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Memorandum of Understanding between the Members of the Environmental Pillar, Ireland

This Memorandum of Understanding or MOU is designed to establish a clear understanding of how the Environmental Pillar will practically function and the roles, rights and responsibilities of each Member Organisation of the Environmental Pillar. January 2015

The following Environmental Organisations agree to be bound by this Memorandum of Understanding. Agreement to be bound by this memorandum shall be a condition of entry into the Environmental Pillar.

An Taisce	Hedge Laying Association of Ireland
Bat Conservation Ireland	Irish Doctors' Environmental Association
BirdWatch Ireland	Irish Natural Forestry Foundation
CELT	Irish Peatland Conservation Council
Coastwatch	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Coomhola Salmon Trust	Irish Seed Savers Association
Crann	Irish Whale & Dolphin Group
ECO-UNESCO	Irish Wildlife Trust
FEASTA	Native Woodland trust
Forest Friends	Sonairte
Friends of the Earth	Sustainable Ireland
Global Action Plan Ireland	The Organic Centre
Gluaiseacht	VOICE
Good Energies Alliance Ireland	Zero Waste Alliance

1 Date of Commencement

This revised Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect from 28th April 2014



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2 Review of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Members of the Environmental Pillar

This Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to a review by the Member Organisations at least within a year of the pillar being established, and then tabled for review annually or as deemed necessary. The Pillar Plenary is empowered to agree revisions to the Memorandum Of Understanding and these revisions become binding upon Member Organisations with immediate effect, unless otherwise agreed.

3 Structure of the Pillar

The Environment Pillar will be made up of one Social Partner named "The Environmental Pillar". The Irish Environmental Network will arrange the funding for and provision of a Secretariat and other resources for the Environmental Pillar and will appoint a Coordinator for the Environmental Pillar. The Coordinator will facilitate the activities of the Environmental Pillar.

4 The Membership of the Environmental Pillar

4.1 Membership of the Environmental Pillar shall be restricted to those organisations that fulfil the requirements listed here in section 4 of this MOU and in Appendix I below, and that are signatories to this Memorandum Of Understanding.

Definitions

- 4.1.1 The organisations that have signed the Memorandum Of Understanding and thus make up the body of the Environmental Pillar will be known as the **Member Organisations**
- 4.1.2 Member Organisations are represented at Pillar meetings by **Member Representatives**. How Member Organisations select their Member Representatives is an internal matter for the Member Organisations

4.2 New Members of the Environmental Pillar

- 4.2.1 Applications to become a Member should be made on the official application form.
- 4.2.2 Applicants at a minimum must satisfy the criteria in Appendix I of this MOU in order to be accepted as a Member of the Pillar.



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- 4.2.3 Applications should be sent to the Coordinator, who will forward them to the Member Organisations of the Environmental Pillar requesting any relevant comments from them. Following this consultation, the Steering Committee will consider the application and the comments and make a recommendation to the Environmental Pillar Plenary as to the admissibility of any application and as to whether to accept or reject the application for membership. The final decision on admission of new applicants rests with the Plenary meeting of the Environmental Pillar.
 - 4.2.4 The Coordinator will communicate the decision of the Plenary meeting of the Environmental Pillar in writing to the candidate organisation within 16 weeks of receipt of the application. In circumstances where this is not possible within 16 weeks, the applicant will be notified and advised of a date when the decision will be made.
 - 4.2.5 A candidate organisation whose application has been rejected may then appeal in writing against the decision to the Coordinator. This appeal will then be considered at the Pillar Plenary meeting following on from the date of the appeal. In circumstances where this is not possible, the applicant will be notified and advised of the date when the appeal will be considered.
 - 4.2.6 The Pillar Plenary will consider the appeal of the candidate organisation and then the Member Representatives will vote on the acceptance of the application. A minimum of a 2/3 majority of those attending the Plenary will be required to overturn its previous decision regarding a membership application.
 - 4.2.7 The Coordinator will communicate the decision of the Pillar Plenary in writing to the candidate organisation within 2 working weeks of the of the appeal hearing.
 - 4.2.8 All members of the Environmental Pillar must sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Members of the Pillar.
 - 4.2.9 The Department of the Taoiseach will be notified of any proposed changes to the membership of the Pillar.
 - 4.2.10 No organisation can re-apply within two years.
- 4.3 Member Organisations must confirm annually that they remain eligible for and committed to membership of the Environmental Pillar by signing the most recently revised version of the Memorandum Of Understanding between the Member Organisations.



