

**Position of Africa Civil Society on
the Draft Decisions of the UNEP Governing Council/
Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF)**

Rio+20: From Outcomes to Implementation

Nairobi – Kenya, 18th to 22nd February, 2013

Chairperson of the UNEP Governing Council, Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Major Groups Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of African Civil Society and Major Groups, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address this first universal session of Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

We applaud the world's leaders commitment to ensure the promotion of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations. Sharing this vision, Africa Civil Society Organisations demand world leaders to take immediate and bold decisions as well as actions that are necessary to secure the future we want for all.

Civil Society Engagement Mechanism in an Upgraded UNEP

1. We affirm the authority of the civil society as the expression of sovereign will of the people and therefore support an enhanced and expanded model of the Major Group representation in UNEP which provides for an enhanced role including in planning, agenda setting, access to information, decision making, framing of policy, implementation, monitoring, verification and reporting (MVR) and all other relevant work of UNEP while ensuring regional inputs and representation.

We specifically call for increased regional representation so as to enhance and strengthen voice for regional issues including facilitation of participation of civil societies and major groups from the south including through member states delegations while ensuring gender equality and ensuring the participation of a wider cross section of civil societies.

Sustainable Consumption and Production

2. We call for the adoption of policies that promote the integration of the true environmental cost of production and consumption into accounting models, in order to address the cause, rather than the symptoms of environmental and natural resources degradation and depletion.

We therefore encourage governments and private sector to support the implementation of the 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (including Bali Guidelines on Principle 10) with an enhanced involvement of Regional Civil Societies and Major Groups to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns.

State of the Environment

3. We welcome the Global Environment Outlook's (GEO-5) policy options to speed up the achievements of the internationally agreed goals and to inform global and regional processes. We call on member states to use its findings to facilitate informed policy making at all levels.

We also welcome the decision taken at COP 18 to consider Gender balance and women participation within the UNFCCC and in the negotiations in an effective and inclusive manner.

Nevertheless, we are concerned that the last two decades have been characterized by unfulfilled promises and commitments by developed countries to Africa in particular hence breeding an atmosphere of ever diminishing trust and confidence in international negotiations; that Africa's right to development and development efforts have been limited by the negative impacts of climate change, a situation to which she least contributed.

There is an urgent need for emission cuts by having specific target for all Annex I parties to reduce emissions by at least 40% below 1990 level by 2015 and 100% by 2050 below 1990 level as IPCC report AR4 recommends.

We urge developed countries to honour and deliver their pledge of providing US\$100 billion every year until 2020. Further, they must scale up their pledges to fulfill their obligation to provide adequate, new and additional funds as this amount is far from all estimates of climate finance needed by developing countries.

We call for climate justice, enhanced governance, rule of law, and rights based approach towards environmental sustainability.

Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

4. We applaud green economy as one the tools/pathways for achieving sustainable development. However, we urge that it must not confuse, distract from or obscure commitments to sustainable development and that the governments and the international community must instead reaffirm their commitment to sustainable development and a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication must ensure gender equality; improvement of human well-being; environmental risk reduction; ecosystem and biodiversity conservation; disaster reduction; human rights protection; elimination of child labor; protection of labour rights, extension of social protection to all, opportunities for green and decent work and right livelihoods; safeguard the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups including indigenous peoples; food and energy security; and animal welfare.

Chemical, Electrical and Electronic Waste Management

5. We urge member states to become parties to all the international agreements on chemicals and management of chemical, electrical and electronic waste while advancing the implementation of UNEP's guidelines.

We call on UNEP to develop and facilitate the implementation of guidelines on zero waste, and to reinforce the implementation of guidelines especially on agrochemicals including their applications, trading and disposal aiming at reducing their risks to human health and the environment especially in Africa including building the technical and institutional capacities of African countries.

Post 2015 and Sustainable Development Goals

6. We call for an increased awareness and participation of all stakeholders in the ongoing post 2015 development consultation processes with focus on improving opportunities for engagement at all levels to enable priorities of workers, vulnerable, indigenous and marginalized local communities to be integrated in the next development agenda to ensure their universality, simplicity, ownership and measurability.

Moreover, we call on all member states to fast track the processes for the establishment of national sustainable development councils to provide national inputs, facilitate the implementation and MVR.

We emphasize on the need for "One Global Development Agenda" and therefore call for synergy between MDGs and SDGs while taking into account regional priorities and realities on the ground, based on the Millennium Declaration, Agenda 21 and the JPOI, and integrating environmental sustainability in particular reversing biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

International Water Quality Guidelines for Ecosystems

7. We urge UNEP to involve member states, other UN agencies and stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive research on fresh water quality and quantity, ground water depletion, ecosystem services, loss of natural habitats, land degradation, chemicals and waste; We furthermore urge that international water quality guidelines for ecosystem should be binding and not voluntary.

We urge member states to engage CSOs and other stakeholders in developing water guidelines and to ensure that the indigenous communities living in trans boundary areas are consulted and involved in the design, development and implementation of the international guidelines. We call on developed countries to support developing countries to implement the international water quality guidelines for ecosystem.

Means of Implementation

8. For inclusive sustainable development and for poverty eradication to be realized, adequate means of implementation particularly financing, appropriate technology transfer and capacity building are crucial to the global south especially Africa. We urge developed countries to pledge and honour their pledges to facilitate smooth transition.

We call for the mainstreaming of local and indigenous knowledge into the Climate Technology Centre and Network; for equitable access to the centre and network; and the facilitation of science-policy interface.

We also urge all member states to provide UNEP with adequate means of implementations to enable it to fulfill its new mandate as a universal body and fulfil its important leadership role in the transformation towards a greater global sustainability.

I thank you Chair.