right to a life of dignity free from conflict and war is integral to sustainable development.
3. Some regional and sub-regional priorities include:
  - Eradication of poverty – while many have been lifted from poverty, the region still has the most number of people living in poverty.

- Capacity to respond to natural disasters and impacts of climate change, including monitoring, surveillance and alert systems; emergency responses; disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change.
- Conservation and sustainable use of depleting natural resources and biodiversity, including by indigenous peoples and local communities in managing forest, land and water resources, and in the practice of sustainable agriculture.
- Specific circumstances of small island developing states in the Pacific highlighting the crucial importance of marine resources management and governance, within and beyond national jurisdictions, (including EEZs) necessary for the survival of the people in these islands.
- More equitable distribution of income and natural resources, particularly land.
- Stronger national policies that protect and promote food sovereignty in the face of competing resource use (e.g., land for biofuels).
- Need for food self-sufficiency policies and regulation that would reduce reliance on imports, as well as support and incentives for sustainable food production practices.
- Regulation at the international, regional and national levels with effective enforcement mechanisms to ensure corporate social responsibility, accountability and transparency.
- Stronger regulation on foreign investments related to natural resources to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, impoverished and marginalized peoples, and the environment.
- Compliance with trans-boundary agreements to ensure equitable sharing of resources, particularly water.
- Protection and promotion of community access and control of all natural resources, which are vital for impoverished and disadvantaged communities.
- Honoring the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in national policies and laws.
- Safeguarding natural resources (including agriculture, forests, ancestral lands, waters, oceans) against commodification and privatization.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for environmentally-sound disposal of toxic substances and wastes, and enforcement of international regulations on toxic substances and wastes, in particular hazardous substances is required to avoid the adverse impacts on communities and the environment.

- Creation of local employment and recognition of labor rights to address population mobility and increasing urbanization.
- Global, regional and sub-regional systems based on science to engage communities and CSOs in community-based monitoring and sharing of data related to impacts on the three dimensions of sustainability, including inter alia chemicals and nuclear emissions.
- Involvement of communities and CSOs in the development, implementation and monitoring of new technologies or techniques.
- Compliance, accountability and transparency of corporations to redress displacements and other violations of rights against communities and the environment.

4. Some emerging challenges include:

- Worsening income and social inequalities in several developing countries that have experienced rapid economic growth, and a trend of social inequity in some developed countries.
- Massive infrastructure projects targeted for the next 10 years, with ecological and social sustainability as well as economic viability requiring thorough assessment. Several current large-scale infrastructure projects are already at the centre of controversy.
- Spread of unsustainable consumption patterns that with growing income disparities result in the wealthy consuming beyond their needs while the poor lack basic needs. Unsustainable consumption patterns put additional pressures on natural resources and the environment as well as lead to new health problems.
- Demographic changes and increased urbanization that result in declining rural workforce with resultant stresses on food production and security.
- Critical importance to the region of active promotion and support of sustainable fishing particularly involving small-scale fishers, in view of the dangerous level of depletion of fisheries resources across the region's seas and oceans.
- Need to ensure faithful and consistent enforcement of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal; ban dumping of wastes and toxic chemicals into the marine environment; and ensure proper management of electronic waste, including efforts towards their reduction and eventual elimination.

### ***On Green Economy in the Context of Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development***

5. In view of the need for clearer understanding on the concept of “green economy,” participants reaffirmed sustainable development as the overarching paradigm and centered discussions on key attributes of sustainable “economies”, viz:
  - Built on sustainable production and consumption patterns and ensuring all people’s wellbeing;
  - Democratises access to, ownership and control over productive resources and assets, particularly for women, and promotes equitable access to opportunities for advancement and improvement of human and family welfare;
  - Provides decent work and right livelihoods and ensures that social benefits are distributed equitably among all peoples;
  - Fosters citizen participation;
  - Upholds social justice, human rights, equity, and gender equality;
  - Achieves economic sufficiency;
  - Safeguards animal welfare and protects ecosystems;
  - Ensures agriculture systems and supply chains are sustainable and humane; and
  - Regulates financial markets and holds firms accountable for the social and environmental impacts of their operations.
6. Governments in Rio 1992 agreed to reform existing patterns of consumption and production in pursuit of sustainable development objectives, recognising the link between poverty and unsustainable production and consumption patterns. However, more attention has been given to environmentally friendly production than on consumption patterns. High economic growth in the region has been accompanied by unsustainable consumption patterns. A more rational pattern of consumption is needed to ensure a more rational pattern of production. Consumption patterns are in turn highly influenced by the distribution of incomes across and within countries.
7. Due to the unequal distribution of world incomes, an inordinately large share of goods and services produced are targeted for those with purchasing power. On the other hand, the poor who have great unmet needs but limited capacity to pay lack basic goods and services such as housing, clean water, sanitation, health services, basic education and food. Solutions cannot be found in the market mechanisms, but must be provided in public policy and government actions. Governments must ensure universal access to basic health, education, sanitation, and other essential services, removing all social and cultural barriers that discriminate against minorities including on the basis of age, sexuality, ethnicity, caste, disability and gender.
8. Economy and economic life must be defined not in the narrow sense of efficiently allocating scarce resources, but as the range of processes, activities, relations and structures involved in and affecting the provisioning for human life in all its fullness, integrity and dignity. These include not only those involved in “production” as commonly understood, but also activities, processes, relations and structures in

what is termed “social reproduction,” rendered primarily through the unrecognized and un(der)valued labor of women.

9. Technological fixes alone will not solve environmental problems that are consequences of social and economic factors. Fundamental issues such as access, intellectual property rights (IPR), and assessment of the potential impacts of new and untested technologies (e.g., geo-engineering, ocean fertilization, etc.) before they are released in the environment and deployed commercially must be addressed in the development and transfer of technologies.
10. Opposition was expressed against nuclear energy, mega-dams and agrofuel plantations; instead, governments are called upon to scale up public financing to provide wide access to renewable energy.
11. Opposition was similarly raised against the privatisation and commodification of nature and ecosystem functions that lead to further marginalization of communities.
12. There is need to uphold food sovereignty to address the global food crisis. Communities should have the right to determine their patterns of food production and consumption, and farmers should be able to prioritise food production for domestic consumption. Governments must support small-scale farmers, including women, as they form the heart of sustainable food production systems and along with their families, are the primary objects of rural development.
13. The pursuit of sustainable development in the rural areas must aim at the optimum balance between rural and urban development, with the view towards avoiding problems attendant to excessive rural-urban migration. Efforts to promote sustainable cities via green infrastructure, improved waste management, access to sustainable sanitation and urban food sufficiency are likewise important, but need to be mindful of this rural-urban balance that is determined, among other things, by environmental carrying capacities.
14. Financing sustainable development and a just transition to sustainable economies requires significant public financing, financial and technology transfer from more endowed to less-endowed countries, private sector investments that are productive and non-speculative in nature, and fair and innovative modes of taxation, including a financial transaction tax.
15. Market-based mechanisms that permit developed countries to avoid the delivery of commitments to deep cuts in their greenhouse gas emissions and pass on such obligations through the markets must be reconsidered.
16. Governments must provide enabling policies for promoting sustainable economies as an important impetus to eradicate poverty reduction and achieve sustainable development. Governments must also examine fiscal policies and economic instruments to promote measures conducive to promoting sustainable development, and remove measures detrimental to such objectives including those that subsidize fossil fuel use and support inefficient resource use and economic activities.

17. Governments need to establish regional and inter-regional programmes for supporting capacity development in support of sustainable development. These must inherently involve mechanisms that promote the active participation of stakeholder groups and organisations to exchange good practices and expertise and to support pilot projects, research work, human resource development including training and education, and network activities within and across countries.
18. Stronger partnerships among governments, civil society organisations, private businesses and stakeholder groups must be established for promoting sustainable economies. Such partnerships need to be within frameworks of accountability and transparency including regulation. In line with this, research institutes, educational institutions and other stakeholder groups are enjoined to support good practice case studies and promote dissemination of information on such good practices for promoting sustainable economies in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development.
19. As young people make up more than 40 per cent of the world's unemployed, governments must provide children, adolescents and youth with education, training and opportunities for the active participation in economic, political, social and cultural life; promote youth employment rights, and security to prevent their marginalisation and social exclusion; and child labour by addressing the conditions that lead to it.
20. Finally, disaggregated indicators to monitor and assess sustainable economies need to be developed, not based on GDP, but on people's wellbeing, inclusiveness, social equity, human rights, gender equality, decent work, biodiversity and ecological footprint.

