



Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

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Ninth Global Civil Society Forum
Monaco, 19 February 2008

Report of the ninth Global Civil Society Forum

I. Opening of the session

1. The ninth Global Civil Society Forum was held at the Grimaldi Forum in the Principality of Monaco on 19 February 2008. The forum was opened at 9.20 a.m. on Tuesday, 19 February 2008, by Mr. Bernard Fautrier, President of Monaco Développement Durable (Monaco Sustainable Development).
2. Opening statements were made by Mr. Fautrier, Mr. Lucien Royer, Chair of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee, and Ms. Christina Boelcke, Director of the Division of Regional Cooperation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), who spoke on behalf of Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP.
3. In his opening remarks, Mr. Fautrier welcomed participants to Monaco on behalf of the authorities and the people of Monaco. He was honoured, he said, to chair the current forum on behalf of his country and to host participants from around the globe whose prime concern was the protection of the planet. He bore witness to the importance attached by Prince Albert II of Monaco to the protection of the environment as an essential component of sustainable development. Since his accession to the throne, Monaco had ratified the Kyoto Protocol and he had recently established the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, which would focus in particular on climate change, biodiversity conservation and water resources. He underscored the importance of the destiny of the planet for civil society, whose collective actions had ensured that environmental problems were at the forefront of the agendas of decision makers and economic authorities alike. While the environmental stakes were widely recognized and accepted, it was vital to find a way to ensure the funding of sustainable development. In that context he said that UNEP and its programmes were a cornerstone of the global response to environmental challenges and that civil society had a major role to play in finding the funding necessary to face up to those challenges.
4. Mr. Lucien Royer, Chair of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee, said that he welcomed the opportunity to chair the Committee and thanked participants for electing him to that office. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Fautrier for chairing the Forum and to Monaco for hosting the Forum and being involved in the efforts of civil society to protect the environment.
5. Ms. Boelcke welcomed participants to the Global Civil Society Forum and thanked the 236 participants from 84 countries who had participated in the regional consultation meetings leading up to it. She stressed that the Forum was of paramount importance for UNEP, civil society and the private sector for two reasons. First, UNEP wished to map out with civil society the way forward for improved and continued engagement. Since its inception, UNEP, civil society and the private sector had worked together to bring the environmental agenda to the forefront of the sustainable development debate. UNEP now wished to identify new alternatives for a more systematic approach to partnerships

and strategic dialogue with civil society and the private sector, including interest groups such as media and consumer groups, in order better to address new UNEP priorities as outlined in the UNEP Medium-term Strategy to be considered by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session. UNEP considered it necessary to improve engagement with civil society in policy development in general, for example through multi-policy stakeholder forums and building on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. She noted too that UNEP would be interested in developing partnerships on specific issues, similar to the World Commission on Dams, to lead to more objective and productive engagement with civil society.

6. It was also expected that the Global Civil Society Forum would make a contribution to the ministerial roundtable discussions at the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum's tenth special session on the theme "globalization and the environment: mobilizing finance to meet the climate challenge", since much of the progress made to date in addressing climate change had been led by civil society. She stressed that the Forum would have to address two key issues to be considered during the roundtable discussion: the role of national policies in enabling private sector investment; and whether the financial markets were ready to mobilize the needed investment. The Forum should examine the experiences of some countries with policy regimes targeting increased energy efficiency, renewable energy and modal shifts in transport, considering specifically the role and response of the financial community and the costs and benefits from the economic and social perspectives.

II. Organization of work

A. Election of officers

7. The following officers were elected for the ninth Global Civil Society Forum:

- Co-Chair: Mr. Lucien Royer, International Trade Union Confederation
- Co-Chair: Ms. Mildred Mkandla, EarthCare Africa Policy Monitoring Institute
- Co-Chair: Ms. Anas Saket, General Federation of Jordanian Women
- Rapporteur: Mr. Gordon Bispham, Caribbean Policy Development Centre

B. Adoption of the programme of work and organization of work

8. The Chair presented a provisional programme of work for the session, which the Forum participants adopted without amendment. The programme, as adopted, is contained in annex I to the present report. It is presented as adopted, without formal editing.

C. Attendance

9. The Forum was attended by 193 representatives of civil society organizations from the following countries and territories: Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Guyana, India, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

10. It was also attended by representatives of UNEP. The full list of participants, which has not been formally edited, is attached in annex II to the present report.

