

Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Major groups and stakeholders messages to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session

Latin America and the Caribbean Civil Society Meeting, 30 November – 1 December 2009, Panama City, Republic of Panama

With respect to International Environmental Governance

- It is necessary that the diverse levels of environmental governance management be differentiated, because each one of them has specific characteristics and, therefore, require specific efforts. In that sense, the following is recommended:
 - At the Global level, it is important that dialogue and program agreements be promoted between UNEP's Governing Council and governance instances in international trade matters, such as WTO, and financial institutions like the World Bank.
 - At the Regional level, it is essential that the environmental governance topic be taken to the regional integration processes (MERCOSUR, CARICOM, CCAD, among others) as well as to the financial institutions of the region, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank and the Organization of American States (OAS).
 - At the National level, it is essential that the diverse national agencies or ministries articulate, complement and harmonize their work managing environmental topics; in such a manner that the implementation of national policies on sustainability is truly efficient and effective.
- It is necessary that the international environmental architecture reform is resolutely aimed at strengthening UNEP in its structure, capacities, resources and regional presence, especially the regional offices. Likewise, greater transparency, ample participation of the main groups and accountability mechanisms must be guaranteed.
- It is essential that a process be undertaken for the creation and strengthening of capacities with respect to international environmental governance within and jointly with the main groups, in such a way so as to increase their potential of influencing in an articulated manner the international organizations with influence on the environmental policy of the region and the world (UNEP, CSD, WTO, World Bank, IDB, OAS, etc.).
- We encourage UNEP and national governments to provide greater dissemination of the agreements and consultations of the GC/GMEF, in order to strengthen the articulation and implementation at the local levels.
- It is essential that the political will of the Governments, United Nations Agencies and others be buttressed so as to take definite steps forward with the reforms that arise from negotiations and consultations related to International Environmental Governance.
- Guarantee that the International and Regional Financial Institutions incorporate in their priorities the commitments arising from Multilateral Environmental Agreements, so as to enable the financing of the necessary actions for their enforcement.

With respect to the ExCOPs

- During the extraordinary simultaneous meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention, which will discuss the Decisions on joint activities, we request that a place be allotted to the recommendations of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group (AHJWG) with respects to the dissemination and awareness creation activities. Likewise, we remind the broad capacities base and successful experiences existing in the civil society to contribute to the process.
- It is important that support be given to the developing integration process and request awareness and education instances for the civil society on the consequences of their management of synergies between the three conventions and their implication in the national implementation of the same.
- Enhance the activities of Regional centers of the conventions.
- Strengthen financing, implementation and better articulation between conventions at the Regional level.
- Strengthen financing and adopt financing mechanism of chemical follow-up process.

- Include line items in the financial institutions to empower the articulation and supply the financial needs for the implementation of the conventions at the Regional level.
- The convention should adopt the model used by SAICM where the actors including civil society, participates in the national planning processes and in the decision-making committees.
- Strengthen links with the chemical safety process in:
Pesticide Management ⇒ Ecosystems
Toxic Chemicals ⇒ Biodiversity
Contamination ⇒ aquatic habitat

Biodiversity and Ecosystems

- Creation of economic instruments to support the involvement of the main groups in general, and the scientific-academic sector in particular, in the current ongoing initiatives in biodiversity and eco-systemic services matters (IPBES, TEEB, etc.).
- Guarantee that the worldview of the indigenous peoples be incorporated in the processes for the evaluation and management of the ecosystems' assets and services.
- In accordance with the timetable for the TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity) initiative, its second phase will produce five reports, one of which -D4- will be aimed at citizens and consumers, and will take the shape of a website. Regarding this matter, it is requested that diverse dissemination tools be considered (including audiovisual resources), that these be available in different languages and that the capacities of civil society organizations in pedagogic mediation be considered in their elaboration.
- With respect to the IPBES it is of vital importance that, in their conformation, this platform considers the relations between science, politics and business, particularly paying attention to the economic interests behind the financing of the scientific research and that it is concerned with guaranteeing an independent and comprehensive science.
- Training for technocrats and politicians so that they acquire the capacity to communicate with each other in this matter.
- Create an alliance with indigenous communities to translate indigenous knowledge, expertise, and technologies in relevant solutions and programs.
- Gender-related needs must be broadly incorporated in all work programs.
- With respect to international agreements related to biodiversity, we recommend that a process of articulation and search for synergies be undertaken, similar to the model applied to the chemicals cluster.

Green Economy

- Economic support that favors developing countries in the matter of knowledge heading towards the creation of green jobs, training workers.
- Creation of fiscal and economic instruments by each one of the countries to support the green economy, in particular small and medium enterprises.
- We construe as essential that the Council of Experts of the Marrakech Process establishes clear, transparent and effective mechanisms to expand participation of the civil society involved in diverse topics linked to sustainable production and consumption.

With respect to other matters,

- We express our support to the holding of the Children and Youth International Conference for the Environment (CONFINT) to be developed in Brazil, on June 5 – 10, 2010, in the understanding that it will constitute an important space for education and awareness-creation regarding global environmental challenges.

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