

Report of the *UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting of Major Groups and Stakeholders for Latin America and the Caribbean*, 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 (GMGSF)

18-19 November 2013, Panama City, Panama

Background

1. Since its inception, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has maintained close ties with civil society and has worked with it in a coordinated and joint manner with a view to encouraging the participation of citizens and governments in conserving the environment and promoting sustainable development.
2. In 1999, UNEP established the Major Groups and NGOs Unit in its Policy Office to give major groups the opportunity to play a broader role in decision-making.
3. In 2004, it created the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, with the major groups classified into nine categories: women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community and farmers.
4. Each year since 2000 UNEP has organized the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF), as well as the meetings of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (starting in 2014, the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP). Over the past eight years, the consultation cycle of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum has become the main gateway for their participation.
5. The Global Forum considers the discussions and recommendations of the six regional consultation meetings, in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Western Asia.
6. Each region conducts a substantive dialogue on the topics to be debated at the GMGSF and at the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP.

Objectives of the 2013 Regional Consultation Meeting for Major Groups and Stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. One of the main objectives of the Regional Consultation Meeting was to serve as a forum for discussion on four key issues for UNEP:
 - Implementation of Decision GC 27/2 ahead of the first meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly in June 2014. Paragraphs 5 (e), 7, 9, 10 and 17 of Decision UNEP/GC.27/2 GC on institutional arrangements require establishing new mechanisms to enhance the role of stakeholders and transparency based on the best practices of multilateral organizations.

- The Post-2015 Development Agenda: incorporation of environmental sustainability into the new development programme and the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration: regional initiatives on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters; implementation of the Bali Guidelines project.
 - 10-Year Framework Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP).
8. The conclusions of this regional meeting will help enrich discussions at the 15th session of the GMGSF and the first meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP.

Conduct of business

Opening session. Opening remarks by Margarita Astrálaga, director and regional representative of UNEP for Latin America and the Caribbean

9. The UNEP Communications Officer, Alejandro Laguna, took the floor to thank all the representatives of the major groups and the UNEP team for their assistance and support, and he introduced Margarita Astrálaga, director and regional representative of UNEP in Latin America and the Caribbean, who took the floor to open the meeting.
10. Margarita Astrálaga welcomed all those in attendance and thanked them for taking part in the meeting. She began by emphasizing the importance of the current moment for UNEP, a few months before the holding of the first meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA).
11. With regard to the process of transforming the participation of the major groups in the work of UNEP, she stressed the mission of the Committee of Experts. One representative from the region, Marcos Orellana, from Chile, of the Center for International Environmental Law, works on the committee. She stated that the proposal document prepared by this Committee was expected to be concluded before the first meeting of the UNEA in June 2014.
12. The director and regional representative of UNEP referred to the different topics on the meeting programme: the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals; Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on access to information, participation and environmental justice; the 10-Year Framework Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

13. Margarita Astrálaga advocated stepping up collaboration among the different United Nations agencies regarding the participation of major groups, and also between these agencies and the major groups. “We can all go further if we work together and continue along the same path, with the same objectives”, she said.
14. Lastly, the director and regional representative of UNEP stressed the Regional Office's work to facilitate the participation of the major groups, and she thus announced that the Office was analyzing how best to support the creation of regional database for the Major Groups and Stakeholders of UNEP in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Session 1. Introduction of the participants and approval of the agenda

15. The participants (see complete list of participants in Annex 1) introduced themselves to the group, stating where they were from, the organizations that they represented and the major groups to which they belonged.
16. Next, the attendees proceeded to elect the new chair. Flavia Cherry, Kenneth Ochoa and Dalia Márquez were nominated. The attendees, voting by show of hands, decided that Flavia Cherry and Kenneth Ochoa should take turns as chair, with each of them holding the position for one day. On the first day, Flavia Cherry served as chair, and Kenneth Ochoa served on the second day.
17. The new chair, Flavia Cherry, moved on to the review and approval of the meeting agenda, which was unanimously approved by the participants.

Session 2. Participation of the stakeholders in the work of UNEP on three levels: priorities of the agenda, decision-making and execution

Information session on the results of the 14th session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) and the 27th session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF).