5 Governance of the Pillar

5.1 Meetings of the Pillar

5.1.1 Definitions

Each Member Organisation will select two people to represent them on the Pillar. One of these people will be deemed to be the main **Representative** and the other deemed to be the **Alternate**. They will collectively be known as **Member Representatives** but if clarification is required they will be individually known as the Main Member Representative and the Alternate Member Representative.

5.1.2 Member Representatives shall meet regularly to direct the activities of the Pillar and in order to prepare for and respond to: the Council meetings of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC); and the activities of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

5.1.3 All Member Representatives shall have the right to attend meetings of the Pillar. It is expected that all the Member Organisations will be represented by their Member Representatives at Pillar plenary meetings.

5.1.4 Where there are barriers to participation in Pillar meetings such as timing and location of meetings, then the Secretariat will make every effort to identify and remove those barriers. Where a Member Organisation is not represented at a Pillar plenary, because neither of the Member Representatives is able to attend in person, they should, wherever possible, be enabled to participate in meetings using audio or audio-visual tools.

5.1.5 A Plenary Meeting of the Pillar shall be deemed a valid meeting if 35% of the Member Organisations are represented and also only if 4 of those present are members of the Environmental Pillar Steering Committee.

5.1.6 The Environmental Pillar Steering Committee acts to promote the decisions of the Pillar Plenary and shall consist of 4 Main Elected Representatives and 4 Alternate Elected Representatives.

5.1.7 A Quorum for meetings of the Steering Committee is 3.

5.2 Chairing Pillar Meetings

5.2.1 Chairing of the Pillar will be a shared responsibility, with the chair being selected from Member Representatives



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5.2.2 Appointment of the Chairperson for the period until the end of the next meeting will be the first item on the agenda at each meeting. The newly appointed Chairperson will take up responsibilities at the end of the meeting at which the appointment is made and continue those responsibilities to the end of the next meeting.

5.3 Mechanisms to elect Representatives to the Environmental Pillar Steering Committee, and external bodies including the NESCC Council, the EESC and other external bodies.

5.3.1 Definitions

Nominees to positions on the Steering Committee and or to positions on external bodies will be selected by election to represent as a main representative or, as appropriate, to act as an alternate representative. They will be known as the: "The Elected Representative on the (name of body concerned)", or the "Alternate Elected Representative on the (name of body concerned)".

5.3.2 Nominees to the Steering Committee and external bodies will be selected by means of a single transferable vote, except where there are only 2 candidates where a first past the post system will apply. Elected Representatives are elected in priority order by the single transferable vote. If one of those elected as a Main Representative wishes only to be an Alternate they may drop down the list as appropriate.

5.3.3 There is no restriction to the number of nominations a Member Organisation can make to any elected position

5.3.4 Member Organisations can nominate the same person to multiple positions and Member Representatives are allowed to hold multiple elected positions

5.3.5 Member Organisations will be given at least one week within which to consider making a nomination.

5.3.6 Each candidate for any Elected Representative position shall make a full, written disclosure of interests, such as relationships, work done, and posts held, that could result in a conflict of interest. Each staff member shall make such a disclosure on appointment. This written disclosure shall be kept on file and shall be updated as appropriate.

5.3.7 When an Elected Representative updates their disclosure of interests due to a change in circumstances, the Steering Committee shall consider that updated disclosure. If they consider that the change in circumstances changes the likelihood or risk of conflicts of interest



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significantly from the previous circumstances, they shall call a new election for any position that person holds.

