

Recommendations of the Regional Consultation Meeting of the Major Groups and Stakeholders of Latin America and the Caribbean to the meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP and the 15th Session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)

We, the representatives of the Major Groups and Stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean, at the UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting held on 18 and 19 November 2013 in Panama City, Panama, in preparation for the first meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP and the 15th Session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, agree to support the following initiatives: the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, the Sustainable Development Goals and the 10-Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production, as well as the strengthening of participation of civil society organizations by adopting a policy for their involvement. Consequently,

Regarding the policy for involving the Major Groups and Stakeholders, we call upon the States to:

- (i) move forward on the basis of the principle of non-retrogression;
- (ii) include other, currently excluded groups, which could be incorporated based on the concept of 9+;
- (iii) ensure a broadened participation of civil society organizations in UNEA and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), as well as in any current or future subsidiary body;
- (iv) amend Rule of Procedure 69 to allow local and national organizations to also have access to accreditation;
- (v) permit the accreditation of organizations that: (a) are not-for-profit institutions; (b) work on sustainable development issues with an emphasis on the environment; (c) have a minimum of two years' experience (except for those focused on children and adolescents); (d) work at the international, regional, national or local levels; and (e) have been legally established (except for those that work on issues relating to indigenous peoples, local communities and children and adolescents);
- (vi) ensure the participation of civil society organizations in drafting agendas of meetings linked to the UNEP policymaking cycle, especially—but not exclusively—Regional Consultation Meetings, meetings of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and those of UNEA;
- (vii) ensure equal status and opportunities between representatives of major groups and those of the regions;
- (viii) ensure that representatives of the Major Groups are elected democratically by organizations of those groups, through public invitations and the dissemination of information on candidates;

- (ix) ensure that regional representatives are democratically elected by attendees of Regional Consultation Meetings;
- (x) establish clear accountability mechanisms for representatives of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, whether they represent the Major Groups or the regions, including reports on their participation at each meeting or forum, as well as a report at the end of their mandate.

Regarding the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration:

We welcome the adoption of the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development as the beginning of an open multilateral process undertaken to adopt an instrument for Latin America and the Caribbean embodied in a regional roadmap.

We appeal to the countries of the region that have not yet joined this process to do so without delay. Similarly, we ask the signatory countries to ensure the participation of all Major Groups and Stakeholders in the process of negotiating and implementing this instrument, taking into account the Bali Guidelines as they carry out these endeavours.

We encourage UNEP to strengthen coordination and cooperation mechanisms with intergovernmental agencies linked to sustainable development, especially with the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the regional economic commissions in general, in particular the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in order to work in an integrated manner and achieve greater internal consistency, promoting the active participation of civil society representatives in the process.

We urge the States of the region to build and strengthen the regulatory framework and the monitoring and accountability mechanisms, in order to implement and ensure the effective implementation of Principle 10.

Regarding the Sustainable Development Goals:

We invite the States to promote the active participation of the Major Groups and Stakeholders at the different stages of the processes of defining the Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to channelling their visions, proposals and concerns at the local, national, subregional, regional and global levels.

We ask the States to:

- (i) extract the lessons learned and best practices stemming from the design and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, to facilitate

- integration and balance between economic development, social equity and environmental sustainability;
- (ii) recognize the relevance of the binding and non-binding instruments, and encourage and reinvigorate local Agenda 21 and the Earth Charter; and
 - (iii) respect different worldviews on development as well as those of Indigenous peoples and local communities. All of this in order to formulate the Sustainable Development Goals so as to frame public policy and realign the priorities of international cooperation.

Regarding the 10-Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production:

We urge the States to facilitate the participation of the Major Groups and Stakeholders in formulating, developing and implementing the programmes approved with regard to the 10-Year Framework on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP). Furthermore, we maintain that it is necessary to incorporate a programme to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which are one of the four priorities identified at the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

We, the representatives of the Major Groups and Stakeholders of Latin America and the Caribbean, are committed to actively take part in building participatory processes and opportunities that draw together civil society and the States, in order to achieve sustainable development in the region.

Given in Panama City on 19 November 2013.