

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
REGIONAL CONSULTATION TO UNEP'S GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND
STAKEHOLDERS FORUM**

Cozumel, Quintana Roo, from 24 to 26 November

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

1. Considering the weak existing global environmental architecture, a reform is necessary to raise the political level of UNEP to strengthen its structure, capabilities, resources and regional presence, especially that of ROLAC, so that UNEP assumes a strong leadership in light of the serious environmental situation affecting our planet and to allow the coordination and promotion of environmental programmes at Global and Regional levels, with transparency, broad participation of major groups and accountability mechanisms.

2. It is essential to undertake a process of building and strengthening capacities on international environmental governance within and in conjunction with major groups, to inform, in a coordinated action, international environmental policy and the implementation of incremental structural reforms.

3. We welcome the creation of the *Major Groups and t Stakeholders Advisory Group on International Environmental Governance*, conceived as a regionally balanced forum. We believe that its work is essential to ensure direct channels for information exchange between the Advisory Group members and organizations actively involved in the decision cycle of UNEP policies, both globally and regionally.

GREEN ECONOMY

1. Create mechanisms and indicators to recognize the value of environmental services provided by Latin America and the Caribbean region to humanity.

2. Create mechanisms that value environmental services and that these are effectively internalized by the economic system and the decision-making processes.

3. Establish fiscal and market mechanisms that encourage sustainable economic activities and discourage unsustainable economic activities.

4. Support capacity building and technology transfer for sustainable economic activities, with emphasis on the business sector, particularly small and medium enterprises, accompanied by a fair transition that includes the necessary adaptation of the workforce.

5. Change the way wealth and economic development of countries is measured, considering environmental and social issues that are currently outside of the traditional national accounting.

6. Establish mechanisms to encourage energy efficiency and use of sustainable alternative energies, including research on new technologies, considering the local and traditional knowledge.

7. Promote environmental education within civil society to recognize the value of ecosystems and the environmental services that they provide to human wellbeing.

8. Implement public policies in educational institutions, particularly primary and secondary education, consisting of workshops on new consumption practices based on a sustainable economy.

9. Review the development models of countries, including those of Latin America and the Caribbean, whose economies are based on the extraction of natural resources, particularly minerals, which are often abusive and contrary to the paradigm of a green economy.

PREPARATION FOR THE 12TH GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS FORUM (GMGSF-12) AND TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL/ GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM (GC-26/GMEF)

1. Underlining the great importance of the review process of the Guidelines for the Participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders in the Policy Design at UNEP in 2011, we reiterate our request that it be made well in advance and actively involving the Regional Consultation Meetings, by ensuring the presence of this process in their respective agendas.

2. The above Guidelines express, on several opportunities, the importance of achieving a regional balance in the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) and the Major Facilitation Committee of Major Groups (MGFC). We welcome the efforts made in this regard during the 2010 cycle and we hope to deepen them in the coming years, particularly with regard to geographical balance in the composition of MGFC.

3. Urge the new representatives on the MGFC to continue the practice of preparing a joint document that contains consensus aspects from all regions.

4. With regards to the electronic Major Groups and Stakeholders platform, promote awareness of its existence, functions and criteria for participation, as well as conduct a participatory process to improve this tool, to ensure better use by major groups and regions.

5. Reiterate the suggestion that the UNEP regional offices coordinate the process of accreditation of organizations representing the major groups in their respective regions.

6. Urge governments, and through them UNEP, to ensure that every year, the Regional Consultation Meetings are conducted in the 6 regions, promoting the participation of the 9 major groups, to achieve a more systematic input from Major Groups in the decision cycle of UNEP.

MARRAKECH PROCESS: SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

1. Promote public awareness of the importance of environmental issues and their influence in all areas to transform knowledge, values, skills and attitudes towards sustainable lifestyles through formal, non-formal and informal media.

2. Create alliances with media and advertising and marketing companies to ensure an environmental ethical communication in TV advertising and newspapers.

3. Promoting sustainable tourism in Latin America and the Caribbean countries with the participation of all actors of the society, considering the local specificities.

4. Promote policies that argue in favour of lifestyles in Latin America and the Caribbean that are consistent with sustainable development.

5. Promote policies addressed to the construction sector and certification processes, considering local perspectives and knowledge.

6. Replicate the successful initiatives of sustainable consumption and production in Latin America and the Caribbean, bringing attention to practices of native peoples and local communities.

7. Encourage fiscal, legal and market reforms, to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

8. Get the commitment from all public and private sectors in developing and implementing joint strategies for sustainable consumption and production.

9. Promote and strengthen civil society participation through clear, transparent and effective mechanisms on issues related to sustainable consumption and production.

RIO + 20 AND PARTNERSHIPS

1. We invite the Ministers of Environment to promote the participation of all Heads of State and Government as well as ministers responsible for various public portfolios, and to ensure that the national progress reports on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation are the result of a participatory process and are a true reflection of reality.

2. Considering that United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/C.2/64/L.59 refers to the role of major groups in the preparatory process for Rio +20, we call upon governments, and through them to UNEP, to implement the necessary means to ensure participation of major groups that actively and systematically participate in the UNEP policy decision cycle, establishing direct channels for their engagement, at the global, regional and national levels, facilitating comprehensive dialogue platforms to ensure that their views are considered.

3. We urge governments to allocate resources to ensure national consultation processes with major groups in preparation for the Rio +20 Summit.

4. Promote meetings with governments and various sectors at the national level, involving the media, to improve the understanding that Rio +20 is not a summit on environment, but a summit on sustainable development.

5. Request GC / GMEF to convey to the UN General Assembly the need to deepen joint efforts for the preparation and development of the Rio +20 Summit.

LAC REGIONAL ISSUES/PROCESSES (GEO 5)

1. Widely disseminate the opportunities to participate in the GEO integrated environmental assessments, including GEO5, to increase the participation of all major groups of civil society, particularly local communities and youth, considering the experience in the development of GEO Youth.

2. Encourage UNEP to ensure that the policy recommendations emanating from the GEO-5 firmly tackle the environmental problems identified in the report.

3. Disseminate widely the results of the GEO process, using both alternative media and new information and communication technologies.

4. Urge that the GEO-5 executive summary for policy makers to be also available in Portuguese, since the Rio +20 Summit will be held in Brazil.

5. Express the need to create mechanisms to disseminate and monitor the results and recommendations from the GEOs and encourage governments to create them.