

## **Kathmandu Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders Regional Consultation Meeting**

51 participants from 27 countries attended the Asia-Pacific Major Group and Stakeholders (MGS) Regional Consultation Meeting at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development in Kathmandu, Nepal on 22 – 23 November 2012. This Declaration was adopted as input to the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, to be held in Nairobi on 16-17 February 2013.

### **Regional priority issues**

The Asia-Pacific region faces wide-ranging challenges to achieving sustainable development. To overcome such challenges, it is vital to facilitate (i) public access to information, decision-making and justice, (ii) greater equity in wealth, resources and power between and within countries, as well as gender- and inter-generational equity, (iii) development and implementation of free prior-informed consent procedures, (iv) stronger accountability and transparency mechanisms for the private sector, particularly those involved in land acquisitions and extractive industries. (v) increased sub-regional and regional collaboration for sustainable management of natural resources (vi) engagement in sustainable development policy dialogues and implementation at global and regional levels and (vii) wider engagement of MGS and non-state actors in sustainable development governance and implementation.

### **Role of MGS in Rio+20 outcome implementation**

Civil society organisations (CSOs) will play an increasingly important role in facilitating Rio+20 outcomes. It is vital to advance the institutionalization of MGSs engagement in Rio+20 follow-up processes such as the planned High-Level Political Forum, Open Working Groups, the proposed Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and other current and emerging mechanisms.

### **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post 2015 Development Agenda**

The SDGs and development agenda beyond 2015 should incorporate a comprehensive and transformative approach to address the diverse aspects of sustainable development beyond the economics, including environmental, social, cultural and political aspects. Efforts should be made to achieve coherence and synergy between the post-2015 and SDG processes, including other multilateral processes related to sustainable development. It is particularly important to reinforce a human rights-based approach by fully recognizing and integrating international standards on equality and non-discrimination, while addressing the root causes of poverty and discrimination. Peace, security, justice and democracy are essential foundations for achieving sustainable development and must be at the core of the post-2015 framework.

### **Institutional framework for sustainable development**

Asia-Pacific States have adopted an increasing number of laws and acceded to relevant international agreements, but compliance with and enforcement of such laws, norms and standards is lacking. Periodic review mechanisms on compliance with time-bound implementation plans should be introduced. An independent ombudsperson for future generations should be established along with other actions to strengthen international environmental governance as reflected in the Rio+20 outcome document paragraph 88 and sub-paragraphs a-h. Environmental governance must include new technologies that are presented as solutions to environmental challenges and climate change.

### **Green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication**

Green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication must ensure gender equality; human well-being; environmental risk reduction; ecosystem and biodiversity conservation; disaster reduction; human rights protection; elimination of child labor; opportunities for green, decent work and right livelihoods; the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups including indigenous peoples; food and energy security; and animal welfare. Green economies may be interpreted depending on national realities and implementation. Disguised or distortionary trade measures under the pretext of green economy should not be permitted. Green economies should be synergic with the pursuit of SDGs and utilize UN mechanisms such as the future High-Level Political Forum to track progress.

### **Sustainable consumption and production**

The 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production must be implemented with enhanced involvement of MGS. Countries must be parties to all the international agreements on chemical and waste management while advancing the implementation of UNEP's guidelines. UNEP should develop and facilitate implementation of guidelines on zero waste, and must reinforce the implementation of guidelines on agrochemicals including their applications, trading and disposal. Strengthening UNEP's work on the Bali Guidelines on Principle 10 would promote the transparent implementation of the 10YFP.

### **Public participation and access to information**

Access to information, decision-making and justice is essential to achieving sustainable development. It must be a core principle of the SDGs. We call for an Asia–Pacific Convention on Principle 10 to ensure access to information, decision-making and justice, as provided in Paragraph 99 of the Rio+20 outcome document. The Convention should reflect the needs and interests of various groups and include commitments for governments and private sectors. The process for developing the Convention should be spearheaded by the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP) in collaboration with other relevant organisations and partners. It could gain momentum from cooperating with on-going efforts in other regions.

### **Financing**

Conventional and innovative approaches must be vigorously pursued to generate incentives and mobilise funds for achieving sustainable development. Fossil fuel subsidies and other perverse incentives such as subsidies for commercial fishing vessels and agribusiness should be eliminated with due consideration to their impact on marginalized sectors. Other measures to put in place include taxes on international financial transactions; aviation, shipping, chemical and extractives industries; and carbon emissions. These must be designed and implemented in a progressive manner.

### **Asia – Pacific CSO mechanism**

Civil society requires more institutionalized mechanisms for participation in intergovernmental processes, and regular policy dialogue forums at global and regional levels. UNEP, other UN agencies and donor countries/agencies should provide adequate and stable support and capacity development to enable effective and substantial MGS participation in policy dialogues and in implementing agreements and legislation. Regional CSO mechanisms must be improved and strengthened through transparent, inclusive, democratic and effective operational modalities, building on existing and emerging mechanisms that enable effective and meaningful CSO participation, such as the Civil Society Mechanism at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome and its regional processes. We call for dialogue with ministers and government decision-makers and other stakeholders to discuss and pursue strategies for sustainable development.

## **Annex 1: Outcome of the discussions – long version**

### **Kathmandu Declaration of the Asia–Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders Regional Consultation Meeting**

51 participants from 27 countries in Asia and the Pacific attended the Asia – Pacific Major Group and Stakeholder Regional Consultation Meeting held at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu, Nepal from 22 – 23 November 2012. The participants adopted this declaration as an important input to the Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) Forum to be held in Nairobi on 16-17 February 2013. Set out below are the recommendations from the regional consultation:

