***General Statement by the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development in Tongyeong (RCE Tongyeong) and the global group of RCEs participating in the Policymakers Roundtable Discussion on Engaging RCEs and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) at the 7th Global RCE Conference in Tongyeong:***

There are four distinct models of engagement with policymakers that can help RCEs worldwide shape education for sustainable development practices in their local communities and regions.

Examples of each model can be seen throughout the RCE global network.

In Japan, for example, the Ministry of the Environment has long been a supporter of ESD, creating a concrete plan to promote ESD domestically and internationally through the United Nations and its agencies, like UN University. RCEs work closely with government to help it achieve its goals, implementing model projects, creating good practices and providing a link to global ESD networks.

In Kenya, the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) champions local RCEs, going so far as to include RCEs in their national ESD strategy. NEMA focuses on national coordination, capacity-building and funding, while RCEs work on implementation of ESD projects and turning national strategy into concrete actions in local communities.

In Tongyeong, the city government leads the movement while the local RCE uses its network’s expertise to help define specific projects and actions. Members of the city council participate in RCE Tongyeong decision-making and RCE Tongyeong partners therefore have a strong role in informing and influencing the decisions of those policymakers.

In the San Francisco community of Cebu in the Philippines, governance is community-driven and families and individuals play a strong role in sustainable development decisions. This grassroots, multi-stakeholder approach mimics the approach of RCEs and, in this community, the RCE itself has become one of the instruments of local governance.

These four models of engagement – internationally, nationally, within a municipality, and through the RCE as a form of local governance itself – can be replicated globally to help RCEs shape policies towards ESD for the maximum possible value.