

# Engaging with Civil Society and the Private Sector

Orientation Session for New Members of the  
Committee of Permanent Representatives

Thursday 3 October 2019, 10.00 - 16.00



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# Part 1: Civil Society Engagement

# Why civil society engagement?

- Rule 70 of Rules of Procedure
- UN practice as also outlined in “The Future We Want” and Governing Council Decision 27/2
- Stakeholder expertise enriches the inter-governmental decision-making process without questioning the intergovernmental nature of UN Environment
- Adds transparency and legitimacy
- Gives an opportunity for those who might be effected by decisions to raise their concerns

# How?

- Nine Major Groups *and Stakeholders*
- Formal accreditation as condition for participation
- Participation in UN Environment Assembly and Committee of Permanent Representatives as observer with opportunity to provide oral and written statements
- Access to CPR portal including un-edited working documents and submission of written input
- Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum prior to the UN Environment Assembly
- Regional Consultations Meetings
- Major Groups Facilitating Committee

# Three levels of engagement



## Agenda-setting

- Policy shaping
- Global political agenda setting
- UNEA agenda setting



## Decision-making/shaping

- Policy deliberations leading to decision-making
- Transparency and access-to-information



## Implementation

- Strategic partnerships for implementation of UNEP's policies
- Strategic partnerships for achieving sustainable development

Expert input and advice

# Civil Society at meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

- Accredited organisations may participate in all *public* meetings, including sub-committees
- Reserved seats for the nine Major Groups
- Online participation per gotomeeting
- Opportunity for written and oral comments, discretion of the chair
- Accredited organisations receive relevant documentation and have access to website

# Civil Society Unit in the Governance Affairs Office

- Facilitates Engagement of Civil Society
- Administers Accreditation
- Civil Society Website
- Organisation of meetings, consultations, capacity building
- Guardian of the Stakeholder Engagement Handbook
- Assists Major Groups Facilitation Committee
- Organises Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum and Regional Meetings

# Resources

- Rules of Procedure: <https://goo.gl/TLSt1K>
- Stakeholder Engagement Handbook: <https://goo.gl/kpX76A>
- “Perspectives” from Civil Society: <https://goo.gl/bElQQ1>
- Civil Society Website: <http://web.unep.org/about/majorgroups/>
- Accreditation: <https://goo.gl/uNHd0Y>
- List of Accredited Organisations: <https://goo.gl/ByQWR4>



# Part 2: Private Sector Engagement

# Private Sector Engagement Today

- Different divisions and regional offices of UNEP worked with private sector representatives and associations for many years to implement projects and activities contributing to the Programme of Work.
- Cooperation with the private sector cuts across the seven sub-programmes
- Cooperation with private sector of all sectors of industry
- A five-year Strategy for Private Sector Engagement was developed and endorsed by the Senior Management Team on 18 September 2019.
- UNEP's approach towards partnerships with the private sector is in line with the UN's common approach

# The UN Global Compact Principles

Partners with the UN Environment Programme should adhere to the 10 Principles of the UN Global Compact:

## Human Rights



Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and



make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.



Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;



the effective abolition of child labour; and



the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;



the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

## Labour

## Environment



Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;



encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally-friendly technologies.



Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility and

## Anti-Corruption



Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

# Private Sector Unit

The Private Sector Unit in the Governance Affairs Office coordinates UN Environment Programme's engagement with business by:

- Supporting the establishment of strategic partnerships with the private sector
- Coordinating the UN Environment Programme's private sector engagement in key UN system platforms and initiatives
- Positioning the UN Environment Programme as a convenor of senior policy-makers and leaders of private sector to find sustainable solutions to our environmental challenges.

Thank you very much !



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