



**UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its 12<sup>th</sup> Session, 2012**

**Friday, 24 May, 2013, Item 5, Comprehensive dialogue with UN Agencies and funds.**

Statement delivered by:

**Laetitia Zobel, Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, Division of Regional Cooperation, Nairobi**

**United Nations Environment Programme**

Mr. Chair, Thank you for giving UNEP a second time the opportunity to speak at this Forum.

UNEP would like to thank all the participants who came to our introduction of the UNEP Indigenous Peoples Policy Guidance yesterday evening. Thank you for sharing your experiences which will help us addressing the outstanding issues and making our first steps towards its implementation.

UNEP has delivered a detailed report to the UN-PFII in preparation of this year's session describing its past and ongoing activities as they relate to indigenous peoples issues. However, UNEP would like to announce a few upcoming events which are of interest to indigenous peoples.

- World Environment Day which is celebrated worldwide every year on 5<sup>th</sup> June. World Environment Day 2013, whose global host is the government and people of Mongolia, is focused on the new UNEP and UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) campaign Think.Eat.Save. Reduce Your Foodprint.
- As part of the celebrations, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) asked people to submit examples of traditional ways in which food is preserved which demonstrate how humanity once valued food far more than it does today.
- Food waste is an enormous drain on natural resources and a contributor to negative environmental impacts. Given that a third of global food production or 1.3 billion tons of food for human consumption are lost or wasted yearly, the resources and inputs used in the

production of this, along with the resulting greenhouse gas emissions throughout the food supply chain, are all in vain.

- Global food production occupies 25% of all habitable land and is responsible for 70% of fresh water consumption, 80% of deforestation, and 30% of greenhouse gas emissions. It is the largest single driver of species and biodiversity loss and land-use change.
- Reducing food waste will decrease environmental/ecosystem impact both upstream and downstream of the supply chain. Any resulting decrease in the demand for food through improved efficiency in food consumption will eventually translate to reduced pressure on resources.
- Reducing food loss and food waste is doable at all stages through to the household consumption level. There is a need for conscious consumption where consumers have a full appreciation of the value of the food they eat and are able to think through more deliberately and in a more informed manner of the planning, selection, purchase, preparation, and consumption of their food.

The Food Waste campaign of the Save Food Initiative which is a partnership between FAO, UNEP and Messe Düsseldorf, and in support of the SG's Zero Hunger Challenge, seeks to add its authority and voice to these efforts in order to catalyze more sectors of society to be aware and to act, including through exchange of inspiring ideas and projects between those actors already involved and new ones that are likely to come on board.

Please allow me to announce another important upcoming meeting which is the Second Global Conference on Land-Ocean Connections (GLOC-2) will take place October 2-4, 2013, in Montego Bay, Jamaica. UNEP, through the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) and the Government of Jamaica are co-organizers of the conference, the second of its kind, and the first to be convened in Latin America and the Caribbean.

With a variety of themes, this conference will strengthen existing and build new global multi-stakeholder partnerships, further raise public awareness and support, and inspire follow-up actions that will advance the global agenda as we seek to address the negative impacts of and seize the opportunities presented by marine litter, wastewater and nutrients.

For more information, and to download registration forms, travel award application forms and poster abstract forms please visit [www.gpa.unep.org](http://www.gpa.unep.org)

In addition to our statement made on Tuesday this week regarding the upcoming South South Expo which will be held in Nairobi from 28 October to 1 November 2013 and on behalf of FAO and UNEP we would like to invite successful South South exchange experiences with focus on the environment and green economies from indigenous peoples.

Before I close, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Gonnella's statement of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus made earlier regarding the registration and accreditation rules for major groups and stakeholders in UNEP and I can inform you that UNEP's Rules of Procedures are currently being revised and that your suggestions will be shared with UNEP. However, please be informed that the Basel,

Rotterdam and the Stockholm Convention under UNEP do not require the legal recognition of the participants from their countries in order to be able to participate in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COPs). This rule of admission of observers was adopted on 6 May 2013.  
(UNEP/POPS/COP.6/CRP.23)

Thank you for your attention.

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