

U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP)

Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OE CPR) Meeting

March 24 - 28 in Nairobi

Business and Industry Major Group:

Submission on Business Priorities for UNEA

Business and industry groups are long-time partners of UNEP, and applaud the openness that has been shown to business and other Major Groups and stakeholders at this historic OE CPR meeting. We wish to thank the CPR Chair, Bureau and CPR members for their positive approach to engaging with the several important constituencies that have worked with UNEP since “Day One,” including business. We also wish to thank the UNEP ED and Secretariat that has worked diligently to involve us.

Business and industry groups are looking forward to contributing to UNEP’s work and preparations for the first ever UNEA. I will briefly highlight 4 priorities where business and industry hopes to make a contribution at UNEA.

Improving Stakeholder Engagement: Business supports the Principles agreed by Major Groups, Stakeholders and Regional Representatives (MG/S/RR) at last year’s Governing Council meeting, the January 27 Common Statement of MG/S/RR and the March 25 MG/S/RR statement to the OE CPR, all of which underscored self-selection, self organization, non regression, access to information and meetings and flexibility to reflect different constituencies’ composition, structures and resources. Please see a written submission on stakeholder engagement and the role of business on the UNEP website.

UNEP and the SDGs: Business welcomes UNEP’s engagement and focus on the environmental dimensions of the U.N. Post 2015 Development Agenda and SDGs. In the “orchestra of intergovernmental bodies” working on sustainability that the ED described, there is no question but that UNEP occupies the first chair for the environmental section. We urge UNEP to continue to work closely with business and other stakeholders to bring practical recommendations and solutions forward to reflect the environmental dimension in the SDGs and Post 2015 Development Agenda.

There are four broad crosscutting themes, which are particularly meaningful for business in the SDGs, which we call the Fundamental 4 for **sustainable development**:

- ❑ **Enabling Frameworks, Good Governance and Rule of Law**
- ❑ **Economic Growth and Economic Empowerment**
- ❑ **Innovation**
- ❑ **Infrastructure**

All 4 have important links to the environmental dimensions of the SDGs and post 2015 Development Agenda. We will provide our recommendations on these synergies at UNEA.

Greening Economic Activity and Growth depends on an engaged and incentivized business across all sectors within the right enabling frameworks. Greening economies and advancing SCP are systemic challenges and shared responsibilities for collaborative action among all actors in society – business, governments, civil society and consumers. There is no “one size fits all.” For business, the critical question is how this diversity of approaches can be furthered in global markets and regulatory frameworks, and how to advance innovation as a part of the solutions. We look forward to discussing this further in UNEA.

Strengthening the Science-Policy Interface:

Business strongly supports UNEP’s ongoing efforts to strengthen its scientific base. UNEP’s work should be supported by independent, transparent, comprehensive and up-to-date science and seek to involve experts from all constituencies. We are enthusiastic about the new initiatives discussed here, and look forward to being part of these initiatives – GEO6, UNEP LIVE, etc. -- at UNEA and thereafter.

We are looking forward to working with you on the road to UNEA, and thank you for your attention.