

Comments on Agenda Item 4:

Report by the Secretariat on UN Environment Programme's Private Sector Engagement

from the CSOs (online) present in the CPR subcommittee meeting

We appreciate the Report by the Secretariat on UN Environment Programme's Private Sector Engagement, and at this stage we would like to provide the following comments:

- When a transfer of funds between UNEP and the private sector is planned, UNEP should produce an explanation for the CPR, and the CPR should have the ability to assess it and approve or deny the transfer. There is need for full transparency when funds from the private sector are to receive. We also support Member State's requests for UNEP to share a roadmap of future MoU.
- In the Annex containing the Agreements signed with the Private Sector, UNEP should indicate which companies are small and medium-sized and which are big corporations. This would also address the call from the Ministerial Declaration of the 4th UN Environment Assembly for "promoting sustainable and innovative financing opportunities and mechanisms to unlock new capital for sustainable investment and upscaling of sustainable business models, with a special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises". We would also like to add social entrepreneurs.
- Furthermore, in the Annex containing the Agreements signed with the Private Sector, UNEP is currently indicating only whether there has been a transfer of funds or other financial implication, without any other detail. There is no indication of where to find the specific agreements between UNEP and the Private Sector entities. Increasing transparency is one of the priorities for 2019, so we suggest that UNEP add a clearer indication of the financial implications, with a direct link and access to the agreements.
- In the process of developing assessment reports or Outlooks, we would like to see increased involvement of civil society groups and scientists. Public interests are better protected by those groups than by the private sector. This will make the credibility of the reports also stronger.
- The Global Compact is highly criticized by many civil society organizations, as the transparency and follow up (results) are far from clear. If UNEP engages more to this initiative, it should also improve the structure and organization of the Global Compact.
- More comments from the European stakeholders on the topic are included in the civil society statement from Europe for UNEA-4, available at the link below, in the section "III. UN Environment's corporate partnerships"
https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/26495/RCM_Statement.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y