

# A POST UNEA-2 CONSULTATION WORKSHOP FOR EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN STAKEHOLDERS

Closing remarks by Alexander Juras, Chief Civil Society Unit, UNEP Office of Governance

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Dear Colleagues,

Two intensive and interesting days are behind us.

*Yesterday* we started with presenting and discussing UNEA 2 resolutions. Not only with the aim to inform you what they are about, but also to find out how we can work together with you to *translate* these resolutions into something that is meaningful that is understood by people and maybe most importantly has **impact**, or as it was put, to move from *information to transformation* or from *resolutions to solutions*. As obvious as it seems, this is a new approach for the United Nations Environment Programme.

Today, we intensified discussions, addressing climate change and the impacts on food security, illegal trade in wildlife and other areas. We had impressive panelists

that provoked and intensive and frank discussion, maybe more frank than discussions are usually in these halls.

As I have said at the beginning, a two days meeting, even of such smart people as we are, will not solve the problems we are facing. UNEP is however committed to continue dialogue and cooperation with you and will follow up with everybody interested, with a standing invitation to partner with us. We will also reach out in a similar way to stakeholders in other parts of Africa and the world.

In **December 2017**, the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly will take place. I call on all of you to engage with us in its preparations. We count on your expertise and engagement in making this event meaning and impactful. The preparatory process through UNEP's Committee of Permanent Representatives is fully open to NGOs accredited to UNEP, with the chance to enrich and to influence the inter-governmental decision making process – an opportunity which unfortunately is not yet used very much.

I would like to close this meeting by thanking first our partners:

Friedrich Ebert Foundation

Konrad Adenauer Foundation

African Network for Animal Welfare

The organization of this event alone has shown that together we can achieve more than each of us alone. I certainly hope we will do more together, including targeting other regions of Africa and the world.

Secondly I like to thank our distinguished panelists and presenters and the participants from Civil Society, Governments, Business, Judiciary and others.

Lastly I would like to thank the UNEP colleagues and the colleagues of our partners who worked very hard to make this event happen. In this context I would like to mention, representative for the others, Lucy Mungai, who has worked tirelessly during the last weeks to ensure that everything will run smoothly. Thank you!

With this, I would like to declare this event closed, or almost closed. Still we will offer a cocktail outside that will give you the opportunity to further discuss with your colleagues and to do networking.

Thank you!