

Major Groups and Stakeholders Engagement at UNEP

Orientation Session for New Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Thursday 7 September 2023

Laetitia Zobel-
Civil Society Unit- Governance Affairs Office- UNEP

The 9 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**



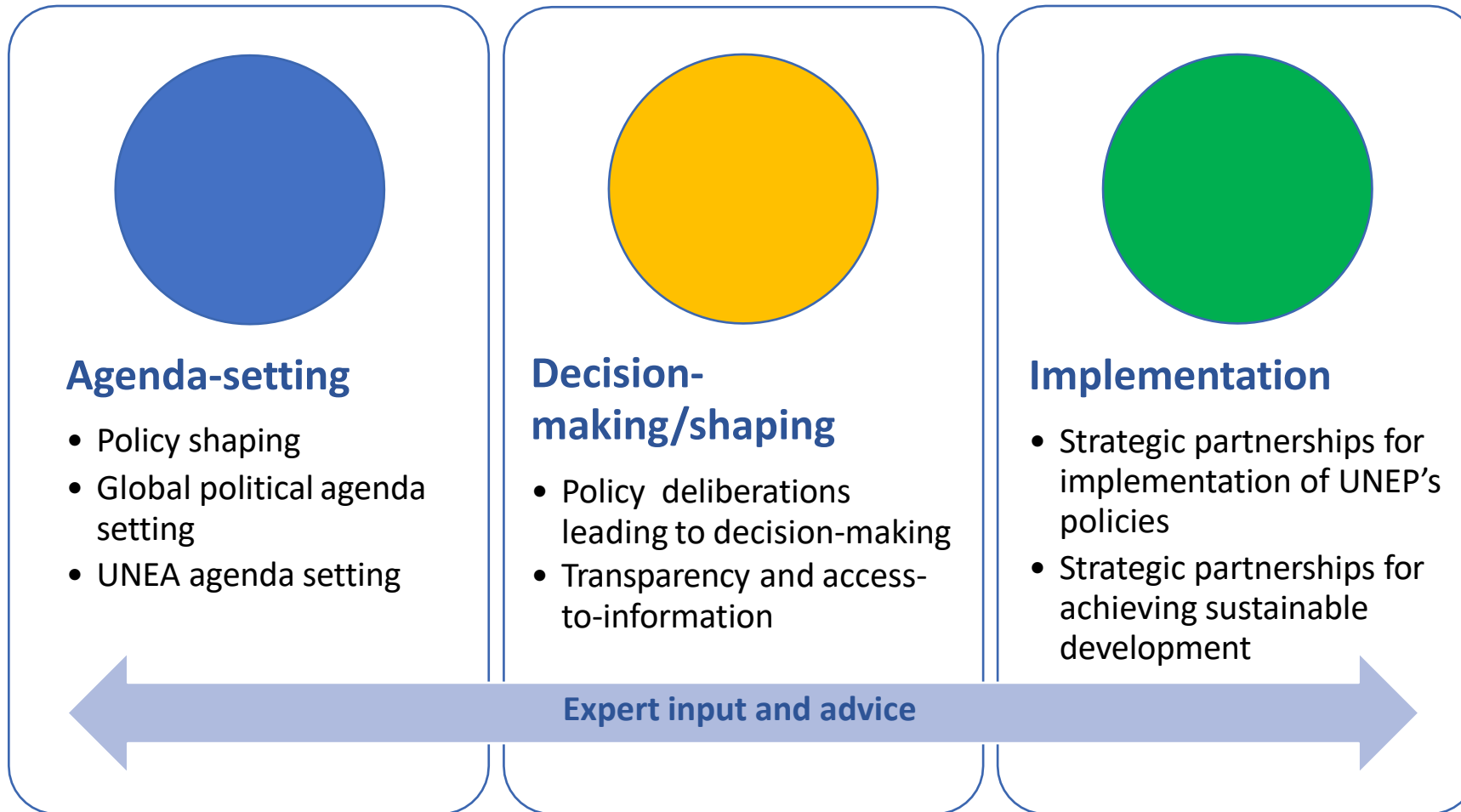
Why civil society engagement?

- **Rule 70 of Rules of Procedure**
- **UN practice as also outlined in “The Future We Want” and Governing Council Decision 27/2**
- **Civil Society and stakeholder expertise enriches the inter-governmental decision-making process without questioning the intergovernmental nature of UNEP**
- **Adds transparency and legitimacy to the work of UNEP**
- **Gives an opportunity for those who might be affected by decisions to raise their concerns but also make suggestions.**

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 to un-edited working documents and **submission of written inputs**
- **Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)** prior to the UN Environment Assembly as well as **Youth Environmental Assembly (YEA)**
- **Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs)** – often back-to-back to regional Ministerial Forum with inputs submitted to UNEA as INF document
- **Major Groups Facilitating Committee and Regional Facilitators (MGFC)** as liaison to the wider constituencies including coordinating inputs to substantive consultations.