- 5.3.8 Each Member Organisation has one vote in each election.
- 5.3.9 The period allocated for voting must be at least one week.
- 5.3.10 The timing of elections to the external bodies will follow the cycle laid down by relevant body. The exception to this will be the election to select the members of the Steering Committee which will take place annually.
- 5.3.11 Elections to all external positions will be reviewed internally by the Pillar at least every 24 months
- 5.3.12 Where short notice is given within which a nomination has to be made to an external body, then a person may be put forward by the Steering Committee as an interim nominee, pending an election for an Elected Representative under the rules above.
- 5.3.13 In the case of elections for the NESC Council, the Plenary of the Environmental Pillar will decide prior to each election, whether or not to appoint the Environmental Pillar Coordinator as one of the Representatives. If appointed, the Environmental Pillar Coordinator shall be bound by the same MOU that all the Elected Representatives are required to sign before taking up their elected positions.
- 5.3.14 Elected Representatives shall be answerable to and guided by the Pillar Plenary.
- 5.3.15 Persons acting as Elected Representatives must advocate on behalf of the whole Pillar membership, when engaged with the bodies to which they have been nominated by the Pillar.
- 5.3.16 Elected Representatives are responsible for providing written reports of all meetings attended in this role. The secretariat will be responsible for the dissemination of the reports.

6 Working Procedures and Guidelines

6.1 Within the limits of available resources, Member Representatives will strive, as far as possible to:

- 6.1.1 Attend and participate in Pillar plenary meetings
- 6.1.2 Register apologies to the secretariat if unable to attend
- 6.1.3 Participate on work groups as needed



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- 6.1.4 When working within the Pillar try to work collaboratively in the interests of the Pillar as a whole.
- 6.1.5 Advocate on behalf of the whole Pillar in accordance with the MOU
- 6.1.6 Complete tasks undertaken by them within the time allotted
- 6.1.7 Respond to emails requesting feedback/input in the time span requested.

6.2 Guidelines re Decision-making

- 6.2.1 Mutual respect for individual Member Organisations' cultures and structures
- 6.2.2 Every Member Organisation agrees to balance individual/organisational rights with the merits of co-operation and compromise.
- 6.2.3 Member Organisations agree that individual rights exist in a context of coalition building – we benefit most when we engage collectively.
- 6.2.4 In order to foster open and creative discussion all internal communications within the Pillar are confidential, unless the Member Organisations agree otherwise.
- 6.2.5 A Member Organisation choosing to progress a controversial agenda item acknowledges that this decision may affect levels of solidarity.
- 6.2.6 The Pillar should operate as much as possible without voting – using consensus, with the understanding that a consensual approach does not necessarily imply unanimity.
- 6.2.7 If a Member Organisation considers that an agenda item is impacting on the capacity of the Pillar to conduct its business, this issue will be named.
- 6.2.8 Problem solving could consist of:
 - 6.2.8.1 Bilaterals
 - 6.2.8.2 Drop agenda item
 - 6.2.8.3 Pursue issue elsewhere
 - 6.2.8.4 Agree that it does not impact negatively
 - 6.2.8.5 Refocus
 - 6.2.8.6 Go ahead with a majority view
- 6.2.9 A Member Organisation is free to progress an issue outside the Pillar structure/process and is asked to bear that in mind in terms of enabling the overall effectiveness of the Pillar.



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6.2.10 If decisions are required between meetings:

6.2.10.1 The secretariat will contact the Member Representatives by email and outline a suggested way forward plus a time-span for responses from Member Organisations.

6.2.10.2 Each Member Representative is free to comment before the deadline and input to the decision-making process. A gradient of responses will be used to track respondents comments/views as follows:

To be adopted, a proposal needs at least 10 Member Organisations to vote in its favour (levels 1,2 or 3). This number must be greater than those voting 5,6, 7 or 8. The right to veto is expressed by returning a 9. Votes at the 4 level (abstain) don't count either way and groups that don't vote are counted as a 4.

