

CLOSING STATEMENT FROM THE MGS IN THE GC CLOSING PLENARY

Thank you Mr. President for giving us the floor.

My name is Sébastien Duyck and I speak on behalf of the nine major groups.

Let me begin by thanking all the delegates and officers for the work that they have accomplished in preparation of, and during this Governing Council, as well as our Kenyan hosts and the secretariat of UNEP for hosting this historical event.

Forty years after the establishment of UNEP as the leading global environmental authority, Rio+20 provided the opportunity for a turning point in UNEP's contribution to the global environmental agenda.

We came to Nairobi expecting the discussions related to stakeholders participation to produce strong and concrete results to enable stakeholders to contribute most effectively to UNEP's critical mission. We had hoped for two main outcomes: a commitment to the set of principles adopted by consensus in the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum last Sunday; and agreement on a transparent and participatory process to develop the modalities for future stakeholder participation in UNEP processes. The decision that has been adopted for the most part fails to address these two core elements.

However the results achieved still provide an opportunity to make progress in strengthening UNEP's leadership regarding stakeholders participation. We therefore call for an inclusive process in the coming months to adopt modalities that ensure that stakeholders can make a meaningful contribution to the implementation of the decision on paragraph 88h.

Secondly, with regards to the strengthening of UNEP, we welcome the reaffirmation of its role as the leading global environmental authority. However, with the decision adopted here UNEP will remain under-resourced and will not have the necessary capacity to halt the decline of the health of the planet.

Scientific evidence presented has demonstrated consistently that we have gone beyond our planetary boundaries and are running out of time to change paradigm.

We acknowledge your hard work during this session. However, more than 40 years after the establishment of UNEP and for the sake of the generations to come, we can no longer afford this step by step approach. We call on you – on all of us – to raise up to the urgency and the scope of the challenge.

Thank you Mr President