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Global Ministerial Environment Forum

Nairobi, 18–22 February 2013

Item 4 (e) of the provisional agenda*

**Policy issues: coordination and cooperation with
major groups**

Regional consultations with major groups and stakeholders

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The annex to the present note sets out statements and recommendations by major groups and stakeholders prepared during regional consultations held in preparation for the fourteenth session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The statements and recommendations are reproduced as received, without formal editing.

Discussions at the regional consultations were structured according to the following themes: implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda; and regional priorities, linking civil society priorities to regional ministerial forums.

Although the statements and recommendations reflect areas of general consensus, the various groups and stakeholders do not necessarily endorse every conclusion.

* UNEP/GC.27/1.

Background

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organizes regional consultations with major groups and stakeholders every year in preparation for the sessions of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. They result in statements and/or key messages and recommendations to the Council/Forum, which are forwarded to member States six weeks prior to the session of the Governing Council in an information document.
2. The regional consultations serve as a platform for engaging major groups and stakeholders in addressing the main areas and topics for discussion by the Governing Council.
3. The consultations held in 2012 will feed into the fourteenth session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

Topics for discussion

4. The discussions at the regional consultations were structured according to the following themes:
 - (a) Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including:
 - (i) Institutional framework for sustainable development;
 - (ii) Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
 - (iii) Public participation, access to information and engagement of civil society;
 - (iv) Ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;
 - (v) Sound and safe chemicals management;
 - (b) Sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda;
 - (c) Regional priorities, such as climate change in Africa; linking civil society priorities to regional ministerial forums; mainstreaming sound and safe chemicals management; achieving the goals of social responsibility, gender and intergenerational equity and stronger accountability and transparency mechanisms for the private sector; increased subregional and regional collaboration for the sustainable management of natural resources; engagement in sustainable development policy dialogues and implementation at global and regional levels; and wider engagement of major groups and stakeholders and non-State actors in sustainable development governance and implementation.
5. The regional consultations were held according to the schedule set out in table 1.

Table 1

Schedule of regional consultations

<i>Region</i>	<i>Meeting dates and location</i>
Africa	7–9 September 2012, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania
Europe	13 November 2012, Baku
Western Asia	19 and 20 November 2012, Dubai
Latin America and the Caribbean	19 and 20 November 2012, Port of Spain
Asia-Pacific	22 and 23 November 2012, Kathmandu
North America	12 and 13 December 2012, Washington, D.C.

6. A total of 364 participants attended the regional consultations. Table 2 provides an overview of the participation, disaggregated by major groups and stakeholders and by region. It shows that non-governmental organizations had the highest participation, at 33 per cent, followed by children and young people, at 17 per cent.

Table 2
Representation

<i>Major groups and stakeholders</i>	<i>Africa</i>	<i>Europe</i>	<i>Western Asia</i>	<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	<i>Asia-Pacific</i>	<i>North America</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Business and industry	1	15	3	1	2	10	32	9
Children and young people	20	23	2	3	13	1	62	17
Indigenous peoples	5	-	-	1	7	-	13	4
Local authorities	-	6	1	2	1	-	10	3
Non-governmental organizations	33	17	16	2	14	37	119	33
Science and technology (including research institutions and universities)	1	12	3	4	4	5	29	8
Women	6	10	-	2	8	1	27	7
Farmers	2	3	-	1	5	1	12	3
Workers and trade unions	1	5	-	-	-	2	8	2
Other ^a	19	12	1	-	13	7	52	14
Total	88	103	26	16	67	64	364	100

^a Includes faith-based groups, the media, organizations whose mandates cut across several sectors and intergovernmental bodies such as the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Government representatives from Azerbaijan and the United States of America also participated.

