

Statement on the Draft Decision presented by Chile, Dominican Republic and Mexico

UNEP/Note No. 006/14

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I am Ana Barreira and deliver this statement on behalf of the NGOs Major Group, with the support from Children and Youth, Farmers, Local Authorities, Science and Technology, Women, Workers and Trade Unions Major Groups. We welcome the draft decision presented by Chile, Dominican Republic and Mexico related to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.

Principle 10 embodies the three pillars of environmental democracy, and environmental democracy is inextricably linked to the environmental rule of law. This vital link cannot be severed.

On 21-22 June 2014, the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum in Nairobi, Kenya considered among other matters the Environmental Rule of Law. Participants discussed various aspects of the environmental rule of law, including environmental democracy, the right to a healthy environment, and the access rights embodied in Principle 10. We elaborated several recommendations that are being presented to the Global Symposium on Environmental Rule of Law and that we will submit in writing to UNEA.

To conclude, given the inherent and vital link between Principle 10, environmental democracy and the environmental rule of Law, the NGOs Major Group believes that this decision relating to Principle 10 could make explicit reference to this link. In addition, the decision could also call upon UNEP Secretary to continue its support to the regional process toward an instrument on access rights in Latin America and the Caribbean.

I thank you.