

STATEMENT MADE IN THE COW 22 FEBRUARY 2011

UNEP/GC.26/7 – 4 (a)

Agenda Item:

State of the Environment: Sustainable consumption and production

NGOs statement

Thank you Madame Chair. I speak as one of the NGOs who has been involved in these discussions on the 10 Year Framework of Programmes for the past 10 years.

Looking back at the origins of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) in 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) reviewed progress over the previous 10 years since Rio and concluded that, in spite of improvements in technology and awareness, the environmental and social trends had not improved but have worsened and that this was primarily because of increasing unsustainable production and consumption patterns. Yet the UN and governments cannot alone change these patterns and trends, but need to do so in partnership with the thousands of initiatives throughout the world working to make these changes. The action the WSSD then took was to call for a Framework of Programmes on SCP to support these many initiatives in their efforts. This is a noble cause and the 10YFP could be the foundation of transition towards a green economy. However, after almost ten years it is still not clear what those programs of support will be or what initiatives those programs will support.

There are only a few months left to answer these questions and decide on what these programs will be and what they will support. Rather than create a small number of new SCP projects under the 10YFP, we need *programs* designed to truly support the needs of the thousands of initiatives now taking place across sectors and among people who may not have ever heard of the “10 year framework of programs” but are engaged in advancing SCP. We are looking to you for leadership, imagination and ideas to succeed in this challenge of unraveling the confusion about these programs and of creating the means to mobilize support for this vast number of initiatives that could play a key part in the transition to a green economy. We promise to work closely with you to make this happen.