Annex

UNEP regional consultations with major groups and stakeholders for Africa

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 7-9 September 2012

African Major Groups and Stakeholders Statement to AMCEN 14 and UNEP GC27/GMEF

Africa Regional Consultation with Major Groups and Stakeholders of Civil Society held in conjunction with the fourteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), 7-9 September 2012, Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania. The statement is followed by the Youth Statement to AMCEN and GC/GMEF

1. Representatives of African Major Groups and Stakeholders met from 7 to 9 September 2012 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, and discussed the African perspective on the implementation of the outcomes of Rio+20, the preparations for the eighteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and AMCEN organizational matters.
2. We identify the following as overarching priority areas of intervention to achieve sustainable development and address adverse Climate Change in Africa: i) Poverty eradication, ii) Access to quality Education for All, iii) Sustainable agriculture and food security, iv) Gender responsiveness, v) Adaptation, vi) Disaster preparedness and management, vii) Resource mobilization and management, and viii) Protection of environment and ecosystems.

We hereby recommend:

Part 1. Climate Change and COP 18 of the UNFCCC

Climate change finance

3. We urge African ministers to support the need for grants in the form of new, predictable and additional public finance by setting up national funds. This will minimize foreign aid dependence and send a strong signal against climate loans contracted by vulnerable African countries to address climate change.

Climate change negotiations

4. We are gravely concerned about the slow progress and low level of ambition in the on-going international climate change dialogue process. and particularly agreeing on contentious issues such as second commitment period of protocol, Ad Hoc Working Group on Durban Platform and the where to get the US\$100 Billion for the period 2012 – 2020. We further urge you to put pressure on Annex I countries in mitigation to demonstrate their commitment.
5. We ask governments to avail adequate resources to our negotiators in the UNFCCC process so as to eliminate our dependence on foreign aid and follow negotiations in a consistent manner.
6. We urge African Ministers to call for substantial scaled-up provision of climate finance at COP18, particularly to the Green Climate Fund for disbursements, with a view to address urgent adaptation needs of developing countries. These funds must be new, additional, predictable and long-term, disbursed in the form of grants. To complement of funds, innovative financing mechanisms – such as global levy on shipping with no net impact on developing countries or financial transaction taxes in developed countries as well as special drawing rights - could significantly scale up developed countries budgetary contributions to finance climate change.
7. We urge African governments to focus climate change negotiations not only on scientific knowledge but also on Justice and fundamental rights of vulnerable groups such as women, smallholder farmers, youth, the physically challenged and indigenous peoples.
8. We acknowledge the efforts being done by our governments to mainstream climate change in national sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies and plans that will ensure that as we move towards a low-carbon growth future, we avoid growth models by industrialized countries that have resulted into the current situation.

9. We urge the governments to entrench the principles of gender equality and equity in any emerging climate change agreement.
10. We urge the African group to follow up on financing commitments and ensure that there is a monitoring framework to make Annex I countries accountable for their commitments.

Climate Change Governance

11. We urge the government to engage development issues that focuses on sustainability while addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation.
12. We urge AMCEN to operationalize the inter agency technical committee to provide CSOs with an opportunity to contribute to the AMCEN process.
13. We urge the African group, AMCEN and CAHOSSOC, to work harmoniously to realize a unified African Position.
14. There is a need to acknowledge, integrate and promote indigenous knowledge with science in addressing climate change and natural resources management.
15. We urge the government for support to enable youth to engage in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects that respond to climate change within their communities.

Part 2. African perspective on the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

16. We urge governments to develop strong policies and institutional frameworks that will provide oversight roles and ensure accountability, transparency and integrity in budget spending which will strengthen Africa's capacity to achieve sustainable development.

Citizen Participation and Information

17. We urge African ministers to implement Principle 10 of Rio declaration on access to information, public participation and access to justice on decision making. AMCEN should initiate a programme on the adoption of principle 10 related laws and regulations in the member countries.
18. We call for balanced representation from Africa that will include CSOs and allow for their full participation in the different working groups in shaping the Sustainable Development Goals.
19. We are concern about the timeline for civil societies' participation in the post-2015 process considering the scare resources that characterize most CSOs.