***On the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD)***

21. The IFSD should implement the agreed sustainable development commitments and actions at the international, regional, sub-regional levels and national levels with broad public participation in the various bodies and in decision-making. The three dimensions of sustainable development must be strengthened (or transformed where necessary) and closely integrated. The framework must:
  - Promote accountability and legitimacy
  - Improve coordination and synergies among sectors, actors and levels
  - Ensure coherence, complementarity, effectiveness and efficiency
  - Guarantee meaningful public participation.
22. There is need to transform the Commission on Sustainable Development into a Council on Sustainable Development under the General Assembly to integrate the work of disparate multilateral bodies working on each of the three dimensions of sustainable development, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation. The body must have strong technical support, an independent secretariat and dedicated budget.



23. In support of the IFSD, and in recognition of the continuing weakness of the environmental pillar in the existing IFSD structure, significant strengthening of international environmental governance is needed to deal with the evolving scale and scope of environmental issues and challenges. As the entity with the primary responsibility for the global environment, UNEP should be upgraded and provided with adequate resources for its work. The institutions and work of the numerous multilateral environmental agreements need to be further coordinated within the context of integrating the 3 dimensions of sustainable development.
24. Strengthening of the environmental dimension must come alongside transformation of the economic dimension to make it supportive of the two other dimensions, rather than overwhelm them. In particular, this transformation needs to be geared toward prevention of the occurrence of more financial and economic debacles, which cause much social dislocation and environmental degradation. The UN must also take a direct hand in economic and financial policy-making and act as an effective counterbalance to the traditional dominant global economic and financial bodies.
25. At the regional level, corresponding sustainable development bodies could be established. Sub-regional analogs could also be created where size and diversity of the region warrant it, such as in the Asia-Pacific.
26. At the national level, governments must establish multistakeholder councils for sustainable development (NCSDs) where absent, and strengthen them where already existing. NCSDs must coordinate planning, policy making, issues resolution, and reporting to the corresponding sub-regional/regional and global sustainable development bodies to ensure vertical coherence from implementation levels to the global level.
27. Local authorities are closest to the ground and directly serve the people. They must be given a responsibility and be involved in decision-shaping that concerns in particular sustainable development.
28. To be effective, the national sustainable development councils should be (a) organized at highest possible level, i.e., chaired by the Head of State/Government; (b) lodged with an appropriate coordinating body such Office of the Prime Minister or Planning Ministry; (c) composed of relevant ministries and major groups/stakeholders including local authorities; and (d) institutionally stable by virtue of a strong legal mandate and endowed with a dedicated budget.
29. The above proposals are initial steps to start fundamental changes that are necessary to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the long term this may include updating the Charter of the UN.

***On Access to Information, Public Participation and Environmental Justice***

30. As stipulated in Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and judicial proceedings over environmental matters are a critical part of

the policy and institutional framework for achieving sustainable development. Thus the policies on access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and judicial proceedings over environmental matters must be fully implemented at the multiple levels. The Aarhus Convention and UNEP Guideline on Principle 10 provide useful frameworks for developing and implementing policy measures to achieve Principle 10 objectives.

31. The general public is often denied access to information, participation and justice. In the implementation of P-10 policies, due consideration should be given to respect of human rights, gender equality and the realities and needs of the marginalized groups such as women, youth and indigenous peoples
32. A number of countries in Asia and the Pacific have adopted freedom of information acts and promote the public access to environmental information. However, the level of implementation and compliance with Principle 10 varies considerably, and there are cases where the poor and socially marginalized groups such as women, youth, and indigenous peoples are denied or unable to benefit from the access to environmental information.
33. Governments must provide mechanisms and avenues that support the empowerment of the stakeholders, particularly the socially marginalized groups, to recognize their key roles and to enable their active participation in decision making. Government must also involve major groups and stakeholders in policy dialogues and decision making processes over the environment and sustainability policy issues.
34. Governments must promote the application of P-10 in dealing with the new and emerging issues such as the potential impacts of the emerging technology on the human and environment, by ensuring access to information, public participation in technology assessment, access to liability and redress in cases of damages.
35. Governments must extend the application of the P-10 for promoting and ensuring accountability and transparency of the government, corporations and organizations through effective feedback from the citizens.
36. Governments must recognize and allow alternative peoples' initiatives such as citizen juries, peoples' tribunals, and technology observation platforms.
37. Governments need to exercise the authority to obtain information from the private sector and make available such information to the stakeholders when private sector activities are to cause the impacts on the environment or public concerns. Exceptions to the public access to environmental information and other Principle 10 policy measures should be restricted and should not be abused.
38. To facilitate effective implementation of the Principle 10 policy measures, education, awareness raising, training and capacity development activities must be strengthened.

39. Inadequacy of the forums and institutions at different levels has to be recognized and addressed through such measures as strengthening of the existing mechanism, “Green Bench”, establishment of environmental courts, and consideration of creating an international environment court.
40. Governments are called upon to mandate and enable UNEP to develop a robust programme on UNEP Bali 2010 guidelines. In additions, governments must adopt and implement UNEP guidelines on P-10 at national level through adopting necessary legal framework and appropriate policies
41. Governments in Asia and the Pacific must develop the regional/sub-regional conventions on P-10. At the same time, interested governments in the region are enjoined to accede to the Aarhus convention, and/or to adopt its features such as the peer policy review, and complaint/individual petition procedures without precluding the adoption of the Asia Pacific convention. The negotiation for establishment of an international convention on Access to Information, Public Participation and Environmental Justice must be launched at the soonest possible time.
42. To ensure the compliance of countries to Principle10 policy measures at the national level, it is suggested to define the legal rights, obligations and enforcement procedures, and incorporate penalty clauses in such measures in order to pose penalty on the individuals or corporations that fail to provide information despite their legal obligations.
43. Finally, the useful benchmarks and indicators to assess performance on Principle 10 policy measures must be adopted and widely applied.

## AGENDA

### Major Groups and Stakeholders Asia Pacific Meeting 2011 “The Road to Rio: Charting Our Path”

President Hotel  
188-3, Euljiro 1-ga, Jung-gu, Seoul  
Mozart Hall

17-18 October 2011

<http://www.unep.org/roap/Outreach/CivilSociety/RegionalConsultationMeeting2011/tabid/56183/Default.aspx>

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Monday, 17 October 2011

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08:00-08:30 **Registration**

08:30-09:00 **Opening Session**  
**Facilitator: Satwant Kaur, UNEP**

Welcoming Remarks  
Dr. Young-Woo Park, Regional Director, UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Opening remarks  
Nessim Ahmad, Director, Environment and Safeguards concurrently  
Practice Leader (Environment), Asian Development Bank

Opening remarks  
Rae Kwon Chung, Director, Environment and Development Division, UN  
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Keynote Address  
HE Mr. Kim Sook, Co-chair of the Bureau for the Preparatory Process of  
the UNCSD and Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of  
South Korea

09:00-10:00 **Tour de Table Introduction**  
Facilitator: Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, Institute for Global Environmental  
Strategies (IGES), Japan

Election of officers (Chairman, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur/s)

Adoption of the Meeting agenda and Group Photograph

10:00-10:30 **Session 1: Regional Priority and Emerging Issues, Asia Pacific**  
Facilitator: Mr Cielito Habito, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

Priority and emerging regional environmental issues  
Anna Stabrawa, UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessments

The Fifth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-5)  
Peter King, Coordinating Lead Author and Senior Policy Advisor, Institute  
for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)

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10:30-10:45 C O F F E E B R E A K

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10:45-11:45 **Regional Emerging and Priority Issues: Subregional Perspectives  
and Emerging Issues Specific to Asia Pacific**

(5 mins each)

Moderator: Dr. Atiq Rahman, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies  
(BCAS)

- Imogen P. Ingram, ISACI, Cook Islands - PACIFIC
- Veronica Yudina, Regional Environment Centre for Central Asia,  
Kazakhstan – CENTRAL ASIA
- George Cheriyan, Centre for Environment and Sustainable  
Development, India – SOUTH ASIA
- Oyunchimeg Myagmarjav, Environmental Education & Research  
Institute ECO Asia, Mongolia – NORTHEAST ASIA
- Ellamelides Antonio, Earth Council Asia-Pacific - SOUTHEAST ASIA

Discussion

11:45-13:00 **Session 2: Green Economy for Sustainable Development and Poverty  
Reduction**

Facilitator: Mr Cielito Habito, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

Dr. Young-Woo Park, UNEP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific

Dr. Sang In Kang, Head, Green Growth Research Division  
Future Strategy Research Center, Republic of Korea

Panel: [5 MINS EACH] Regional Perspectives on Global Discussions and  
Major Groups views on UNCSD Outcomes on Green Economy

Moderator: Mr Cielito Habito, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

- NGOs: Uchita de Zoysa, CED/Sri Lanka
- Trade Union – Ching Chabo, International Trade Union Confederation,  
Asia Pacific
- Business: Akira Kataoka, Manager, International Green Purchasing  
Network (IGPN)

