

**Statement on agenda item “global and regional development
on issues related to principle 10**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I am Ana Barreira with the Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Medio Ambiente (IIDMA) and European Eco-Forum.

We wish to welcome the resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme last week on the Implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (UNEP/EA.1/L.13) which was presented to the Committee of the Whole by Chile, Dominican Republic and Mexico. NGOs we delivered there a statement supporting the initiative and emphasized that Principle 10 embodies the three pillars of environmental democracy, and environmental democracy is inextricably linked to the environmental rule of law. Given this inherent and vital link the NGOs Major Group made a call to introduce an explicit reference to this link both in its preamble and in its operative part.

We were very satisfied to see that our proposal was accepted. Thus, paragraph 4 of this resolution encourages countries to continue their efforts to strengthen international dialogue and

cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building in support of the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, taking into account relevant advances, instruments, experiences and practices since its adoption and to work for the strengthening of environmental rule of law at the international, regional and national levels.

In addition, this resolution takes notes of the of the Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. As the representative of Chile mentioned in her key note speech, this declaration was adopted by various countries of the region in the margins of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and gave rise to a process aimed at strengthening dialogue and cooperation among the countries of the region to explore the feasibility of adopting a regional instrument on rights of access to information, participation and environmental justice. NGOs from Europe are following this process with a lot of interest and hope that the final instrument adopted is a legally binding instrument.

We would like to welcome the representatives of Latin American and the Caribbean NGOs who are accompanying us in this Meeting of the Parties and who came to experience *in situ*

the functioning of the Aarhus Convention and wish to offer them all our support in that process. We also welcome the representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the representatives of the government of Chile and Costa Rica. We consider that their presence here is without doubt a signal of the commitment of all actors in that region to achieve a successful outcome.

I thank you.