

(This is the statement that I gave today during this morning's session. Please make your own determination as to whether to use it or not. I was sitting in the area where the NGO's typically sit this morning, listening to the discussion when the Chair announced that he had no more speakers on his list and asked if anyone else would like to speak. As the Founder and Chair of a Partnership Initiative I believed I had the right to speak. I raised a placard with the blank side out; someone from the Secretariat asked who I represented. I told her I was an NGO and that I was the Chair of the EcoEarth Alliance Partnership Initiative. A few minutes later the Chair called on me to speak. Here then is my presentation.)

## **Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Partnership Initiatives**

**Statement by Rob Wheeler  
Chair of the EcoEarth Alliance Partnership Initiative  
11 May 2010**

Thank you, Mr. Chair and delegates. I represent the Global Ecovillage Network; and I am the Chairperson of the EcoEarth Alliance Partnership Initiative, which focuses on multi-sectoral, community based approaches to sustainable rural development. As you know the governments agreed in Rio de Janeiro that all communities should develop Local Agenda 21 sustainable community plans. As you may also know there has not been all that much support for rural communities to engage in such planning processes.

However, thousands of ecovillages around the world have engaged in such sustainable planning processes for their communities, bringing together various stakeholders that have helped with planning and implementation. During the Johannesburg World Summit Conference, the EcoEarth Alliance was able to meet with people from the Global Environment Facility; and our lead project in Senegal subsequently applied for and received funding for 13 villages to use the ecovillage approach to sustainable rural development. This model of development was so successful that Senegal has adopted the Ecovillage approach as its model for sustainable rural development.

Those living in ecovillages are engaged in processes focusing on both sustainable consumption and production. We believe them to be among the most sustainable communities on the planet. We also believe that there is a need for many more sustainable community planning processes in rural communities around the world; and that it would be good for the international community to focus on and support the contributions that rural communities can play in sustainable community planning and partnerships.

We would ask that this be included as a part of the Ten Year Framework of

Programs and in Local, Regional, and National Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plans.

Thank you Mr. Chair