

To
Dear []:

[xxx Congregation] would like to express our sincere appreciation for your leadership of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and for its resultant focused political outcome document, *The Future We Want*.

Having actively participated in the Rio+20 process at both national and international levels, we are gratified that Member States recognize that Major Groups and civil society were vital to Rio+20 preparation and outcome. Moreover, we applaud the fact that *The Future We Want* recognizes that sustainable development requires full and active participation of engaged stakeholders.

Our members on the ground at the United Nations in New York inform us that during this 67th session of the General Assembly Member States will determine the architecture of the twelve inter-governmental processes mandated to implement Rio+20 outcomes. Of critical concern to us is how Major Groups and civil society will be formally engaged in these processes, most notably in the work of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We urge you to establish and formalize plans for including these stakeholders through provision for funding, capacity building, and guaranteed access.

Specifically, given the mandate of paragraph 248 of *The Future We Want*, “to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders,” we urge you to endorse the recommendations put forward by the Organizing Partners of the Major Groups that:

1. a multi-stakeholder advisory group on sustainable development goals (MAG) be established to work with the intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) on developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
2. the basic functions of the MAG should enable it to:
 - a. access all documents and drafts under negotiation by the OWG in a timely manner;
 - b. comment on any draft reports of the OWG, and receive an official response on the comments;
 - c. comment on the draft agenda of the next meeting of the OWG and suggest further agenda items;
 - d. have dedicated time periods during OWG meetings when MAG representatives can dialogue with the OWG on key issues.¹

Given this critical window of opportunity, we urge you to advocate for the needed participatory structures that guarantee meaningful and effective inclusion of Major Groups/stakeholders in these critical intergovernmental processes.

¹Setting Our Common Goals- Major Groups Recommendations for Multi-Stakeholder Engagement with the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The MAG Proposal is attached for your convenience.

[], we are deeply committed to just, sustainable and equitable development and the implementation of the Rio+ 20 outcomes. This commitment springs from the lived experience of tens of thousands of our members and co-workers serving in impoverished communities across the globe. For these vital communities, much is at stake. Your own commitment to include meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement in the Rio+20 outcomes process holds both critical consequences and significant hope for these people around the world.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing your response on this most urgent matter.

Be assured of our prayers.

Sincerely,