



# Stakeholder Engagement Factsheet



## What is stakeholder engagement?

Stakeholders play a central role in providing expertise and knowledge on areas relevant to the project or programme to inform governments of local needs, opinions, and to identify 'on the ground' realities of policy decisions.

Stakeholder engagement is the process by which an organization involves people and institutions who can influence the implementation of initiatives and decisions, as well as with those who are most affected by these decisions.

## Why is stakeholder engagement important?

UNEP strives to ensure active, broad and balanced participation of stakeholders. They also channel the voices of those most likely to be directly affected by environmental problems and related policies, and call needed attention to emerging issues as they reach out to their respective communities and the public at large.

UNEP recognizes and engages with many types of stakeholders in addition to government entities, namely: farmers; women; scientific and technological community; children and youth; indigenous peoples and their communities; workers and trade unions; business and industry; non-governmental organizations; and local authorities.

The Special Programme encourages its project partners to also engage with a broad range of relevant stakeholders to support the success and sustainability of their project outcomes.

## What are the benefits of stakeholder engagement?

- ✓ Delivering on a common set of objectives, goals and targets in a sustainable manner.
- ✓ Strengthened cooperation and coordination across all relevant sectors.
- ✓ Fostering linkages between existing initiatives to help fill gaps, tap into complementary knowledge and expertise, and build on existing work while avoiding duplication of effort.
- ✓ Being part of a national network and community where all sectors and stakeholders have an important role to play.
- ✓ contributing to achieving cross-cutting national and global commitments towards the SDGs and other relevant international agreements and agendas.

## Why is stakeholder engagement important for the sound management of chemicals and waste?

The sound management of chemicals and waste is the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, including governments, industry and others. Under the Special Programme, strengthened national institutions would have the capacity to facilitate multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation and coordination at the national level, and promote private sector responsibility, accountability and involvement, among other outcomes.

Strong buy-in from various stakeholders with strengthened capacity allows for better understanding across society and relevant economic sectors of the risks associated with poor management of chemicals and waste. It also allows for stronger institutions and more sustainable and effective development, implementation and enforcement of relevant national laws and, ultimately, the effective implementation of the chemicals and waste related instruments.

## What are the Special Programme projects doing to engage stakeholders?

A number of Special Programme projects have specific activities or arrangements to ensure engagement of stakeholders.

In **India**, the Ministry of Environment and Forests – the body in charge of exercising chemical banning – consulted with stakeholders prior to banning certain chemicals in order to consider the views of various industries and align on goals. For example, recently India announced the banning of the pesticide, Dicofol. Before reaching this decision, industries were invited to participate in an interactive meeting to consider the impact of the ban and to find alternative replacements. This effective engagement of stakeholders increased buy-in and allowed the banning of Dicofol to be successful.



In **Angola**, the government is undertaking an exercise to map stakeholders and their mandates with respect to the management of chemicals and waste to identify gaps and avoid duplication, as well as developing a public-private partnership for the management of marine plastics.



In **North Macedonia**, recognizing that the lack of coordination among institutions would hinder the goal of strengthening institutional gaps and building capacity to ratify the Minamata Convention, the government is working to engage various stakeholders in the governmental space, including the Ministry of Health, Environment, and Public Culture, in order to pull everyone into one community with the vision of successfully ratifying the Minamata Convention.



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