#### **Regional Priority Issues**

1. The four sub-regions of Asia are home to more than 60% of the world's population and the greatest number of people living in poverty. UNEP should thus seek for more adequate representation that reflects this enormous population and the concomitant issues, such as the establishment of a MGSs Regional Council. There is also a need to recognize the very different needs of the fifth sub-region of Small Island Developing States, and specific geographic areas (small islands, low lying coastal states, mountains) as well as indigenous peoples for whom recognition of culture as the fourth dimension of sustainable development is important. Better regional representation and accountability could be achieved by promoting better MGSs involvement in regional and subregional formal processes, including the SAARC and ASEAN.
2. As part of the Rio+20 follow up, we recommend ensuring that MGS have a meaningful role, with clear modalities of participation, decision making and accountability and an indicator of at least 40% participation by women. Promoting greater and more active youth participation in all UN processes – including more support to the UNEP TUNZA mechanism -- is needed together with more opportunities for cross generational dialogue.
3. In the follow-up to Rio+20, we recommend the development of an environmental quality index and carbon indicators with regard to climate change.
4. In terms of poverty eradication, we demand a move towards equity in wealth, resources and power between and within countries, as well as gender- and inter-generational equity. With regard to natural resources there should be more regional cooperation on trans-boundary water sharing, and greater concern for increasing land grabbing; and an indicator to measure the distribution of control over land and resources by communities.
5. There must be specific indicators for gender equality that must be integrated throughout decision making. Equal wage and safe working place for women should be highlighted.
6. There is a need to promote the principle of peace - domestically, nationally and internationally. Other issues of importance to the region include migration, decent work, living wage, waste management and the impacts of extractive industries. The impacts of marine pollution, deep sea mining in the Pacific and unregulated, unauthorized and underreported fishing are also of concern.
7. Stronger accountability and transparency mechanisms for the private sector are needed, particularly in the extractive industries. Policies and measures to halt land-grabbing and forced evictions by both the private sector and governments must also be adopted and enforced. For free prior and Informed Consent we require methods to measure its existence, along with safeguards.

## The role of MGs in the implementation of the Rio+20 Outcomes

8. We recommend that mechanisms for civil society engagement be institutionalized in intergovernmental processes e.g. high level political forum, Open Working Groups (OWGs), and other Working Groups mandated by Rio+20 and beyond. Access to information and access to justice are key enabling mechanisms for CSOs. We support the adoption of mechanisms that ensure effective participation of civil society in official processes arising from the Rio+20 outcome document, such as the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG). UNEP should advance beyond the Bali Guidelines on Principle 10 (which are voluntary) and support such initiatives as The Access Initiative. A regional convention on human rights would be a first step.
9. UNEP should assist with building capacity of governments and other stakeholders to enable informed assessment of risks of new technologies, financing and environmental governance. Structures and means to achieve capacity building should be established, including UN undertaking a stock take of past achievements. Good governance at local, national, subregional, regional and global levels is a high priority. Civil society has acted as watchdog, despite personal risks. More transparency and accountability is required from the private sector through compliance with guidelines for corporate responsibility reporting, before involving them meaningfully in governance.
10. Technology transfer should include regard for environmental and social impacts, including remediation of contaminated sites and wastewater treatment. Anti-corruption measures have not been considered and need to be so in order to ensure that technology is not abused. UNEP could set up an Asia-Pacific regional mechanism for Principle 10 to seek redress for activities of transnational companies (including extractive industries), including a tax on activities.
11. With regard to trade, there should be Extended Producer Responsibility and removal of double standards for transnational corporations in developing countries. There should be greater transparency in bilateral trade agreements because some result in terms that are worse than under the WTO.
12. We also recommend that in order to overcome the challenges in setting ambitious policy targets, national policies need to adjust to international policies, political commitments should be made at local, national, and international level. Monitoring systems by the civil society should be set up, and capacity building and information dissemination with partners (community and civil society), technology transfer and financing with no conditionality should be undertaken. Further, a bottom-up collective-community-based governance approach with participation of all stakeholders, including women, youth, disabled people, and other marginalized communities should be implemented.
13. To spur implementation we further recommend in the period post Rio+20 to introduce sub-indicators under the main goals of sustainable development and to collect gender disaggregated data; to encourage and ensure equal participation of both men and women in all UN processes; to develop a program geared towards achieving goals within set time frames and to monitor implementation.
14. Following the model set by the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at the FAO, CSO participation in all UN processes, particularly at UNEP, must provide effective and meaningful opportunities and equal rights for CSOs to deliberate and decide on policy issues and priorities in the same platform as states/governments, with full, adequate and stable financial, institutional and political support from the UN system.
15. Similar to the FAO mechanism, the CSO participation during all UN events and particularly UNEP must provide opportunities for CSOs along with the government in the same platform and provide for equal rights including voting.

## **Positions on Post 2015 Development Agenda and expectations for UNEP**

16. We recommend that the Post 2015 Development Framework should focus on human development, not just economic development. It should go beyond GDP and more on ensuring social (health, education, land tenure, land use, etc), cultural and environmental well-being. The Post 2015 Development Framework should acknowledge and address the inequalities between countries, within countries and between men and women, and also consider intergenerational responsibilities. Our recommendation for the key area and indicators is the following:
- a. 1) A Human Rights based approach (which means to fully recognize and integrate international human rights standards; 2) to address the root structural causes of inequality and poverty including gender inequality and woman impoverishment, with special emphasis on marginalized communities) (equal attention to Social, Economic, Cultural and Environmental pillars); 3) equality and right to development (fair access, control and distribution/delivery of natural, social and economic resources; with requisite political participation; equality specifically between and within countries, between men and women, inter-generational) 5) common but differentiated responsibility; 6) Principle of Intersectionality, to address discriminatory systems on the basis of gender, class, race, ethnicity and other intersects that create inequalities that structure multiple forms of discrimination. 7) democracy, transparency, and accountability;
17. We propose following Goals to be included in the Post2015 Development Agenda: (i) Access to and control over resources and sustainable livelihoods; (ii) Decent Work and Living Wage, ensuring the integration and full enforcement of (iii) Peace and Security Based on Justice (iv) Democratic Participation and Voice of the most marginalized and (v) gender equality.
18. Efforts should also be made to achieve coherence and synergy between the post-2015 and SDG processes as well as other multilateral processes related to sustainable development.

## **Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development**

19. Sustainable development governance is on top of the agenda for the Asia-Pacific region. However, though numerous conventions and agreements exist, the region is facing environmental degradation and additional emerging environmental issues due to lack of compliance or lack of robust environmental governance. Hence, we endorse the formation of a high level political forum with universal membership. This forum should have a special status, directly reporting to the General Assembly. The forum should produce a declaration and a framework with a time-bound implementation plan and targets to ensure that the intentions with its formation will become reality.
20. Since there are no determined modalities for civil society participation under this new forum, it should ensure to continue and build on already existing rules for civil society participation, which exist under the current CSD through more inclusive, democratic and more effective mechanisms.
21. The forum should make use of mechanisms such as peer or periodic review that can hold countries accountable to their commitments. If not progressing in right direction then some sort of sanction or other mechanism should be available to persuade governments to achieve targets. Modalities for monitoring goals and targets of a future development framework need to happen within the countries and representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders should be part of this effort.

