Major Groups and Stakeholders Engagement at UNEP

Orientation Session for New Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Tuesday 7 September 2021

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Why civil society engagement?

- Rule 70 of Rules of Procedure
- UN practice as also outlined in “The Future We Want” and Governing Council Decision 27/2
- Stakeholder expertise enriches the inter-governmental decision-making process without questioning the intergovernmental nature of the UN Environment Programme
- Adds transparency and legitimacy
- Gives an opportunity for those who might be affected by decisions to raise their concerns
HOW?

- Nine Major Groups and Stakeholders
- Formal accreditation as a condition for participation in UNEA and CPR as observer with opportunity to provide oral and written statements
- Access to CPR portal including un-edited working documents and submission of written inputs
- Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) prior to the UN Environment Assembly
- Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs) – often back-to-back to regional Ministerial Forum
- Major Groups Facilitating Committee and Regional Facilitators
The Nine Major Groups

- Women
- Children and Youth
- Indigenous Peoples and their communities
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Local Authorities
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Business and Industry
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Farmers
Three levels of engagement

**Agenda-setting**
- Policy shaping
- Global political agenda setting
- UNEA agenda setting

**Decision-making/shaping**
- Policy deliberations leading to decision-making
- Transparency and access-to-information

**Implementation**
- Strategic partnerships for implementation of UNEP’s policies
- Strategic partnerships for achieving sustainable development

**Expert input and advice**
Civil Society at meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

- Accredited organisations may participate in all *public* meetings, including sub-committees
- Reserved seats for the nine Major Groups
- Online participation
- Opportunity for written and oral comments
- Accredited organisations receive relevant documentation and have access to portals
Civil Society Unit in the Governance Affairs Office

- Facilitates Engagement of Civil Society
- Administers Accreditation
- Civil Society Website
- Organisation of meetings, consultations, capacity building
- Stakeholder Engagement Handbook
- Assists Major Groups Facilitation Committee
- Organises Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) and Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs) and the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue during UNEA
- Coordinates the *Perspectives* series for civil society actors
Main Planned Activities ahead of UNEA 5.2

• Major Groups and Stakeholders global online consultation: 7-9 September 2021

• 6 online RCMs covering all UNEP regions, before UNEA 5.1 and UNEA 5.2 (the official INF document reflects those positions and statements)

• Capacity building programme

• GMGSF: 2 day meeting prior to UNEA 5.2

• UNEA 5.2, including OECPR: Feb 2022
Resources

https://www.unep.org/civil-society-engagement
Thank you

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