Sustainable Development Goals

20. Africa should adopt a bottom-up approach in designing the sustainable development goals that are realistic, measurable and reportable. We urge African governments to initiate support national consultation processes that are inclusive encouraging and assuring the participation of major groups (such as youth, indigenous, women, industry).
21. We call for renewed commitment for the development of clear cut timelines for implementation of agreed outcomes and the establishment of National Sustainable Development Councils as proposed in Rio 1992.
22. We urge AMCEN to define the concept of green economy in the context of Africa as they committed to do in their last session.
23. We call on the governments to encourage and ensure youth participation in the post 2015 framework consultation process.

Part 3. African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in the context of the African Union institutional structure

24. We call on Ministers of Environment to institute a monitoring and review framework to ensure follow-up of decisions and declarations made at various sessions of AMCEN.
25. We believe that the strengthened UNEP, the only United Nations agency in developing countries, could play a major role in Africa's sustainable development and environmental consciousness. The location of the AMCEN Secretariat at UNEP Regional Office for Africa

should thus be seen as a strategic positioning and should be supported by all African stakeholders. We express our gratitude to the UNEP Regional Office for Africa for the facilitative role they continue to provide to us, and urge the African Ministers to strengthen AMCEN to deliver on its mandate.

26. We consider that a specific window for environment should be ensured in the African Union Commission structure and AMCEN should be retained there rather than under Agriculture & Rural economy.

Part 4. Cross-cutting Issues

We have also identified a number of cross cutting issues:

Research

27. We urge Ministers of environment to map out necessities and consequently collect, package and manage environmental data at national and regional level in line with the Eye on Earth Summit in Abu Dhabi in 2011.

Technology Transfer and Assessment

28. We call African governments to be aware of the precautionary principle and the decisions made at Rio, to move towards building regional and national capacities and mechanisms for Technology assessment and implementation. We urge governments to offset the unintended consequences of the deployment of new and emerging technologies and to transfer appropriate, clean and environmentally sound technologies.

Community-based Projects

29. We ask governments to engage with active Community Based Organizations through the local, regional and national government. They should allocate specific budget for sustainable development and climate change activities and mainstream it in other sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, wildlife and health. In this regard it worth to mention the Rwandan policy as a best practice; it ensures that any community based project is approved by the local government, who must look for ways of engagement, before its implementation.
30. Ongoing community-based projects that improve agriculture practices, water, land and forest management, implement alternative energies or diversify livelihoods, among others, not only help communities adapting to climate change but also achieving sustainable development. We urge ministers of environment to look for best practices in this regard in their countries and the continent and scale them up.
31. Strengthening our good will to contribute to the achievement of equitable and pro-poor responses to climate change for sustainable development in the African Continent we thank the AMCEN representatives in advance and we highlight that we remain at their disposal for further collaboration.

Part 5. Youth Statement to AMCEN and GC/GMEF

We ask for nothing but a platform, we ask you to listen, listen to us.... And hear how we are active in capacity building...

Watch us... And see what we do for communities to adapt and make ourselves more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Talk to us and help speak the language of change, with us.

In the past we have asked for governance and training, skills development and more. We stand before you saying we are governing, we the youth, the young leaders of today are not only governing we are communicating, we are teaching.

For a long time, the youth of Africa and the world have asked for youth involvement and participation... And now is our time, here we are. You have given us the space, the time and stature to speak. We thank you for this opportunity... Because we, the youth of Burundi, the Gambia, Kenya, South Africa, the Niger, Ghana, Togo, Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. Present here today we were not invited but got ourselves here despite limited funding.

Yes we were welcomed but we made the decision to have our first youth gathering with 150 young Tanzanian youth along with the other 15 young representatives from the countries in Africa just mentioned. This is what we have done ourselves, with limited support. Can you imagine what we would be able to accomplish with your support. Help us enhance what we are already doing...

Through resources, facilities, knowledge and our involvement, let us show you the creativity, the energy, our ability to change, the hope that we see in every child's eye.