	Gradient of Agreement	What it means
1	Endorsement	"I like it"
2	Endorsement with minor reservations	"Basically I like it"
3	Agreement with reservations	"I can live with it"
4	Abstain (includes no vote cast)	"I have no opinion or I don't mind. I'm ok with the rest of the group making this decision for the Pillar"
5	Unconvinced	"I don't have a strong opinion but I'm not voting to adopt the proposal"
6	Stand Aside	"I don't like this much, but I'm not formally disagreeing. If there's a majority for it then let's go ahead"
7	Formal Disagreement but willing to go with majority	"I want my disagreement noted in writing but I'll support a majority decision"
8	Formal Disagreement with request to be absolved of responsibility for implementation	"I want my disagreement noted in writing and I don't want to be involved in implementing it"
9	Block	"I veto this proposal"

6.2.10.3 A veto must be supported by an explanatory statement, and a Member Organisation should make every effort to achieve consensus where possible. To this end, a Member Organisation intending to use the Veto should contact the Coordinator at the earliest opportunity to see if a satisfactory compromise can be reached.



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- 6.2.10.4 If a Member Organisation chooses to use the veto it means that the decision is postponed until the next Pillar Plenary meeting.
- 6.2.10.5 In the case where a decision is absolutely necessary before the next Pillar Plenary meeting, the secretariat will gather the above responses and progress accordingly, using the agreed 'problem solving' techniques as outlined in 6.2.7 above.

6.3 Pillar Meetings

- 6.3.1 The Pillar work processes are advanced primarily through the mechanism of regular Pillar meetings. The two regularly occurring forms of meeting will be meetings of the full Pillar in Plenary and meetings of the Pillar Steering Committee
- 6.3.2 The meeting attendees agree an agenda at the start of each meeting and the Chair is empowered to work within the agreed time schedule and agenda.
- 6.3.3 The meeting attendees agree to abide by the process as determined by the Chairperson.
- 6.3.4 The currently elected Chairperson, in collaboration with the Secretariat, is responsible for gathering agenda items and circulating the proposed agenda with supporting documentation to the Member Representative at least 7 days in advance of the meeting date.
- 6.3.5 The minutes are taken by the secretariat and distributed, along with all relevant documents, to the Member Representatives, as soon as possible after the meeting
- 6.3.6 It is the responsibility of the Member Representatives to ensure that the minutes of Pillar meetings, along with all relevant documents, are distributed to the membership of the Member Organisation that they represent.
- 6.3.7 A meeting called in addition to the monthly meeting is called an Extraordinary Plenary. This is for exceptional circumstances only.
 - 6.3.7.1 To call an Extraordinary Plenary meeting a Member Organisation must get the support of two other Member Organisations, and inform the coordinator at the earliest opportunity of their intention.
 - 6.3.7.2 All Member Organisations shall be given notice of an Extraordinary Plenary meeting by text and by email.



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- 6.3.7.3 There is no minimum notice for such a meeting being called. However, all efforts must be made to maximise the period between calling the meeting and the meeting taking place.
- 6.3.7.4 Any Member Organisation calling for an Extraordinary Plenary must give full reasons why the meeting is being called, why the issue cannot wait for the ordinary Plenary, a precise agenda and a full explanation of what the intended outcome is.
- 6.3.7.5 The Member Organisation calling for an Extraordinary Plenary shall:
 - 6.3.7.5.1 At the earliest possible moment, send out an alerting text and an email giving full reasons why the meeting is being called, why the issue cannot wait for the bi-monthly plenary, a precise agenda and a full explanation of what the intended outcome is with specific reference as to the need for short notice
 - 6.3.7.5.2 Take feedback from other groups with regard to the need for and content and timing of the proposed Extraordinary Plenary meeting
 - 6.3.7.5.3 The decisions or other outcomes from the Extraordinary Plenary meeting are automatically reported and evaluated at the next ordinary Plenary

6.4 Social Partnership Steering Group and NESC Meetings

It shall be the responsibility of the Environmental Pillar Coordinator and the Secretariat to ensure that reports of, and notifications for, these meetings, together with associated documents, are distributed to the Member Representatives as expeditiously as possible.