Discussion

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13:00-14:00 L U N C H

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14:00-15:00 **Session 3: Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development and International Environment Governance**

Facilitator: Ms. Kaisha Atakhanova, Ecoforum, Kazakhstan

Bradnee Chambers, Chief, Environmental Law and Governance Branch,  
Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP

Masanori Kobayashi, Senior Associate, Institute for Global Environmental  
Strategies (IGES) – IFSD Gaps and Way Forward From Asia Pacific  
Perspective

Panel: [5 MINS EACH] Major Groups Perspectives on UNCSD Outcomes on  
IFSD

Moderator: Mr. Masanori Kobayashi, IGES, Japan

- NGOs: Chee Yoke Ling, TWN/China
- Local Authorities: Emani Kumar, ICLEI/India
- Science and Technology: Bruce McKellar, International Council of  
Science/Australia

Discussion

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15:00-15:15 *C O F F E E B R E A K*

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15:15 – 17:00 **Session 4: Principle 10: Access to Information, Public Participation and Environmental Justice**

**Facilitator: Mr Jin Hwa Kim, Orgdot Corp, Republic of Korea**

Panel Discussion on Access to Information, Public Participation and  
Environmental Justice

Moderator: Ms Imogen Pua Ingram, Island Sustainability Alliance CIS INC,  
Cook Islands

- NGOs: Neth Dano, ETC Group/Philippines
- Indigenous Peoples: Famark Hlawhching, Asia Indigenous People's  
Pact
- Farmers: Sarala Gopalan, Member, World Farmers Organization
- Women: Anita Unni Nayar, Development Alternatives with Women for  
a New Era/India
- Children and Youth: Jessie James, Tunza Asia Pacific Mentor

Discussion

17:00-18:00 Wrap-up of Day 1 sessions

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**TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2011**

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**09:00 – 10:30 Session 5: Working Group deliberations for Regional Statement for Submission to UNCSD Secretariat and UNEP GC/GMEF 2012**

Chair will introduce the terms of reference for the working groups.  
Participants will join one of the following three working groups:

- Group 1: Green Economy
- Group 2: IFSD/IEG
- Group 3: Principle 10
- Group 4: Regional Priority Issues

*Groups will discuss thematic issues for a draft synthesis and regional statement based on the deliberation of the preceding session. Each group participants will select a moderator and rapporteur.*

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*10:30-10:45 C O F F E E B R E A K*

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**10:45-13:00 Continuation of Session 5**

Reporting of the working group deliberation outcome

Rapporteurs of working groups will report on the outcome of their discussions

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*13:00-14:00 L U N C H*

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**14:00-15:00 Session 5: Drafting Submission to UNCSD Secretariat and UNEP GC/GMEF 2012**

Participants will review a draft statement and finalize.

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*15:00-15:15 C O F F E E B R E A K*

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**5:15-17:15 Election of UNEP AP-CSO core members, UNEP AP CSO Leads and discussion of future work plans**

Participants will elect Chair, Vice-Chair, Alternates – UNEP AP CSO.

**17:15-18:00 Concluding Session**

Closing Remarks  
Ms Tomoko Nishimoto, Director, Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC),  
UNEP  
Wrap-up of the meeting

## Major Groups & Stakeholders Asia-Pacific Meeting, 17-18 October 2011, Seoul

### List of Participants

#	Participant	Country	E-mail	Organization	Major Group
<b>South-East Asia</b>					
1	Mr Adam John Tomasek	Indonesia	<a href="mailto:atomasek@wwf.or.id">atomasek@wwf.or.id</a>	WWF (Heart of Borneo Initiative)	NGO
2	Ms Eugenia Lani	Indonesia	<a href="mailto:In_eugenia@yahoo.com">In_eugenia@yahoo.com</a> or <a href="mailto:wamti_indonesia@yahoo.com">wamti_indonesia@yahoo.com</a>	Indonesia Farmers Society (WAMTI)	Farmer
3	Mr Agusdin Pulungan	Indonesia	<a href="mailto:agusdinpulungan@gmail.com">agusdinpulungan@gmail.com</a>	WAMTI	Farmer
4	Ms Vanessa Letizia	Indonesia	<a href="mailto:letizia.vanessa@gmail.com">letizia.vanessa@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:pabl_ines@yahoo.com">pabl_ines@yahoo.com</a>	Greeneration Indonesia	NGO/Children & Youth
5	Mr Mohd Nordin Hasan	Malaysia	<a href="mailto:nordin.hasan@icsu-asia-pacific.org">nordin.hasan@icsu-asia-pacific.org</a>	International Council for Science	Scientific & Tech. Community
6	Ms Chee Yoke Ling	Malaysia	<a href="mailto:yokeling@twnetwork.org">yokeling@twnetwork.org</a>	Third World Network	NGO
7	Mr Paul Lagoy Quintos	Philippines	<a href="mailto:pquintos.ibon@gmail.com">pquintos.ibon@gmail.com</a>	IBON International	NGO
8	Mr Jessie James Lacaba Marcellones	Philippines	<a href="mailto:marcellones_jl2003@yahoo.com">marcellones_jl2003@yahoo.com</a>	UNEP Tunza AP Region	Children and Youth
9	Ms Elenita Cogonon Dano	Philippines	<a href="mailto:neth@etcgroup.org">neth@etcgroup.org</a>	Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration Group	NGO

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10	Ms Ellamelides Sotto Antonio	Philippines	<a href="mailto:ella.antonio@gmail.com">ella.antonio@gmail.com</a>	Earth Council Asia-Pacific	NGO
11	Ms Mae Buenaventura Dolleton	Philippines	<a href="mailto:mae_buenaventura@gmail.com">mae_buenaventura@gmail.com</a>	Freedom from Debt Coalition	Farmer/Women/Workers & Trade Unions
12	Ms Lyn Angelica Pano	Philippines	<a href="mailto:secretariat@aprnet.org">secretariat@aprnet.org</a>	Asia Pacific Research Net (APRNet)	NGO
13	Mr Cielito Habito	Philippines	<a href="mailto:cfhabito@mozcom.com">cfhabito@mozcom.com</a>	Ateneo Centre for Economic Research, Ateneo de Manila University	Scientific & Tech Community
14	Mr. Antonio Francisco Bernal Lucas	Philippines	<a href="mailto:fblucas49@yahoo.com">fblucas49@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="mailto:angoc@angoc.org">angoc@angoc.org</a> , <a href="mailto:fblucas@angoc.org">fblucas@angoc.org</a>	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC)	NGO/Farmers
15	Ms Maricel Tolentino	Philippines	<a href="mailto:msatolentino@angoc.org">msatolentino@angoc.org</a>	Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC)	NGO/Farmers
16	Ms. Daphne Dolot Roxas	Philippines	<a href="mailto:dapbanahaw@yahoo.com">dapbanahaw@yahoo.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:ukpawngad@gmail.com">ukpawngad@gmail.com</a>	Asian Women's Network on Gender and Development and Helena Benitez Global Forum, Philippine Women's University	Women
17	Ms. Arze Gipo Carasco	Philippines	<a href="mailto:arze@info.com.ph">arze@info.com.ph</a> , <a href="mailto:arze_glipo@yahoo.com">arze_glipo@yahoo.com</a>	Asia-Pacific Network on Food Sovereignty (APNFS)	Farmer/NGO/Women
18	Ms Marjo Busto	Philippines	<a href="mailto:marjo.busto@panap.net">marjo.busto@panap.net</a>	Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP)	Farmers/Women
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Major Groups and Stakeholders Asia Pacific Meeting 2011  
"The Road to Rio: Charting Our Path"

**Meeting Summary**

**17<sup>th</sup> October**

**Session 1: Regional Priority and Emerging Issues, Asia Pacific**

This session began with a brief presentation by Anna Strabrawa by UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessments on Priority and emerging regional environmental issues while Peter King who is the Senior Policy Advisor at Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and coordinating lead author of GEO-5 or the Fifth Global Environment Outlook which is proclaimed as an important document. This document is supposed to provide a comprehensive, integrated and scientifically credible global environmental assessment.

The recommendations, problems and points made by the various speakers from North-East, Central, South and South-East Asia as well as the Pacific islands were:

Central Asia

- At country level, the need to monitor sustainable use of natural resources.
- Support for best practices using community-based approach.
- Capacity building
- Removing barriers for policy procedures: making, implementation and evaluation
- Showcase good and bad practices, including lessons learned

South Asia

- Governance: defining elements needed to achieve sustainability. Sometimes traditional users are deprived of customary rights: e.g. land taken for mega-projects, agricultural land used for urbanization purposes
- Green Economy: improved human and social equity, to improve distribution of scarcities.
- Principle 10: access to information, access to participation, access to environmental justice: Needs strengthening
- South Asia is home to most of world's poor: change fuel usage from fossil-based to renewable energy.
- Need to address poverty while moving towards sustainable methods:

North East Asia

- Problems highlighted in her dialogue: Sustainable Land Management to counteract land degradation; sand storms; urbanization; mining; earthquakes; Japan nuclear problems. China's demand for energy is increasing and this will lead to increased air pollution in future if not now.
- Recommendations made were:
  - Comprehensive technical assessment and technology transfer within the region.