22. For the purpose of reporting, the forum needs to build on existing MDG/SDG institutional mechanisms at national as well as international levels. It should be more representative and inclusive so as to enable realistic reporting of progress.
23. Additionally, we support the establishment of either an Independent Ombudsman for future generations, or a high level representative for sustainable development and future generation. And to strengthen environmental governance, we encourage governments to implement the reform steps as agreed in Rio+20 outcome Paragraph 88.
24. We also propose introspection required within CSOs to identify mechanisms to enhance representativeness and legitimacy within civil society. This effort needs to take place for our participation at international, regional, national as well as sub-national levels. Sectoral representation needs to be considered as well in this regard.
25. The governance of technologies that are being promoted as solutions to environmental challenges such as climate change is a vital component of environmental governance. This is particularly relevant in the context of Asia-Pacific where technologies and extractive activities such as deep-sea mining are being undertaken including in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

#### **Green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication (GESDPE)**

26. We urge that new labels such as green economy 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.
27. Recognising that the current economic model, which promotes unsustainable consumption and production patterns, facilitates a grossly inequitable trading system, fails to eradicate poverty, assists exploitation of natural resources towards the verge of extinction, and has induced multiple crises on Earth, needs to be replaced by sustainable economies in community, local, national, regional and international spheres.
28. Acknowledging that green economies within sustainable societies should also ensure gender equality, democracy, improve human wellbeing, reduce environmental risks, respect the fundamental human rights of people, promote social justice, eliminate child labor, enhance opportunities for green, decent work and right livelihoods, and ensure that jobs and social benefits are distributed equitably among all people;
29. GESDPE must respect the right to self-determination, the right of communities to define own sustainable development framework and economic systems. They must ensure broad meaningful participation at all stages of the development process of community, civil society and social movements with particular measures to ensure the participation of women and marginalised people.
30. GESDPE must ensure equitable control and access over wealth and productive resources such as land, energy, water, seeds, forests and livestock; ensure the right to food, developed through bio-diverse, ecologically sound, humane practices and methods; respects the rights, cultures, languages and wisdom of Indigenous peoples and local communities and acknowledge already existing sustainable practices by people in various fields of agriculture, sustainable consumption, environmentalism, and recycling.
31. GESDPE must work to protect eco-systems, safeguard animal welfare and protect bio-diversity for future generations; create economic sufficiency and enhance the well-being of all people as well as nature.
32. The high level political forum should likewise adopt these principles and ensure that they are reflected in the sustainable development goals.

## **Sustainable consumption and production**

33. Governments must deliver, promote and facilitate an institutional change in the current structures of governance that will ensure a framework for a real transition to sustainability at all levels: international, regional, national and local. The 10 Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production must be implemented with enhanced involvement of MGSs. All countries should accede to and enact legislation based on international conventions and international policy instruments on chemicals and waste management including the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions; the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), and the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. To further strengthen governance in the areas of chemicals and waste, UNEP should initiate the following:

- a. guidelines for countries to develop national plans for chemicals and waste management that include the life cycle of chemicals, chemical profiles, regulations, chemical use, restrictions and bans, waste disposal; and a commission to implement action plans.
- b. international standards for chemical waste disposal in soil, water, and air that countries could use as a starting point.
- c. guidelines and policies to prevent the dumping of old technological products in developing countries. Countries could use these guidelines as a starting point to develop their own policies.
- d. internationally agreed guidelines to eliminate or substitute highly toxic, hazardous pesticides, making agriculture sustainable, free of toxic chemicals and supporting local, diversified, small farm ecological agriculture.
- e. guidelines to prevent double standards of corporations from industrialized nations operating in developing countries and to ensure that they can be held accountable for violating fundamental human rights of people .
- f. guidelines for countries to develop environmental standards to transition to zero pollution.

## **Principle 10 - Participation, access to information, and justice in environmental matters**

34. We call for an Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Implementation of Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration to actually and effectively implement people's meaningful access to information, participation in decision-making, and access to justice at regional, sub-regional, national, sub-national, and local levels, by 2015 building upon Para. 99 of the Rio+20 Outcome document.
35. The Regional Convention on the Implementation of Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration should be inclusive, sensitive, and responsive to the situations, needs and interests of marginalized and vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, local communities and women. This should include detailed requirements and indicators on access to information, meaningful participation in decision-making and access to justice, built upon bottom-up consultations with the Major Groups and stakeholders, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable groups.
36. The process should be led by UNEP ROAP, with cooperation from CSOs coalitions, such as 'The Access Initiative' (TAI) within and outside the region, and the parties of the Aarhus Convention that can share experiences and contribute to the funding and participation of all Major Groups and stakeholder representatives.
37. At national level, commitments should be ensured from governments, the private sector and CSOs with full transparency and accountability.

38. At national level, international cooperation should be forged to support capacity building of both governments and CSOs to implement the access rights effectively and meaningfully.
39. People's access to information, and meaningful participation in decision making that will impact the environment and people's well-being and access to justice, should be integrated into Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to assess progress of implementation with indicators that address the structural causes of inequality and unsustainable development.
40. Access to information, decision-making and access to justice is important. Safeguards are needed for rural and indigenous communities who already live sustainably. Cultural aspects are a missing component from Rio+20. Assessment of the trans-boundary impacts of big infrastructure projects (e.g. dams) is also needed.

### **Financing**

41. Innovative financing is needed for implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes. Fossil fuels subsidies and other perverse incentives such as subsidies for commercial fishing vessels and agribusiness should be eliminated with due consideration to their impact on marginalized sectors. Other measures should be put in place such as taxes on international financial transactions; on aviation, shipping, chemical and extractives industries; and on carbon emissions. Such measures must be designed and implemented in a progressive manner,

### **Enhancing MGs engagement/Asia-Pacific CSO mechanism**

42. Civil society requires more institutionalized mechanism for participation in intergovernmental processes and regular policy dialogue forums at the global and regional levels. Regional CSO mechanisms must be improved and strengthened through more transparent, inclusive, democratic and effective operational modalities. It is vital to seek greater support and capacity development from UNEP Headquarters, other UN agencies and donor countries/agencies to enable MGS to participate more effectively and substantively in policy dialogues and implementation of agreements. We also call for dialogues with ministers and government decision makers, parliamentarians and other stakeholders, to discuss and pursue strategies to achieve effective sustainable development.
43. The strengthened CSO mechanisms at the global and regional levels should build on existing and emerging mechanisms that promote and enable effective and meaningful CSO participation in intergovernmental processes, in particular the Civil Society Mechanism of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) at the FAO and its regional processes. The mechanism must provide effective and meaningful opportunities and equal rights for CSO's to deliberate and decide on policy issues and priorities in the same platform as and on equal footing with states/governments, must allow CSOs direct access to documents and full participation in agenda-setting and deliberations, while respecting their right to self-organize. It must be provided with full, adequate and stable financial, institutional and political support from governments and the UN system to ensure operational effectiveness and sustainability.



