

Asia – Pacific Regional Major groups and stakeholders messages to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session

1. Introduction

Members of Asia – Pacific civil society organisations have developed a regional set of messages that highlights priority issues in promoting environmental management and sustainable development particularly in Asia and the Pacific, and forging international cooperation for such purposes with a major focus on the thematic issues presented for the 11th Global Civil Society Forum and the 11th Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) to be held in Bali, Indonesia in February 2010.

2. International Environmental Governance (IEG) and Sustainable Development

- (i) It is vital to transform international environmental governance more effectively and efficiently through enhanced participation of CSOs in decision-making and implementation processes.
- (ii) Equitable representation of civil society organisations (CSOs) from Asia and the Pacific in IEG processes is further encouraged,
- (iii) Increased, substantial and stable resource distribution to assist governments and CSOs of the region in tackling environmental and sustainability challenges is needed,
- (iv) Training, capacity building and sub-regional/regional network activities must be supported to enable CSOs and social entrepreneurs in the region to better achieve effective partnership building for environmental management and sustainable development,
- (v) Institutional set-ups must be strengthened or newly established as required within each sub-regions of Asia and the Pacific to promote coordination and cooperation among governments and CSOs at the sub-regional level,
- (vi) Sub-regional and regional CSO consultative processes must be linked more substantively with the relevant sub-regional and regional environmental ministers' conferences and decision making processes, and
- (vii) Joint consultation and reporting mechanisms between governments and CSOs must be encouraged.

3. Green Economy

- (i) Fiscal support performance must be assessed more prudently in terms of its impact on raising economic activities, their environmental soundness and social welfare improvement,
- (ii) Multi-faceted and/co-benefit approaches must be promoted to link, for instance, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and resource/waste management to raise overall sustainability policies and their performance,
- (iii) The benefit of environmental protection and cost of inaction for pollution control must be better valued and integrated in market-based mechanisms and fiscal planning for ensuring the financial support to environment and sustainability policies and actions will be incrementally enhanced, and
- (iv) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) opportunities must be explored to promote green economy and social equity, well-being and justice through close partnerships with civil society organisations.

4. Biodiversity and ecosystem

- (i) Equitable representation of CSOs from the region must be ensured at the 10th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP10) to be held in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan in October 2010, for supporting the achievement of a successful outcome.
- (ii) The international process must be supported for devising the post-2010 Biodiversity Target that is effective in promoting biodiversity ecosystem service conservation and human well-being improvement,
- (iii) The CSOs' access to information and involvement must be facilitated in the programme development and implementation in the context of the reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) framework that now promotes reforestation (REDD+) and carbon management in non-forest ecosystems (REDD++),
- (iv) Ecosystem service payment schemes and mechanisms must be further researched and supported as pilot projects through civil society consultative processes based on the due consideration to particular local conditions and recognition of free and prior informed consent,

- (v) Case studies and information sharing must be supported on good practice on such ecosystem service payment schemes and mechanisms within the region and with other regions,
- (vi) Capacity building must be supported to promote benefit sharing of ecosystem services and biodiversity at the local level,
- (vii) Mechanisms and partnerships should be forged for trans-boundary ecosystem management in the region building upon the successful experiences, and
- (viii) Ecosystem management must be promoted in tandem with climate change mitigation/adaptation, disaster preparedness, mitigation and rehabilitation.

5. ExCOPs

- (i) CSOs must be assisted in participating in and supporting Rotterdam/Stockholm and Basel Convention COPs and the SAICM process,
- (ii) Governments are urged to adopt and implement the COP decisions and SAICM, and related financial mechanism must be supported to provide substantial new and additional funds to developing countries and countries with economies in transition,
- (iii) Governments and stakeholders must be supported and convention secretariats must play an instrumental role in the process to facilitate the ratification and consolidated implementation of all chemicals and waste agreements,
- (iv) Greater efforts should be made to promote the application of precautionary principle, liability and compensation, public participation, right-to-know laws, polluters-pays-principle, no data-no market for sound chemical management,
- (v) The provision of technical and financial support should be facilitated for National Implementation Plans (NIPs) to phase out POPs,
- (vi) Negotiations must be facilitated for adopting an internationally legally binding instrument to address the global mercury challenges,
- (vii) The process must be assisted for developing policy and institutional mechanisms to inspect pollution and contamination, and remediate chemically contaminated sites,
- (viii) Assistance should be given to develop the application of labelling and tracking systems on toxic and hazardous chemicals, and
- (ix) CSOs should be supported to create a platform for raising awareness and mobilizing support for environmentally sound chemical management, green chemicals, organic substitutes and alternative methods including integrated pest management.

6. Other matters

- (i) The implementation of the Copenhagen Accord developed at the UNFCCC/COP15 in December 2010 must be facilitated with increased involvement of civil society stakeholders, and
- (ii) The consensus building must be facilitated to adopt the international policy framework on climate change issues beyond 2012; the framework must be effective in reducing global GHG emissions and reflect consideration to climate justice in a sense that GHG emitting countries bear primary responsibility in reducing GHG emissions.

