



## **The GLOBE Rio+20 Legislators' Protocol FINAL**

*Rio de Janeiro, 17 June 2012*

*In pursuit* of the objectives of the 1992 Rio “Earth Summit”, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, and bearing in mind the objectives of the Rio+20 Summit as defined by the United Nations, namely:

- The renewal of the political commitment of countries to sustainable development
- The assessment of progress in this area, and
- The identification of bottlenecks and challenges in the implementation of the actions set out in previous conferences,

*Reinforcing* our commitment to the principles contained in the 1992 Rio declaration on the environment and development, including common but differentiated responsibility,

*Recognising* the continuing need for capacity building, technological and financial assistance to developing countries,

*Acknowledging* that, although some progress has been made since 1992, delivery of said objectives has so far been mixed,

*Regretting* the lack of proper recognition for the distinctive role of legislators in the pursuit and implementation of sustainable development in each of these conferences,

*Highlighting* that implementation of the original Rio objectives has been hampered by the absence of three key elements:

- Effective transposition of the Rio objectives into national legislation,
- An effective accountability structure to monitor governments’ implementation of the Rio agenda
- Full and effective engagement of finance and economic ministries, providing a basis for long-term sustainable development,

*Recognising* the role of legislators in:

- Developing, passing and overseeing the implementation of national legislation,
- Scrutinising the performance, and raising the level of ambition, of governments,
- Approving budgets and national accounts,
- Advancing the natural capital approach within their respective countries,
- Fostering debate and promoting education on sustainable development with social justice and respecting cultural diversity as outlined in the UN Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and
- Promoting parliamentary diplomacy on sustainable development issues,



*Recognising* the good practice that exists in our countries, including at the sub-national and city levels, and the value and importance of highlighting and spreading that good practice,

Legislators from 85 countries convened at the first “World Summit of Legislators” in Rio de Janeiro from 15-17 June 2012, and

*Commit to*

- Renew the political commitment of countries to sustainable development, taking into consideration the three main dimensions: economic growth, environmental protection and social justice
- The principle of non-regression in environmental law
- Strengthen governance for sustainable development at the international, regional and local levels
- Strengthen the legislative response in our respective parliaments to deliver the Rio objectives
- Increase our engagement on public policy on sustainable development and an inclusive green economy respecting national sovereignty
- Promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into policy making
- Push for and support poverty eradication public policies
- In the context of sustainable development to consider and, as nationally appropriate,
  - Push for the inclusion of natural capital in our respective countries’ national accounts
  - Advance legislation that integrates the Natural Capital approach into policy analysis and decision-making
- Develop a national legislators’ plan more effectively to scrutinise our governments on their Rio commitments and how they engage with the international processes and UN agencies on sustainable development, including initiating debates in our legislatures, at least annually, to assess progress towards delivering the Rio objectives; and to
- Convene every two years in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at the World Summit of Legislators to:
  - Highlight and share best legislative practice,
  - Report on national progress under each of the objectives of the World Summit of Legislators: advancing legislation and strengthening scrutiny, and
  - Debate new international strategies for sustainable development, whilst

*Urging* governments to ratify the Nagoya Protocol, and

*Calling* on governments to support the initiation of the World Summit of Legislators process, to recognise this process in the formal outcome document from Rio+20 and to support legislators in their efforts to advance legislation and strengthen scrutiny of governments’ delivery of the Rio commitments.