- Climate Change adaptation
- Subregional environment program

#### Pacific Islands

- Global governance on oceans re-waste and over-fishing
- Continue to combine Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation activities in order to lessen impacts of water shortages and reliance on fossil fuel energy – transfer technology such as desalinators and solar, biogas.
- Creation of large marine protected areas with necessary enforcement mechanisms to conserve fish and allow regeneration. More of these are needed to protect the last remaining tuna fishery.
- Comment from Floor: recognize the usefulness of culture

#### South East Asia

- Populations in SE Asia are increasing and ageing: This leads to greater demand on resources and decline in working population
- High and accelerating economic growth rate and expected to continue will lead to increase consumption and resources use which will put pressure on environment.
- Effects of future global financial crisis were worse in Singapore, Malaysia though not so bad in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.
- Slow in achieving MDGs – education and maternal mortality rate.
- Climate change impact affects economy; walls in Singapore affected – extreme conditions, too much water; take account of women in all these issues;
- Food and water security affected by climate change
- Increasing dependence on fossil fuel, higher than global rate of 1.5%
- Transboundary environmental pollution affects many countries in ASEAN.
- Need to strengthen regional environmental governance remains important challenge to countries in the region

### ***Session 2: Green Economy for Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction***

1. What is “green economy” / “green growth” / “sustainable economies”?

#### UNEP perspective on “green economy”

- Getting capital allocation right.
- Reshaping and refocusing policies, investments/spending in order to promote clean technologies, renewable energies & green investments.
- Increase income/jobs, & reduce poverty/inequity.
- Mobilize investment (domestic/foreign, public/private) to targeted areas.
- Stimulate green innovation through standards/incentives.
- Run campaigns to promote green life style.
- Economic vehicle for sustainable development.

#### Korean State perspective on “green growth”

- Promoting economic growth and development while reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing waste and inefficient use of natural resources, and maintaining biodiversity (OECD 2009).
- Investing in the environment as a driver for economic growth and development (by improving health and jobs prospects for populations, strengthening energy security through less dependence on fossil fuels, etc).
- Shift in public and private investments (carefully targeted public funds accompanied by the right policy frameworks to help leverage private financing).

#### NGO perspective on “sustainable economies”

- Not a single model of an IPR based economy with green technologies & green markets.
- Decentralized, community based, sustainable economies.
- A common vision for an “equity” based world order (not 20:80 world order).
- Commitment towards creating ‘wellbeing of all’.
- Promotes “sustainable consumption & production patterns”.
- Moves from a mere “efficiency” focus to “sufficiency” based sustainable development paradigm.
- Helps achieve climate sustainability - to eradicate all kind of poverty and threats to the environment.
- Equitable not accumulated growth within limits - not vertical growth for the few rich and a consuming class, horizontal growth so wealth is distributed for wellbeing of all.

## 2. What is the promise of a green economy?

#### UNEP Perspective

- Energy/resource efficiency & reduced waste (per unit of GDP).
- Income/jobs from environmental goods/services (renewable energy, waste management/recycling, certified timber & fish, REDD+, etc.).
- Social goods/services (education, health care, labour protection, etc.).
- Quality of life indexes including distributional and gender equity.
- Higher GDP growth over time.
- Enhanced wealth.
- Reduced poverty.
- Increased natural capital.

#### Korean State Perspective

- Develop and introduce green technologies into major industrial sectors leading economic growth.
- Change life-style based on environmentally sound and sustainable consumption patterns.
- Share the experiences with partners to build a “planet responsible civilization for the sustainability of humanity”.

### Trade Union perspective

- New development model for sustainable development with social justice and equity.
- Green Jobs and Decent Work - standards, productive employment, social protection, collective bargaining and social dialogue for achieving equitable, inclusive and sustainable development.
- Financial Transaction Tax is an important source of financing.

### Business perspective

- “Green Purchasing” creates green markets and encourages businesses to develop environmentally sound products and services through the market.
- “Green Purchasing” has power to change society as well as business behaviours.

### 3. What are the concerns with the green economy concept?

- Creates confusion by replacing/ re-packaging/ re-branding “sustainable development”.
- Tool for trade protectionism: environmental standards as barriers to market access, pollution havens, etc.
- High costs of transitioning towards a green economy.
- IPR barriers limit access to clean technologies.
- Potentially a new conditionality for aid, loans, debt rescheduling and debt relief.
- Great divider, divorces the economy from the environment & society.
- Greed in the name of “green” and can “green wash” the “brown economy”.
- Does not challenge the existing capitalist economic order and help us face the challenge of climate change and poverty.
- Green public procurement (public sector) / Green supply chains (private sector) does not embrace social issues, including poverty eradication.

### 4. What can we agree on?

- Reaffirm sustainable development and the Rio principles and other SD outcomes since Rio.
- Not limit the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources (Rio Principle 2).
- No conditionalities, parameters and standards that may lead to unjustified or unilateral restrictions in trade, financing, ODA or other international assistance.
- Public financing including through a financial transaction tax.

### ***Session 3: Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development and International Environment Governance***

- Rio+20 must send a strong political message on need for action and determined decision on necessary changes on the pursuit of sustainable development and the institutional framework for realizing it.
- The environment pillar of sustainable development is short and weak compared to the social and economic pillars mainly due to UNEP's weaknesses as logical supporter and promoter of the environment pillar, namely:
  - Inadequate funds and unwise use of available funds
  - Disconnect between finance and environment policy-making and governance, e.g., World Bank controls the funds, not UNEP; Ministry of Finance/Budget determines funds for environment, not the Ministry of Environment
  - Lack of political clout being just a program; having no universal membership; being a scientific rather than a policy or implementing body; no mandate and capability to be at the sub-regional and national levels. There are also other bodies concerned with environment that have more clout than UNEP.
- Solutions proposed to be adopted to address the weaknesses include: expanding UNEP's authority; improving coherence among the MEAs, strengthening science-policy interface; establishing operational/implementation arms.
- Several options are being considered in strengthening UNEP including the upgrading of UNEP; creation of the World Environment Organization; mainstreaming institutions; and creation of a specialized agency. The last is so far the strongest option in terms of advantages but it would require the ratification of a treaty.
- Financing could be a non-issue if the following are harnessed: (a) private sector financing under the Principles for Responsible Investment Initiatives; (b) maximizing new financing sources (e.g. China).
- A Global Sustainable Development Council that ensures non-state involvement is proposed to be created by the UN General Assembly. This may take the form and legal basis for the Human Rights Council. There should also be SD Councils at regional, sub-regional and national levels.
- It is not enough to strengthen the environment pillar to attain SD. It is also important to undertake an economic transformation to avoid further financial and economic debacles brought about by current economic paradigm. The UN must take a direct hand in economic and financial policy-making. Integration of the three pillars in substance is important.
- Promises (e.g. North-South Compact) in Rio in 1992 must be met and principles of sustainability must be upheld (e.g. common but differentiated responsibility).

- Local authorities are closest to the ground and directly serve the people. They must be given a key role, the right to vote on global policies, and right to decide and implement global commitments.
- S&T is important in both green economy and SD thus must be given a central role in a modified structure. The link between S&T and policy-making must be built and strengthened.
- Data collection is key to S&T development and in exercising its role, hence must also be given importance. There are many existing knowledge systems, these must all come together to strengthen S&T and pursuit of sustainability.
- Taxation is very important but it must be imposed primarily for promoting sustainability.

***Session 4: Principle 10: Access to Information, Public Participation and Environmental Justice***

- As stipulated in Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, accesses to environmental information, participation in decision-making and judicial proceedings over environmental matters are a critical part of the policy and institutional framework for achieving sustainable development. Thus the policies on access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and judicial proceedings over environmental matters must be fully implemented at the multiple levels. The Aarhus Convention and UNEP Guideline on Principle 10 provide useful frameworks for developing and implementing policy measures to achieve Principle 10 objectives.
- Government must provide involve major groups and stakeholders in policy dialogues and decision making processes over the environment and sustainability policy issues.
- A number of countries in Asia and the Pacific have adopted the freedom of information acts and promote the public access to environmental information. However, the level of implementation and compliance with the Principle 10 varies considerably, and there are cases where the poor and socially marginalized groups are denied or unable to benefit from the access to environmental information.
- Further consideration is required to refine the scope of Principle 10 particularly to deal with outstanding and/or emerging issues. Some suggested the linkage of Princip10 with the access to information on technology such as those of which effects on the environment and human health remain to be a concern.
- The government should retain the authority to obtain information from the private sector when its activities are to cause the impacts on the environment or public concerns.