## **Annex 2: Recommendations for UNEP to Governing Council on Chemicals & Wastes**

### **Asia – Pacific Major Groups and Stakeholders Regional Consultation Meeting Recommendations for to UNEP Governing Council on Chemicals & Wastes**

51 participants from 27 countries in Asia and the Pacific attended the Asia – Pacific Major Group and Stakeholder Regional Consultation Meeting held at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu, Nepal from 22 – 23 November 2012. The participants adopted the following recommendations as an important input to the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and the UNEP Governing Council to be held in Nairobi 16-17 February 2013.

1. UNEP should assist in the environmentally sound disposal of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides, nuclear waste and other hazardous waste (including impacts from extractive industries) and the remediation of contaminated sites.
2. For at least two sub-regions (CEE and Pacific) there is no regional facility for the sound environmentally sound disposal of hazardous waste. For the CEE, the closest facilities for safe disposal of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides are Europe or Shanghai, many thousands of kilometers away. For the Pacific, the closest facilities for the safe disposal of discarded products containing hazardous chemicals (such as e-waste) are in Korea or Singapore, similarly far away. A mechanism to transport hazardous waste is needed, together with a regional facility for safe disposal.
3. Legal mechanisms are needed at the international level to hold accountable corporations that produce agrichemicals and other highly-hazardous chemicals, or classes of chemicals, which they know harm human health and ecosystems and which are difficult or impossible to contain once released into the environment.
4. UNEP should strengthen the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent in order to prevent the operation of double standards through trade between industrialized countries and developing countries.
5. UNEP should strengthen the Basel Convention in order to avoid dumping of outdated technology in developing countries.
6. UNEP should encourage all Asia-Pacific countries that have not already done so, to become party to international policy instruments and international conventions for safe management of chemicals and wastes, and incorporate them into their national legislation with the aim of zero pollution.
7. Parties to these chemicals and waste conventions should formulate and implement management plans to manage the full life cycle of products containing chemicals in order to protect human health and the ecosystems.
8. UNEP should establish global standards for the control of emissions from waste and chemicals to air, soil and water, with the aim of establishing national standards in each country that will reduce the global impact of chemicals that are easily dispersed by wind and water.
9. UNEP should promote internationally-agreed guidelines to use safer substitutes and to eliminate toxic, highly-hazardous pesticides.
10. UNEP should develop global environmental standards that support diversified, small farmers, enable chemical-free, sustainable agriculture.

## Annex 3: Inputs/Recommendations for RCM

### Education for Sustainable Consumption

Since 2011, Consumers International has been implementing a project on Education for Sustainable Consumption in Chile, Latin America. This project is a part of CI's global project on Education for Sustainable Consumption. The project involves CI and international network Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living (PERL) to focus on Education for Sustainable Consumption in both formal and non-formal education in Chile. This project follows the work undertaken by the thematic working groups of the Marrakech Process, which includes the Group on Education for Sustainable Consumption, supported by the Italian government and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). CI and PERL launched this project as a contribution to the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development of UNESCO (2005 - 2014). The project began in the second half of 2011 alongside similar projects in Indonesia and Tanzania.

Under this project, Chile will begin to map the status of policies and initiatives in the region. The second stage will be devoted to organising a two-day round table with key stakeholders and experts in the field to analyse the initial research and recommendations. In the third stage, the development of recommendations and guidelines that have emerged from the studies and debates will be coordinated. This will culminate in the final phase with the design of an impact assessment survey.

In Chile, a National Monitoring Committee has been created. This will include the presence of at least one representative from each institution at meetings that have already been scheduled. It is hoped that the officials will give institutional support, collaborate with the initial investigation, appoint a representative who is part of the National Steering Committee to participate in the roundtable of stakeholders, and promote the development of guidelines and recommendations.

Furthermore, CI believed that we need a revolution of production and consumption patterns to bring in change towards Sustainable Consumption and Production. This is, of course, easier said than done. So, together with consumer groups around the world CI is endorsing the following set of practical policy changes that governments can implement if they want to see the rhetoric of Rio become a reality.

1. Implement integrated public policies that enable the state to regulate and take fiscal measures to inhibit unsustainable production and consumption patterns and encourage new patterns of production and consumption.
2. Require companies to be transparent and accountable with regard to the social and environmental impact of their supply chains and their consumption and post-consumption so that unsustainable patterns of production and consumption can be identified and challenged.
  - Ensure the supply of safe products and services that are healthy and produced through ethical practices for all, have no planned obsolescence and are made from recycled material and can be repaired and recycled.

- Implement policies that not only ensure shared responsibility of the producer for the proper disposal of waste but also ensure a mandatory analysis of the product's life cycle, leading to the eco-design of products and their packaging, and to end planned obsolescence.
- Ensure access to information, including mandatory labeling with consistent social, environmental and economic criteria, and restrictions to advertising that encourages consumerism and misleading information known as greenwash.
- Implement public policies that guarantee access to both formal and informal education for sustainable consumption, as outlined in the UNEP publication *Here and Now*.
- Implement policies to make more visible and accessible the experiences of sustainable patterns of production and consumption which are currently alternatives, but could be mainstream such as solidarity economy, fair trade and agro-ecological family farming.
- Implement comprehensive policies to ensure healthy food for all, which address the agricultural production system, processing, supply and marketing, and tackle the negative impacts to the environment and human health caused by the intensive use of pesticides, GMOs, large estates of monocultures, and the industrial production of food which is low in nutritional quality and high in fat, sugar and sodium.
- Implement policies to ensure that mobility is more sustainable, guaranteeing public transport and the alternative of non-motorized transport, requiring greater energy efficiency and reduced vehicle emissions and ending subsidies for fossil fuels.
- Implement policies to ensure access to essential goods and services to live a decent life, especially for the poorest in the world. These policies should guarantee clean, renewable energy from diversified sources that is affordable and accessible to all. Ensure programs for energy saving and for the management of energy demand, as well as mandatory energy efficiency programs for all products that use energy. Furthermore, these policies should guarantee the right of access to water and sanitation.

