

**Common Statement: Major Group Facilitating Committee and Regional Representatives on
UNEP's Draft Policy on Stakeholder Engagement -- 24 March 2014**

Presented by Marcos Orellana, MGFC, NGO major group

- The Major Group Facilitating Committee and Regional Representatives (MGFC & RR) support UNEP's efforts to enhance Major Group and other stakeholder engagement in all its work. In this respect, MGFC & RR welcome the work toward a *Draft Policy on Stakeholder Engagement*.
- MGFC & RR appreciate UNEP's dedication to openness and substantive engagement with Major Groups and other stakeholders. The continuing progress in this area has advanced UNEP's work, while providing lessons in good practice. MGFC has also evolved to improve transparency and governance, and to include regional perspectives in its work; as such, it can form a basis on which to build improvement and expansion. We look forward to continuing our partnership to provide a resource for the new, strengthened and improved UNEP, including its U.N. Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the Committee on Permanent Representatives (CPR).
- The Major Group and other stakeholder community is very diverse in terms of constituencies, objectives and contributions to UNEP's work. This Common Statement reflects the views of all Major Groups and Regional Representatives. MGFC & RR support the *Principles on Stakeholder Participation in UNEP* agreed by Major Groups and other stakeholders at the 2013 Governing Council meeting.
- Major Groups are recognized in Agenda 21 as partners in implementation, with a stake across a broad range of issues pertaining to sustainable development. As highlighted throughout the Rio+20 Outcome Document, the MGFC & RR see the value of a distinctive role for Major Groups and stakeholders across UNEP's entire work program in agenda setting, policy formulation and implementation.
- We respect and support the inter-governmental character of UNEP. We also see great opportunity in broadening the involvement of major groups and stakeholders in UNEP, including to provide specialized knowledge in informing policy deliberation and assisting implementation.
- Following paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document and efforts by the United Nations to enhance coherence and upgrade its procedures relating to stakeholder engagement, we urge UNEP and its Member States to develop its Policy on Stakeholder Engagement in line with the UN General Assembly resolution 67/290 establishing the high level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF).
- It is critical to ensure that UNEP's Programme of Work secures appropriate resources for UNEP and its regional offices to support the continued engagement of major groups and stakeholders.