Of all the things we mentioned, we have not included finances, allow us to fund ourselves, allow us to set the foundation of what we are passionate about. Help extend the opportunity of inclusion to us because if we want this deep enough we will get here. Extend the invite to all major groups that should be present irrespective of funding issues.

This meeting was intended for major groups, but where are they? Invite, include and involve all. Accreditation should be available to all our major groups and allow them the opportunity to make things happen. It's this effort that will not go unnoticed by this forum.

We the youth are here to build a stronger Africa alongside the other stakeholders. We encourage UNEP for more clarity on our role in similar processes. We are engaged, we are living the change but where are our leaders....? May we teach and lead you...

Participation means being a key player at conferences and in our communities as well, we are doing this with Generation Earth councils that are set up in South Africa, education and workshop training for youth in Tanzania, the rolling out of solar projects to minimize the effects of burning coal in Burkina Faso and working in communities to help protect forests and natural spaces in Burundi.

We appreciate the discussion around Principle 10, it's the reality we think UNEP should show us the way, lead us in how we will live this new thinking. We are champions of Principle 10 and are implementing this every day in our lives.

We include and make decisions for all. We all have equal standing and there are no high level segments that exclude one or the other. We teach in Swahili, we dance in French, we laugh in Portuguese, we play in Zulu and when we are disappointed by people who consider themselves leaders of the world we mobilize our peers through networks by speaking Ndebele and overthrow unjust powers in Arabic.

We know what happened to all of our contributions in the process towards Rio+20 as to what happens next we are watching.

UNEP Regional Consultations with Major Groups and Stakeholders for Europe

Baku, Azerbaijan, 13 November 2012

Major Groups and Stakeholders Recommendations to UNEP GC27/GMEF

The UNEP European Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM) with Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) in preparations for the 14th Session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF.14) and the 27th session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC27/GMEF) was held on 13 November 2012, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The RCM was held in the margins of the “Green Week Baku” initiative that showcased a series of environmental sustainability events, including a youth forum on the outcome of Rio+20, a lecture on environmental diplomacy, the launch of the Green Economy Scoping Study for Azerbaijan, organized by the Government of Azerbaijan, the International Dialogue for Environmental Action (IDEA), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The RCM brought together representatives of European civil society organizations, UNEP national committees, local NGOs from Azerbaijan, and observers from other regions of the world who attended the youth forum and environmental diplomacy lecture.

The format of the RCM included a number of presentations, briefings, interventions and thematic group discussions on the following items: the outcome and contribution of MGS to GMGSF-13 and GCSS.XII/GMEF; overview of the major issues from the Rio+20 Outcome Document for MGS and implications for UNEP; MGS perspective on the outcome of Rio 20; Principle 10 application and prospects from the Rio+20 outcome; the role and potential mechanisms for engagement and participation of civil society in a reformed UNEP; the post-2015 development agenda and involvement of civil society; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); UNEP Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO) report; and briefing on the preparations for GMGSF-14 and GC27/GMEF.

In preparation of this regional statement, participants were divided into four breakout groups to discuss: 1) Potential mechanisms for engagement and participation of civil society in a reformed UNEP (Public Participation in UNEP); 2) Involvement of Major Groups and Stakeholders in the post-2015 Development Agenda, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); 3) The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns; and 4) Mainstreaming Sound and Safe Chemicals Management.

This non-negotiated document reports back on recommendations that the breakout groups formulated for UNEP and Governments in preparation for the GC27/GMEF.

Group 1) Potential mechanisms for engagement and participation of civil society in a reformed UNEP (Public participation in UNEP)

UNEP and civil society are natural allies sharing the same goals for global environmental sustainability. Paragraph 88h of the Rio+20 outcome document recognizes that even closer collaboration between UNEP and civil society is desirable. Public participation in UNEP could be improved in terms of structure, outreach, communication, education and inclusion in decision-making through the following principles and measures:

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