

Committee of the Whole, 18 February 2013

Agenda item: 5 Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations summits and major intergovernmental meetings, including the decisions of the Governing Council.

Statement made by the NGOs on behalf of all major groups.

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Thank you Madam Chair for giving me the floor.

My name is Sébastien Duyck, a member of the organization called Rio+20s.

I would like to introduce, on behalf of all 9 major groups, a statement of principles on stakeholders participation in UNEP.

In light of paragraph 88(h) of the Rio+20 outcome calling for UNEP to *ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society*, stakeholders have strong expectations including regarding the strengthening at this meeting of stakeholders engagement in all UNEP processes in order to further promote UNEP's mandate and to improve its effectiveness.

In order to provide a starting point for the upcoming discussions related to the strengthened role of stakeholders in UNEP, representatives from all of the major groups have developed a comprehensive statement of principles on stakeholders participation in UNEP, with the participation of representatives from every regions of the planet. These principles will be made fully available to all delegates of the governing council.

These 11 principles build on the right to full and effective participation in all activities and processes of the UNEP, including through access to and speaking rights in all meetings and the right to submit documents. UNEP shall provide timely and easy access to all information and documents needed by stakeholders to participate fully.

We also call for the strengthening of participation at the regional level and in relation to the preparation for and follow-up to UNEP meetings, paying particular attention to the participation of those stakeholders that have least opportunities and access to participate. UNEP shall maintain resources to support full participation by all stakeholders and provide sufficient resources to facilitate such participation.

Stakeholders participation shall be based on the principle of self-organization. New rules and practices regarding participation and transparency at UNEP shall encourage continuous improvement and innovation, prevent regression, and respect internationally agreed principles and rights.

Finally, we believe that any decision impacting opportunities for stakeholders to participate in UNEP processes shall be developed and adopted in full participation with stakeholders and remain committed to work with you over the course of the

coming week to ensure that a constructive and ambitious outcome can be adopted in this subject to better equip us to face the many challenges ahead of us.

Let me conclude by emphasizing that the implementation of these principles would make UNEP a true leader in the field of environmental governance with regards to the implementation of principle 10.