

MGFC and RF and UNEP meeting

07 March 2023

Time: 3:30pm – 4:30pm Nairobi Time

Agenda Points:

- **Retreat of UNEA and CPR Bureaus Morocco June 2023**
- **UNEA 6 update**
- **MGS participation in OEWG, INC and other UNEA 5 follow up activities**
- **MGFC elections**
- **Announcement by Alexander**

Participants

- **UNEP:** Alexander Juras, Laetitia Zobel, Aurora Cheung, Melissa Ngilandala, Brian Mbanga, Edwike Nyauncho
- **Business and Industry:** Mumbi Munene
- **Children and Youth:** Gyubin Hwang, Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik
- **Farmers:** Wali Haider
- **Indigenous Peoples and their Communities:** -
- **Local Authorities:** Ingrid Coetzee
- **NGO:** Ingrid Rostad, Djatougbe Aziaka
- **Scientific and Technological Community:** Stephen Stec
- **Women:** Frezer Yeheyis, Dalia Márquez Sherika, Whitelocke-Ballingsingh
- **Workers and TradeUnions:** -
- **Africa:** David Munene, Ayman Bel Hassan Cherkaoui
- **Asia and the Pacific:** Ajay Jha
- **West Asia:** Faisal Alfadl, Wijdan Ali Abdullah AIOqab
- **Europe:** Patrizia Heidegger
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Mauro Pereira
- **North America:** -

Summary of Minutes

1. Retreat of UNEA and CPR Bureaus Morocco 6-7 July 2023:

- 4-5 July 2023 for MGS preparation meeting.
- Possibility of a joint session with a sub-group of MGS.
- Funding available to MGFC members. Self-financed participants may also participate in person or online.
- Agenda development of MGS meetings should be done jointly through the MGS.
- Encourage Ayman of Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection to send out update before the next MGFG meeting.
- Business and Industry MG plans on joining and is planning a half day or eventually longer meeting, not in competition with general MGS consultation.
- Youth and children MG is also planning a meeting around the retreat.
- Update from Ayman of Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection on the proposal by the Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training to host in an hybrid format the official MGS Meeting in conjunction with the Retreat in Morocco

2. [UNEA 6 update](#)

- Alexander urges MGS to follow up on CRP.
- Plan to have regional consultation later this year as well as one international meeting.
- The UNEA 6 Theme has already been decided.

3. MGS participation in OEWG, INC and other UNEA 5 follow up activities

- INC-1: there is discussions/irritations around the role of the MGs, with pressure from some organization to abandon the MG approach.
- INC-2 may be a hybrid approach with seats for 9 MGS and seats for other observers - still TBC.
- Funding for 20 persons from UNEP primarily for participants from developing countries / transition countries in INC 2.
- There is a plan to involve the MGFC, although expertise in the issue is a requirement. UNEP will make a final decision on this with the involvement the INC bureau in the decision-making process.
- Stakeholder engagement: individual interventions and statement may be based on strong expertise but must be distinguished from MG, sometime there is a lack of understanding of the MG system and approach; at the moment there is a lot of discussion on civil society engagement - we should not leave this discussion to Member States and UNEP.
- Stephen of S&T MG: the S&T MG faced some problems around the INC where we had a lot of people interested but who are not part of the MGs, question of how the two groups - those within and those outside the Science and Technology MG would work together; Fabienne (the S&T MG representative in INC 1) may be a good resource person.
- Ingrid of NGO MG, co-chairs of MGFC: propose to set up a specific meeting to discuss the issue, there are a lot of opinions, maybe also conflicting, NGO MG has struggled, UNEP CS Unit to facilitate a meeting on that, Ingrid to follow up with CS unit for meeting.
- There was a proposal to have two separate meetings: one on internal matters of the MGFC and one on the MGS approach and recent challenges around the INC. To be organized after the current elections in March 2023.

4. MGFC elections

- Alex of CSU: elections have been initiated, UNEP has been requested to run the elections for the NGO MG, others are running it themselves, RF North America UNEP is still waiting (whether mandate should be extended, if yes that should be done by the constituency), gradual changes are better for the MGFC with mix of experience.
- Ingrid of NGO MG: standing offer by long standing members of the MGFC to offer help and advice to newly elected members.

5. Other items

- MGFC meeting cannot be recorded, suggestion to disable recording function (by the organizers).
- A suggestion to schedule meetings for the next 6 months (and ad hoc meetings where necessary).

6. Announcement by Alexander

- Alexander is retiring after 35 years working on environment and 15 years with MGS at UNEP.
- It is important who will replace him as the position is political. Civil societies should have an interest in the replacement as this has an impact on how the engagement will be organized in the future.
- The role occupant should be an advocate for civil society engagement.
- MGS can reach out to Secretariat to be involved in an advisory capacity.