

On March 21st at the Meeting of Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS), held back to back with the meeting of the Bureaus of the United Nations Environment Assembly, and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the following outcomes were decided:

On the UNEA-3 follow-up:

- There were many important resolutions at UNEA-3, but it is unclear how their implementation will be monitored. There is a pressing need for a monitoring framework to measure progress on the member state level. This framework should be inclusive and enable inputs by MGS, and yet be integrated into the 2030 Agenda Framework, to avoid overlap and extra structures.
- UNEA-3 demonstrated that there is a need to increase the opportunities for MGS to have meaningful input during the negotiations on the resolutions.
- The role of UN Environment's Regional and Country Offices should be strengthened to help facilitate the implementation of resolutions and encourage stakeholder involvement.
- If UNEA is to fulfil its function, its resolutions should focus on changing the policies of member states, whether this is to accelerate the transformation to a pollution free society, or to address other critical environmental problems. UNEA is an assembly, and governments should demonstrate political will by developing policies and regulations.
- The CPR online platform was very helpful for the dissemination and exchange of information.
- To encourage policy coherence and the implementation of resolutions, we would urge Member States (MS) to consider a multi-year theme approach, which includes long-term planning. The outcomes of UNEA-3 should be fully integrated into the outcomes of the HLPF.
- There is a need to increase the ownership of UNEA's outcomes beyond Nairobi, linking its themes with existing regional and national processes, and increasing the relevance of UNEA's decisions for national environment policies.
- We would welcome the development of an online platform to promote the follow-up of voluntary commitments, and which communicates positive case studies and establishes a database of best-practices. These could be promoted in partnership with UN Environment and civil society.

On the theme of UNEA 4:

- There was consensus within our group that SCP was the most promising topic, since it would link most effectively with the outcome of UNEA-3. However it was felt that emerging issues such as food security and energy need to be included in this theme.
- When discussing "innovation", UNEA should not solely focus on technological solutions, but also on social innovation, and therefore we see also a role for social scientists to be involved. Local and indigenous communities' knowledge and wisdom in innovative solutions to environmental problems should also be recognised.

- Furthermore, it should be acknowledged that innovation is not only provided by the business sector, but also by civil society groups and local communities.
- Some members of the group did not feel comfortable with the theme of innovation, sharing a number of serious concerns with the topic.

On Stakeholder Engagement in the 2019 Assembly preparatory process

- UN Environment MGS are cognizant of the continued support provided by Member States and UN Environment for stakeholder engagement in the process. Therefore, we thank Member States for providing the spaces and in exercising flexibility.
- We call upon Member States to provide the resources necessary for the effective participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders, both in the process leading up to UNEA and during the meeting, especially for representatives from developing countries.
- We urge Member States to continue their deliberations on the Stakeholder Engagement Policy, following on the developments at UNEA-2.
- Good practices and lessons learnt from the stakeholder engagement at UNEA should also be shared in the models at the regional level, and vice versa.
- We encourage UN Environment to also explore good practices in stakeholder engagement in other UN agencies.

On the expectations for achieving a more meaningful stakeholder engagement at the 2019 UN Environment Assembly

Participants stressed the need for greater opportunities to engage with UNEA in a meaningful way - without relegation to final speaking slots where time permitted and chairs agreed, but to be engaged as important policy and implementation partners. This should include:

- The opportunity for Major Groups to speak in their own right, as well as under the Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) umbrella.
- Care taken with room allocations, ensuring space for MGs to meet amongst themselves, and to participate fully in meetings such as resolution drafting committees.
- Meaningful engagement not reduced only to technical and expert opinion and analysis, but also recognizing grass-roots perspectives and experience.
- The opportunity to be consulted on meeting structures, processes and agendas, so good models of participation can be built into preparatory stages.
- We particularly recommend that the GMGSF be held between the OECPR and UNEA (to reflect on OECPR deliberations). We would also consider the Business Policy Science Forum to be held in a different place and time, to not distract attention to the negotiations.