18. Luis Flores gave a presentation on the main events leading up to the construction of the institutional framework for sustainable development within the framework of the United Nations Organization, both through the various relevant international forums for environmental governance and sustainable development (United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP / Economic and Social Council / Commission on Sustainable Development / UNEP) and through an analysis of the different stages of evolution of the international discussion on sustainable development. The speaker began with the Stockholm Conference in 1972 and ended with the Rio+20 Conference in 2012 and the subsequent monitoring of the international agreements reached in “The future we want” related to strengthening UNEP and the future UNEA.

19. Flavia Cherry presented a briefing on the results of the 14th Session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) and the 27th Session of the Governing Council/Global ministerial Forum (GC/GMEF). She provided highlights and recommendations on the different sessions held during the GMGSF, as well as a meeting held with UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner. She also shared Major Group positions regarding UNEP draft decisions and the outcome of breakout-out groups based on regional caucus. Flavia Cherry also carried out a comprehensive briefing of the (GC27/GMEF) which took place from 18-22 February 2013, at the UN Office at Nairobi, Kenya. She noted that delegates convened in plenary sessions, a Committee of the Whole, and several working and contact groups to consider draft decisions. The Ministerial consultations addressed “Rio+20: from Outcome to Implementation” and delegates adopted 13 decisions on different topics.
20. After the presentations, the participants shared their opinions. Some expressed concern, as stakeholders, at the possibility of being displaced in the new governing structure of UNEP. In addition, a proposal was made to request a budget increase in order to expand and improve processes for civil society involvement as well as to interlink the various platforms within the United Nations.
21. The representatives of the major group of farmers reminded the attendees of the proposals that they had made to the Governments and stressed the importance of supporting growers for poverty eradication. In addition, the indigenous groups stressed the value of being recognized by the United Nations as Indigenous Peoples—in uppercase.
22. On behalf of businesses, and with regard to the framework of a green economy, a request was made to move from discourse to action. The attendees were reminded that SMEs account for 98% of all enterprises in the region, and 50% of GDP, but they are very vulnerable: SMEs are closing and do not have access to eco-innovation and clean technologies. In addition, the need to include local communities, that is, growers and indigenous peoples, was stressed.

Current-day practices of UNEP and other multilateral agencies. Options for involving stakeholders in a new UNEP. Experiences of the major groups and stakeholders with the current participation mechanisms of UNEP. Global-consultation process on stakeholders' participation in the work of UNEP.

23. José de Mesa referred to the evolution of civil society involvement in the governing bodies of UNEP. He started with the current situation and collaboration methodology to subsequently refer to the Rio+20 Meeting,

which was a watershed for UNEP. He noted how Rio+20 affected some decisions of the UNEP 2013 Governing Council, where the organization was asked to take the steps necessary for a greater involvement of civil society based on more inclusive, transparent and participatory systems.

24. In 2013, UNEP began a series of actions to make that participation effective: the holding of consultations with civil society, the creation of a panel of experts to issue suggestions, the conducting of an international consultation, and an analysis of the best practices of civil society participation in other United Nations agencies. José de Mesa stressed that the Regional Consultation Meeting for Major Groups and Stakeholders in Latin America and the Caribbean (November 2013) would serve to reflect the regional component and the specific themes that will be incorporated into the initiatives to be submitted at the first meeting of UNEA.
25. Cecilia Iglesias gave a talk on the experiences of the major groups and stakeholders with the current participation mechanisms of UNEP. She reviewed the spheres of involvement: implementation (as a project partner) and definition of policies (accreditation). She commented on the role of UNEP in the implementation work, as well as on the accreditation process and the policymaking cycle at UNEP. She also shared some lessons learned.
26. At the beginning of the discussion, one participant stated that the Governments could serve as a bridge for civil society involvement. Another attendee said that local governments could play that role between decision makers and civil-society groups. Several speakers focused on the accreditation process for civil society involvement, asking that accreditation by both UNEP and ECOSOC be made more flexible. One participant expressed opposition to any accreditation process, so as to allow any organization to participate based on its commitment and work.
27. Several remarks were also made in favour of reorganizing the Major Groups of UNEP. One participant spoke of the need to separate the private sector and place it at another level, since its power and resources were, in her opinion, greater than those of the remaining major groups. Several attendees from companies defended the importance of MSMEs (micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) in the region, which, they noted, had nevertheless remained outside of the 10-Year Framework Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
28. Regarding the major group of farmers, one participant stressed the differences between large agricultural multinationals and farmers who worked “on riverbanks”. In his opinion, the latter should perhaps be considered part of “local communities”.