As indicated in the below email, I am herewith giving the links on the following areas

Consumers International Recommendations towards Rio+20

<http://www.consumersinternational.org/media/854938/ci-zero-draft-submission-rio-20-final.pdf>

A training guide for implementing the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection

<http://www.consumersinternational.org/media/316122/hands-on%20sustainable%20consumption-%20implementing%20sustainable%20consumption%20policies.pdf>

I hope this information would be helpful!

Warm regards,

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## Points of input

**Puantani (Indonesian Women Farmer and Rural Women Organization)  
WAMTI (Indonesian Farmer and Fisher Society Organization)**

### **Farmers Major Group**

**For MGM Kathmandu, November 2012, on Sustainable Consumption and Production, Means of Implementation, Chemicals and Waste Management, and the role of UNEP**

As the result of the Post Rio 20 Agenda, there is a common understanding between stakeholders in harmonizing strategies on the sectors of Consumption and Production, Means of implementation, Chemicals and Waste Management as well as the role of UNEP in the implementations.

By considering the interconnections of benefits and roles and in order to fulfil the demand on food, the agricultural resources such as land and water, and the energy have to secure to be accessible to the doers (small holders farmers, women farmers and the rural youth)

To those very basic resources for consumption and production, the rights of small holders, women farmers, and rural youth should be strongly considered in the policy implementation.

As well as food, the land and water, is also the basic needs for farmers to live should be enhance and protected from the misleading investment on agriculture. Its interconnections of such misuse applications of resources by a misleading investment has brought to a serious risks such as:

1. Conflict, geopolitically as well as between state, market and people
2. Social and political instability
3. Irreparable environmental damage
  
4. Irreparable aricultural and natural landscape damage
5. Food and water crises
6. Land degradation and deforestation
  
7. Natural disasters
8. Violations on Human rights
9. Corruption

Considering to need of the harmonization and to which roles could be played by UNEP, **some recommendations from Puantani (Indonesian Women Farmer and Rural Woman organization) and WAMTI (Indonesian Farmer and Fisher Society Organization) to this MGM Katmandhu 2012 is proposed** as the followings :

1. To ensure the greatest impact of the Sustainable Development Goals and the post Rio 20 agendas, it needs to establish the system in which all stakeholders themselves act appropriately.

***“as the declaration of Rio 92 made clear that states have common but differentiated responsibility” on the deterioration of Global environment. And, as the situation of the international society and economy has drastically changed, then the role of not only nations but also players such as: Civil Society, small holder farmers (family farming), Woman farmer and Rural***

***Women’s, Rural youths, Fishers, indigenous people, elderly and NGO, private sectors”.***

With this diversification of stakeholders, UNEP should play a significant role to include their roles and to harmonize it as well.

2. In order to get the greatest impact we have to act as follows:
  - a. Focus on implementation that put small holders farmers as the centre of global food production
  - b. Helping family farmers especially women farmers and rural women as the planet managers as well as rural youths to change.
3. To consider the local wisdom as the reference of participatory research framework, participatory extension and knowledge based approach of base practices that sustain production and minimize the negative impact of farming activities and agriculture investment on the environment.
4. Helping farmers, women farmers and rural women to solve their primary problems by investment in the kind of agriculture that least implication for energy and water consumption.
5. Agriculture investment policies should be consulted and developed with farmer center approaches, in order to reduce in equalities in access to critical resources such as land and water.
6. Making education as basic for mobilizing knowledge to realize change.

## **The major topics to be discussed at the meeting are:**

(Inputs from Sunder Jiban, Bangladesh)

### ***Overview of major issues from Rio+20 Outcome Document and Implications for the Asia-Pacific region and subregions***

The issues contained in the Outcome Document ‘Future We Want’ clearly specify all relevant issues for sustainable development for all nations including those in the Asia-Pacific regions and subregions. However, three important **things I find missing or insufficiently pointed out – Directions to (a) Fight hunger and poverty, (b) Stop ethnic violence and repression on immigrants, and (c) Corruption control.**

#### **(a) Directions to fight hunger and poverty**

It should not be unknown to anyone of us that globally 25,000 people die of hunger everyday – 18,000 are children and 7,000 adults. Besides, about one billion starve at night. This reality happens when rich people waste food unthinkably and spend lavishly. Just in two countries – USA and UK, people waste \$63 billion worth foodstuff every year by which the starved people can sufficiently be fed. There are many people in other developed countries also waste food, spend lavishly and do not contribute to charity. They think only for themselves and their families and friends. Most rich people in developing countries also do not care for others. In fact, sometimes they are more selfish and kleptocratic than rich people of the developed countries. Many earn money resorting to corruption, do not pay tax, invest money in rapidly profit-earning sectors to earn more money and remit to foreign countries in order to make a second home or shelter in case they need to leave their homeland in the face of people’s wrath.

Though it is the primary responsibility of the concerned government to save their own people meeting all of their basic needs, it may not be possible for them for various reasons including shortage of food production due to drought and/or natural calamities and climate change or over-population. In that case, the

responsibility lies on the UN and rich countries as well as on the rich people living in the concerned countries and elsewhere in the world.

If the rich countries and their people as well as the rich people of the concerned poor countries who have excess food or money wish to save the hungry people, it is absolutely possible. Saving hungry people maybe compared with the saving of a drowning child. If a baby drowns in a pond in front of a healthy adult person, should not the latter save the baby? Obviously should. To save the hungry people is like that. We have to use our judgment and open our eyes to see the reality that people are dying without food, while many of us are throwing it to the bins and spending money for no good reasons. We have to stop it now with a belief that the riches may also be infected by hunger through the large-scale invasion of the hungry people. The necessity can break the rules. When survival is the question, people can snatch food and other belongings from their rich neighbours within their own countries. They can cross the border breaking wall between the two countries, can cross the Atlantic and/or Pacific occupying ships and aeroplanes. It may be exaggerated to the readers, but situation may compel people to do so in future when they will be fully aware of their basic rights and will know the depriver, the global ruler, extractor/blood-sucker and war-criminals. Yes, the governments of their own countries may try to save their rich people using its all machineries including military and similarly the powerful countries obviously will resort to use their weapons to protect their own heavens, but how much people they can kill, they will be billions.

However, before they become desperate to do so, given the overall socio-economic and political condition of the world, the following short and long-term plans have been hypothesized which may help save people from hunger and malnutrition and make sustainable living conditions.

