

Recommendations of the Regional Consultative Meeting of the Major Groups and Stakeholders of Latin America and the Caribbean to the second United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP and the 16th Session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)

We, the representatives of the Major Groups and Stakeholders of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered at the UNEP Regional Consultative Meeting held on 7th May 2015 in Panama City, Panama, agreed to make the following recommendations:

On the UNEP Stakeholder Engagement Policy:

We call upon Governments to ensure that the negotiations linked to the Rules of Procedure, the Stakeholder Engagement Policy and the Access-to-Information Policy will decidedly draw on the principle of non-regression, in particular concerning agreements and practices for full and effective participation in the UNEA and its subsidiary bodies, accreditation of observer organisations and access to negotiating drafts.

We request that Rule of Procedure 70 allows all organizations with an interest in the environment and sustainable development -including those at the international, national and local level- to be fully integrated into the different participation mechanisms of the Major Groups and Stakeholders.

With regard to the Major Groups Facilitation Committee (MGFC), we request that Governments strengthen the role of Regional Representatives, guaranteeing equal status to those representing the Major Groups at the global level, given that this is an indispensable requirement for each region's views to be taken into account in the policymaking process of UNEP.

On the post-2015 Development Agenda:

We call upon Governments to reassign available economic resources at the global, national and local level such that, given the comprehensive nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, contradictions could be minimised and synergies generated among the different sectoral policies in each dimension of international governance for sustainable development.

Concerned by the privatization of public goods and services through public-private partnerships, we call on all institutions, in particular government and United Nations System agencies, to be transparent and accountable regarding all private sector contributions to their programmes and activities.

We insist on the urgent need to apply a human and natural rights approach in all decision-making and implementation processes, recognizing, in particular, the diverse levels and forms of governance of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their right to take part in decision-making at all levels, including the High Level Political Forum.

Regarding implementation measures, we emphasize that technology transfer should abide by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, so as to avoid creating dependency, conditionality or indebtedness for those receiving the technology. We also stress the urgency of revaluing, and respecting the implementation of, technologies based on the traditional knowledge of local communities and Indigenous Peoples, which are more appropriate for the place where those technologies originated.

In line with the objective of leaving no one behind and Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, indicators must be disaggregated to allow for the monitoring of progress of all groups, including local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

On the recommendations ahead of COP21

We consider climate change one of the current major challenges to sustainable development. We therefore urge Governments to adopt, ratify and implement current and future agreements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to allocate the resources needed to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and increase the adaptive capacity of the small states, most vulnerable communities and sectors, with particular emphasis placed on the health sector.

We recognize that adaptation and mitigation measures vis-à-vis climate change phenomena are essential for the future of the planet in general and for our region in particular. In light of the foregoing, we urge Governments to engage and involve civil society in searching for policy options to enhance resilience to climate change phenomena.

Recognizing current urban growth trends in Latin America and the Caribbean, we call on Governments to strengthen green economy, sustainable development and resilience strategies in the framework of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Programmes such as the 10YFP and the Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In addition, they should encourage private investment with economic incentives and promote legitimate, transparent and equitable participation, based on consensus and respect for the rights of populations and the environment.

We further request that the States prioritize the creation of protected natural areas in each country to preserve biodiversity, and that their urban planning policies be designed and executed within a framework of respect for biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems.

On Sustainable Consumption and Production

Given that the region has developed a declaration in the framework of the 10YFP, in which the representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders reached a common point of agreement with the governmental delegates, we call on the governments of the region to facilitate and enhance the active participation of the nine Major Groups in the promotion of SCP practices and the implementation of programmes under the Ten-Year Framework at the regional, national and local levels.