CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE WAY FORWARD ON POLLUTION AND ACTION POINTS TO ACHIEVE A MORE MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN THE 2019 ASSEMBLY

Introduction

We thank UN Environment for immediate steps taken since after the UNEA3 in charting the course for the follow of the outcome of UNEA. It reflects the commitment to ensuring and achieving a pollution free planet and has built confidence of the populace especially of Major Groups to the integrity and adds to the strength of the voluntary commitments made at UNEA3.

WAY FORWARD ON FOLLOWING UP UNEA 3 OUTCOMES

Having considered the presentation on Developing the 'UNEA3 Pollution Implementation Plan' Proposed process and way forward, We are obliged to commend the articulate analysis of the outcome of UNEA and the 'Proposal for the process of developing the UNEA3 Pollution Implémentation Plan'. However, we seek to make the following key points to proposals under consideration.

Key points:

- To achieve the objective of accelerate implementation of assembly's ministerial declaration and resolutions addressing pollution, it is not just enough to plan to sustain and increase global awareness of pollution but content of awareness should include awareness of the commitments, decisions and resolutions on pollution including their interlinkages to previous UNEA resolutions and decisions.

- It is commendable that the development of the plan of implementation creates room for engaging and consulting with stakeholders and private sector. However, benefits of consultation can only be achieved where all possible interest are represented which largely dependents on allocating sufficient funds for engagement. While the invite and support to Major Group to participate in the meetings is appreciated, the more participants, the likelihood of a position that legitimizes the process. Funding for participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders should be increased. Increasing and

developing better criteria for allocating such funds will enable more people participate and better effectiveness of modalities for joining meetings online.

- Commitments on enforcement and compliance and strengthening of legal and regulatory framework as key to the successful implementation of the Outcome of UNEA-3 and to tackling of pollution was mentioned severally at the UNEA, the science policy forum and several side event. The inclusion of standards and regulations under Implementing change does not suffice, the "UNEA3 Pollution Implementation Plan: main proposed action areas" should have a separate section on 'Enhancing Standards, Regulations and Legal Frameworks' as we have 'Advocacy and Awareness-Raising' in a separate section.

PROPOSALS ON HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE ENGAGEMENT OF MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS

COMMENDABLES

- It is commendable that the United Nations Environment Programme has made significant efforts to reflect the spirit of the Rio +20 outcome document and those elements of the draft stakeholder engagement policy that Member States agreed upon during the discussions on a new Stakeholder Engagement Policy, in its day to day relationships with Major Groups.
- The Committee of Permanent Representatives and the United Nations Environment Assembly Bureaus agreed to a proposal (see annex 3) prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in 2016 to further enhance the engagement of Major Groups.

DEALING WITH THE UNDER-UTILIZATION OF OPPORTUNITIES AS IDENTIFIED BY UNEP

UNEP has pointed out that many of the opportunities for engagement seem to be under-utilized by Major Groups and Stakeholders. Examples given are:

• While meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives are open for the participation and for interventions from accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders, this opportunity is only occasionally taken up by Major Groups.

• While the United Nations Environment Programme distributes all relevant documents to Major Groups, only limited inputs are received, usually shortly before Assembly meetings.

• Input from Major Groups often focuses on process, on participatory rights but not often enough it presents environmental expertise that may enlighten and enhance the decision-making process. Many statements remain general and declarative in nature.

While the points set out above are rightly noticed, there is need to identify some of the root and underlying factors responsible in other to proffer solutions.

Some of the underlying factors pushing underutilization of space for engagement are:

1. Information circulation is often very late or too close to Meeting date for MG to adequately organize their position.
2. Meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives are often not funded to make physical participation. For instance, the only CPR meeting we participated in physically prior to UNEA-3 was possible because we were funded to be in Nairobi for another meeting. Same way most organizations experience funding constraint.
3. Where Committee of Permanent Representatives meetings have been accessible online, MG and Stakeholders are often not been given the space to speak or meeting invitations have been silent on whether MG and Stakeholders can speak.
4. Joining online meeting require technology including internet access which is dependent on funds. Sometimes have the right technology and funds is not a guarantee that network interceptions will not interfere with participation.
5. Mostly, participation in meetings physically do not consider organisations that have responded to particular resolutions or items on the agenda, the determinant is majorly the MGFC whose selection may not be as objective in the sense that UNEP will respect there choice.

ACTION POINTS/PROPOSALS TO ACHIEVE A MORE MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS

1. Fund more participants to physically participate at Meetings of the Committee of Permanent.
2. Relate more closely with MG and Stakeholders and Put in place a General List for Accredited MG Coordination where UNEP CSO representatives is on the list and is sure that every mail is immediately circulated.
3. Where funding is unavailable release an open call on the general list serve where all accredited major groups can be reached.
4. Where representatives of accredited organizations are not active. Follow up through MG and regional representatives and organizations in their region to ascertain whether they need to update their emails in your record.
5. Where Committee of Permanent Representatives meetings is accessible online, let MG and Stakeholders know they will have the space to speak.

6. Ensure that participation in meetings physically considers organizations that have responded to particular resolutions or items on the agenda and not just on selection of MGFC.
7. Apart from the resolution platform have available a platform where continuous communication can be sustained.
8. Encourage MG Facilitation Committee to use selection committees in filling their slots and that committees have a clear and relevant TOR.

RECOMMNDATIONS FLOWING FROM SURVEY OF UNEA-3

- Increase time allotted for Regional Consultative Meetings
- Allow the Science Policy Forum precede the event for Major Groups and other stakeholders so that most organizations self-funding who have to skip days of participation have the opportunity to attend the Major Group event and UNEA.
- Apart from the resolution platform have available a platform where continuous communication can be sustained.
- No side event should run parallel to Multi-Stakeholder-Dialogue