III. Session 1: Engaging at the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

11. Mr. Lucien Royer reviewed proposed modalities for the engagement of civil society during the tenth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. He described two parallel processes that would take place during the session, namely, ministerial panel and roundtable discussions and the meetings of the Committee of the Whole. Representatives from civil society would have the opportunity to engage in both processes, subject to the established rules of procedure governing meetings of the Council/Forum. Civil society groups would have to determine which of their representatives would participate in each of the various discussions; they would also need

to ensure that reports from the discussions were disseminated and he proposed a method for doing so. In closing, he encouraged civil society representatives to interact with ministers of the environment, other heads of delegation and each other and to share their knowledge and perspectives.

IV. Session 2: Adoption of guidelines for improving the Global Civil Society Forum cycle

12. Introducing the item, Ms. Mkandla said that the proposed guidelines were the outcome of wide consultations and of collaboration between UNEP and civil society organizations. She recalled the history of that collaboration, which dated back to 1972 when UNEP became the first United Nations organization to embrace civil society wholeheartedly. Since that time, much effort had been exerted to strengthen civil society engagement in the work of UNEP. Major progress had come in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, when the international community had declared in Agenda 21 that the involvement of the nine major civil society groups was necessary for achieving sustainable development. In 2002, decision SSVII.5, adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its seventh special session, had gone further and endorsed the practice of convening a civil society forum that was regionally balanced and representative in conjunction with the meetings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

13. She went on to outline some of the recommendations for improving the Global Civil Society Forum cycle. Regarding the composition of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee, she recalled that under the current procedures two representatives of each of the six regions (Africa; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; North America; and West Asia) were elected to represent their region on the Global Civil Society Steering Committee. The current approach ensured regional and gender balance but could not ensure balance in other areas, particularly across the major groups.

14. Under a proposed new approach, each UNEP-accredited organization or group of UNEP-accredited organizations would be invited to bid to become the UNEP “major group facilitating unit” of the major group to which it belonged. Nine such facilitating units would then join the existing 12 regional representatives to form the “Major Groups Facilitating Committee”. The new proposal would ensure balanced representation not only of the regions but also of the major groups. It would also allow major groups to identify the individuals best able to represent them and their views.

15. Regarding the development of policy statements, Ms. Mkandla recalled the current situation, in which the members of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee convened an annual drafting meeting after the regional consultation meeting, in order to agree on a single global civil society statement based on the six regional civil society statements. Although the current set-up ensured that there was only one final statement, it reduced the autonomy of major groups. Several possibilities for amending the procedure had been put forward so that each major group could adopt the procedure that best suited its needs. In the three proposed scenarios, each representative of a major group could take one of three approaches in preparing his or her group’s policy statement: first, coordinate everything, consulting a global electronic constituency in producing a final text; second, prepare background position papers but then allow various constituencies at the regional meetings to produce a final statement if they so chose; third, invite a peer group to write policy position papers based on the discussions at the regional meetings and have the peer group finalize the text. All of the new scenarios, she said, ensured better representation of regional concerns, noting that improving the Global Civil Society Forum Cycle was not an end in itself, but a means of ensuring sustainable development.

16. Following Ms. Mkandla’s presentation the participants endorsed the proposed guidelines on improving the Global Civil Society Forum Cycle without comment or amendment. The Chair thanked all those involved in their preparation for their excellent work.

V. Session 3: Dialogue with Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme

17. A dialogue took place between the Forum participants and Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), who commenced the dialogue with an introductory statement. Noting that many of the participants at the current Forum had taken part in regional consultations with UNEP, on issues of global importance and said that the holding of the Forum in conjunction with the tenth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum offered further opportunities for dialogue on such issues. Global crises were increasingly being perceived, by the public and by entrepreneurs, in environmental terms, but decision-

making processes and governance mechanisms were still struggling to adapt to that concept. Climate change was at the core of the environmental agenda and was focusing attention on a wide range of related issues, including fish stock depletion and threats to biodiversity.

18. There was still a tendency, however, to discuss development as though it were unrelated to the environment and to conduct out negotiations in a way that divided regional blocs and interest groups. A more constructive and integrated approach would view the environment as part of a wider fabric that brought societies together in the quest for sustainable development. The Global Civil Society Forum and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, with their wide range of representation and expert status, were in a position to articulate such a vision more clearly than any other community.