Dialogue between the representatives of the facilitating committee of the major groups and the representatives of the Major Regional Groups of Latin American and the Caribbean to inform the participants of their respective functions and possible improvements

29. Calvin James explained that he had served as co-chair for the Farmers Major Group at the 14th Session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) and the 27th Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF). Having also served as regional representative before, he saw his role as synthesizing the views of the regional representatives together with those presented by the International NGOs to develop a global position, in this case on Farming.
30. He underscored that although the final language was generic, it represented the views of a wide cross section of stakeholders. With respect to possible improvements, Calvin James called for the development of an effective communication mechanism between regional representatives and major groups so as to enrich the global policy development process in UNEP.
31. On the topic of options for improving communication between the representatives of the major groups and the regional representatives, Luis Flores mentioned the importance of succeeding—in advance—in structuring a regional network of major groups that is active, stable and offers continuity over time. He stressed the need for the collaboration of UNEP and the Governments of the region.

Options for improving communication among the representatives of the major groups in the region (presentation given by representatives of the UNEP Regional Office)

32. The UNEP Information Officer, Alejandro Laguna, began by stressing the importance of having an effective and updated registration system—if possible, a database with the information of all the organizations of registered major groups and stakeholders in the region.
33. Alejandro Laguna raised the need for the major groups to have a communication tool based on such a database or, lacking such a database, based on the existing list in Excel making it possible to create an authentic regional network of these groups.
34. With a view to having a free and easy-to-use tool that would not depend on the availability of funding, and in light of the successful experience of the TUNZA regional youth network, the UNEP Information Officer gave a presentation on Facebook pages and groups. Inviting attendees to take part in the discussion, he expressed his opinion that a group might better meet the needs of the major groups than could a page, and he spelled out the

advantages and drawbacks of each type of Facebook group (open, private and secret).

35. An intense discussion, with very different points of view, ensued. Some participants were in favour of this tool, while others indicated alternatives such as a special platform, a Yahoo group, a web page, a Twitter account, or simply relying on e-mail. The meeting chair, Flavia Cherry, announced that, together with a group of meeting attendees, she would present a concrete proposal on the possible communication tool.

Session 3. Implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration: regional initiatives on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters; implementation of the Bali Guidelines project

36. UNEP Programme Officer Andrea Brusco, via virtual teleconference, gave an overview on the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and the milestones attained to date. She explained how Governments and stakeholder groups alike have recognized the need to move forward at the global, regional and national level to improve the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. She noted that, during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, a group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries signed the declaration on implementing Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. These countries pledged to develop an action plan to make progress in creating a regional instrument on the rights of access to information, participation and environmental justice, promoted by Rio Principle 10.
37. To this end, UNEP, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Caribbean Academy for Law and Court Administration (or CALCA - the educational arm of the Caribbean Court of Justice), the World Resource Institute (WRI) and the Access Initiative (TAI) joined forces to support developing Principle 10 and implementing the Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Issues (Bali Guidelines) in Latin America and the Caribbean. Andrea Brusco noted that, as a result of that collaboration, two regional workshops had already been held: one in Lima in September, and another in Trinidad and Tobago in October.
38. Yolanda Díaz also presented an overview on the reason for Principle 10 and its importance for achieving sustainable development, and she spoke of the role of the States in implementing the principle and reviewed the guidelines for drafting national legislation. In addition, she gave a summary of her participation at the Regional Workshop on Access to Information, Public

Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, held in Lima, Peru, on 28 and 29 October.

39. The objective of the workshop was to share good practices, identify challenges and raise awareness in the countries of the region on the importance of implementing the rights of access. The workshops will offer continuity with activities intended to assist countries interested in and committed to moving forward with implementing the Bali Guidelines at the national level.
40. In his presentation, Stefan Knights stated that the Latin American and Caribbean Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration was of critical importance to ensuring effective and timely access to environmental information, participation in decisions that affect the environment and access to justice in environmental matters for all. He said that Principle 10 would assist the region in achieving a healthy environment, which is essential for the full development of human beings and for the achievement of sustainable development, poverty eradication, equality, and the preservation and stewardship of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations. According to Stefan Nights, in the Caribbean there are several noteworthy good practices and challenges to the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. Young people in Latin America and the Caribbean through the TUNZA Youth Network, Caribbean Youth Environment Network and PIDES International are promoting and teaching their communities about the importance of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.
41. In order to effectively implement Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration in the region, he underscored the need for: more public education programmes on the environment and sustainable development; more technical and specialist personnel; more signatories to the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean; and the establishment of a regional court to address environmental matters only.
42. In the discussion, the participants drew attention to the gap between laws and practice. Many countries have laws but do not enforce them. Virtual access to information is not sufficient; other means must be included in order to reach the entire population.

