

Further

1 Zero Draft Declaration of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference

2 Bonn, Germany, 3-5 September 2011

3 “Sustainable Societies: Responsive Citizens”

4 The participants of the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, assembled in Bonn, Germany,
5 3-5 September 2011,

6 **Conferences and documents**

7 Noting that the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference is a major NGO event aimed at
8 contributing to the two volunteer-focused sessions of the UN General Assembly scheduled
9 to take place on 5 December 2011 in New York;

10 Further noting that the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference also aims to inform the
11 preparatory process towards the 2012 Rio + 20 Conference;

12 Reaffirming that the Rio + 20 themes of a green economy in the context of sustainable
13 development and poverty eradication and the institutional framework for sustainable
14 development require active civil society engagement;

15 Noting the need to revisit Rio’s Agenda 21, which, in section 3.7, stresses that “sustainable
16 development must be achieved at every level of society...Governments, in cooperation with
17 appropriate international and non-governmental organizations, should support a
18 community-driven approach to sustainability”;

19 Guided by the outcome documents of the major global summits of the 1980s and the 1990s,
20 Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration, Agenda ya Waanachi, the series of 46 Alternative civil
21 Society Treaties developed at UNCED, the Dhaka Declaration, the IFOAM Declaration, the
22 JPOI, as well as the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of
23 Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and the
24 Cochabamba Declaration;

25 Further guided by General Assembly Resolution 63/153 of 18 December 2008 inviting
26 Governments, with the active support of the media, civil society and the private sector, as
27 well as development partners and the relevant organizations and bodies of the United
28 Nations system, to carry out activities focused on marking the tenth anniversary of the
29 International Year of Volunteerism, in 2011, at the regional and national levels;

30 Bearing in mind the request to the Secretary-General of the UN to report to the UN General
31 Assembly at its Sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the tenth anniversary of the
32 International Year under the item entitled “Social development”;

Further

33 Aware of the need for a follow-up to the 2011 tenth anniversary of the International Year of
34 Volunteers (IYV+10) to be pursued by the United Nations Volunteer programme, its
35 partners and the other relevant parts of the United Nations system;

36 Aware that a significant paradigm change was introduced through the Human
37 Development Index that piloted for the first time social indicators such as education and
38 life expectancy to measure development. Conscious that today there is an increasing focus
39 on human well-being that emphasizes what people can do rather than what they cannot do;

40 Noting that the momentum created by the 2011 tenth anniversary of the International Year
41 of Volunteers (IYV+10) has contributed to increase the vibrancy of volunteerism nationally,
42 regionally and globally with the involvement of more governments, more civil society
43 organizations, more private sector partners, and more people from a broader cross-section
44 of societies;

45 **General Statements**

46 Convinced, that the equal and free access of present and future generations to natural
47 goods such as water, land and energy and to an environment free from ecological and
48 environmental devastation is a human right;

49 Recognizing that sustainable development should become the only form of development
50 and that the parallel tracks, as we have continued to follow since 1992, need to be ended;

51 Acknowledging the establishment of a new way to measure the progress towards a
52 sustainable progress with other indicators than only a country's GDP;

53 Alarmed at the increasing loss of biodiversity, increasing desertification acidification of the
54 oceans, rises in food prices, lack of consistent and sustainable sources of energy for the
55 developing world, at the drop in financing for development, collapse of glaciers, ice caps
56 and polar ice shelves;

57 Acknowledging the important role of formal and non-formal education for respectful
58 stewardship of environmental and natural resources, provided by teacher, volunteers and
59 especially by women who are the first teachers of future generations;

60 Committed to promoting respect for cultural and ethnic diversity and an alliance and
61 partnership among civilizations;

62 Aware of the important role the media and modern means of communication play for
63 sensitizing a broader public;

64 **The NGOs here present declare the following on the matters of a green economy.**
65 **sustainable lifestyles, civic engagement and volunteerism:**

