

NGO Major Group Statement on UNEP and SDGs Feb 19, 2013

As the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, we recognize the vital role that UNEP can and should play in supporting the formulation and implementation of SDGs. The post-2015 development framework must address the root causes of poverty, inequality and environmental degradation; improve the well being of the people; and ensure that human activity keeps within planetary boundaries.

We call on UNEP, with other UN agencies, and all the Ministers responsible for the Environment to support SDGs that:

- uphold a rights-based approach to sustainable development;
- prevent the further deterioration of the carrying capacity of Earth's ecosystems and natural resources;
- ensure the full achievement of the current MDGs and other IADGs;
- promote equality within and between countries and between men and women;
- uphold the principle of non-regression, so that existing levels of protections are not scaled back;
- are universal in applicability and in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility;
- promote good governance (participation, transparency, accountability, rule of law) including strengthening corporate accountability;
- are timebound with clear and transparent indicators;
- are backed by adequate means of implementation including finance, technology and capacity building.

Specifically, we urge UNEP to play a key role in:

1. championing the integration of environmental sustainability across all SDGs by providing scientific estimates of the natural resource requirements and environmental impacts of achieving each goal
2. promoting science-policy interface while also drawing from traditional knowledge to guide the formulation of SDGs
3. developing monitoring indicators for assessing net progress in the achievement of SDGs including the accountability of sub-national entities and the private sector
4. monitor and assess ownership and access rights over ecosystems and genetic material as the trend towards the privatization of these is impeding our ability to safeguard the natural environment
5. supporting the establishment of reporting and monitoring systems at the international and national levels that involves civil society
6. disseminating evidence-based environmental information and raising public awareness on critical and emerging environmental issues
7. providing capacity-building for countries and stakeholders to enable them to achieve and monitor progress in SDGs.

Finally, we call on UNEP to help ensure that the design, implementation and monitoring of SDGs must involve the full and effective participation of all stakeholders, especially the most marginalized.

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