Session 4. Discussion on the elements of the key messages that should be included in the final declaration

43. The participants divided into two work groups.

Session 5. Presentation of the preliminary conclusions on the two main topics discussed the previous day

44. Dalia Márquez and Cecilia Iglesias presented the preliminary conclusions of the two work groups on the main topics discussed in the agenda.

Session 6. Post-2015 Development Agenda: incorporation of environmental sustainability into the new development programme and the Sustainable Development Goals

45. In her presentation, Mara Murillo, deputy regional director of UNEP in Latin America and the Caribbean, offered an overview of the principal outcomes of Rio+20 and the global thematic consultation on environmental sustainability in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In addition, she presented the UNEP proposal for the integration of environmental sustainability into the Sustainable Development Goals and stressed the importance of learning from the experience of the Millennium Development Goals: an integrated approach, a series of criteria, and best practices for the selection of monitoring indicators.
46. During the discussion the participants shared opinions and viewpoints and asked the speaker several questions. Mara Murillo noted that this was a process led by the countries, and that the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), not UNEP, was the coordinating agency. The discussion is in progress, and the draft is expected to be ready next year.
47. One participant mentioned the importance for the region of including traditional (or ancestral) knowledge. Another participant recommended including a goal on sustainable-urbanization, as a space of inclusion, along with the rural area. Some attendees mentioned the importance of a more holistic development, with the inclusion of political, spiritual and cultural aspects, to achieve healthy and happy communities.
48. Several participants referred to the unique challenges faced by Small Island Developing States in issues related to climate change, disease and oceans, and the importance of taking this into account in the post-2015 development agenda.

The role of the major groups and UNEP in drafting and implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda

49. Dalia Márquez gave a presentation on the role of civil society in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. She stressed the importance of the leadership of civil society in these topics, and the need to address the Governments

and involve them and to not expect them to enter into the overall discussion. To this end civil society's contributions must be relevant and in line with national interests.

50. She also noted the importance of guaranteeing the participation of all sectors (economic, social, cultural, etc.), of disseminating information in advance to ensure contributions and of influencing agendas from local spheres through local lobbying mechanisms.

Session 7. 10-Year Framework Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production

51. Mara Murillo presented an overview of the framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), from the Marrakech Process to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and she reaffirmed the importance of promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns as an essential requirement of sustainable development. At Rio+20, the heads of state reaffirmed their commitment to accelerate the shift to SCP patterns by adopting the 10YFP.
52. She noted that the 10YFP was an overall action framework to improve international cooperation in order to accelerate the shift to SCP, in both developed and developing countries. The framework will support capacity building and help developing countries gain access to technical and financial assistance for process of change. In addition, it will encourage innovation and cooperation among all stakeholders.
53. She also stressed the importance of the role of civil society in fulfilling the objectives of the 10YFP, especially regarding lifestyle changes. UNEP has been invited to name focal points for the major groups. The purpose of this is to amplify the voices and raise the role of major groups and stakeholders at the regional level, as well as their active involvement in the activities and execution of the 10YFP.
54. During the discussion, some participants mentioned the importance of civil society assuming its responsibility as well as of generating the trust needed to work with the Governments, including local governments, and linking them in defining SCP agendas. They also requested that UNEP generate more meeting spaces in order to build environmental citizenship.
55. A proposal was made to include a programme targeting SMEs, as well as to encourage the creation of a network of manufactures' associations for MSMEs. In addition, the attendees reiterated the importance of linking MSMEs with local communities, farmers, women and indigenous peoples.

Session 8. Discussion on the elements of the key messages to be included in the final declaration

56. The participants divided into two work groups.

Session 9. Election of the regional representatives for the first meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly

57. The following attendees were nominated (or nominated themselves): Kenneth Ochoa, Dalia Márquez, Flavia Cherry, Luis Flores, Stefan Knights and Cecilia Iglesias. After a vote, Kenneth Ochoa and Dalia Márquez were elected as regional representatives.