19. The proposed UNEP Medium-term Strategy for 2010–2013, he continued, identified six cross-cutting thematic priority areas where UNEP, as the principal United Nations body addressing the environment, needed to deliver real and credible results. UNEP, however, was no more than a partner, supporter, ally and conduit of knowledge; primary responsibility for driving the process lay with the member States. Civil society also had a vital role to play, however, in determining the international agenda, and the current Forum offered space for civil society and UNEP to mutually reinforce their respective roles.

20. In the discussion following Mr. Steiner's statement a number of issues were raised, including climate justice and the inequitable burden on women of unsustainable development; the importance of the UNEP publication *Global Environment Outlook 4: Environment for Development (GEO-4)*, and how to translate its findings into political will; involvement of young people in the climate agenda; and including local people and civil society in decision-making processes. A number of financial issues were also raised, including how to raise the money needed to finance such initiatives as the international environment governance programme; who should administer such money; and how climate funding could assist in achieving co-benefits.

21. Responding to the issues raised Mr. Steiner said that climate justice was of particular relevance at the moment because the world faced a period of economic slowdown, which raised the spectre that politicians would put economic concerns ahead of environmental considerations. It was therefore vital, he said, to respond on two fronts: first, to use the media as effectively as possible in order to counter arguments that economic concerns required the environment to be sacrificed, and, second, to forge partnerships that could compete successfully for available funding through sources such as the Clean Development Mechanism. With respect to *GEO-4* he said that, while most of the report's indicators were negative there were also many examples of different approaches and ingenious initiatives that offered promise, several of which were included in a soon-to-be-launched UNEP publication on "green breakthroughs". In that context he said that it was necessary to create space for the green economy to thrive in such areas as resource management, policy making and legislation.

22. He praised youth organizations for their energy, public awareness building and creativity and stressed that they were an integral part of the UNEP Medium-term Strategy. Regarding public involvement in decision-making, he noted that translating research results into properly negotiated decisions and outcomes posed a considerable challenge at the practical level and that initiatives on the issue were currently being developed within UNEP. The Internet and the World Wide Web offered huge potential for individuals and civil society organizations at the local level to gain strength through networking and gathering knowledge. He also stressed the importance of labour and the involvement of employee and employer groups, given the critical relationship between livelihoods and the environment.

23. Turning to finance he said that significant resources were becoming available and that innovative approaches were needed to access them. Such approaches would have to include the formation of opportunistic partnerships, as no single institution had the knowledge, credibility and ability to deliver the complex programmes required. Matters of governance and accountability needed to be urgently addressed to ensure effective delivery. There was enormous room, he added, for co-benefits to be achieved in such areas as forest ecosystems, protected areas and transport systems.

VI. Session 4: Globalization and the environment: mobilizing finance to meet the climate challenge

24. The Forum participants heard presentations on mobilizing finance to meet the climate challenge from the session moderator, Mr. Eric Usher, Head, Renewable Energy and Finance Unit, Energy Branch, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, UNEP, and four panellists. The panellists were, in the order in which they spoke, Mr. Jurg Gerber of the World Business Council for Sustainable

Development, Mr. Daniel B. Magraw, President, Center for International Environmental Law, Mr. Marcelo Furtado, Greenpeace Brazil, and Mr. John Kimani, Cogeneration for Africa Programme Manager, Energy, Environment and Development Network for Africa.

25. Mr. Usher gave a presentation on mobilizing finance to meet the climate challenge, first outlining different estimates from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change on how much capital was needed to fund mitigation and adaptation. He noted that the renewable energy sector was the first to experience investment uptake solidly linked to climate policies, with investment growing significantly in the past three years and total new investment in the sector amounting to \$117 billion in 2007. He described different types and sources of investors, including venture capitalists, stock markets and investment bankers, the variety of which proved that renewables was no longer a niche market. India, China and Brazil were emerging as major investors, although the remainder of the developing world continued to lag behind. Investment in new renewables accounted for 18 per cent of overall power generation investment and 10 to 12 per cent of total energy sector investment and was an important new economic sector, providing more than 2.3 million jobs. Some sectors were overheating, however, and some retrenchment had resulted: after climbing 200 per cent in two years, green energy stocks had dropped 25 per cent in the past month. Other mitigation sectors were also growing, including the nuclear, large hydro and carbon sectors. He stressed that climate change investment decisions were and would remain policy-driven and that clear, long-term policy signals were therefore required for commercial capital to flow.