Further

66 **Green Economy**

67 Determined, that the vast range of environmental, economic, and social impacts and crises
68 threatening global ecosystems and human populations can be overcome by creating
69 sustainable living patterns worldwide through a change in the production and distribution
70 of natural and economic goods and through sustainable consumption patterns;

71 Alarmed by a total failure to integrate environmental, social and development priorities
72 into global economic policies;

73 Bearing in mind that development has commonly been understood and analyzed in terms
74 of macro-economic performance and corresponding quantitative indicators. Also bearing in
75 mind that the current development model mostly focused on macro-economic performance
76 and quantitative indicators has, for years, not taken into account social engagement and
77 other elements of “well-being” that are at the core of sustainable human development;

78 Acknowledging that working towards a green economy and poverty eradication, climate
79 justice can provide a bridge to a new global economic paradigm;

80 Further acknowledging that a true ‘green’ economy within a sustainable society should be
81 an economic system that ensures social equity, protects ecological balance and creates eco-
82 sufficiency;

83 **Sustainable lifestyles**

84 Convinced, that our planet and the human-earth community will survive, thrive and
85 prosper by a shift to an economy that is focused on poverty eradication, an economy that is
86 green and responsive citizens incorporating volunteerism at every level of their lifestyles;

87 Noting that sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods must be built on sustainable consumption
88 and production in our globalizing world;

89 Further noting that sustainability can only be ensured if humanity embraces sustainable,
90 low-carbon lifestyles and adopts sustainable livelihoods and that unsustainable
91 consumption and production patterns have been a major contributor to climate change and
92 poverty;

93 **Civic engagement**

94 Reaffirming that local and global citizen participation is central to resolving sustainable
95 development governance issues. Streamlining management of multilateral environment
96 agreements, drawing on the historical foundations of community participation and
97 governance structures and education for sustainable development can provide deeper
98 foundations for understanding and tackling the complex sustainability issues facing

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99 humanity today. Such action can help respond to and engage with the recent social
100 uprisings in Central Asia, Africa, Europe and the Near East to guide future democratic and
101 social change movements;

102 Considering that there is a new era of civil society participation and growing self-
103 confidence of people fighting for justice and democracy and ready to nurture and protect
104 the environment;

105 Recalling that large numbers of citizens have been mobilized around the International
106 Campaign to Ban Landmines and in other areas, such as advocacy for climate change action,
107 literacy, debt relief, human rights, sustainable environment and violence against women.
108 The environment movement is a civil society volunteer movement at its heart.

109 Further reaffirming that civic participation and volunteering have been valuable partners
110 in a broad spectrum of peace and sustainable development activities, having as their
111 overriding goal the eradication of poverty and the betterment of the human condition;

112 Recognizing that civil society has a crucial role in a fast-changing world: civic engagement
113 and voluntary action are essential for achieving sustainability. Two decades after our
114 Common Future was issued by the Brundtland Commission to connect environment and
115 development concerns, the world still struggles to integrate them;

116 Further recognizing that greater efforts are needed to ensure that civic action and
117 volunteerism be encouraged as indispensable elements of the sustainable development
118 agenda of Governments and the United Nations.

119 Also recognizing the contribution of civil society, especially of NGO movements and
120 volunteer alliances and associations, ready to take over responsibility in their
121 communities;

122 **Volunteerism**

123 Recognizing that the implementation of the sustainable development agenda requires the
124 everyday, voluntary actions of millions of people and civil society organizations across the
125 globe;

126 Further acknowledging that volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of
127 development and that it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer;

128 Also noting that volunteerism fosters empowerment and broad-based ownership, through
129 which even the most disadvantaged groups can contribute to more stable and cohesive
130 communities and sustainable societies;

