

**Final statement
On behalf of the NGOs
19th of May 2010**

dear Mr Chair,

We have now finished the first prepcom for the organisation of the Rio+20. So, the kick off is done. Now we must start the real preparation. Because we have to recognise that the preparation process is potentially even more important than the Summit itself.

A better process will translate to better outcomes. Governments must initiate and maintain active debates with civil society at a national level, as an essential element of a successful road ahead to ensure that civil society has ownership of the outcomes. Special attention we ask for involvement for civil society in developing countries, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

For that, we want to encourage governments to establish the national focal points as soon as possible, and start now with dynamic and interactive dialogues at national levels. Together we can build the momentum to forge the necessary break through towards sustainable development.

We also ask the UN to open the accreditation process for a broader civil society as we did in Johannesburg. We need a whole movement around Rio+20, parallel to the official negotiations.

Mr Chair,

We need to know the state of progress on implementing agreed decisions and international mandates developed during these past 20 years.

One idea could be that every country has regular parliamentary debates on where they are on the implementation of SD. This is also an appropriate instrument to make UN-soft law concrete in legal national frameworks.

We are looking forward to working together with other major groups, governments and international institutions in these urgent but hopeful times.

To Rio or not to Rio?
That will be the question.

Thank you chair.