26. He outlined how UNEP examined the renewable energy sector and decided in which areas programmes should be developed by preparing financing continuums which provided details on capital required, risk management, financial structuring, project development, gaps and proposed interventions. He described some of the activities of the UNEP African Rural Energy Enterprise Development (AREED) initiative, which provided seed financing and enterprise development services, and noted that conclusions had been drawn as to where the public sector should be acting most directly. He discussed what was required to get banks to provide funding in what had been to that point cash-based clean technology markets, as well as what sort of public interventions could be used, citing successful programmes in India and Tunisia. Finally, he said that work had been carried out in the area of Clean Development Mechanism capacity-building in 30 countries, initially focused on institutional development.

27. In his presentation, Mr. Gerber highlighted the importance of business as a stakeholder in facing environmental challenges. Noting that the importance of collaboration between Governments and business was better understood than it had been previously, he underscored that clear policy frameworks were key to providing business with clarity about investments, technologies, pathways and infrastructure. From the perspective of business, all sources of available energy were required but it was important that best technologies be employed. Downstream elements such as mobility and building were of fundamental importance. Construction, for example, was characterized by inadequate standards and regulations and as a consequence huge opportunities for energy efficiency were simply being wasted. Business was responsive to consumer choices and more education, capacity-building and dialogue were required to inform those choices. Finance was one part of the post-2012 global framework and there was a need for sharing between key groups in society based on globally accepted regulations and infrastructure. Size and useful life both mattered: products had longer life cycles, a fact that had to be factored into investment decisions. "Investing in a low-carbon energy future in the developing world", a World Business Council report launched at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, attempted to explain to stakeholders how they could work together to address climate change while facilitating continued economic growth and social progress through implementation based on scientific findings that had come to be widely accepted by society.

28. He outlined generally recognized investment needs and the considerable investment gap that remained. To address that gap, would require major changes in investment frameworks that focused on the development of new technology and the rapid deployment of new and existing technologies. Understanding how and why business invested was crucial and it was important to remember that businesses existed primarily to create value for their shareholders. Each project therefore required a detailed evaluation of prospective rates of return, investment and technological risks as well as sources of competitive advantage. Negative factors for investment included structural obstacles, rigidities, overly complex regulations and legislation based on obsolete technologies, among others. The use of markets to drive capital flows in clean and low-carbon emitting technologies for all countries was needed and could only reach its full potential to improve energy services while reducing emissions if

mainstream investors were able to recognize the market potential of the energy underserved and the associated value in technologies, activities and infrastructure that reduced the carbon intensity of the global economy.

29. In his presentation, Mr. Daniel Magraw, President of the Center for International Environmental Law, said that the issue of mobilizing finance to meet the challenge of climate change was extremely important in terms of equity and practicality and was unusually complex given the many actors involved, complex legal relationships, sometimes conflicting incentives, the need for accurate and understandable information and accountability.

30. He said that financial institutions and investors had the responsibility to ensure that their operations, policies and projects were climate-friendly, that they broadly supported sustainable development and that they were transparent and accountable. He stressed the importance of employing existing resources efficiently in order to produce co-benefits. For example, carbon capture and sequestration could also reduce mercury emissions, if that were made a goal at the beginning of the process. Emphasizing that intellectual property issues were often a barrier to technology transfer, he urged the private sector to be engaged and creative and Governments to provide enterprises and businesses with robust incentives.

31. He also said that Governments should take the concerns of workers and their communities into account in policy-making and take measures to prevent hardships for workers in sectors affected by climate change mitigation efforts. Furthermore, communities affected by policies had the right to participate in the decision-making process: prior informed consent should occur throughout the life of a project and adequate compensation should be provided if harm occurred as a result of mitigation or adaptation measures.

32. Mr. Magraw said that the above issues would not disappear and actors would not deal with them as a matter of course. Nevertheless, doing so was the only way to avoid disaster and injustice.

33. Mr. Marcelo Furtado urged participants to concentrate on the real world where politics continued to focus on traditional issues and the environmental agenda continued to go unheeded on a global scale. A sustainable world required sustainable energy. The financial sector, however, would still rather invest in traditional areas of dirty industry and technology. He asked participants whether civil society organizations had become part of the very system that they were supposed to be changing. Civil society representatives were activists, he said, who should push processes rather than become part of them. One of the key roles for civil society at sessions of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum was to push UNEP to take environmental issues beyond the level of environment ministers to the level of heads of State. Issues such as climate change, forests and energy were crucial to development. It was vital that UNEP continue to work to ensure that environment was internalized in all government processes and the organization required help from civil society to that end. Little time remained to turn the tide of environmental degradation, but Governments and industry continued unchecked on their destructive paths. The missing element was money: financing the green revolution was, he said, more important than holding the blueprint of that revolution. Governments did not hold the key to adequate financing. It was important to tap into the private sector, to which end a conducive environment for investment was crucial. Investors had clearly stated their requirements for regulatory frameworks within which to invest and long-term policies to safeguard those investments. Civil society organizations must strive to understand the trends, realize the interdependence of the issues they were fighting for and act in partnership. Every effort should be made to achieve a socially just and environmentally fair future.