#### *Short-term plan to save hungry people*

Feeding hungry people is the number one obligation for the respective governments. The feeding plan should be framed out beginning from the period of six months up to a couple of years depending on the age and health status of a group of people. Until someone can feed himself/herself and his/her children, he/they should get sufficient supply of food and children should get supply of milk from the specific channel as defined by the respective governments, if necessary with the help of UN. Let us have an estimate for six months to feed the hungry people of the world. In Bangladesh perspective the minimum cost of living is estimated for US\$ 207 billion to feed the world's one billion hungry people including about 150 million children for six months. This includes the cost of medicine and clothing also, but excludes housing and rehabilitation. Based on the UNICEF statistics on Bangladesh these hypotheses have been made. It said about 50% people of Bangladesh are living below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 per day.

The hungry people should continue to be fed until they can meet their own demand. Given the priority to save hungry people, both short and long-term plans should continue simultaneously as appropriate for the governments and their people concerned. Food subsidies for people who can afford to buy it at a considerable lower price should also continue until their income is increased up to a satisfactory level.

There may be a question to support their clothes, housing and health and education at the latest. Yes, those are obvious, but food is first to let the hungry people survive. If fund is available, all basic needs should be met simultaneously, but if we cannot provide them other needs, but food, let them live on their own alike the primitive people. If they are sufficiently nourished, they can produce food for their own, can build their own houses, earn for their clothes, health and education. However, the long-term plan would definitely help them fast meet their basic needs and eliminate poverty and hunger for good from the world.

#### *Long-term plan to save hungry people*

The respective governments should design their long-term plans best suited with their socio-economic and environmental conditions to meet their demands. However, if they are unable to do so for reasons stated above or beyond, the UN should help them make such plans, if necessary taking technical and/or financial help from the rich countries. The following long-term plans are suggested for the concerned government as well as for the UN and rich nations: (1) Increase agricultural production in their own lands, (2) Come out of protectionism, (3) Stop food wastage, (4) Ensure food safety, (5) Ensure well-planned market system, (6) Stop producing bio-fuel, (7) Stop war between countries and/or groups within a country, (8) Stop ethnic violence, (9) Control/manage population, (10) Control corruption, (11) No military administration, (12) Eradicate killer diseases, (13) Right to migration, (14) Industrialization and job creation, (15) Reduce greenhouse gases, (16) Root out terrorism [I can provide details of these on demand].

#### *Finance to eliminate poverty*

If the abovementioned challenges can be addressed, nobody will die of starvation. Though lots of funds will require to saving hungry people of the world, money is never a problem for doing any good work. About a couple of years ago a US national namely Randy aged 50 said 'If all my fellow Americans gave \$25 per household per month we could supply sanitary water and basic food provision for all starving people in the low-income countries. Most people say "It's not my fault!", and they are right; but basic humanitarianism says that if you can help, you should. Just like if you see a child drowning in a pond. It's not your fault but you would certainly try to rescue the child unless you're heartless!'

In order to mobilize resources, the rich countries should enhance their yearly contributions to the UN which they can easily do by adopting stringent measures to save food and money from their respective countries. If necessary they can send a SOS (save our souls) message to all inhabitants of their respective countries, even the UN can send the same message to all people of the world. If only five percent out of the total six billion people contribute \$100 each, \$30.0 billion could be earned and if the G8 countries contributes at the rate of \$10.0 billion each, another \$80.0 billion would come, if the next 50 developed countries each would come with \$2.0 billion that would total another \$100.0 billion and if Bill Gates, Ted Turner and some other billionaires would come forward to contribute another \$10.0 billion, the total would be \$220.0 (\$30bn+\$80bn+\$100bn+\$10bn) billion. This \$220 billion can feed one billion people at least for six months.

Though implementation of long-term plans requires elaborate discussions, I refrain from doing so given that the ensuing UNEP's Regional Consultation Meetings have limited scope. However, I can submit the plan on demand as I have already said above. This refers to my own article published by Springer as a book chapter (*Molla, MSI. 18,000 Children Die of Starvation Everyday: Can't We Save Them? Published in the proceedings of an international conference in, Morocco, held in November 2009. DOI 10.1007/978-94-007-0890-7. Pp 127*).

#### **(b) Directions to stop ethnic violence and repression on immigrants**

It is a vital issue in some regions of the Asia-Pacific particularly in the Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar and India. Although the Philippines government and the rebels have recently signed a peace agreement, the question of sustainability remains until both parties show their sincerity, honesty and faith on each other. Similar coherence and coexistence are essential among the majority of Thai people and the minority Muslims and other ethnic groups for maintaining peace and harmony between all groups.

The issue in Myanmar is of great concern for all – first for the Rohingya victims then the government of Bangladesh and then all other concerned working for the development of humanity.

The recent ethnic clashes between the Rohingya Muslims and the Buddhist in Myanmar have resulted in deaths of about 100 people, mostly Muslims. Thousands of Muslims were forced to leave their homeland to

the neighbouring Bangladesh. Their houses were burnt into ashes. And this is not the first time that Rohingya Muslims were persecuted in Myanmar. In their history, such mass killings and exodus have happened many times over the decades.

The annexation of the independent province of Rakhine in 1784 by the Burmese government came up with discriminatory policies and persecution of Rohingyas. They were marginalized and the Myanmar government put several restrictions on their movement, their marriage, and constantly confiscated their land and drove them to annihilation. Not only that, the Burmese/Myanmar government has not given them any citizenship and so they are stateless people. There are more than 800,000 stateless Rohingyas residing in Burma, mostly in the province of Rakhine. Besides, about 300,000 have been deported to neighbouring Bangladesh where they are living with the same stateless status. This is a huge pressure on the government of Bangladesh to feed them, maintain law and order, environment and ecology. The recent vandalism on the Buddhist community in Ramu and Ukhia in Cox's Bazar of the South-eastern part of Bangladesh has put extra burden on the government as it is said that a group of illegal Rohingya immigrants was responsible for the violence.

Other important things are the Palestine, Kashmir and Afghanistan issues. These issues should be solved with a win-win condition for the parties involved. There is no scope of doing politics with these burning issues. I think the most powerful G-20 countries can solve out the problem if they are really sincere. The Palestinians must get their due share of lands in bringing persistent peace and harmony in that volcano of violence. Similarly, the Kashmiris must get their due independence putting together both parts of the land grabbed by India and Pakistan. Afghanistan government and Taliban should also be brought to the table of discussion to find a peaceful settlement so both parties win.

