

# MGFC, RF and UNEP teleconference

## Summary of minutes

2 Sept 2020

### Agenda:

1. Welcome LAC RFs
2. MGS engagement in MTS preparation (short report on 3 discovery sessions held)
3. RCM updates
4. UNEA-5 update (thematic clusters, date, format)
5. Overview of all MEA preparation for 2021
6. Liaison Office for Major Groups and Stakeholders by Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)
7. Annual CPR meeting in October 2020
8. Preparation G20 Environment Ministerial in Sept 2020
9. GMGSF update
10. Other issues

### Participants:

- UNEP: Aline Nsengimana Umutoni, Alexander Juras, Isaiah Otieno, Aurora Cheung
- Science MG: Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Stephen Stec
- Trade Union MG: Bert De Wel
- NGO MG: Griffins Ochieng, Khawla Al-Muhannadi
- Women MG: Priscilla Achakpa, Giulia Carlini, Caroline Usikipedo
- Children and Youth MG: Yugratna Srivastava, Teresa Oberhauser
- Local Authorities MG: Ivy de Moraes
- Farmers MG: Wali Haider, Gabor Figeczky
- Indigenous peoples and local communities MG: Naw Ei Ei
- Business and Industry MG: Michelle Tan
- Regional Facilitators:
  - o LAC: Joseph Severe, Gladys Lorena Terrazas Arnez
  - o West Asia: Fatima Frutan
  - o Europe: Patrizia Heidegger, Sophiko Akhobadze
  - o North America: Jennifer Garard
  - o Africa: Ayman Cherkaoui, Gertrude Kenyangi
  - o Asia Pacific: Ajay K Jha, Sarojeni V Rengam

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1. UNEA-5 updates
  - Annual subcommittee [meeting](#) of the CPR: 12-16 October 2020, the meeting will be devoted to UNEA-5 preparation and will be held online.
  - The agenda will be posted on the meeting portal, it will focus on UNEP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS), implementation of paragraph 88, and CPR review process.
  - Format of OECPR and UNEA-5: **The Bureaux of the CPR and UNEA will discuss the [options](#) and make a decision at 11 September 2020 [meeting](#).** The Secretariat proposed to have the OECPR and UNEA-5 meetings in person, if not, they would prefer a hybrid meeting, partly in person and virtual, with a preference for discussing the resolutions in person.
  - Youth prefer meeting in person: request a consultation with member states (**UNEP asked to send this request in writing, Yugratna will follow up with Mohamed**)
2. Major Groups and Stakeholders engagement in Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) preparation
  - 3 "discovery sessions" were organized for MGS in the past few weeks to give input on UNEP MTS. they were designed to receive broad inputs.
  - The 3 sessions were for Major Groups, Children and Youth, and Faith-Based organizations. There will be a separate discussion with the private sector.
  - There were breakout group discussions, the rapporteurs of each discussion shared notes with UNEP who is putting a synthesis report.
  - The new draft of the MTS was shared via email by UNEP.
  - All accredited organizations can send written comments to the newest draft of the MTS.
  - The MTS will be discussed at the annual subcommittee of the CPR meeting, and it will be finalized. It will be adopted by UNEA-5, but no review is expected at UNEA-5, so the annual subcommittee in October 2020 is the target date to send inputs.
3. Regional Consultations (RCM)
  - Europe: Nov 2020, Virtual
  - North America: Oct 2020, Virtual
  - West Asia: Nov. 2020, Virtual
  - LAC: TBC
  - Africa: Nov 2020 (TBC), Virtual
  - Asia and the Pacific: TBC
4. Overview of Multilateral Environmental agreements (MEAs) for 2021
  - UNEP shared a calendar that summarizes the UNEP related MEAs meetings for 2021.
5. Liaison Office for Major Groups and Stakeholders by Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)
  - In the past months, UNEP and MGFC discussed the possibility of having a Liaison Office for Major Groups in Nairobi, financially supported by UNEP, but the idea was dropped because several stakeholders opposed or had concerns on the idea.

- The Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) has an office in Nairobi and they spontaneously offered to provide services similar to that of a Liaison Office to interested organizations, free of charge, and without receiving funding or any other privileges from UNEP.
  - Comments:
    - ➔ Need to be clear on the name and role of this liaison office to avoid confusion and to ensure that it is understood that the office has no mandate whatsoever to represent Major Groups or to act or speak on their behalf.
    - ➔ The motives are honorable, but we might be setting a precedent for organizations and corporations to set up "liaison offices" without due processes.
    - ➔ UNEP response:
      - if organizations meet UNEP accreditation criteria, legally UNEP cannot stop them from opening such an office if there is no misuse of UNEP's name, logo, etc.
      - UNEP is confident that ANAW will be ready to change the name of the office/service to avoid any misunderstandings.
    - ➔ Conclusion: suggestion to invite this NGO to discuss with MGFC the name and role of the Liaison Office.
6. Preparation G20 Environment Ministerial in Sept 2020
- Saudi Arabia has a preparatory meeting for Environment Ministries in two weeks. There does not seem to be a UNEP involvement in this meeting, so it is difficult to see if there can be major groups engagement.
7. Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)
- Independently from how UNEA will look like, the GMGSF will be an online meeting.
  - UNEP shared TOR for the potential partner organization to organize the meeting.
  - UNEP is also waiting for a final decision on UNEA-5. If e.g. maybe UNEA5 will be postponed for one year, then we will not need to have the GMGSF before February 2020.
8. Cluster leaders
- Mohamed shared an email with the names of the cluster leaders nominated so far.
  - Clusters are:
    - ➔ Nature for Poverty Eradication,
    - ➔ Jobs and Economic Prosperity,
    - ➔ Nature for Human and Ecosystem Health (including role of UNEA-5 in COVID 19 recovery),
    - ➔ Nature for Climate,
    - ➔ Nature for Sustainable Food Systems,
    - ➔ UNEP MTS, budget and POW, and
    - ➔ Environmental Governance (including in the light of the COVID Pandemic)
  - There were no nominations for the Nature for Climate cluster
  - Members of the MGFC are highly encouraged to propose themselves to lead clusters in next week (by 9th Sept 2020), or the nominations will reopened with the broader UNEP accredited MGS beyond the MGFC.

***End of meeting***