34. In his presentation, Mr. John Kimani, Cogeneration for Africa Programme Manager of the Energy, Environment and Development Network for Africa, said that setting explicit targets for low-carbon investments in energy policies and laws was a way of attracting financing because it gave investors and financiers a clear indication of amounts required and allowed them to explore feasible financing options. Explicit policies on the diversification of energy resources were also essential, as evidenced by the fact that almost all sub-Saharan African countries relying on hydro-power had been affected by prolonged droughts yet only countries that had a diverse range of electricity generation sources had been able to cope. He said, however, that the greatest challenge among potential investors in low-carbon energy was uncertainty regarding feed-in tariffs and the duration of power purchase agreements. For that reason explicit standard feed-in tariff offer and power purchase agreements were required for low-carbon energy investments. He said that existing co-financing options had not been targeting low-carbon investments and suggested that, although there was money available, Governments needed to be encouraged to invest in low-carbon and renewable energy options.

35. Mr. Kimani went on to give an example of innovative financing solutions that had occurred in Africa. He said that, in some countries, government shares in State entities or corporations had been sold to generate capital for implementation of low-carbon investments. In one country the proceeds from the privatization of a State company had been used to establish a special fund for carrying out more comprehensive research in order to minimize the risks perceived by potential investors.

36. In terms of obtaining access to the funds required to adapt to climate change, he said that civil society organizations would have to lobby hard to ensure that Governments had transparent mechanisms for allocating readily accessible loans from regional development banks. In addition, he urged governments to allocate more resources to studying countries' exposure and vulnerability to climate change. This was particularly important in rural areas. There was a need to promote investments that were not only climate friendly but also included some form of co-investment or revenue-sharing. The latter was useful for making rural communities more resilient in the face of climate change.

37. The discussion following the panel presentations focused on international environmental financing, with particular attention to biofuels and forestry. Increased use of biofuels as a means of reducing petroleum consumption entailed a host of problems, including land rights of indigenous peoples, reduced local biodiversity, greater food insecurity and water scarcity, workers' rights and price competition with other forms of energy. It was noted that investors were also looking at those issues and were becoming more discriminating, favouring sustainable biofuel projects. The lack of policies and a regulatory framework to match the rapid pace of investment in the biofuel sector was also observed to be a factor that limited the sustainability of biofuel development. With regard to the valuation of ecosystem services from forests, especially carbon sequestration, there was concern that industrialized States might rely primarily on forest management in developing countries rather than make changes in their own economies needed to promote environmental protection. The Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol allowed offset credits for such investments, and there was a proposal to limit the extent of such credits in order to force attention on the effects of developed country economies on the environment. Capacity-building and improving investors' awareness of the Mechanism was considered important.

38. More broadly with respect to environmental financing, speakers expressed the need to assess social and other non-economic effects of policies such as privatization and trade liberalization in environmental services and technology. In environmental negotiations, many States proposed use of goods and services in which they had a specialized advantage, but the value of such contributions in addressing environmental problems of high priority needed to be assessed. The role of small and medium enterprises was seen to be critical to sustainable financing of environmental programs, and in industrialized countries such entrepreneurs had access to venture capital. In developing countries, however, small and medium enterprises generally did not receive financial backing and as a result innovation in environmental work was discouraged by capital markets. There was therefore a need to mitigate risk and support more moderate returns in developing economies. The introduction of new types of financial actors that would seek developmental and environmental returns was seen as potentially useful, as was the blending of public capital with private investment. It was important to consider that the dichotomy between developed and developing countries was disappearing, as many developing countries had rapidly emerging elite and middle classes and developed countries had subpopulations entrenched in poverty. Instead, a more useful contrast might simply be that between rich and poor populations, which existed in every country and better described the tensions underlying environmental issues. Other concerns that emerged in the discussion included youth involvement, environmental refugees, increased wildlife-human conflict and sustainable green job creation.

