

The UNEP Governing Council,

**Noting** Paragraph 88(h) of the Rio+20 Outcome Document, which seeks to “ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society”,

**Decides** to implement the following procedural and programmatic mechanisms to operationalize the principles embodied in Paragraph 88(h):

A) Procedural Mechanisms:

1. The right for Major Groups and Stakeholders to participate in decision-making and to access to information, including the development of a written access-to-information policy for UNEP by the Second Universal Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum modeled on best practice, in the order that requests are presented to the chair;
2. The right for Major Groups and Stakeholders to be present and speak during negotiations of the UNEP Governing Council, the Working Groups of the UNEP Governing Council and all other UNEP meetings relating to agenda-setting and policy making;
3. The removal of specific grounds on which Major Groups and Stakeholders can be excluded from a meeting other than those which also apply to Member States;
4. A half-day meeting between Ministers and Major Groups and Stakeholders at each Governing Council, with the agenda defined by Major Groups and Stakeholders based on the purpose of providing expert input and advice. This must be additional to the rights of participation in all UNEP proceedings outlined above.
5. Mandate the Executive Director of UNEP to ensure the full participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders through the UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholder Branch and UNEP Regional Offices, and provide adequate resources for this purpose.

B) Programmatic Mechanisms:

1. Development of an enhanced and specific role for Major Groups and Stakeholders in the agenda-setting function of a strengthened UNEP, including an active role in any review function on which forward-looking decisions will be based;
2. Design of specific interfaces and multi-stakeholder platforms (e.g. internet-based participation methods, UNEP Regional Consultations and the Global Environment Outlook) through which Major Groups and Stakeholders can provide expert input and policy advice at Governing Council and other relevant fora, thereby aiding in the shaping of policy.
3. Partnership agreements to work with the UNEP Secretariat and with Member States (particularly at the regional, national, subnational and local levels) through which Major Groups and Stakeholders can participate in the implementation of decisions and the ongoing review of progress toward identifiable goals.