

Stakeholder Engagement in UNEP

Regional Consultative Meeting Europe
4-5 November, 2013
Istanbul, Turkey

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Part 1 Current Practices in UNEP



UNEP's Rule 69

1. **International** non-governmental organizations having an interest in the field of the **environments**, referred to in section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), **may** designate representatives to sit as **observers** at **public** meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any. **The Governing Council shall from time to time adopt and revise when necessary a list of such organizations. Upon the invitation of the President or Chairman, as the case may be, and subject to the approval of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned, international non-governmental organizations may make oral statements on matters within the scope of their activities.**



UNEP's Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

- Nine Major Groups *and Stakeholders*
- Accreditation for *international* Major Groups organizations
- Participation in GC only as observer with opportunity to provide oral statements
- Access to un-edited working documents of the GC and submission of written input
- Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum
- Regional Consultations Meetings
- Major Groups Facilitating Committee



Implementation of Paragraph 88 h

Decides that the governing body will ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and will explore new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, *inter alia* by:

- Developing by 2014 a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation that builds on the existing rules of procedure and takes into account inclusive modalities of the Commission of Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations bodies;
- Establishing by 2014 mechanisms and rules for stakeholders expert input and advice;
- Enhancing by 2014 working methods and processes for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision making process;



Stakeholders Expectations

- New Mechanisms to go beyond current UNEP rules and procedures and practices, no regression
- UNEP to set new standards in the United Nations
- Application of the 11 Principles in the spirit of Principle 10
- Strengthening participation at the regional level
- **Meaningful** participation in Agenda Setting, Decision Making and Implementation
- Use of new communication and information technologies
- Full Transparency



Part 4

Emerging Elements of New Mechanisms



Principles of Engagement

1. Right to full and effective participation in all activities including planning, agenda setting, decision and policy-making, implementation, and evaluation
2. Timely and easy access to all information and documents, including negotiating documents and proactively disseminate information
3. Full participation: access to all UNEP meetings, processes and bodies (including through the final stages of decision-making) at all levels; speaking rights in all meetings, as a rule; the right to submit documents
4. Right of self-organization, including selection of their respective representatives



Levels of Engagement



Meaningful Participation in the UNEA

- Participation in Agenda Setting *and* Decision Making
- Access to all meetings of the UNEA and its subsidiary bodies, including the opportunity to intervene and to provide written inputs
- Timely access to draft decisions
- Transparency on how MGS input was addressed in decisions
- Use of all UN languages
- Major Groups and Stakeholder Fora before open ended CPR and UNEA, to allow MGS to coordinate positions and to prepare input



Engagement with the CPR

1. Access to all meetings of the CPR, including in thematic debates for expert input and advice, informal consultations with the CPR, to achieve MGS engagement in agenda setting *and* decision shaping;
2. Timely access to written documents, including drafts;
3. Opportunity to intervene in debates and negotiations, submit written contributions/comments/recommendations



Expertise Input and Advice

Scientific input

- The International Resource Panel
- The Foresight Process
- The GEO process

Expert input opportunities:

- Environment and Social Safeguards
- Embedding Environmental Sustainability into SDGs/Post-2015



Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Approach

- Effective, broad and balanced participation by region and by type of organization, through accreditation
- Expansion of the stakeholders from the nine Major Groups identified in Agenda 21 to other stakeholders, including those who are potentially affected by decisions/policies
- Creation of thematic groupings of relevant Major Groups to provide input



Enhanced Participation through Use of ICT

- Use of modern information and communication technology to facilitate and broaden participation
 - webcasting of CPR and UNEA meetings
 - virtual participation
 - access to information platforms



Part 5 Expert Views



Experts Group Report

- Expert Group was put in place to prepare for the ED “Report of Experts on New Mechanisms for Stakeholder Engagement at UNEP”
- Members: Jochen von Bernstorff, Lalanath deSilva, Sandor Fulop, Joyeeta Gupta, Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Nora McKeon, and Marcos Orellana, with Stephen Stec as Rapporteur.
- Final report received October 25



Some Views of Experts

- Committee on World Food Security as a good practice
- UNEP is not bound by the current nine Major Groups approach
- A new Environmental Civil Society Mechanism (ECSM) with increased powers of self-organization and with regional representation
- More involvement of social movements and citizens organisation (affected groups)
- Accreditation for national NGOs, government registration not required



Some Views of Experts II

- The ECSM would include representatives of some of the existing Major Groups system, but would not include business and industry, local governments, and science and technology, which would instead be included in a new and separate Advisory Body
- In UNEA, CPR, etc. the number of seats allocated to the ECSM to fill could vary depending on the function, within the three main areas of decision-making, agenda setting, and implementation. The Group considered a good model would be to allocate seats at a ratio of 1-5-1 (business – ECSM – local governments).



Part 6 Process and Way Forward



Chronological Overview

- 12 November 2013: Subcommittee meeting (stakeholder engagement)
- 3 December 2013: Thematic debate on the role of the UNEA in the UN system
- 5 December 2013: Subcommittee meeting on the amendments of the RoP
- 14 January 2014: Subcommittee meeting (RoP and stakeholder engagement)
- 24-28 March 2014: Open-ended biennial CPR
- 23-27 June 2014: UNEA



Proposed Questions for Discussion

- What do you expect from the UNEA?
- What would be the priority topics you would like to address at the UNEA?
- What are the limitations of UNEP's current system for stakeholder engagement, and what are proposed solutions?
- What form of stakeholder participation in the CPR can be applied?
- In line with "The Future We Want", should the current Nine (9) Major Groups approach applied by UNEP be revisited to include additional stakeholders?
- Shall the new mechanism be designed in line with the standards set by the High Level Political Forum (HLPF)?



Thank you

<http://www.unep.org/civil-society/>

