Major Groups and Stakeholders Self-Organization for UNEA

The 2019 UN Environment Assembly - Briefing for Kenya based Major Groups and Stakeholders, 21st February 2019

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Outline

- Background

- Major Groups Facilitating Committee

- Major Groups Stakeholders Forum (MGSF)

- Engagement in UNEA and its subsidiary bodies

- MGSF self organizing for UNEA-4 - Events and Opportunity for engagement)

HANDBOOK FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Background

- The UN Environment Assembly was created in 2012 when world leaders called for UN Environment to be strengthened and upgraded during the United Nations conference on Sustainable Development.

- The UN Environment Assembly has the universal membership of all 193 UN Member States and the full involvement of UN organizations, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. In bringing together these varied communities, the Environment Assembly provides a groundbreaking platform for leadership on global environmental policy.

- UNEA brings the world highest level decision making body on the environmental matters together

Background

- Major Groups and Stakeholders" (MGS) is a term used to address broader civil society

- Civil society encompasses Major Groups, that are farmers, women, scientific and technological community, children and youth, indigenous people and their communities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, non-governmental organizations

- In order for the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) agenda to be relevant, Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) must be empowered to participate effectively in agenda setting, decision-making and implementation.

- Civil society brings added value to UN Environment work in a number of ways, helping to make the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) agenda relevant

Major Groups Facilitating Committee

- MGs and Stakeholders engage with the UNEA, and more generally with UNEP through a self-selected Major Group Facilitating Committee (MGFC)

- The MGFC is composed of Major Groups' representatives from MGS accredited to UNEP

- Supported by Regional Representatives from the six UNEP regions who also have observer status (Current regional reps are from Uganda and Tanzania)

- Regional Reps are elected for a one-year term during the Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs) taking place once a year in each of the regions

- Each of the nine Major Groups selects two representatives (co-chairs) for a two-year period after consultation and a bidding process with their constituents.

Role of the MGFC

- Provide support on logistics and foster understanding of the process so that MGS can maximize their presence, operating within the rules of engagement and procedures that UNEP has set up

- Providing guidance and finding expertise to develop policy positions representing the best contributions from the MGS constituencies relevant to the agenda points of UNEA

- Chairs of the MGFC organize, with the support of the UNEP's Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch/Secretary of the Governing Bodies, regular teleconferences that bring together members of the MGFC, Regional Representatives as observers

Major Groups Stakeholders Forum (MGSF)

- The Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum takes place every two years prior to UNEA and

- It is the main entry point for civil society participation at the highest level of UNEP and serves as a MGS preparatory meeting to UNEA.

- The Forum benefits from the outcomes of the Regional Consultative Meetings, which in turn provide Major Groups and Stakeholders inputs for UNEA

- Facilitate CSOs participation in the Assembly and associated meetings, identifies important themes and decisions under consideration by UNEA

- Provides a platform for an exchange of views and expertise on these themes between governments and civil society.

- The Forum also features an open dialogue between UNEP's Executive Director and Major Groups and Stakeholders ahead of UNEA.

The 18ᵗʰ Session of GMSF

- Will take place prior to (UNEA-4) on the 6-7 March 2019 and will be co-hosted by Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and the UN Environment

- The Forum will benefit from the outcomes of the preceding Regional Consultative Meeting, which took place in September 2018 during the AMCEN meeting, in Nairobi

- Forum will prepare participants for the Assembly and associated meetings**, identify important themes and decisions** under consideration by the Assembly, and will provide a platform for an **exchange of views and expertise** on these themes between governments and Major Groups and Stakeholders, as well as UN Environment.

- The Forum will also focus on the main theme of the Assembly *"Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Production and Consumption"* and will link it to the **"Towards a Pollution Free Planet"** theme of the previous Assembly allowing Major Groups and Stakeholders to contribute with their unique expertise to the inter-governmental decision-making process.

Participation and Events

- NGOs have an email list serve for information exchange and communication ([unep-ngo-major group@googlegroups.com](mailto:unep-ngo-majorgroup@googlegroups.com))

- Green tent (self organized by MGS)

- Sustainable Business Expo

- Side Events

- UNEA and subsidiary bodies such as Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (4-8 March) – only accredited NGOs

Your Participation and Engagement

- Decision-making within the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) remains the prerogative of Member States

- There are two levels of participation: agenda-setting processes, and on policy making and decision-making processes.

- Contribute to the development of major groups (NG)s) common statement – currently in draft and will be discussed during the MGSF

- Participate in Breakout sessions and provide inputs/comments on the UNEA documents (resolutions and decisions)

- Attend/participate in other events (green tents, side events etc)

Thank you

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