- To facilitate effective implementation of the Principle 10 policy measures, education, awareness raising and training are important capacity development activities.
- Exceptions to the public access to environmental information and other Principle 10 policy measures should be restricted and should not be abused.
- To ensure the compliance of the countries Princip10 policy measures at the national level, it is suggested to define the legal rights, obligations and enforcement procedures, and incorporate penalty clauses in such measures in order to pose penalty on the individuals or corporations that fail to provide information despite their legal obligations.
- It is suggested to pursue a global, regional and/or sub-regional convention on Principle 10. Some suggested that it would be easier to develop consensus at the sub-regional level while others suggested for pursuing a regional or global convention in order to utilise the leverage of the international financial institutions for reinforcing transparency and public participation policies in the investment programmes and projects.
- The Access Initiative spearheaded by the World Resource Institute and its partner institutes provide useful benchmarks and indicators to assess the Principle 10 policy measure performance.
- The peer policy review, and complaint/individual petition procedures are some of the key features of the Aarhus Convention, and the option of having a convention will help implementing effective desirable multilateral procedures for ensuring the implementation of the Principle 10 policy measures.

### **18<sup>th</sup> October**

The second day was spent on working group deliberations for the Regional Statement for Submission to UNCSD Secretariat and UNEP GC/GMEF 2012 and the election of UNEP Asia Pacific representatives and alternates, along with selection of major group members – women, unions, farmers, local authorities, science and technology, and business for the Asia Pacific MGS Core Group<sup>1</sup>. All major groups are represented now in core group with the exception of business.

The first part of the morning was spent on deliberation and discussion of the summary of the first day. During the discussion, some MGS questioned the idea of an Asia Pacific statement. Some felt that a single statement may not be able to capture or represent the views of all MGS in the region. It was then explained that MGS had an opportunity to present the statement at the Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting organized by ESCAP on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October, along with statements from each of the major groups. Moreover it was clarified that there will be an opportunity to share the statement with

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<sup>1</sup> The Asia Pacific MGS Core Group was established in 2010. The representation was based on subregions, with MGS members for each of the subregion. In addition, the Core Group already includes indigenous, NGO and youth major group representative. Since it's formation, the MGS Core Group have formed a google discussion group and facebook and have undertaken active discussion on issues related to Rio+20 and played an active role in the organization and selection of participation of the 17-18 October 2011 MGS meeting in Seoul.

their constituencies for further input prior to the UNEP Governing Council/GMEF to get their endorsement. In the end, the final statement was endorsed by all MGS present.

The second half of the day was spent electing the AP representatives and alternates, as well as members of the UNEP Asia Pacific MGS Core Group. The remainder of the afternoon was spent on finalizing the regional statement and major group statements for which each of the nine Major Groups will have an opportunity to present at the Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting. A drafting committee, made up of the Chair and Vice-Chair and Rapporteurs worked on the Asia Pacific Statement while the nine Major Groups worked on their individual statements.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the final statement and a closing address by Tomoko Nishimoto Director, Division of Regional Cooperation.



## **Full Asia-Pacific Major Groups Statements**

### ***Statement by the Major Group for Children and Youth***

We, the representatives of the Major Group of Children and Youth, call for renewed political commitment towards sustainable development and engagement of youth at every stage in this marathon towards Rio+20.

Almost twenty years have passed since the Earth Summit and too little has been done to achieve the promise of sustainable development. We the youth urge our leaders to take collective action NOW to ensure that 20 years from now, a youth participant does not have to make the very same demands:

First, governments must take concrete steps to make “sustainable development” a reality in the world we live in and the world our future generations will inherit. To this end we urge governments at the very least to develop a national strategy towards sustainable development with the participation of young people.

Second, principles and practices of “sustainability” must be embedded in curriculums from primary through to tertiary levels and in a variety of social institutions to ensure lifelong learning and appreciation of nature and animals.

Governments must support the critical role of universities and colleges in providing the leaders of tomorrow with the necessary skills and knowledge to achieve the goal of sustainable development.

Third, governments must enact legislation and programs to support young people in their pursuit of self-sufficiency and green entrepreneurship by encouraging sustainable consumption patterns and low waste/ low carbon lifestyles.

Fourth, governments must establish regional and inter-regional youth programmes for capacity development, human resource development, and sustainable development education, as well as support for youth-led projects and networks within and across countries.

Fifth, governments must promote youth employment rights and security to prevent their marginalization and social exclusion. Further, concerted efforts must be made to end child labour by addressing the conditions that lead to it.

Sixth, in your deliberations over the institutional framework for sustainable development we urge you to ensure that resources are allocated to implement activities for and by youth; that youth are systematically and integrally included in all stages of program implementation; and that youth will have the right to access information of all programs and policies.

Last but not the least, unhealthy societies can never make a sustainable world. Governments must ensure access to basic health services, including sexual reproductive health for young women and girls.

Let me conclude with the words of Simone de Beauvoir, I quote "Change your life today. Don't gamble on the future. Act now, without delay." End quote. Thank you!

### ***Statement of the Major Group for Farmers***

Farmers represent one-third of the world's population and one-half of its poor. As the planet's primary ecosystem managers, farmers are best placed to ensure sustainable development and contribute to a green economy. Farmers provide multiple services to society, such as production of food, non-food products, delivery of ecosystem services and land stewardship to enhance, protect biodiversity and provide welfare of animals. They play a key role for rural development, rural employment and contribute to economic growth and to reduction of poverty and hunger in the world.

The major concerns of the farmers are:

- Retaining the youth on the farms,
- Land grabbing and diversion for non-agricultural purposes and lack of implementation of land reforms,
- Degradation and desertification of land,
- Declining water sources,
- Elusive energy supplies,
- High input costs, not commensurate with higher productivity or higher farm gate prices; Chemical fertilizers and chemical pesticides taking up a major proportion of the input costs and contributing to environmental degradation,
- Loss of common property resources like grazing lands,
- Protection of ecosystem,
- Invasion of bio-safety, bio-diversity, and food sovereignty,
- Environmental hazards and climate change accompanied by natural disasters.
- Deprivation of information and access to facilities to cope with new technologies and efficient use of natural resources, and harmonizing it with their traditional knowledge and practices,
- Scarcity of water and fodder for Livestock farming of small farmers as well as large farmers owing to degradation of land and climate change issues
- Feminization of agriculture in developing countries without adequate capacity building, access to land and other resources including drudgery reducing technologies, but with multiple burdens of production and reproduction and low or no remuneration,
- Poor rural infrastructure with lack of roads, transportation, warehouses and storage, marketing facilities and affordable credit facilities,
- Inadequate Extension Service.
- Increasing threats from MNCs in the sector of Agriculture and Animal Farming, and Fisheries,
- Deprivation of rights over land and productive resources for marginalized communities and women from all sections,
- Bio-piracy by MNCs including Local traditional knowledge of farmers, indigenous persons, depriving them of their intellectual property rights/knowledge entitlements, for seeds, herbs, plants, bio-fertilizers, non chemical-pesticides, medicines etc.,
- Commodification and monopoly control by the State, corporations and local elites of land and productive resources

Farmers are the most affected by climate change. They lose not only production on the land, but their very livelihoods. Poverty can not be eradicated without addressing the challenges that farmers face and making agriculture, particularly, for the small family farms in developing countries worthwhile.

Farmers are convinced that green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should be economic systems that foster citizen participation; require social justice and equity and gender equality; protection of ecosystems; creation of economic and food sufficiency that enhances sustainable development and prosperity of all nations; wellbeing of all people; respect the rights of all culture and wisdom of indigenous peoples and local communities; safeguard animal welfare and conserve biodiversity for future generations, while stressing that green economy does not replace sustainable development.

Farmers need a strong Extension Service to facilitate and help adaptation not only to climate change but for more efficient use of water, soil management, new technology and new knowledge along with larger investments into agriculture and rural infrastructure budgets of the Governments to ensure facilities to farmers. Help organization of men and women farmers to get better access to skills, technology, credit, inputs, markets and remunerative prices.

Capacities of family farmers and small farmers be strengthened to participate in mitigation of pollution and adaptation to sustainable solutions in agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries, despite small farmers, (by the nature of their small holdings and small enterprises), not contributing to pollution as commercial intensive dairy farms may do.

We call on governments to support bio-diverse ecological agriculture employed by small holder farmers and rural women, as asserted by the 2010 report by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, as key to food security that ensures their right to food, protects the environment and is economically and ecologically feasible.