6.5 Working Groups

The Pillar can form or designate working groups to work on specific issues. Membership of a working group is voluntary and all working groups are advisory in nature unless specifically stated otherwise. The Pillar Plenary is to agree at the outset what kind of authorisation is given to the working group and what kind of 'reporting back' mechanisms it wishes if any more than just updates at the next Pillar meeting.



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6.6 The Wider Environmental Community

The Environmental Pillar strives to consult with the wider environmental community.

6.7 Creating Programmes of Work, Pillar Policies or other Documents for Publication

- 6.7.1 The Pillar Plenary may initiate a particular policy development process which will continue as in 6.7.7 and 6.7.8 below
- 6.7.2 Alternatively at any time a Member Organisation that wishes to create a policy document must get the support of two other Member Organisations to trigger policy creation.
- 6.7.3 The proposal for the creation of a policy document must include an outline of the proposed policy together with the rationale for the proposal. These three Member organisations must therefore be in agreement about the need for the creation of the new policy.
- 6.7.4 The three Member Organisations must inform the membership of the policy creation process that has been initiated, including all the information listed in 6.7.3 above
- 6.7.5 Once the three Member Organisations are in agreement on the substance of the policy proposal, the secretariat will facilitate the process taking input from all interested member organisations until the document is deemed to be in a state ready for voting.
- 6.7.6 Alternatively a Working Group of the Pillar may develop an *action package* and ask the Pillar to ratify this *action package* by means of the process established under 6.7.7 and 6.7.8 below. This *action package* shall include a rationale, and a short briefing document which must at least include a statement of the policy being promoted, a list of objectives to be achieved and a description of the strategy to be used to achieve these objectives. Should the *action package* of work be ratified by the Pillar, then the Working Group concerned is authorised to carry out the *agreed action package* on behalf of the Pillar. The Pillar Plenary may at any time, in accordance with the standard voting methodology for Pillar decisions contained in 6.2 above, remove this authorisation. The right to veto contained in 6.2.10.2 does not apply to a Plenary decision rescinding the authorisation for an *agreed action package*.



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- 6.7.7 This process will be a two stage process in which comments are sought on the initial proposal, a first draft revised policy is drawn up by arrangement between the proposer and the coordinator, and this is circulated to the Member Organisations for final comment before the final draft is voted upon. Where necessary further drafts may be circulated for comment prior to voting
- 6.7.8 The Voting Process will follow as described in 6.2.10.2 above.
- 6.7.9 All documents or press releases published by the Environmental Pillar must carry the caveat: *This (submission/policy document/press release etc) was developed using the Environmental Pillar processes but is not necessarily the policy of each member group in the pillar.*

6.8 Reviewing Pillar Policy

Policy documents can be reviewed at any time but will be systematically reviewed on a 2 year basis. The processes are as follows:

- 6.8.1 In the case of a biennial systematic review, and at the appropriate time, the Secretariat will bring the opportunity for a review to the attention of the Member Representatives
- 6.8.2 At any time a Member Organisation that wishes to change a policy document must get the support of two other Member Organisations to trigger a review.
- 6.8.3 The request for review must clearly state the sections of the policy document that are to be reviewed and include the changes that are proposed together with the rationale for these changes. These three Member Organisations must therefore be in agreement about the changes that they wish to see.
- 6.8.4 The three Member Organisations must inform the membership of the Pillar of the review that has been initiated, including all the information listed in 6.8.3 above
- 6.8.5 Once the three Member Organisations are in agreement on the substance of the request for review, the secretariat will facilitate a review process taking input from all interested Member Organisations until the revised document is deemed to be in a state ready for voting.
- 6.8.6 This process will be a two stage process in which comments are sought on the initial proposal, a draft revised policy is drawn up by the coordinator, and this is circulated to the Member Organisations for final comment before the final draft is voted upon. Where necessary further drafts may be circulated for comment prior to voting



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- 6.8.7 The Voting Process will follow as described in 6.2.10.2 above
- 6.8.8 Until such time that the review process is complete, the existing policy remains in place.