Three levels of engagement



Main Planned Activities ahead of a UNEA/ UNEA-6 (by the CSU)



Major Groups and Stakeholders global consultation on the way to GMGSF (Nov 2023)

6 online/ hybrid or in person RCMs covering all UNEP regions (the official INF document reflects those positions and statements)

Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum (GMGSF): 2 day meeting prior to UNEA incl. exchange with ED (24-25 Feb 2024 in UNEP, Nairobi)

LINEA including OECPP:

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

- Administers **Accreditation** of non-governmental observers to UNEA
- Civil Society engagement Website
- Organisation of **meetings, consultations, capacity building, outreach**
- **Stakeholder Engagement Handbook** as a guiding tool
- Assists **Major Groups Facilitation Committee (MGFC)**
- **Facilitates Global Major Groups and Stakeholders (GMGSF) and Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs)** and the Multi-Stakeholder dialogue during UNEA
- Supports **MGS engagement across the organisation**, such as for the INC or the Science-policy panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention or other consultative processes across substantive matters.
- **Perspectives** publication series

Accreditation

Accreditation criteria:

- Registered with a Government for at least 2 years
- Non-governmental, non-profit
- Focus on environment
- With environmental work locally and internationally

Number of accredited organizations:

- 1035 as of 5 September 2023. List can be found [here](#)

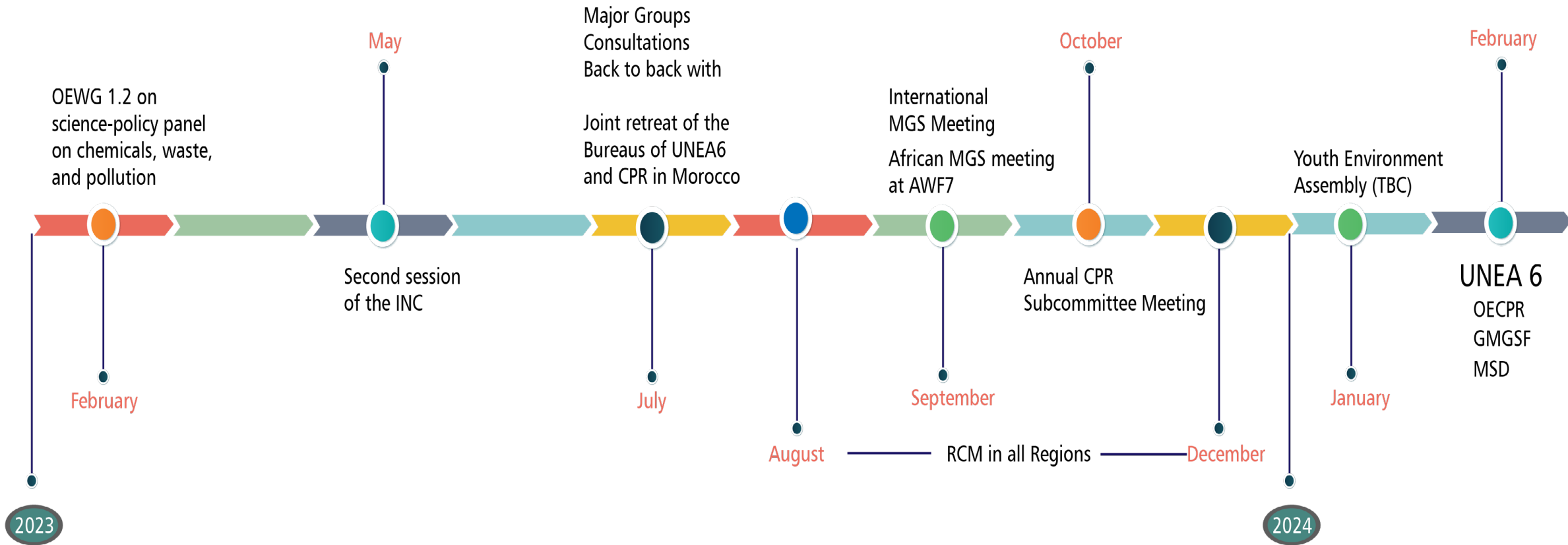
Regional distribution as on 5 September 2023:

