

**Statement/ Recommendations of
the European Regional Consultation Meeting of Major Groups and Stakeholders
in preparation for 12th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF-12) and
twenty-six session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum
(GC-26/GMEF)**

27 October 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

We, the participants of the European Regional Consultation Meeting of Major Groups and Stakeholders in preparation for 12th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF-12) and twenty-six session of the Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-26/GMEF), gathered on 27 October 2010, in Geneva, Switzerland, agreed on the following Statement/ Recommendations.

The European statement reflects views and comments from a diverse spectrum of Major Groups and Stakeholders representing a large geographical area within the European region who also participated in the two day global consultation on International Environment Governance (IEG) and Green Economy held on 25 and 20 October 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland

IEG Reform Recommendations to the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-26/GMEF):

IEG at the national level:

- Governments should build environment capacity within and between each sector to be able to respond to the environmental related challenges;
- Enhance the role of National Committees and utilize National Committees to support UNEP national level activities;
- World Environment day 2011 should encompass Rio+20 as its core message.

IEG at the interagency level:

- The Environment Management Group to become a sub-committee of the Chief Executives Board
- Support the clustering of conventions; welcoming the clustering of chemicals and the proposed clustering of biodiversity related conventions as an import step in the right direction; improve vertical integration and administration of MEAs by means of proportionality and subsidiarity principles.

IEG at the global level:

- UNEP should be the global voice for the environment within the UN Family
- UNEP should have a stronger scientific base
- UNEP should enhance stakeholder participation and engagement
- UNEP should strengthen the regional offices of UNEP to have a high profile in the region
- UNEP should develop a knowledge base for all environmental conventions at all levels
- UNEP should lead an umbrella organization which would include all clustered environmental conventions
- UNEP should have as a major function, an ability to respond to emerging challenges
- UNEP should ensure transparency, public participation and accountability are foundational and essential elements of sound environmental governance, both at international and domestic levels and must be fully incorporated and realigned in the environmental governance system.

Green Economy Recommendations to the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-26/GMEF):

- Set the main goal of GE (suggestion: we need to reach an economy within the limits of carrying capacity and taking into consideration the social dimension) and set roadmap with clear targets;
- GE should be based on a joint effort from governments, civil society and the private sector;
- Do not reinvent the wheel, but base the implementation on the agreed language of Rio, Johannesburg Plan Of Implementation, Agenda 21 and Marrakesh process;
- Implement the commitment to enhance corporate social responsibility and accountability through transparency;
- Speed up the phase out from the brown sector through a financial and legal framework;
- support awareness raising and education (formal and informal) at all levels, taking into consideration tools for governments, private sector, CSOs and all stakeholders;
- Support and convey fast track of technology transfer;
- Ensure transparency of products (such as life cycle analysis).

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Recommendations to the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-26/GMEF):

- We appreciate the work of Marrakesh Process (MP) but we want this work to continue in a much more active pattern. Reinforcing of MP means to improve visibility and coordination, provide necessary resources, including by UN, involve major groups, and enable participation from countries in transition, orient more towards outputs;
- We propose UNEP to facilitate international dialogue between different stakeholders, including international organizations like WTO, ILO, ISO on designing effective practical measures on tackling driving forces of unsustainable consumption and production and establishing sustainable consumption infrastructure;
- UNEP to concentrate on promoting equal shares of environmental space for each citizen globally (One Planet concept and cap of consumption);
- UNEP is to organize support framework for national policy development and local demonstration projects implementation on SCP;
- Support major groups independent monitoring of SCP national implementation and outreach campaigns;
- Close interconnection between SCP implementation and GE concept should be developed and kept further;
- UNEP should support sustainable life-styles and encourage cultural change redefining “good life” through education, marketing, awareness raising and new/ modified behavior models implementation.