### ***(c) Directions to control corruption***

Corruption is also a major cause of poverty and hunger throughout the world as it reduces the net income of the poor and damages programmes related to their basic needs. Corruption is a serious impediment to overall development of a country. The risk and threats of corruption are increasingly taken into account in the design of national development programmes. In the developing countries particularly in Asia and Africa, it is like a chronic infectious disease. Though the invasiveness of corruption in Bangladesh has been reducing slightly in the recent years, it may still be the biggest barrier in all development activities here. The country ranked number one in the list of corrupt countries of the world for five consecutive years from 2001-2005, but thereafter a slight improvement has been in effect. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2009 prepared by the Transparency International (TI) showed that Bangladesh ranked 13 in 2009 together with Belarus, Pakistan and the Philippines (139<sup>th</sup> among 180 countries). But the improvement is not significant yet. In order to make further improvement the government needs to pay special attention to the effectiveness of key institutions like the Parliament, Anti-corruption Commission, Election Commission, Public Service Commission, Information Commission, Judiciary, law enforcement agencies and the Human Rights Commission. Other countries enlisted in the CPI of TI should also need to make such institutions of their respective countries effective to wipe out their corruptions.

The countries enlisted in the CPI of TI as most corrupt, however, alone are not responsible for their own corruption. In order to involve with business and make money, sometimes developed countries firms inject corruption into those countries through their local agents and it is inflicted all levels of the society from local to national government, civil society, judiciary, business and military. International financial institutions lending systems are also responsible for creating corruption in a poor country. Thus the respective rich countries should have control over their firms and business conglomerates to refrain them from doing any malpractice elsewhere and they should also have strong commitment to their people to minimize the corruption with a mission to eliminate corruption from all over the world.

### ***The Role of UNEP and the MGS in Post Rio+20 Agenda***



The role of both UNEP and MGS is tremendous. Though there are other UN organs (FAO and UNHCR), the UNEP and MGS working with the UNEP need to work together with those bodies and the mother organization UNDP to address these issues that I have pointed out. The UNDP needs to be much stronger in convincing the member countries particularly the most influential ones to come out of protectionism in saving hungry people of the world and sorting out the ethnic and/or immigration problems all over the world. I would say that the G-20 countries should play a vital role in helping poor government and their people all over the world. They must be sincere in doing so. Otherwise, no matter what action is taken, will not come in fruition.

### ***The UN Post 2015 Agenda and Role of MGS***

If the MDGs are fulfilled, the post 2015 agenda and role of MGS should be –

- Sustainable standard of life of all people of the world providing their basic needs (foods, cloths, house, medication and education)
- Sustainable peace and harmony everywhere in the world
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to a significant level
- Legal access of climate refugees to the rich countries where plenty of lands and other facilities available
- Provide support to the countries face climate-related calamities
- Strong monitoring to save environment and biodiversity

### ***Sustainable Development Goals***

As stated above

### ***Green Economies in the Context of Sustainable Development***

The first world countries should think of this first. They should avoid their luxurious life-style, wastage of food, energy and wealth. Think environment is a prerequisite for sustainable development and the UNEP should impose it for all developed countries and also for the first developing countries who are about to join the club of the developed ones. The developing countries should also follow the same practice for their own survival remembering that slow and steady wins the race caring environment.

### ***Sustainable Consumption and Production***

“Produce what you need to consume now and for those who can’t produce for various reasons. Don’t produce so much to leave for the consumption of your next generation” – These should be the basis of the sustainable production and consumption. And if we can follow this practice, we can save our planet.

### ***Means of Implementation***

It should be well-planned based on the need and perspective of the concerned country with proper monitoring and evaluation of UNEP. Each country should be responsible in making their plan of implementation, but that should be thoroughly reviewed by UNEP before going for implementation and thereafter monitored and evaluated by them.

### ***Chemicals and Waste Management***

Chemicals are wonderful discoveries of the modern world. These are discovered for the benefit of human beings, but when the use of chemicals knows no bound these can harm all living beings. And in fact, this is

happening throughout the world, particularly in the developing countries like Bangladesh. Say for example, the use of formalin in fish, vegetables and fruits has made people's life in Bangladesh miserable. It must not continue any more. The government of Bangladesh and other countries of the world where chemicals are abused should make stringent measures to stop abuse of chemicals for the sake of ourselves and our next generations.

Waste management is also a matter of serious concern of Bangladesh and other developing countries. Just sincerity of the concerned government is enough to manage this. Most of the waste is no more waste – smart technologies are available to convert it into resources. UNEP can guide the countries in this respect and also make an obligation for them to follow the guidelines.

### **Inputs from Alma Uzbekova, Kyrgyzstan on Obsolete Pesticides**

Obsolete pesticides (OPs) pose a significant environmental and health concern in the region, stemming from overuse and mismanagement of pesticides during the Soviet era. Many of the chemicals of concern are now either deregistered locally, banned internationally or unusable because of long-term storage leading to degradation. It is estimated that around half of the world's quantities of obsolete pesticides can be found in the former Soviet Union. In addition, some industrial sites in the region rank among the world's most polluted places, exposing the populations to pollution from hazardous chemicals and heavy metals.

Agriculture in the Soviet Union was highly mechanized and relied on intensive use of agrochemicals. In many areas, annual use of 35 kg of pesticides per hectare was normal; in comparison, modern levels are below 1 kg. It is estimated that at least half of the world's obsolete pesticides are located on the area of the former Soviet Union. At the same time, the successor states of the Soviet Union are still countries in transition with often incomplete legal and institutional frameworks, weak financial capacity or a lack of sufficient experts and storage/elimination infrastructure to address their obsolete pesticides legacy in a systematic way. In addition, numerous industrial sites in the region rank among the world's most polluted places, exposing the populations to pollution from a mix of hazardous chemicals and heavy metals. Large volumes of hazardous wastes stockpiled throughout the region constitute an imminent danger to public health (such as neurological disorders, cancer, weakening of the immune system, respiratory infections) and the environment (e.g. by contaminating water and soil).

One of the key international agreements addressing obsolete pesticides is the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which has been ratified by most countries from Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

However, implementation of the provisions of the Stockholm Convention is not sufficient to effectively deal with the risks associated with OPs. The nineteen pesticides included in the Convention are only a small, though important, proportion of the total number of obsolete pesticides. Very large quantities of non-POPs pesticides remain in South-East Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union, often in burial sites, illegal dumps and in insecure storage conditions.