VII. Session 5: Panel discussion on the UNEP Medium-term Strategy

39. John Scanlon, Principal Adviser, Policy and Operational Team Leader, Strategic Implementation Team, Executive Office, UNEP, gave a presentation on the UNEP Medium-term Strategy 2010–2013, outlining its content and explaining why and how it had been developed. The strategy had been developed pursuant to decision 24/9 of the Governing Council, which had requested the Executive Director to prepare, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a medium-term strategy for approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth regular session, in 2009. The strategy had been completed 12 months ahead of schedule to enable it to guide the formulation of the strategic framework and programme of work for 2010–2011. Through an extensive process of consultation, the views of a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society, had been taken into account in developing the Medium-term Strategy.

40. The strategy, he continued, set out a vision and six cross-cutting priorities. It identified the means to implement the priorities, the institutional mechanisms required to deliver results and a review mechanism. Factors taken into account in developing the priorities included scientific evidence, particularly that gathered for *GEO-4*; the UNEP mandate and comparative advantage; other priorities emerging from global and regional forums; and an assessment of where UNEP could make a transformative difference. The vision was drawn from the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, which had been approved by the UNEP Governing Council in 1997. Finally, he stressed that approval of the Medium-term Strategy was central to the reform of UNEP and that it was a high-level document that laid out a broad programme rather than specific outcomes.

41. During the ensuing discussion, several representatives expressed appreciation for the consultative process that had assisted development of the Medium-term Strategy while some said that that further efforts should be made to make the process more inclusive.

42. Other issues raised related to the current progress on the strategic framework and programme of work; future engagement of young people, particularly as the six-year Tunza Youth Advisory Council strategy drew to a close in 2009; the extent to which the strategy incorporated the concept of environmental sustainability; the promotion of national, subregional and regional forums to encourage specific actions related to climate change; accessing finance to deliver environment-related programmes; environmental rights; and international environmental governance.

43. Responding to the issues raised Mr. Scanlon said that the deadline for completion of the strategic framework had been extended from December 2007 to allow its development in parallel with the Medium-term Strategy. It would be finalized, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, by the end of February 2008. Planning on the programme of work had commenced based on the priorities in the Medium-term Strategy but concrete development would await the outcomes and budgetary decisions to be taken at the next meeting of the Governing Council. As with the Medium-term Strategy, development of the programme of work would involve wide consultation.

44. Regarding the inclusion of specific programmes such as Tunza in the Medium-term Strategy, he said that the aim had been to produce a concise, high-level document that dealt with major themes and formed the basis for more concrete work specific activities as the Strategy was reflected in a firm action plan. Concerning the issue of sustainability, he said that UNEP was one of many actors with a role to play and needed to consider carefully where it should focus its efforts, given the contextual factors outlined in the Strategy. Referring next to regional issues, he said that through the Strategy UNEP placed strong emphasis on working at the national, subregional and regional levels, through and with its regional offices, and was committed to delivering on the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building. Again the point of the Strategy was to express intent, and details would be worked out subsequently. Turning next to finance, he said that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) portfolio for 2010–2014 was an integral part of the Strategy. Regarding the issue of environmental rights, he said that while that was not mentioned specifically in the Strategy it was addressed within the broader context of, for example, legal and institutional frameworks. Finally, referring to international environmental governance, he said that the starting point had been the “Cartagena Package” of the Governing Council (decision SS.VII/1), which had focused on making the best use of existing structures. The issue would be discussed further during the tenth special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum following the current Forum.

VIII. Other matters

A. Report on preparatory meeting of the Civil Society Facilitation Committee

45. Following the conclusion of session 2, Mr. Fautrier called on Mr. Royer to report on a preparatory meeting of the Major Groups Facilitation Committee that had been held on the day prior to the opening of the Forum. Mr. Royer said that much of the discussion had focused on the proposed UNEP Medium-term Strategy (2010-2013) (UNEP/GCSS.X/8). The members of the committee had agreed that continued engagement with UNEP was a worthwhile goal for civil society, particularly given the history of such interactions as well as current transformations under way within UNEP, the United Nations system and society as a whole. They had noted in particular the positive relationship between civil society and the UNEP secretariat as well as the inclusion of major groups in the consultations and decisions associated with Agenda 21. Civil society, however, had to steer away from decision-making processes that were removed from consultations at the local, regional and international levels and from other processes in which civil society contributions might be solicited and then ignored.

In that regard, it had been noted that the second part of the proposed UNEP strategy document, including tables of draft implementation plans in which the actions of civil society groups would be critical, appeared to have been produced by UNEP without input from civil society.