We call on governments to recognize the critical role of agriculture in rural and economic development and poverty alleviation, and enhance investment in agriculture and strengthen the legislative and policy framework that allows increased access of farmers to participation in policy making, and promotes institutions to address issues of sustainable development, liability & redress and climate crises.

We call on Governments to include farmers and indigenous people in all decision making processes on land, water, forest, territories and other resources.

We call on Governments to ensure decent and safe working conditions and fair wages for agricultural workers.

We call for specific commitments to ensure that global agriculture systems and food supply chains are sustainable and humane, ensuring the welfare of animals.

In the interest of Global food security and food sovereignty, we call upon Governments to make agriculture attractive and remunerative for youth, men and women, and indigenous people to continue in this sector with greater efficiency and dignity.

We demand that Rural Development, Agriculture, Animal Welfare and Fisheries should be placed high on the Agenda of Rio+20 and all the other UN Specialized Agencies handling different dimensions of sustainable development.

**Major Group - Farmers**

Dr. Sarala Gopalan – World Farmers Organisations

Mr. Ajay Kumar Jha - Pairvi

Mr. George Cheriyan – Centre for Environment & Sustainable Development

Ms. Lani Eugenia – WAMTI (Indonesian Farmer and Fisher Society Organization)

Mr. Gajender K. Sharma – World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)

Ms. Tess Vistro – AMIHAN, National Federation of Peasant Women/Asian Peasant Coalition

Ms. Marjo Busto – Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP)/Asian Rural Women's Coalitio

Mr. Paolo Colabres – Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas / Peasant Movement of the Philippines (KMP)

Ms. Maricel Almojuela-Tolentino – Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ANGOC)

### ***Statement of the Major Group for Indigenous Peoples***

Representatives of indigenous peoples' from Asia and the Pacific have combined to prepared this statement to the regional preparatory meeting and the June 2012 Rio+20 Conference. We thank the Asian Development Bank, UNESCAP and UNEP for making it possible for us to participate.

At the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and its parallel processes, the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 recognized the vital role of indigenous peoples as stakeholders in sustainable development and identified them as one of the 9 Major Groups.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples or UNDRIP, together with the Kimberley Declaration and the Indigenous Peoples' Plan of Implementation for Sustainable Development underpin international and national policies and programmes for indigenous peoples with regard to sustainable development.

With regard to the **"green economy" in the context of poverty eradication** it is clear that current models are not working well. Because sustainable development has not been effectively implemented, there are multiple crises at the same time – in the environmental dimension we suffer from climate change, challenges to biodiversity, unsustainable land-use, and spread of contaminants, threats to food and water security. In the economic dimension, there is the likelihood of another global recession, together with energy shortages and food price shocks. In the social dimension there is social and political instability, worsened by the ever-increasing cost of food and fuel. The current model of striving to achieve the highest possible profits and increases in economic growth, unlimited resource extraction, unsustainable consumption and production and unregulated commodity and financial markets is only achieved at the expense of the fragile ecosystems where indigenous peoples live. Continued use of the prevailing development models for planning dooms any attempts at reform for global and national institutions to failure, so a fresh approach is needed. The world view of indigenous peoples is that humans are an integral part of ecosystems and biodiversity. Through spiritualities and cultures that respect nature, and their ethos of only taking what is necessary for subsistence, indigenous peoples personify "green" economies and contribute significantly towards a more just, equitable and sustainable world. The value systems of indigenous peoples which (*inter alia*) emphasize reciprocity, harmony with nature, solidarity, and community well-being enable indigenous communities to remain resilient in the face of the multiple crises. But more holistic, coherent planning for sustainable development is needed that places a higher value on ecosystems and incorporates human rights, cultural sensitivities and traditional knowledge systems. Other measures of sustainable growth have been suggested that account for human well-being that might represent a step in the right direction. An alternative model has been suggested to achieve green growth models using fiscal and tax policies and evaluation of the impact of such a model on indigenous peoples is required.

In relation to the **institutional framework for sustainable development**, the current institutional arrangements are not meeting changed global needs. Other speakers have indicated how to integrate the dimensions of sustainable development by changing from a Commission to Sustainable Development to a Council for Sustainable

Development. Any action that would improve the situation of indigenous peoples is desirable.

**Access to information and access to participation** under Principle 10 of Agenda 21 are of particular importance to indigenous peoples for effective participation in UN fora, particularly in preparatory meetings and the June 2012 Rio+20 conference. Access to Justice under Principle 10 of Agenda 21 needs to be addressed, because there are gaps in the implementation of international agreements by states, governments and private corporations. The continuing infringement of rights in indigenous lands, territories and resources and the barriers to self-determination are key obstacles in achievement of sustainable development and eradication of poverty. In accordance with the UNDRIP and the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), a moratorium is needed on any further extractive activities that result in contaminants and greenhouse gas emissions within the lands and territories of indigenous peoples.

As an **emerging issue**, culture should be added as an additional pillar of sustainable development, because the traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples enable them to survive multiple crises and to make significant contributions to sustainable development by maintaining or restoring indigenous governance over environmental, social and economic dimensions.



### ***Statement of the Major Group for NGOs***

*A month ago, civil society started to occupy Wall Street. This week, we are occupying Seoul. In June, we will occupy Rio...*

Recognising the right to sustainable development is a fundamental right of people.

Emphasising that sustainable development must promote equity and enhance the wellbeing of all.

Further emphasising that sustainable development must be based on the protection and conservation of the natural resource base, on which life on earth depends, not on unbridled consumption.

**We call for** strengthening of the holistic integration of the environment, economic and social dimensions of sustainable development.

Recognising that communities together with NGOs around the world have developed numerous innovative solutions to development challenges that need to be supported with enabling environments to link, upscale and mainstream these efforts.

Recognising that NGOs are independent and equal development actors that are integral in decision-making processes at different levels.

Stressing the importance of effective engagement of NGOs in sustainable development.

**We recognise and commend** the commitment and efforts of a number of governments in the Asia-Pacific Region to implement Agenda 21 since 1992 through the creation of national councils for sustainable development and the adoption of national sustainable development strategies with the active engagement of NGOs.

**We call upon** these mechanisms to be recognized as an integral part of the national development agenda.

**We further call** upon countries where these mechanisms exist but have lagged, to revive and strengthen them and in countries where these mechanisms do not exist, for them to be created.

Sadly recognizing that governments have committed themselves to shift to the sustainable development paradigm 20 years ago, but have done little to deliver this promise.

**We urge** that new labels such as green economy must not confuse, distract from or obscure commitments to sustainable development and that governments and the international community must instead reaffirm their commitment to sustainable development.

**We call** for renewed political commitment to sustainable development principles adopted at Rio in 1992, namely, the precautionary principle, common but differentiated responsibilities, polluter-pays principle, the access principles (access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters), and the recognition of the indispensable role of major groups in sustainable development

**We strongly call** upon governments to recognize that the current convergence of crises should not be used as an excuse to avoid or delay the delivery of these commitments.

### **On Green Economy**

Recognising that the current economic model, which promotes unsustainable consumption and production patterns, facilitates a grossly inequitable trading system, fails to eradicate poverty, assists exploitation of natural resources towards the verge of extinction, and has induced multiple crises on Earth, needs to be replaced by sustainable economies in community, local, national, regional and international spheres.

Acknowledging that green economies within sustainable societies should also ensure gender equality, democracy, improve human wellbeing, reduce environmental risks, respect the fundamental human rights of people, enhance opportunities for green, decent work and right livelihoods, and ensure that jobs and social benefits are distributed equitably among all peoples;

**We are convinced** that green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should be economic systems that foster citizen participation; require social justice and equity and gender equality, protection of ecosystems; creation of economic sufficiency, and that aims for the core idea that green economies enhance sustainable development and prosperity of all nations; ensure the wellbeing of all people; respect the rights, cultures, languages and wisdom of indigenous peoples and local communities; safeguard animal welfare and conserve biodiversity for future generations, while stressing that green economy does not replace sustainable development.

**We believe** that partnerships to promote green economies should promote sustainable development and should not be exploitative and opportunistic.

**We oppose** the privatisation and commodification of nature and ecosystem functions that lead to further marginalization of communities.

**We reject** market-based mechanisms that serve as means for developed countries to avoid the delivery of commitments to deep cuts in their greenhouse gas emissions and to pass such obligations to markets.

**We believe** that technological fixes alone will not solve environmental problems that are consequences of social and economic factors. Fundamental issues such as access, intellectual property rights (IPR), and assessment of the potential impacts of new and untested technologies before they are released in the environment and deployed commercially must be addressed in the development and transfer of technologies.

## **On Sustainable Development Governance**

Stressing that governments must recognize the existing efforts of communities and NGOs in promoting sustainable development at the national and local levels, and should support and provide platforms to mainstream and link these efforts to have more sustained impacts on development.