Further

- 131 Recognizing that volunteerism makes significant contributions to development and peace
132 and that appropriate policies is needed to ensure that this potential is realized;
- 133 Noting that the active engagement and responsiveness of people is frequently reflected in
134 voluntary actions of all kinds, ranging from mutual aid or self-help; philanthropy or service
135 to others; participation or civic engagement, to advocacy or campaigning;
- 136 Reaffirming the need to recognize and promote all forms of volunteerism so that it involves
137 and benefits all segments of society, including women, children, young persons, students,
138 older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrants and those who remain
139 excluded for social or economic reasons;
- 140 Recognizing, that volunteerism, as a type of non-formal education, offers opportunities for
141 young people to take responsibility for their livelihoods, acquire skills and capacities and
142 act as positive role models for other youth;
- 143 Recognizing the contributions and the volunteering traditions and practices of indigenous
144 peoples who have lived sustainably for centuries;
- 145 Reaffirming that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at
146 mobilizing communities to achieve the Millennium Development goals and, inter alia, such
147 areas as poverty reduction, community-centered sustainable development, health, disaster
148 risk reduction, disaster recovery and management and peacekeeping.
- 149 Further, volunteerism critically contributes to social integration, in particular, to
150 overcoming social exclusion and discrimination;
- 151 Further recognizing that volunteerism is needs driven, is a catalyst for community centered
152 sustainable development, is cross-cutting and contributes to different thematic areas; and
- 153 Further, volunteerism contributes to social cohesion through the effect it has on the
154 individual volunteers as well as on society at large;
- 155 Recognizing that volunteerism offers opportunities for participation in society and is a
156 holistic approach to empower people and acknowledge the importance of civil society
157 organizations for the promotion of volunteerism and in that respect recognizes that
158 strengthening the dialogue and interaction between civil society and the United Nations
159 contributes to the expansion of volunteerism;
- 160 Noting the contributions of the UN Volunteers over the last 10 years and marking the 10th
161 Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers;
- 162 Noting with appreciation the efforts of all UN DPI/NGO conference participants to increase
163 awareness of volunteerism through global outreach, information sharing and education;

Further

164 Further recognizing that volunteerism can help facilitate the connection between
165 environment and development by engaging ordinary people from their communities to
166 volunteer services and exchange skills and experiences locally and worldwide through the
167 matching of interest and skills to needs;

168 **Action plan or action plan elements**

169 We propose that the current economy that aides inequity, destruction and greed and
170 should be replaced by a green economy aimed towards replacing the current economic
171 order that ensure social equity, protects the ecological balance and creates economic
172 sufficiency; the core idea of a Green Economy should be to enforce sustainable
173 development and enhance prosperity of all nations, ensure wellbeing of all people, and
174 conserve biodiversity for future generations. Such a sustainable economy should integrate
175 the following set of sustainable development goals;

176 SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: Establishing a set of Millennium
177 Consumption Goals for the period 2012 -2031 towards establishing an intergenerational
178 right to equitable consumption opportunities and ensuring quality of life and wellbeing of
179 all humans by 2030, whilst eradicating all kinds and levels of poverty and embedding
180 sufficiency based sustainable economies.

181 ENERGY: Universal access to modern energy services by 2030, supported by having 30% of
182 energy supply sources by 2030 by renewables.

183 WATER: The availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health,
184 livelihoods, ecosystems and production, coupled with an acceptable level of water-related
185 risks to people, environments and economies to be achieved by 2030

186 BLUE ECONOMY: Reverse the decline of fish stocks and create sustainable and diverse and
187 abundant fish stocks, supported by healthy habitat to provide for the needs of all users by
188 2030

189 FORESTRY: Reverse the decline in forests and create sustainable and diverse forestry is
190 compatible with maintaining forest ecosystem integrity, economically sustainable, and
191 socially beneficial by 2030.

192 URBANIZATION: By 2030 urban areas should aim to reduce their ecological footprints by
193 30% on 2012 levels

194 AGRICULTURE: By 2030 we should have sustainable food systems that provides healthy
195 food to meet current food needs while maintaining healthy ecosystems that can also
196 provide food for generations to come with minimal negative impact to the environment. A

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197 sustainable food system should also encourage local production and distribution
198 infrastructures and makes nutritious food available, accessible, and affordable to all.