46. Looking ahead, he said that the committee saw a need for a continuing dialogue involving civil society during the intervals between intergovernmental meetings, perhaps to include video-conferencing, support for consultations at the subregional and local levels, particularly in Asia, and greater linkages among consultation and decision-making processes at the international, regional and subregional levels. Practical considerations for the meaningful engagement of civil society with UNEP, apart from formal inclusion of civil society groups in international environmental discussions, included timely preparation and distribution of documents and adequate time for civil society groups to consult with their constituents and other stakeholders. He noted that civil society relationships with the secretariats of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management offered positive examples of civil society engagement. He concluded by noting that the Major Groups Facilitation Committee would work with UNEP over the next two years to address the challenges of financing and budgeting to meet environmental goals.

47. Mr. Fautrier thanked Mr. Royer for his report on the meeting of the facilitation committee, which he said would be a useful partner in the work of UNEP. He said that the issues of environmental financing and the proposed mid-term strategy document would be central to the discussions at the forthcoming special session of the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum.

B. Statement on behalf of youth

48. Mr. Thomas Christian of the Tunza Youth Advisory Council made a statement in which he thanked UNEP for providing a platform for the engagement of young people through the Tunza Youth Strategy, a six-year programme created in 2003. He requested substantial representation of young people in UNEP decision-making processes and encouraged the organization to foster partnerships with young people through United Nations, private, government and civil society bodies. He called on UNEP and other organizations actively to engage young people in the six major cross-cutting priority areas of UNEP work and underscored the importance of more equitable distribution of capital investment in focus areas on the basis of the Bali Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity-building. Acknowledging that the Youth Strategy had been fundamental to the engagement of young people in international environmental processes, he underscored that it would come to a close in 2009.

IX. Closure of the Forum

49. Mr. Fautrier opened the closing session at 5:20 pm on Tuesday, 19 February 2008, by inviting remarks from Mr. Olivier Deleuze, Chief, Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch.

50. Mr. Deleuze thanked the Government of Monaco for hosting the meeting, saying that the success of the Forum augured well for the upcoming special session of the Governing Council/Global Civil Society Forum. He thanked participants for their contributions to the Forum and their anticipated participation in the coming days. He also thanked the panellists in the substantive discussions for the wealth of information that they had provided.

51. Mr. Bispham, referring to the international environmental governance discussion, drew participants' attention to a recent report of the Global Environmental Citizenship project in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and called on UNEP to continue that programme, which had yielded excellent results.

52. In his closing remarks, Mr. Fautrier thanked participants for the quality of their contributions to the day's discussions, underscoring the essential role that civil society had to play in supporting UNEP action in the area of environmental governance. He expressed the hope that civil society would make its presence felt during the special session and beyond.

53. The Chair declared the ninth Global Civil Society Forum closed at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 19 February 2008.

Annex I

Programme of work for the ninth Global Civil Society Forum



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



14 February 2008

9th Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF)
19 February 2008
Principality of Monaco

Diaghilev Conference Room, Grimaldi Forum

Provisional Agenda

(Specifically being a one day meeting, time is an irreplaceable and finite resource. It will be important that the sessions begin on time and that the speakers be brief and focused)

07h30-08h30	Registration
09h00-09h30	<p>Opening Session</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome remarks by Bernard Fautrier, President of Monaco Développement Durable, Host Country Opening remarks by a representative of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee Opening address by Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP
09h30-09h45	<p>Election of officers and adoption of agenda</p> <p>Officers: Chair of GCSF + 3 Vice Chairs + 1 Rapporteur</p>
09h45-10h15	<p>Session 1: Engaging at the GCSSX/GMEF</p> <p>The Major Groups Facilitating Committee will present the structure and patterns of the GCSSX/GMEF and give a few “tips” about opportunities major groups should not miss during the coming days, and how to better use those opportunities. This session will address the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Setting the scene: Why are we here for? What is the objective of the GCSF? What is the agenda of the GC SSX/GMEF? How will it work? What are the opportunities of the GC SSX/GMEF for Civil Society? What is the structure of the GC SSX/GMEF? What are the specific expected outcomes? Why? How? When? What are the means for Civil Society input? <p><u>Presented by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lucien Royer, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), member of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee
10h15-11h00	<p>Session 2: Adoption of the “Guidelines for improving the Global Civil Society Forum Cycle”</p>

The Major Groups Facilitating Committee will present the recommendations on the Guidelines as discussed during the Regional Consultation Meetings in October-November 2007. The session will address a few questions and proceed to the adoption of the main recommendations.

