

## **UNEA 1, Closing Plenary- Statement delivered (in written form) by Major Groups and Stakeholders.**

**27 June 2014**

Madam President and esteemed delegates –

It is unfortunate that we were not allowed to speak on the fate of stakeholders in UNEP processes. It is equally unfortunate that the outcome of the negotiations on rules of procedure and stakeholder policy failed the mandate established by last year's Governing Council and the directions agreed in the Rio+20 Outcome Document.

This situation regresses from earlier UNEP conferences where we have been able and allowed to engage in substantive discussion in drafting groups without compromising the intergovernmental nature of the process. The member states are and will remain the decision makers.

As stakeholders we are effectively the clients of a stakeholder engagement process. The time to get input from us is before and during deliberations, not after decisions have been taken. With our knowledge and understanding on stakeholder work and processes, we can provide useful inputs.

It is ironic and inappropriate to restrict access with respect to environmental matters, because history has shown that environmental progress only occurs with a robust involvement by civil society. The diversity of voices and rich experiences in working with local communities, implementing projects and shaping policies that are brought by the Major Groups and Stakeholders in the discussions of sustainable development have long been acknowledged as invaluable and indispensable.

The Rio+20 Outcome Document wanted governments to do more, not less. Specifically paragraph 88h of said document explicitly calls for UNEP to ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders. Last year's UNEP Governing Council also decided to improve existing mechanisms for civil society engagement.

We would like to intone in the title of the Rio+20 Outcome Document – that this is the Future We Want. What has taken place today does not strengthen UNEP. This failure to strengthen stakeholder engagement does not show us the way to the Future We Want.

We are leaving Nairobi with the fervent hope and a strong commitment to work better towards ensuring that we will head to the right direction at the next UNEA.

Thank you.