



## 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



Reference: EO/2013/AJ/yo

4 October 2013

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

At Rio+20, Heads of State and Governments agreed on a far-reaching and complex set of decisions, which have provided a new impetus to the environmental dimension of sustainable development, to UNEP, its governance architecture and Programme of Work.

Paragraph 88 of the Outcome Document Rio+20, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through resolution 67/213 of 21 December 2012, identified several avenues for strengthening and upgrading UNEP including calling for ensuring the active participation of relevant stakeholders.

As the Executive Director of UNEP, I am tasked with the implementation of the decisions taken by the UNGA and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP and the aspirations that Member States have clearly articulated in the Rio+20 Outcome Document, "The Future We Want". In particular, I am fully committed to providing evidence of key management decisions and measures that will directly contribute to strengthening and upgrading UNEP in the following areas:

1. Strengthening UNEP's regional strategic presence further;
2. Mainstreaming roles, profile and functions of UNEP's Regional Offices and their role in implementing the Programme of Work at regional and national levels;
3. Enhancing the participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions, while exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society.

With this in mind, I wish to inform you about some important decisions and changes involving the key functions and structures of the Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC) that houses UNEP's Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch:

-The organization of UNEP's regional work and presence, currently performed under a divisional model, is hereby restructured: the Division of Regional Cooperation ceases to exist as a Division.

TO: Major Groups and Stakeholders accredited to UNEP

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Executive Office

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-A newly constituted Regional Support Office, will be in charge for coordination of regional activities, and liaison with Regional Directors will be ensured by the Chief of this Office. Regional Directors will report directly to the Deputy Executive Director.

In view of the Rio+20 decision (Paragraph 88h) concerning the participation of major groups and stakeholders, and considering the ongoing deliberations in UNEP's Governing Body and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, calling for enhanced participation of major groups and stakeholders in UNEP's governance and work, the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, currently housed in DRC, will be integrated in the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies as a unit to facilitate UNEP's enhanced engagement with major groups and stakeholders. We will keep you informed about further steps with respect to this change.

I am convinced that these organizational changes will enable UNEP provide a timely and effective response to the strategic and political ambitions that Member States and major groups and stakeholders articulated for a strengthened and upgraded UNEP and I am sure that this will help us progress with respect to enhancing stakeholder engagement with UNEP.

Yours sincerely,

Achim Steiner  
Executive Director

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