**We call for** renewed commitment of governments to implement Agenda 21 by establishing, strengthening or reviving national and local mechanisms such as multi-stakeholder councils for sustainable development, and ensuring synergy and coherence among the different agencies involved in sustainable development

**We call for** the global institutional framework for sustainable development to ensure equitable rights and opportunities for all to enjoy sustainable development and promote wellbeing for all.

**We also call upon** the Rio+20 process to address sustainable development governance, and not just focus on international environmental governance that should go beyond reforming UNEP but should involve all institutions in the environmental governance architecture.

**We strongly call for** the building of a strong apex body on sustainable development that works at the global level and can integrate the work of disparate multilateral bodies working on each of the three pillars of sustainable development, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation. Options that should be explored include transforming the Commission on Sustainable Development into a Council on Sustainable Development, or establishing a UN Organization on Sustainable Development. The unifying mandate of this body should be the promotion of sustainable development as a fundamental right of all.

**We also call upon** Rio+20 to work for the immediate establishment of a broad inclusive multi-stakeholder consultative body or network tasked with supporting the promotion and monitoring the implementation of sustainable development commitments and actions since 1992 as well as the Rio+20 resolutions. Such a body should be participatory, democratic, and have an integral multi-stakeholder character that accords civil society with equal rights and equal voice as governments.

**We further stress** the need for a systematic monitoring of the implementation and strict enforcement of existing agreements related to sustainable development at the global and their enabling laws at the national level.

## **New and Emerging Issues**

Being alarmed by the trends in Asia-Pacific in the systematic acquisition of land in least-developed and developing countries by public and private entities from food-insecure but financially-endowed states.

**We call for** an end to this massive land grab.

**We call upon** the specific circumstance of small island developing states in the Pacific to be recognized and fully addressed with regards to the crucial importance of marine resources management and governance necessary for the survival of the people in these islands.

**We further call for** a ban to the dumping of wastes and toxic chemicals into the marine environment.

**We call for** the rights and responsibilities of consumers to be recognised and promoted.

**We further call** for the active promotion and support of sustainable fishing, particularly involving small-scale fishers in view of the dangerous level of depletion of fisheries resources across the region.

Recognising the critical importance of food sovereignty to address the food crisis.

**We call for** communities to have the right to determine their patterns of food production and consumption, and farmers should be able to prioritize food production for domestic consumption, where Government provides incentives to sustainable food production practices.

**We call for** global and regional mechanisms, such as a Regional Technology Observation Platforms, in evaluating the impacts of new and untested technologies must be adopted. Such mechanisms must involve communities, civil society and other actors, and provide resources towards providing adequate information and building capacity of countries and communities to assess and monitor the health, biodiversity and environmental impacts of new technologies.

#### **On Principle 10**

**We call on** the Rio + 20 conference to launch negotiations for the establishment of an international convention on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration that deals with access to information, public participation and environmental justice.

**We further call on** the Rio + 20 conference to encourage the development of a regional convention on Principle 10, to invite interested states to accede to the Aarhus Convention and to mandate UNEP to develop a robust program to implement the 2010 Bali Guidelines on Principle 10.

***Our occupation of Seoul is built on the sincerity of our efforts to live the spirit and operationalize the principles of sustainable development. Our decades of experiences in working with communities and offering concrete solutions in our engagements with governments are living proof that we walk the talk...***

## ***Statement of the Major Group for Scientific and Technological Community***

\*Nordin Hasan, \*\*Pradeep Chaturvedi, \*Bruce McKellar

\*International Council for Science

\*\*World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO)

Chair/Co-Chair,

### **I. Introduction**

1. The action required to provide all of the people of Asia and the Pacific and elsewhere with a secure and comfortable future requires changes in social values and practices, as well as technical solutions. The Science and Technology Community, recognising this, calls for the increased, integrated involvement of natural scientists, social scientists, and technologists in helping governments and society to achieve sustainable development. The rapid growth of Asia and the Pacific in economic output, and its rapidly growing share of global scientific research put it in a good position to achieve this.

### **II. The *Green Economy* and sustainable development**

2. The Scientific and Technology Community sees the *Green Economy*, coupled with a clear commitment to poverty reduction, as a practical way to achieve sustainable development. We are exceeding the capacity of the planet to provide many of the resources we use and to accommodate our emissions, while many of the planet's inhabitants cannot meet even their most basic needs. Correcting this, lies at the heart of the concepts of sustainability and sustainable development.
3. A clear understanding of what constitutes the *Green Economy*, with a definition that will be uniformly applied by all constituents and stakeholders is important, and there must be agreed criteria for determining progress towards it. The construction of sustainable development goals, and an appropriate sustainable development index which takes into account in a balanced way environmental, social and economic indicators, and which will become THE measure of development in future, is a matter of high urgency and priority.
4. More and better directed public funding support for Research and Development (R&D) on the *Green Economy* is vital. Preferred funding for projects related to sustainable development and poverty reduction will attract the best talents to work on problems related to the greening of developed economies and the green development of undeveloped economies. As the 25 middle income countries in the Asia-Pacific move toward building internal capacity for such research and development, investment into R&D towards sustainable development ought to be emphasized, focusing on south-south and north-south collaboration

5. Public funding by itself will not deliver a *Green Economy*. It is already clear that there are significant business opportunities in sustainable development. The scientific and technological community looks forward to industry working in partnership with the natural science, social science and technology community to progress the transition to sustainable development. As is happening in some countries in the region, industry will find that science can contribute to their goals and will wish to support the appropriate science and technology.
6. Funding and appropriate mechanisms are required to promote the exchange of good practice, support pilot projects and strategic research through multi-stakeholder partnership at the national, regional and international levels, in order to promote the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.
7. It is a priority that Rio+20 emphasizes the central place that integrated natural and social sciences and technology will play in bringing about sustainable development, and recognizes that the scientific community includes natural and social scientists.

### **III. Institutional structures for sustainable development**

8. The scientific and technological community notes that many proposals for new or strengthened intergovernmental institutions for sustainable development have been considered since 1992 and proposes that institutional structures put into place to facilitate and encourage the move to sustainable development, need to cooperate and not compete. The present proliferation of institutional structures, often with overlapping responsibilities, tends to encourage competition for resources and attention, and can work against reaching the goal of sustainable development.
9. We observe that achieving sustainable development will not be possible through technological solutions alone. The implementation of sustainable development requires a holistic approach. As such any proposed institutional framework for sustainable development should integrate the environment, society and economics, and natural and social science and technology in a holistic way. Changes in society's expectations will be required, as will an integrated assessment of the likely effects of new technologies.
10. An improved position of science and technology in the hierarchy of the institutions of international organizations and national governments is a necessary first step in giving science and technology the stronger focus in international discussions, dialogues and negotiations that is consistent with the increasing role they must have in the practical implementation of sustainable development.
11. Data and information are central to understanding whether society is indeed moving towards sustainable development. Ensuring compatibility of data systems in existing and in any new national and international structures for sustainable development is an important requirement in the construction of the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development.

12. The S&T Community has a responsibility to ensure that the public, and all stakeholders are aware of scientific results relevant to the environment, and understand the implications of them. Public access to the information derived from the data, which supports participation in decision making, and access to judicial proceedings on environmental matters, specified in Principle 10, is important for public support of sustainable development.
13. The Science and Technology Major Group recognizes that the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development should be strengthened, in order to enhance its system wide effectiveness, coherence, and efficiency. However it insists that the process of constructing the IFSD must not detract from the urgent action required to alleviate the burden under which the Earth's ecological, economic and social systems are suffering. The science and technology community believes that the overriding priority is to get the structures we have working effectively and cooperatively towards sustainable development.

#### **IV. New and Emerging Challenges**

14. The Scientific and Technological Community notes that previously recognised challenges including climate change, ecosystem change and over utilisation of resources have a heightened urgency because they have been ignored. They must now be addressed as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Additional challenges are also emerging.
15. Many of these environmental issues involve many nations. Effective action thus requires effective multinational mechanisms for handling transnational and sub-regional environmental problems
16. Urbanisation is a particularly relevant challenge in the Asia Pacific region. Currently 50% of the world population is living in big cities, and it is expected that this will increase to 70% by 2050 resulting into higher and higher ecological footprint, and less arable land available for food production.
17. The Science and Technology Community will need to play a greater role in reducing this urban ecological footprint by introducing ecologically sound technologies such as integrated water and waste management, by assisting in urban planning to reduce unsustainable consumption practices.
18. The challenges of urbanisation should not blind us to the needs of rural communities. Ways must be sought to improve health, wellbeing and livelihoods in rural areas as well, especially in providing technologies that are easily available, appropriate, affordable, and meet basic needs.