Presented by:

- Mildred Mkandla, Earthcare Africa, member of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee

11h00-12h00

Session 3: Dialogue with Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP

- This session is the open dialogue session with the Executive Director on all aspects of the GC SSX/GMEF as well as the Major Group's involvement in the work of UNEP.

12h00-13h00

[Informal session with Angela Cropper, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP](#)

12h00-14h30

Lunch

14h30-16h00

Session 4: Globalisation and the environment, mobilizing finances to meet the climate challenge

Resource persons from UNEP and Major Groups will elaborate further on the issues at stake during the GC/GMEF and highlight how perspectives from major groups can be brought in, with a view to provide input into the discussion:

1. How do we finance the transition to a "sustainable" low carbon economy, including through new investment flows and markets?
2. How do we access the finance required to adapt to change, especially for countries that are most vulnerable?

Presented by:

- Eric Usher, Head, Renewable Energy and Finance Unit, Energy Branch, DTIE

Panellists:

- Jurg Gerber, World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- Daniel B. Magraw, President, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Marcelo Furtado, Campaign Director, Greenpeace, Brazil
- John Kimani, Cogeneration for Africa Programme Manager, Energy, Environment and Development Network for Africa (AFREPEN-FWD)

16h00-17h00

Session 5: Panel discussion on the UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2010-2013

This session will provide an opportunity to present and collect feedback on the MTS. UNEP will present the MTS, and Major Groups representatives will be invited to react to the presentations and provide their analysis of the paper: strengths and weaknesses, issues that should be raised by the Meeting, etc.

Presented by:

- John Scanlon, Principal Advisor, Policy and Operational Team Leader, Strategic Implementation Team, Executive Office, UNEP

Discussions.

17h00-17h30

Closing Session

- Remarks by Olivier Deleuze, Chief, Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch
- Remarks by the Chair of the GCSF

17h30-19h30

Cocktail (*Le Genois* ballroom - Second level Grimaldi Forum)

Notes:

1. Interpretation in English, Spanish and French will be available during the sessions.
2. Evaluation forms will be distributed during the GCSF.
3. Coffee will be available at the cash bar on level -2 and the Kament on level 1, Grimaldi Forum.

List of working documents:

Session 1: Engaging at the GCSSX/GMEF

1. Agenda of the GCSF-9
2. Provisional timetable of meetings and events of the Tenth Special Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environmental Forum (available only in English)
3. UNEP/GCSS/X/3: GEO 4 (available in English – French - Spanish)
4. UNEP/GCSS/X/4: Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (available in English – French - Spanish)
5. UNEP/GCSS/X/5: mercury (available in English – French - Spanish)
6. UNEP/GC/X/6: prevention of illegal international trade (available in English – French - Spanish)
7. UNEP/GCSS/X/7: waste management (available in English – French - Spanish)
8. UNEP/GCSS/X/INF/5: Civil society statements to the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its tenth special session: Note by the Executive Director (available only in English)
9. UNEP/GCSS/X/1: Draft decisions as called for in previous Governing Council Decisions, to be submitted by the UNEP Secretariat, for consideration by the 10th Special Session (available only in English)

Session 2: Adoption of the “Guidelines for improving the Global Civil Society Forum Cycle”

10. Guidelines for improving the Global Civil Society Forum Cycle (available only in English)

Session 3: Globalisation and the environment, mobilizing finances to meet the climate challenge

11. UNEP/GC/X/9: Background papers for the ministerial-level consultations, including policy options emanated from the President’s Summary of the ministerial-level consultations of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum: Discussion paper presented by the Executive Director (available only in English)

Session 4: Panel discussion on the UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2010-2013

12. UNEP/GCSS/X/8: UNEP Medium-Term Strategy for the period 2010-2013 and Strategic Framework for the period 2010-2011 of the United Nations Environment Programme: Report of the Executive Director (available only in English)

Additional documents from Major Groups:

13. Analytic Note of the Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for the Environment and the Development (FBOMS) about the Consultation Process on International Environmental Governance in Latin America (available only in English)

Other documents

14. Information for delegates (available only in English)
15. GCSF-9 Evaluation questionnaire (available in English – French - Spanish)
16. Schedule of the Greenroom

Kindly note that the *Greenroom* is located in Espace Le Guelfe.

Annex II

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