

**GENERAL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY KEY MESSAGES AS OF 11 FEB
UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC)/ GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDER FORUM
(GMGSF)**

21-26 February 2010, Bali, Indonesia

General business involvement with UNEP through partnerships and dialogue

There has been a variety of long standing interactions between UNEP and the business community, at sectoral and multi-sectoral levels. We would welcome the opportunities to work on matters of substance and implementation with UNEP. We believe that UNEP's interface with business could be further improved and strengthened, and we will continue to work to do what we can in that direction.

I. International Environmental Governance

A. General Points

- Business strongly supports the need for better coordination and efficiency within the UN system. The need for coherence and efficiency through elimination of fragmentation and duplication of effort was one of the principal points made in the world business message on the role of the UN in the 21st century, submitted to Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the occasion of the UN Millennium Assembly.
- As a strong supporter of the MDGs, the business community is ready to continue to engage and partner with the United Nations and its specialized agencies for more effective and coherent results when it comes to sustainable development.
- As part of these efforts, we welcome the recommendation to strengthen international environmental governance for better efficiency and coherence.

B. The Role of UNEP

- Agree that UNEP has been and should continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of the environment.
- UNEP has a vital role to play in the coordination of United Nations' efforts to effectively address environmental issues within the overall context of sustainable development. The three pillars of sustainable development should be addressed in a balanced, comprehensive and coordinated way.
- Especially important near term next steps for UNEP include:
 - strengthening its scientific base to better serve decision-making processes at the Governing Council, by Governments and other partners – but that scientific base not prescribe policy or be considered as the only/primary source of science for policymakers.
 - building strengthened international institutions and processes for environmental governance on enhanced national institutional structures
 - supporting the mainstreaming of environmental dimensions of sustainable development into national decision-making processes and development policies, including through empowerment by laws and institutions and the provision of adequate resources and support for capacity-building.
 - pursuing implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building throughout UNEP programmes via strengthened cooperation with other stakeholders. Business and Industry is ready to contribute to these efforts.

- improving its interaction with business and industry
- preserving and complementing the independence and tailored nature of MEAs

C. Rio plus 20 Earth Summit 2012

- Business has been an active contributor in both Rio in 1992 and in Johannesburg in 2002 and once again will seek to play an active role contributing solutions. In particular, we believe that the formative process for Rio+20 should engage business and other stakeholders from the beginning, and we are ready to play that role.
- On Rio+20, we believe that a clearly defined and implementation-support oriented agenda is critical. Business welcomes the recent UNGA resolution for a new Earth Summit in 2012 hosted by Brazil and hopes such a meeting can add value to the established and ongoing discussions of CSD, MEAs, and the Monterrey process.

II. Green Economy

- Many companies have brought the concept of sustainable development into their operations, recognizing its clear business and societal benefits. Business will continue to explore and apply these concepts more widely as they should other large-scale trends and impacts, making strategic choices and adjustments.
- For example, governments, workers and enterprises alike will have to meet the skills demands of evolving labour markets, while recognizing that there is no one-size fits all solution adequate to the myriad contexts and realities that will emerge.
- Improved environmental management and cooperation on transboundary challenges is extremely important, it cannot succeed without reinforcing and enabling conditions at the market and regulatory levels. We are concerned that a solely environmental focus runs the risk of too narrowly defining “green” jobs, economies and so on, when a multi-dimensional and inclusive approach is needed.
- As financing becomes more constrained, and both public and private sector resources encounter limitations, it is more critical than ever to set priorities, and determine how resources can be leveraged and most cost effectively deployed.
- Green stimulus and other governmental effort to provide resources towards job creation and investment in green sectors have been promising, and from a business standpoint, we encourage countries to ensure that these efforts strengthen the entire economy, and do not choose “winners and losers.”
- In this regard, open trade is indispensable. Green growing economies cannot go far without trade, and we continue to emphasize the crucial need for trade that enables greener technologies to enjoy lower or no tariffs.
- Innovation will be at the heart of greening economies, and most innovation will come from the private sector.
- We encourage governments through UNEP, to ensure that efforts to provide green stimulus and jobs do strengthen the entire economy at national and international levels, and do enable the private sector to innovate, commercialize and widely disseminate their new products and services.

III. Biodiversity and Ecosystems

- The diversity of life– biodiversity – underpins the supply of ecosystem services. The degradation of ecosystems and the services they provide hampers sustainable development.

- Conserving biodiversity, reversing ecosystem degradation and using ecosystems services sustainably is a collective responsibility in which governments, civil society and business should work together.
- Business supports the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and has been contributing its expertise, and looks forward to working during the UN Year of Biodiversity to draw attention to where the private sector can support heightened awareness and better practices to manage and protect living natural resources.
- Business is promoting strategies for sustainable land management that balance competitive farming with conservation goals in the field. Integrated Crop Management and conservation tillage are such strategies that contribute to ecosystems' health.
- Industry's key contribution to managing agro-ecosystems' management is the development and provision of innovative technologies and precision tools which spare natural resources. Industry calls upon governments to establish policy frameworks that promote the implementation of biodiversity conserving measures in agro-ecosystems and which incentivize farmers on a voluntary basis to implement these measures.
- Industry stands ready to play a facilitating role between policy frameworks and its customers the farmers through capacity building measures in biodiversity conservation.

Business and ecosystems are inextricably linked

- Business interacts with and depends on ecosystems and ecosystems services. Degradation of ecosystems and their services limits development options for society and threatens the business license to operate.
- Ecosystem valuation, based on sound economic and scientific procedures, should become an integral part of planning and decision making by business, government and consumers.
- Transparent policy frameworks and government regulations are needed for business to contribute fully to conserving biodiversity, reversing ecosystem degradation and using ecosystems services sustainably
- With regard to the possible institution of the IPBES, we should take lessons from the experience of the IPCC. It is essential that any new scientific body provide a neutral forum to improve and reflect scientific understanding, and avoid "policy" conclusions.

Access and Benefit Sharing (aspects of CBD)

- Currently, a major focus of the CBD is the negotiation of an International Regime on access and benefit sharing in relation to genetic resources. Business is actively and constructively engaging in these negotiations and contributes a practical perspective on the realities of how different sectors access, use and develop genetic resources.
- Business urges governments to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The International Regime should support national systems and increase their transparency and legal certainty, as well as promote and build capacity for a contract-based approach to access and benefit sharing