- Africa: 22%
- Asia and the Pacific: 17%
- Eastern European States: 3%
- Latin America and the Caribbeans: 5%
- Western European and Other States: 53%

Accreditation continued

Distribution by Major Groups as of 5 September 2023:

- Business and Industry: 7%
- Children and Youth: 5%
- Farmers: 1%
- Indigenous Peoples: 2%
- Local Authorities: 1%
- NGO: 73%
- Scientific and Technological communities: 7%
- Women: 3%
- Workers and Trade Unions: 1%



RCM: Region Consultative Meetings

OECPR: Open ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

GMGSF: Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum

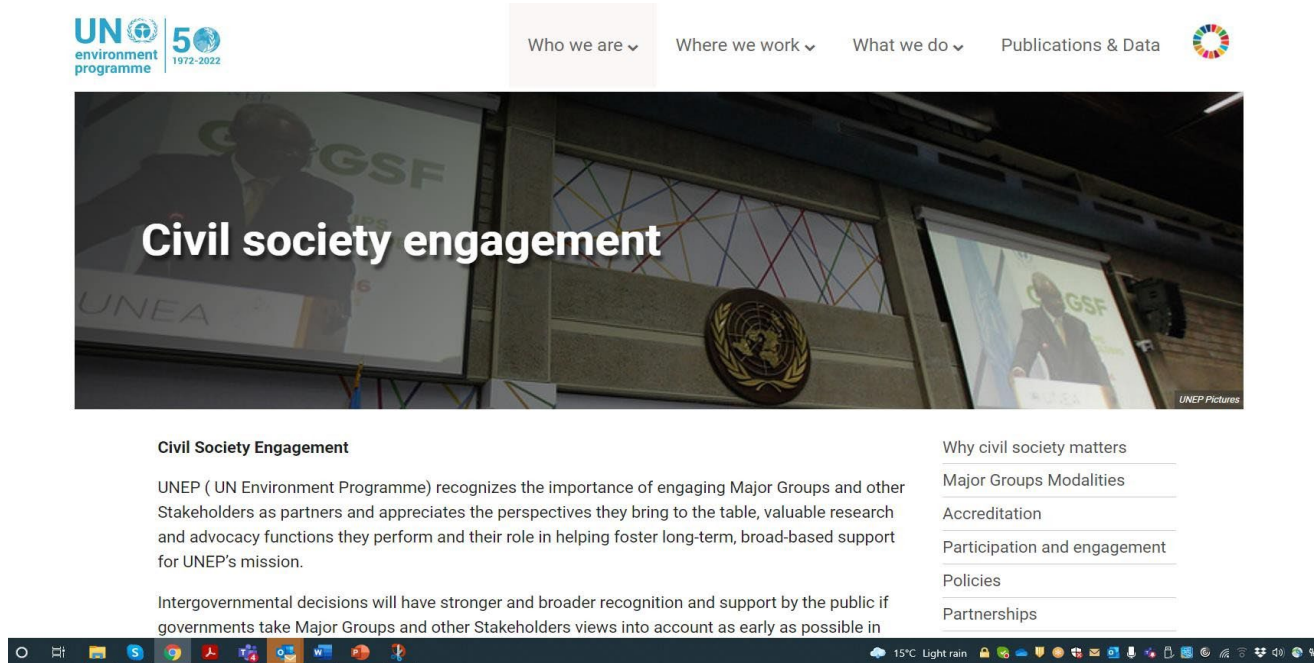
MSD: Multi Stakeholders Dialogue

AWF: African Animal Welfare Conference


INC: Ad hoc open-ended working group to prepare for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution

Resources

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



UN environment programme | 50 1972-2022

Who we are ▾ Where we work ▾ What we do ▾ Publications & Data 

Civil society engagement

Civil Society Engagement

UNEP (UN Environment Programme) recognizes the importance of engaging Major Groups and other Stakeholders as partners and appreciates the perspectives they bring to the table, valuable research and advocacy functions they perform and their role in helping foster long-term, broad-based support for UNEP's mission.

Intergovernmental decisions will have stronger and broader recognition and support by the public if governments take Major Groups and other Stakeholders views into account as early as possible in

- Why civil society matters
- Major Groups Modalities
- Accreditation
- Participation and engagement
- Policies
- Partnerships



Thank you

**Civil Society Unit- Governance Affairs
Office, UNEP**

OIC: Ulf Bjornholm

Laetitia.Zobel@un.org

Unep.civilsociety@un.org