

**UN**  
environment  
assembly

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## Engaging with UNEP and UNEA

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## Civil Society Engagement at UN Environment: Basis for Engagement

- **ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31** on Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations
- **Rio+20 Outcome Document “The Future We Want”**: “ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society”
- **Rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly**



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# Definition

- International Non-Governmental Organizations/ 9 Major Groups
  - Women; Children and Youth; Indigenous Peoples; NGOs, Local Authorities; Workers and Trade Unions; Business and Industry; Scientific and Technological Community; Farmers; others e.g disabled, the elderly, faith based



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# Why Engage Civil Society: The Added Value

- **Represent** those most likely to be directly affected by environmental problems and related policies
- **Adds Legitimacy & Transparency**
- **Expertise and knowledge** enriches the inter-governmental decision making
- **Awareness raising** on emerging issues
- **Implementation** of decisions, including by providing financial means and expertise



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# Accreditation with UN Environment

- Consultative Status with UN Environment
- Criteria:
  1. Registered Non-governmental organization
  2. Not-for profit
  3. In existence for at least 2 years
  4. Interest in the field of environment and/or Sustainable Development
  5. International scope

For more information:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/civil-society-engagement/accreditation>



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# Partners for implementation

Civil society is crucial for the implementation of projects and activities

- Climate Change
- Disasters and Conflicts
- Ecosystem Management
- Environmental Governance
- Chemicals and Waste
- Resource Efficiency
- Environment under Review



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## Accredited Organizations at meetings of the United Nations Environment Assembly and its subsidiary bodies

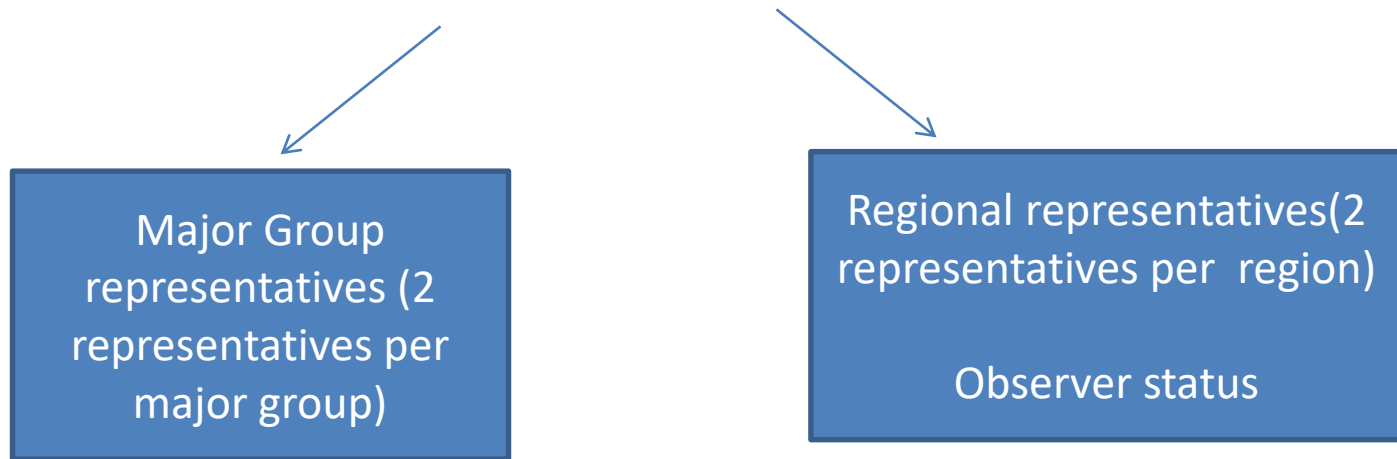
- Accredited organizations only, reserved seats for the nine Major Groups and Regional Facilitators
- Opportunity for written and oral interventions
- Accredited organizations receive relevant documentation and have access to the CPR portal
- Interactive online participation



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# Major Groups Engagement at UN Environment

Major Group Facilitating Committee (elected by accredited organizations for a 2 year term)



➤ Facilitate Major Group and Stakeholder Engagement with UN Environment





# The UN Environment Assembly and Related Events

- Open Ended CPR
- Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum
- Science-Policy-Business Forum
- UNEA
- Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
- Green Tent
- Sustainable Innovation Expo



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# Components of United Nations Environment Assembly.



# Open Ended Meeting of the CPR and Assembly

- Access for accredited organisations to all public meetings
- Opportunities for intervention at the discretion of Chair
- Seats for 9 Major Groups (1+1) and Regional Facilitators (1+1)
- Coordination of seating arrangements and interventions by Major Groups Facilitating Committee
- Access to all in-session documents, decisions, meeting online portal (UNEA paper smart system)
- Oral statements and written inputs: inform the Secretariat
- Limited time for interventions, prepare consolidated, short and joint statements if possible



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# Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum

- Organized in corporation with Civil society organization from a particular region. PACJA was the civil society organization that helped in organization of 18<sup>th</sup> Session of GMGSF.
- UNEP is yet to decide on the organization that will help organize 19<sup>th</sup> Session of GMGSF
- Open for accredited and non-accredited organisations
- Members States and UN staff may participate as observers
- Preparatory Meeting for UNEA
  - Capacity building
  - Development of joint positions
  - Drafting of statements
  - Review of resolutions
  - Exchange with member states



# Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue

- A session that brings together major groups and governments
- The theme is defined with UNEP in consultations with the Major groups
- The theme is driven by the main theme of UNEA
- The setting is not formal, and the delegates debate issues freely
- Discussants/Respondents from Governments and Major Groups



# Green Tent

- This is a space for civil society organizations. They developed the agenda for the tent and run it.
- It is usually managed by Major Groups Facilitating Committee/
- For meetings (morning meeting), capacity building, events, presentations



## Side Events

- These are events that take place in parallel to UNEA.
- They must be in tandem with the theme of UNEA
- At UNEA 4 for instance, we had 14 Approved Official Side Events
- They take place during Lunch Break and Early Evening

# UN Science-Policy-Business Forum on the Environment

- **This is an event organized by the science division. This is a space for scientists and civil society to discuss environment issues from a scientific perspective**
- **Target groups** : Science, Policy, Business sectors as well as civil society (Registration open for everybody)
- **The theme of the of the forum is guided by the main theme of UNEA.**

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# Sustainable Innovation Expo

- Open to accredited and non-accredited organizations
- This is a space for the Private sector, to showcase and discuss their contribution to sustainable environmental issues such as circular economy.
- This space also serves as an opportunity to encourage the private sector on ways they can contribute to help preserve the environment and still make profits



# Resources

- UN Environment Website: <https://www.unenvironment.org/>
- Documents, agendas, draft resolutions: <https://www.unenvironment.org/cpr>
- UNEA Website: <https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/>
- Resources for Major Groups: <https://www.unenvironment.org/civil-society-engagement>
- Upcoming Major Group Meetings: <https://www.unenvironment.org/civil-society-engagement/meetings>
- Stakeholder Engagement Handbook: <https://bit.ly/334SD0t>

# Thank you

United Nations Environment Assembly 2021



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[www.unenvironment.org/environmentassembly](http://www.unenvironment.org/environmentassembly)