6.9 Conflict Resolution

Where there is a matter that cannot be resolved within the context of the ordinary meetings of the Environmental Pillar the following procedures will be followed and every effort should be made to resolve the issue as soon as possible:

- 6.9.1 The relevant person(s) and the Pillar Chairperson will meet to try and resolve it
- 6.9.2 If this is not successful the relevant person(s) and the Chairperson will meet with the chief executive or other appropriate person of the Representative(s) Member Organisation
- 6.9.3 If this does not resolve it the relevant person(s), the Pillar Chairperson and the appropriate person(s) from the Member Organisation(s) will meet with an agreed independent mediator from the register of either Mediation Forum Ireland or the Mediation Institute of Ireland.
- 6.9.4 If this does not resolve it the matter will be referred to the Pillar Plenary, with the mediator in attendance. If either or both parties require it, an external facilitator will be provided. An agreement is to be reached and if necessary a vote called with the requirement for a 2/3 or greater majority.

7.0 Expulsion of members

7.1 A Member Organisation may be expelled from the Environmental Pillar if the Environmental Pillar by resolution of two thirds of its Member Organisations determines that the member should be expelled on the ground that -

- 7.1.1 the Member Organisation has failed to discharge the member's obligations to the Environmental Pillar
- 7.1.2 the Member Organisation has acted in a manner that has -
 - 7.1.2.1 prevented or hindered the Environmental Pillar in carrying out any of its primary activities or promoting its agreed policies; or
 - 7.1.2.2 brought the Environmental Pillar into disrepute; or
 - 7.1.2.3 the Member Organisation has acted in a manner contrary to the interests of the Environmental Pillar



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and in so acting caused, or has the potential to cause, the Environmental Pillar harm.

- 7.2 A proposal to expel a Member Organisation must be supported by three Member Organisations.
- 7.3 The proposal together with the reasoned arguments must be sent to the Coordinator.
- 7.4 The Coordinator will then notify the Member Organisation that is subject of the proposed resolution, and arrange for the resolution to be discussed at a Plenary.
- 7.5 The said Member Organisation must be given at least 28 days written notice of the proposed resolution and of the date, time and place of the Plenary meeting at which the resolution will be discussed
- 7.6 The procedure at the Plenary to consider the proposed resolution is as follows -
 - 7.6.1 the Member Organisation must be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard at the meeting;
 - 7.6.2 if the Member Organisation fails, without reasonable excuse, to attend at the time and place of which notice has been given, the Plenary Meeting may consider the matter in the absence of the member;
- 7.7 The Plenary Meeting will be followed by a 5 working day period of reflection
- 7.8 A secret ballot by email will then ensue over the next 5 days

8. Conflicts of Interest

- 8.0 The purpose of this section is to protect the integrity of the Environmental Pillar, to enable others to have confidence in our integrity, and to protect the integrity and reputation of volunteers, staff and Environmental Pillar Representatives. It is meant to supplement good judgment, and all involved in the Pillar should respect its spirit as well as its wording.
- 8.1 All those involved in the Environmental Pillar, including Elected Representatives, Convenors of Working Groups, and staff, shall strive to avoid any conflict between the interests of the Environmental Pillar on the one hand, and, for example, personal, professional, political and business interests on the other.
- 8.2. Each Member Representative must declare prior to its discussion any conflict of interest on a matter to be decided on at an Environmental

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Pillar meeting. Unless those present at the meeting decide otherwise, they must leave when the matter is being discussed. The person concerned should be told what decision was reached. Conflicts of interest must be recorded in the minutes.

- 8.3. Those involved in the Environmental Pillar must use their position in the Pillar, and any information they come by due to their involvement, to advance the purposes of the Pillar and the Pillar itself and not for incompatible or competing purposes.

9. Agreement to the Memorandum of Understanding

As authorised by the environmental non-governmental organisation we represent, and whose name and address is inscribed below, we agree to act according to this Memorandum of Understanding between the Members of the Environmental Pillar as revised in January 2015.

Signed:.....

Signed:.....

Organisation:.....

Date:.....



