

Proposed Remarks  
On Behalf of the 9 Major Groups  
To the Rio+20 Bureau  
January 27, 2012

Thank you Mr. Chairmen, Mr. Secretary General, Madame Executive Co-ordinator, Bureau members, and the secretariat,

On behalf of all nine major groups we would like to express our appreciation for the elements of the working environment which have improved during the run up to Rio+20. In particular, we appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the zero draft and the improved access to working documents. These have afforded us the chance to provide ideas and support for the key initiatives. As well, the electronic access to documents makes us more efficient participants in the process.

As Jan-Gustav has said, we want to be passionate, thoughtful constructive members of this process.

To that end, there are several key points that could make us more effective.

- 1) Informals access – to be full participants in the process - as was intended in Agenda 21 - we will require the daily negotiating text during the informals and any possible informal informals that may be called.
- 2) Speaking slots – we appreciate the opportunity to make interventions during the session this week and hope you will continue to uphold the commitment to interspersing our interventions during the discussions at the Intersessionals and PrepComs and providing us a minimum of 3 minutes rather than just one.

- 3) Multi-stakeholder dialogue – the Bureau may recall the submission of a proposal to hold a multi-stakeholder dialogue at the Intersessional in March. The Major Groups would like the opportunity to create a session during the main program-of-work that can address a specific topic with meaningful dialogue and we will work with the secretariat to create a format that is engaging and meaningful. Are you prepared to commit to the dialogue in the March program-of-work?
- 4) Liaison with Bureau in Rio – to facilitate good communication and proper engagement, we would request one of you join us during our regular meetings at the PrepCom in Rio each day to discuss the state of negotiations.
- 5) Funding – we are concerned about the state of funding for the conference as a whole and encourage you to redouble your efforts to find the needed monies to successfully hold this event. A key component of a successful event will be our ability to include the broadest possible range of voices. This requires funding for travel of many of the Major Group participants, particularly from the South. Could you comment on the measures being taken to address these needs? At the same time, we would like to thank the EU for their support for Major Groups to date.

Our ability to attend the informals is an important decision, though we believe the spirit of Agenda 21, Johannesburg, and other UN current mechanisms suggests a more fullsome engagement is desirable and necessary. To this end, we look forward to working with the Bureau in the coming months to create meaningful participation mechanisms for the Major Groups in Rio+20 and beyond.

More broadly, we encourage you to continue your efforts to convene the discussion and to increase the focus on meaningful implementation that truly engages and involves the Major Groups. Please let us know how we can help you to achieve this.

Finally, on behalf of all of us, may I offer our thanks to each and every one of you for the time and commitment you put into this process. We look forward to working with you to the finish line in June.