

MGFC, RF and UNEP teleconference

Summary of minutes

5 May 2020

Agenda:

- UNEP General update in light of COVID-19
- UNEA-5 preparations
- MGS engagement towards UNEA-5
- Virtual "Oslo Consultations", briefing by Norwegian ForUM
- Elections Regional Facilitators
- Other Issues

Participants:

- UNEP: Alexander Juras, Isaiah Otieno, Aurora Cheung, Laetitia Zobel
- Science MG: Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Stephen Stec
- Trade Union MG: Bert De Wel
- NGO MG: Griffins Ochieng, Khawla Al-Muhannadi
- Women MG: Giulia Carlini
- Children and Youth MG: Yugratna Srivastava, Teresa Oberhauser
- Local Authorities MG: Yunus Arikan, Mayra Garcia-Blasquez
- Farmers MG: Wali Haider
- Business and Industry MG: Michelle Tan, Mumbi Munene
- Regional Facilitators:
 - o West Asia: Marie Therese Merhei Seif
 - o Europe: Sascha Gabizon
 - o Asia Pacific: Prem Singh Tharu
- Guest: Jan-Gustav Strandenaes (Stakeholder Forum)
- Guest: Ingrid Rostad (Norwegian ForUM)

The public summary of the minutes from the last call is available here:
<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/mgfc-and-regional-facilitators-meetings/meeting-mgfc-and-regional-facilitators-0>

Summary of Minutes

- **UNEP General update in light of COVID-19**
 - Kenya: work-from-home for UNEP staff extended to at least 15 June 2020. Travel limitations remain.

- **UNEA-5 preparations and MGS engagement towards UNEA-5**
 - UNEA-5: Currently no plan to postpone UNEA-5. Due to COVID-19 it might gather less participants. The theme remain the same, sub-themes are linked to COVID-19 recovery. MGS and Member States must receive same treatment. If the meeting will be face-to-face, MGS must be present too.
 - RCMs: North America will hold online consultation; Africa and Asia Pacific might hold physical consultations in late 2020 (tbc); Europe and West Africa might hold online consultation (tbc); LAC consultation will depend on the ministerial meeting (tbc).
 - UNEP encourages MGS to take initiative to start internal consultation re UNEA-5. If assistance is needed from UNEP, please write to UNEP Civil Society Unit.
 - CPR: Due to limited capacity of the online platform (150 participants), in 150th CPR, only 1 representative of each Major Group could stay for the meeting. UNEP has increased the capacity of the online platform to ensure all participants can join the meeting. Comments from MGS re 150th CPR are uploaded here: <https://www.unenvironment.org/events/cpr-meetings/150th-meeting-committee-permanent-representatives>

- **MGS Virtual "Oslo Consultations" on 7 June 2020 , briefing by Norwegian ForUM**
 - Draft agenda shared, pending on agenda of CPR Bureau meeting to ensure the MGS meeting stays relevant. Timings also suggested to ensure the highest number of people can participant. The sessions will not be long to avoid exhaustion of participants. Live recordings will be available on the online platform afterward, for those who cannot attend live, to ensure transparency and accountability.
 - Re the themes: need to ensure interconnections between topics, might be useful to integrate food into ecosystems and development areas, please send written input. Long interventions from the floor might be challenging. Interventions from the floor can be integrated in the panel.
 - Re technology: the platform is based on "Whereby" technology but customized for this consultation. Registration will be required. It can host up to 150 participants, but can be increased if necessary. The platform will be shared with MGFC when ready. Slogan is "Nature4future". The platform will also be used to share information on capacity building initiatives for MGS.
 - Invitations of speakers and moderators not yet sent out. Welcome suggestions from MGFC as soon as possible. Names shared for Townhalls 1-4 also shared with MGFC and ForUM for consideration. Overall representation has to be considered. Suggested to have a call with 1 representative from each MG to finalize the agenda and invitation.

- Norwegian Ministry to create awareness on the MGS meeting and UNEA-5. The consultation is funded by the Norwegian State, which is fossil fuel funded, but we can ask more and follow up with updates
- From UNEP: A joint session with the Bureau is planned. We can also invite MS to our panels and Townhall. UNEP will send out a message to remind accredited MG and others that the meeting is happening and people can start thinking and preparing. The Townhalls will be public events related to 4 UNEA-5 sub-themes. Townhall 5 is led by Youth and represented by Yugratna and Teresa.

Regional facilitators elections

- The elections are going on, slower in LAC and Europe.

Other issues

- MGCY is organizing a Virtual youth environment assembly, will share info with the MGFC.