Appendix I Criteria for Membership of the Environmental Pillar

Eligibility criteria for an organisation seeking Membership of the Environmental Pillar

1. The primary objectives and activities of the candidate organisation must be environmental (i.e. ecological) protection and / or environmental sustainability.
2. On becoming a member of the Environmental Pillar, candidate organisations, in their dealings with government and development and other agencies, agree to espouse the principles of Sustainable Development agreed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), 1992 (the Rio Earth Summit) as listed in Appendix II below. These principles require the balancing of the three Pillars of Sustainable Development, Social, Environmental and Economic.
3. The candidate organisation must be a not for profit organisation.
4. The candidate organisation must have a demonstrable national remit. Qualifying characteristics include: national influence; specialist activity covering the country; convincing geographic spread of active membership; outreach activity.
5. The candidate organisation must be a registered company, or have charitable status, or be a registered friendly society with a registered constitution. The organisation must have been incorporated, registered or have enjoyed charitable status for a period of at least 12 months prior to an application for membership.
6. The candidate organisation must be an independent and legally discrete body, not a subgroup or activity of another organisation, nor an organisation managing a project with a limited life span.
7. The board of the candidate organisation should not share more than fifty per cent of its directors with another organisation.
8. The candidate organisation must have audited accounts (from at least one of the previous two years) and / or be able to present a certifiable balance sheet for the previous year. The organisation must also be able to produce a current tax clearance certificate or official exemption.
9. The candidate organisation must be able to demonstrate a substantial level of activity in promoting its aims and objectives over a period of at least 18 months prior to application for membership.
10. The candidate organisation must demonstrate what unique contribution it can bring to the Environmental Pillar.



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11. No candidate organisation whose executive board contains a representative or representatives appointed by any government department or local authority shall be admitted to membership. However, this does not exclude individuals from sitting on the board in a personal capacity.

Appendix II Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Having met at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992,

Reaffirming the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972, and seeking to build upon it,

With the goal of establishing a new and equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among States, key sectors of societies and people,

Working towards international agreements which respect the interests of all and protect the integrity of the global environmental and developmental system,

Recognizing the integral and interdependent nature of the Earth, our home,

Proclaims that:

Principle 1

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

Principle 2

States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

Principle 3

The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.



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Principle 4

In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.

Principle 5

All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.

Principle 6

The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority. International actions in the field of environment and development should also address the interests and needs of all countries.

Principle 7

States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit to sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.

Principle 8

To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies.

Principle 9

States should cooperate to strengthen endogenous capacity-building for sustainable development by improving scientific understanding through exchanges of scientific and technological knowledge, and by enhancing the development, adaptation, diffusion and transfer of technologies, including new and innovative technologies.



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Principle 10

Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

Principle 11

States shall enact effective environmental legislation. Environmental standards, management objectives and priorities should reflect the environmental and development context to which they apply. Standards applied by some countries may be inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries, in particular developing countries.

Principle 12

States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better address the problems of environmental degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Unilateral actions to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided. Environmental measures addressing transboundary or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus.

Principle 13

States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage. States shall also cooperate in an expeditious and more determined manner to develop further international law regarding liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental damage caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction.

Principle 14

States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe



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environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.

Principle 15

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Principle 16

National authorities should endeavour to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.

Principle 17

Environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority.

Principle 18

States shall immediately notify other States of any natural disasters or other emergencies that are likely to produce sudden harmful effects on the environment of those States. Every effort shall be made by the international community to help States so afflicted.

Principle 19

States shall provide prior and timely notification and relevant information to potentially affected States on activities that may have a significant adverse transboundary environmental effect and shall consult with those States at an early stage and in good faith.

Principle 20

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.

Principle 21

The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to



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forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all.

Principle 22

Indigenous people and their communities and other local communities have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development.

Principle 23

The environment and natural resources of people under oppression, domination and occupation shall be protected.

Principle 24

Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development. States shall therefore respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict and cooperate in its further development, as necessary.

Principle 25

Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

Principle 26

States shall resolve all their environmental disputes peacefully and by appropriate means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Principle 27

States and people shall cooperate in good faith and in a spirit of partnership in the fulfilment of the principles embodied in this Declaration and in the further development of international law in the field of sustainable development.