At the 11th HCH and Pesticides Forum in Gabala, Azerbaijan, in September 2011, countries reported following amounts of obsolete pesticides on their territories (unless otherwise indicated):

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Armenia    | 800   |
| Azerbaijan | 4,000 |

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Belarus            | 7,800 <sup>1</sup>        |
| Georgia            | 3,583                     |
| Kazakhstan         | 10,000                    |
| Kyrgyzstan         | 3,000                     |
| Moldova            | 5,949                     |
| Russian Federation | 77,000+ <sup>2</sup>      |
| Tajikistan         | 9,720                     |
| Turkmenistan       | 1,671                     |
| Ukraine            | 56,700 <sup>3</sup>       |
| <u>Uzbekistan</u>  | <u>19,725<sup>4</sup></u> |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>199,948</b>            |

There are considerable risks of not acting to address these issues. Unprotected sites, estimated to number in the tens of thousands, threaten the health and livelihoods of the communities that live around them.

Safer handling of hazardous substances and efforts to clean up past pollution will have important health and environmental benefits and contribute to a green economy that should be considered as a vital part of economic development in the region and therefore a key long-term aim for all the countries. So far there has not been a systematic approach to tackling obsolete pesticides and other unused hazardous chemicals across all countries in the region.

## SETTING OUR COMMON GOALS

### Major Groups Recommendations for Multi-Stakeholder Engagement with the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

#### OVERVIEW

As part of the Rio+20 Conference follow up, governments stated that they would establish the 30 member inter-governmental Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by September 2012. Member States will nominate representatives from the five United Nations regional groups, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable, and balanced geographic representation. In addition, paragraph 248 of The Future We Want, instructs the United Nations “to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders”.

Thus, in order to adhere to the requirements of The Future We Want and maximize its effectiveness, the OWG needs to ensure that it has recognized effective and ongoing engagement of stakeholders.

Therefore, we, the nine Major Groups established in 1992 for the Rio process on sustainable development, offer recommendations on how to ensure that the deliberations of the OWG will draw on broad multi-

<sup>1</sup> World Bank, November 2009

<sup>2</sup> O. Speranskaya, UNECE meeting, Sept 2011, Astana

<sup>3</sup> Round Table, Kalush, 30-31 August 2011

<sup>4</sup> Amount stated by Uzbek State Committee for Environmental Protection in the frame of the 2009 World Bank project.

stakeholder input and expertise thus ensuring that the SDG processes and decisions are “inclusive and transparent”.

This paper builds on the central role the Major Groups played in Rio+20 processes and is being submitted to DESA in the spirit of our continued engagement in this area. This paper will also be sent to the President of the UN General Assembly and to the Permanent Representative of the Brazilian Mission to the UN for information.

As decisions on the modalities and governance of decision-making processes (such as the OWG) will begin in earnest in October 2012, this note offers recommendations on how multi-stakeholder engagement can ensure that the SDG processes and decisions are “inclusive and transparent” as Rio+20 called for.

Finally, we offer these recommendations in recognition that civil society and other stakeholders’ “Major Groups” will need to be involved in designing, implementing and evaluating sustainability, and therefore have a stake in developing the SDGs. This requires the full and fair facilitation and representation of multi-stakeholder input to the OWG and other relevant processes for the post-2015 development agenda.

#### RECOMMENDATION 1:

We recommend that a multi-stakeholder advisory group on sustainable development goals (MAG) be established to work with the intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) on developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### OBJECTIVE AND COMPOSITION

The objective of the MAG would be to draw on the best and widest possible advice, experience, expertise and input, to ensure linkages with major groups, including NGOs and the private sector, as well as different other stakeholders at regional, sub-regional and local levels and to ensure a continuing and open exchange of information.

#### RECOMMENDATION 2:

To achieve the objective, we recommend that the composition of the MAG should be based on the Agenda 21 nine Major Groups, with an understanding that they would also consult with and draw on input provided by other groups as reflected in Paragraph 43 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document. The composition of the MAG should aim at North-South as well as gender balance and should be reviewed regularly.

The MAG should take into account lessons learnt from other stakeholder constructs available within the UN family. Such constructs are found within, inter alia, UNOCHA, UNAIDS, SAICM, the ILO, the Aarhus Convention as well as FAO’s Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The nine Major Groups structure will be used to develop modalities for a broadly inclusive and representative structure as well as enhanced accountability to go with the enhanced responsibility.

#### BASIC FUNCTIONS

Once established, the MAG will develop a full list of modalities and terms of reference. However, at the outset and to institute its working relations with the OWG, the MAG should be established on some basic functions.

### RECOMMENDATION 3:

We recommend that the basic functions of the MAG should enable it to:

- Access all documents and drafts under negotiation by the OWG in a timely manner;
- Comment on any draft reports of the OWG, and receive an official response on the comments;
- Comment on the draft agenda of the next meeting of the OWG and suggest further agenda items;
- Have dedicated time periods during OWG meetings when MAG representatives can dialogue with the OWG on key issues;
- Have regular meetings with OWG representatives (e.g. the co-chairs/bureau); and
- Have expert advisory seats on any potential sub-working/thematic groups of the OWG to advise and draw on stakeholder views and expertise on specific topics, as well as provide technical inputs to any specific requests the OWG may have.

Ultimately, the aim of the MAG is to involve broad stakeholder participation at every level which will result in better informed and more thoroughly deliberated decisions being taken. If fully implemented, stakeholders will take greater ownership of the outcomes and be more active in the delivery of policy on the ground, optimally in partnership with governments, intergovernmental organizations, and other actors.

Given the fact that the SDGs must be global in nature and universal in application, it is essential that wide and diverse opinions and viewpoints are a part of their development.

### Summary of Recommendations

1. We recommend that a multi-stakeholder advisory group on sustainable development goals (MAG) be established to work with the intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) on developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. We recommend that the composition of the MAG should be based on the Agenda 21 nine Major Groups with an understanding that they will also consult with and draw on input provided by other groups, as reflected in Paragraph 43 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document. The composition of the MAG should aim at North – South and gender balance and should be reviewed regularly.
3. We recommend that the basic functions of the MAG should enable it to:
  - Access all documents and drafts under negotiation by the OWG in a timely manner;
  - Comment on any draft reports of the OWG, and receive an official response on the comments;
  - Comment on the draft agenda of the next meeting of the OWG and suggest further agenda items;
  - Have dedicated time periods during OWG meetings when MAG representatives can dialogue with the OWG on key issues;
  - Have regular meetings with OWG representatives (e.g. the co-chairs/bureau); and
  - Have expert advisory seats on any potential sub-working/thematic groups of the OWG to advise and draw on stakeholder views and expertise on specific topics, as well as provide technical inputs to any specific requests the OWG may have.