Session 10. Approval of the regional declaration for the first meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP and 15th session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)

58. The participants did not finish drafting their declaration during the meeting; hence a work committee was formed to draft the final document virtually. The final declaration can be found in Annex 2.

59. The work committee was made up of: Luis Flores, Dalia Márquez, Flavia Cherry, Stefan Knights, Kenneth Ochoa, Cecilia Iglesias, Yolanda Díaz, Albert Deterville and Calvin James.

Evaluation of the meeting and closing remarks

60. All the participants shared their opinions on the conducting of business at the meeting and thanked the organizers for their work.

61. Mara Murillo gave the closing remarks, thanking all the attendees for their participation and commitment. She noted that UNEP was only a secretariat that could guide the processes, although the essential elements were the work and contributions of civil society. Processes were slow, but the important thing was to take solid steps and strengthen civil society in the region.

62. She also stressed that the discussion that would take place at the Forum of Ministers of Environment of the region would not be of minor significance, and that it would be important to take advantage of this space to nourish the discussions. Lastly, she reaffirmed her commitment to continue working in coming months to improve civil society participation in the processes of UNEP.

63. In addition, she thanked the information and administration teams for their work, along with José de Mesa, of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Unit in Nairobi, for his participation.

ANNEX 1

| Name | Major Group | Organization | Country | Subregion | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Regional Representatives | Cherry, Flavia | Women | Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action | Saint Lucia | <i>Caribbean</i> |
| | Flores, Luis | NGO | Consumers International | Chile | <i>Southern Cone</i> |
| Representatives to the Regional Forum of Ministers | Díaz, Aura Yolanda | Scientific and Technological | Observatorio Ecológico y Ambiental para América Latina | Colombia | <i>Andean</i> |
| | Iglesias, Cecilia | NGO | Asociación Civil Red Ambiental | Argentina | <i>Southern Cone</i> |
| Facilitating Committee | James, Calvin | Farmers | Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD) | Trinidad & Tobago | <i>Caribbean</i> |
| Participants | Arce, Mariela | NGO | International Council for Adult Education (ICAE) | Panama | <i>Mesoamerica</i> |
| | Crawford, Mildred | Women | Jamaica Network of Rural Women producers. Jamaica | Jamaica | <i>Caribbean</i> |
| | Deterville, Albert | Indigenous Peoples | The Aldet Centre-Saint Lucia | Saint Lucia | <i>Caribbean</i> |
| | Flores, Lilian Teresa | Women | Asociación para la Defensa de la Naturaleza, Bolivia, La Paz | Bolivia | <i>Andean</i> |

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|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------|------------------|
| | Díaz, Luz Ángela | Business - Industry | FORUM Empresa | Panama | Mesoamerica |
| | Gómez, Carlos | Business - Industry | Fundación Muinajema | Mexico | Mesoamerica |
| | Knights, Stefan | Youth | The Caribbean Youth Environment Network | Trinidad & Tobago | Caribbean |
| | Marques Da Cunha, Pedro | Youth | Viva Hoje | Brazil | Southern Cone |
| | Marquez, Dalia | Scientific and Technological | Universidad Católica del Táchira | Venezuela | Andean |
| | Moreno, Alicia | Scientific and Technological | Centro Tecnológico para la Sustentabilidad Universidad Tecnológica Nacional | Argentina | Southern Cone |
| | Obispo, Santiago | Farmers | Red de Cooperación Amazonica | Venezuela | Andean |
| | Ochoa Vargas, Kenneth | Scientific and Technological | Universidad El Bosque | Colombia | Andean |
| | Pascual, Alberto | NGOs | Fundación Mi Comunidad | Panama | Mesoamerica |
| | Sánchez Martín, Juan | Workers - Trade Unions | UNI Américas Global Union | Argentina | Southern Cone |
| | Spadafora, Alida | NGOs | Asociación Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (ANCON) | Panama | Mesoamerica |
| | Tapia, Guillermo | Local authorities | Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones de Gobiernos Locales (FLACMA) | Ecuador | Andean |

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|--|-----------------|----------------------|--|--------|-------------|
| | Vera, Lorena | Local authorities | Local government sustainability ICLEI | Mexico | Mesoamerica |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|--|--------|-------------|

ANNEX 2

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.