

LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAJOR GROUP WRITTEN STATEMENT ON OECPR-2 PRIORITIES

2nd OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO UNEP

Nairobi, 15 February 2016

It is our great pleasure to address you at this occasion, representing worldwide local and regional governments. In 2015, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, confirm that Member-States, stakeholders and the UN system are ready for an ambitious transformation that will ensure the prosperity of our people and planet. We are happy to welcome strong references for enhanced engagement of local and subnational governments in all these outcomes.

At the same time, all these outcomes foster a unique and crucial role for UNEP to play in ensuring the balance and integration of the Environmental dimension in actions on the ground, in close collaboration with multi-stakeholders, and also across the UN system, bridging global efforts towards the same universal plan of action.

Building on UNEP's long-track record of participatory mechanisms, we call upon delegates at OECPR-2 to:

- Make progress to finally enable the **approval of the Stakeholder Engagement Policy** and consolidate practices of participation and collaboration with Major Groups and other Stakeholders. The success of this agenda relies upon the contribution of all stakeholders, and therefore it is key to establish a robust framework to accompany this process;
- Prepare the way to UNEA, foreseeing an **ambitious role for UNEP** in the implementation of the 2030 SD Agenda. UNEP's technical and scientific expertise, as well as its regional structure, should target actions, programmes and assistance to directly support national and subnational multi-stakeholder mechanisms;

- Explore a strategic position for UNEP in order to **improve UN's governance model and functioning**, combining efforts, avoiding duplications and integrating different intergovernmental processes, as expected in the 2030 agenda, taking into account new initiatives such as UN Subnational Climate Action Hub. UNEA has to send a strong message to the High-Level Political Forum its willingness to support and contribute to a global mechanism for follow-up and review.

- Establish a specific agenda for UNEA in contribution and preparation to **the New Urban Agenda**. At the upcoming Habitat III Conference, UNEP, environmental ministers and global environmental community need to be actively involved to preserve and improve the environmental dimension in this agenda. Also, on implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it should be reminded that SDG 11, on Cities and Human Settlements, will necessarily require UNEP expertise and political facilitation.

As governmental stakeholders, our constituency holds specific and shared competences and direct responsibility over policies, legislation and plans on areas crucial for the SDGs and targets. Equally important is our role to establish and ensure concrete and effective multi-stakeholders partnerships. All these enable our constituency to provide an active leadership in leaving no one behind, but making all stakeholders be inspired by ambitious commitments, actions and plans in the implementation of Agenda 21 over 20 years. For all these, we are confident that UNEA is in position to improve coherence, coordination and collaboration at all levels, especially when it comes to safeguarding the environment in this new stage of global development.

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