199 ECONOMY: By 2030 governments should have progressed from a green economy towards
200 sufficiency based sustainable economies that are designed for horizontal growth and
201 distribution to ensure well-being of all. The foundations of such sustainable economies
202 should be based on traditional knowledge, skills and aspirations that are rich in knowledge
203 of biodiversity, ecologically sustainable agriculture, and indigenous crafts techniques
204 geared towards prosperity.

205

206 Climate Sustainability: By 2050 governments should have reached clear pathways towards
207 climate sustainability that regulates the global temperature rise below 2C. For this a we
208 need a radical change in our economic, production, consumption, governance and all
209 systems that governs our behavior in a way that brings the ecological system of the planet
210 earth into full consideration, while planning for the wellbeing of our future generations.

211 We expect the UNCSD2012 to establish and empower an Institutional Framework for
212 Sustainable Development Governance (IFSD) that would help create a better world that
213 constitutes the right of equity and wellbeing of all people, generates prosperity and
214 flourishing of all communities, and protects all biodiversity for intergenerational
215 sustainability. Therefore, we are proposing the following actions to be taken at the
216 different levels of governance:

217 Internationally

218 We call for the establishment of a Council of the UN General Assembly on sustainable
219 development, focusing in particular on emerging issues including environmental security
220 and the issues around a sustainable economy.

221 Establish an Intergovernmental SCP Committee to be operated within Multi-Stakeholder
222 Council on Sustainable Development to lead and oversee the global SCP governance
223 process
224

225 We call on at the United Nations Economic and Social level for an interactive multi-
226 stakeholder, government, un agency and program Forum on Sustainable Development to
227 review implementation of sustainable development goals through a problem solving none
228 policy forum

229 We call on the establishment of a Sustainable Development Board made up of the Executive
230 bodies of UNEP, UNDP, UN Habitat, UN Women. UNICEF and WFP to oversee the Delivering
231 as One – One country programs

Further

232 We call on the establishment of a World Environment Organization which would cluster
233 the environmental conventions

234 We call on the establishment of an International Environmental Court to deal with
235 environmental disputes

236 We call on the establishment of an Ombudsman for Future Generations

237 We call on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a
238 Convention on Corporate Environment and Social Responsibility and Accountability

239 We call on the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a
240 Precautionary Principle Convention to deal with new and emerging technologies

241 We call on the establishment of regional conventions on principle 10 of the Rio
242 Declaration– access to information public participation and environmental justice

243 Nationally

244 We call on the establishment or reform of National Committees on SCP to be operated
245 within the National Council for Sustainable Development with a mandate to advise all
246 national agencies working on SCP and national representatives on the Intergovernmental
247 SCP Mechanisms. The national councils on sustainable development should oversee the
248 move a green economy. This council should develop a sustainable national economy plan
249 for each Member State of the UN by 2017.

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251 We call on regional and local governments to adopt the same approach and establish multi-
252 stakeholder platforms and develop strategies at the appropriate level to address the
253 development of sustainable economies in their regional and local areas by 2017.

254 To achieve these objectives, we call upon local authorities to establish an Office for
255 Volunteerism in every municipality, at which citizens will be able to find out how they
256 might bring their skills and visions to non-profit organizations both locally and globally,
257 through information/communication technology (ICT).

258 We encourage stakeholders to explore the eco-sufficiency approach in the light of the
259 “Limits to Growth”;

260 We invite governments to mobilize and support the research community globally to carry
261 out more studies on the subject of volunteerism, in partnership with civil society, in order
262 to provide sound knowledge about volunteerism as a foundation for policies and
263 programmes;

264 We call on governments to create a supportive environment for the promotion of
265 volunteerism accompanied by supportive legislative and fiscal frameworks for the growth

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266 and development of volunteerism and encourage governments to enact such measures and
267 to promote volunteerism;

268 We welcome the recognition of the work of the United Nations Volunteer program as the
269 focal point for the follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers, and request it to
270 continue to raise awareness of the contribution of volunteerism to sustainable
271 development, to act as a convener on the subject for the various interested stakeholders, to
272 make available networking and reference resources and to provide technical cooperation
273 to developing countries, at their request.