Statement of the United Nations Environment Programme/UNEP during the 4th Meeting of the Principle 10 negotiation committee, August 9-12, 2016, Santo Domingo

Thank you Mrs/Ms Chair for the opportunity for a quick intervention. UNEP has from the beginning closely followed the LAC process on developing a Principle 10 instrument and we would like to congratulate you for the progress achieved so far.

Allow me to mention that also the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, UNEA-2, took note of the process and agreed on a resolution (UNEP/EA.2/CRP.4) on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development that was proposed by Chile and Costa Rica.

This resolution signed by the universal membership of UNEA:

- Notes the progress made in the negotiating committee of the countries signatories to the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration in Latin America and the Caribbean [...]  
- Encourages countries to continue their efforts, at the national and regional levels, to strengthen international dialogue and cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building in support of the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, taking into account the progress achieved since its adoption and the existing instruments, experience and practices, and to work to strengthen the rule of law with regard to environmental matters at the international, regional and national levels;  
- Requests the Executive Director to further enhance the Process of Principle 10 Application in developing future policies in that regard.

In the context of this session, I would like to inform participants about some concrete activities that are aimed at assisting the application of Principle 10 at the national level:

- During the next day, at this meeting, UNEP will launch the Spanish Version of the Bali Guideline Implementation Guide “Putting Rio Principle 10 in Action”. This guide will help countries in their efforts to implement Principle 10 at the national level.  
- UNEP, UNDP, UNITAR, in close cooperation with ECLAC and the World Resources Institute have developed a project “Strengthening Capacities for Rights-based, Transparent and Accountable Environmental Governance”. This project is aimed at providing target support to interested countries, including in the LAC region in:
  - Identifying national priority actions for Principle 10 implementation and participatory governance  
  - Applying legislative reform and developing institutional capacity, including to meet requirements of MEAS, SDG 16 and linked environmental goals  
  - Empowering civil society to engage in Principle 10 discussions and implementation  
  - Enhancing the knowledge and skills of key change agents (Parliamentarians, line ministry, judiciary)  
  - Developing capacities and good access practices in specific environmental areas.
We encourage countries to communicate with us if they are interest to engage with us in this project, as many of you have already done. UNEP is currently negotiating with donors to receive funding for this activity and we are optimistic that it can commence in 2017.

Thank you very much.