#### **V. Conclusion**

Urgent changes in social values and practices, as well as technical solutions, are required. Natural scientists, social scientists, and technologists will play a vital role in helping governments and society to achieve sustainable development. Working together, natural scientists, social scientists, technologists, other Major

Groups and Governments can bring society out of poverty and into a sustainable, green society.



### ***Statement of the Major Group for Workers and Trade Unions***

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to thank you very much for giving workers and their representatives the opportunity to voice our concerns and perspectives.

As a Korean trade unionist who weathered both the Asian contagion of 1998 and the recent global financial crisis, I can see differences between the first and the second crisis. In the first crisis, foreign investors' manic and panic swings in and out of the Korean stock market and crash of our currency had huge impact on the real economy: GDP rapidly contracted, thousands of workers were pushed out to the street and communities were devastated.

This second crisis, while many Korean companies had improved their debt to equity ratio, we saw many foreign TNCs leave workers high and dry. In one case, a French transnational auto parts maker informed workers their plant was closed on the day it was closed, at 11 am after they were already working and by telephone.

And with the Occupy Wallstreet and the Occupy Seoul movements, we see not only deep insecurity about whether we have a future, but a deepening problem of social vulnerability. Precarious work is the daily reality for the majority of people in Asia and Pacific and social inequity has risen.

This brings me to my first point, regarding the **objective of the conference**, that **people must be at the center** of any green economy and of sustainable development efforts, and the commitments must be based on **people, their rights and empowerment** if development is to bring the uplift we hope for.

We echo Ms. Yoke Ling Chee's recognition that the acknowledgement of rights is a significant achievement and to this would add the COP16 recognition of the importance of ensuring that the transformation towards a low-carbon economy involves a '**Just Transition**' and creation of **decent jobs** as another important development. I also add, workers rights are human rights, and there needs to be an acknowledgement of the role that collective bargaining and Occupational Health and Safety rights for workers could play in sustainable development.

Workers call on countries to identify **targets on decent jobs** to be reached in the next 5 – 10 years accompanied by a package of decent work policies to secure jobs quality. Any agreement on sustainable development goals should include a commitment that at least half of the workers of the world have decent jobs by 2020.

Second, as a **new and emerging issue**, since the second crisis we have seen the deepening and escalating problem of social vulnerability and precarity. We believe Rio+20 presents a unique opportunity for the leaders of the world to decide on long-term solutions including universal access social protections systems and we see a **social protection floor**, especially in the developing and least developed countries, as a key way to move forward and improve resilience.

Third, implementation gaps are many and I cannot address all, but here I would like to address the difficulty that many countries in Asia suffer from poor resources and financing. A renewed political commitment needs to go hand in hand with a clear identification of sources to fund those commitments.

We are deeply convinced that one fundamental stepping stone towards a **global funding architecture is a Financial Transaction Tax** and urge governments to consider the developing countries whose economies have been frequently affected by manic panic swings and financial crises over recent decades. We call for a heads of state level decision to implement a Financial Transactions Tax globally.

To briefly comment on the **IFSD** issue, trade unions believe that social, economic and environmental institutions should have equal political powers and authority in the multilateral system.

Trade unions also support the designation of an institution or a person to represent the interests and rights of present and future generations.

Rio gave citizens the right to access to information, public participation and justice on environmental issues. Rio+20 must launch negotiations for the establishment of an international convention on those rights based on Rio Principle 10.

Trade unions also support the creation of a United Nations Environmental Organisation but we echo the Australian delegates' hope that there first be clarity on how the body would improve on existing approaches. That is, we agree with the creation of UNEO only if it has strong powers and authority.

The world's trade unions support strong and urgent climate action.

We call on governments to deliver Outcomes beyond pre-recorded language at the Rio+20 summit. This requires a **strong political document** making clear that **One, the Green Economy must respect the main principles**, including a Just Transition for workers and for developing countries in moving towards a sustainable society, **Second, a significant role for social protection systems** to ensure resilience for impacted communities, and **Third, a commitment to strengthening rights** to defend the planet and communities.

Governments know the urgency.

Some 20 years ago, world leaders gathered at the United Nations "Earth Summit" in Rio shared a vision to globally address the way we live in our earth and to lay the foundations for a **world in which every person could have a decent life in a healthy and secure environment.**

We urge you to take up this challenge.

Many thanks to you all for your time and attention.

*The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) represents 175 million workers in 151 countries and territories and has 305 national affiliates. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) is an affiliate of the ITUC and Korean Metal Workers' Union (KMWU) is a member union of the KCTU.*

## ***Statement of the Major Group for Women***

We, the Women's Major Group representatives\* at the Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio+20 call on governments to reaffirm their commitments to Agenda 21 and the Beijing Platform for Action, and fulfill their obligations to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We also call on governments to respect recent international agreements including the 2009 UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development where the causes and effects of the global economic, food and ecological crises have been discussed and urgent measures adopted to achieve a less volatile macroeconomic environment for sustainable development, including making economic and technological innovation policies compatible with human rights obligations.

On the road to Rio+20, we invoke the principles enshrined in these instruments – especially non-discrimination and substantive equality and their linkages to gender, economic, ecological justice. We assert the need for a radical change in mindset necessary to steer humanity off the course of repeated crises and self-destruction. To this end, we make the following six points:

First, we are alarmed by the complete disregard for women's human rights and gender equality in the Draft Asia Pacific Regional Statement. This is a serious regression after gaining an entire chapter on Women in Agenda 21 and a chapter on Women and the Environment in the Beijing Platform for Action. Governments in the Asia Pacific region must recognize that gender is cross cutting in development processes and that gender equality is vital to the achievement of sustainable development.

Second, we wish to reframe the "green economy" as "sustainable economies". We reject current economic models pursued in the name of efficiency and economic growth, but are in fact driven by profit and greed, and have resulted in unprecedented levels of poverty, inequality and food insecurity, which disproportionately affect women and girls across our region. Instead we are working to realize "sustainable economies" that are gender just and enable long-term social and well-being outcomes for present and future generations, especially marginalized groups such as indigenous, ethnic and sexual minority groups.

As women comprise half the world's population and also count among the poorest, a "sustainable economy" must recognize women's paid and un(der)paid contributions to economic production, must generate sustainable livelihoods by which women can realize the full enjoyment of their human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, and prevent all forms of discrimination and violence in women's exercise of their economic rights and co-stewardship of the earth's resources. Central to this is women's

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unmediated right to access, own, control and benefit from productive resources and assets, which includes land, water, seeds, energy sources, livestock, financial resources, public subsidies and appropriate technologies.

Third, women farmers must be recognized as co-managers of community resource bases and co-decision-makers in determining the use of natural resources and the distribution of benefits arising from them. They must be assured of capacity development in bio-diverse ecological agriculture including humane sustainable livestock and fisheries production, necessary rural infrastructure, appropriate technologies and marketing skills for their economic autonomy. We further seek from our governments a commitment to the rapid reduction and elimination of toxic substances and highly hazardous pesticides and fertilizers, while steadily phasing-in non-chemical approaches.

There is much to learn from gender-responsive good practices on agro-ecology and sustainable natural resource use and management that strive for balance and synergy between humans and nature. It must also be recognized that woman can capacitate “sustainable economies”, with their indigenous and traditional knowledge systems which should be protected from appropriation and exploitation by big business.

Fourth, as marginalized and excluded groups, women bear the harshest impacts of the current climate crisis. States must address the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change while ensuring greater and more meaningful participation of women in the climate deliberations and outcomes, and in adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Fifth, distressed migration is a phenomenon across many countries in our region, with women significantly comprising the bulk of those who migrate from rural to urban areas and from developing to developed countries. The climate crisis has increased economic and ecological displacement and forebodes more difficulties for the women. Governments must address the huge social costs resulting from distressed migration by addressing women’s economic deprivation and environmental degradation.

Sixth, women are greatly concerned by corporate driven technological solutions to climate change, many of which are harmful to the planet and people. Such technologies must be subject to rigorous, transparent and participatory assessments including the implications on women’s and children’s health and well being.

We take a firm position against nuclear energy as one of the solutions to the energy crisis. It is neither clean nor sustainable, as many nuclear disasters have already so painfully pointed out. States must immediately phase out nuclear energy and seek fresh and up-scaled financial resources that will shift the world to a green energy, which will benefit all of humankind.

In closing, we expect nothing less from Rio+20 than a commitment to promoting sustainable development and gender equality in ways that go beyond the limited “add women and stir” approach, and which genuinely recognize women’s co-leadership and co-stewardship. Toward this end we call for sex disaggregated data and gender budgets to assure equitable resource allocation.

We further insist on the full realization of the Rio Principles including the precautionary principle, common but differentiated responsibilities, polluter pays, and Principle 10 on access to information.

We the Women's Major Group call on all our governments to take action now.

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