Major Groups and Stakeholders Engagement at UNEP

Orientation Session for New Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Thursday 7 September 2023

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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

**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
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)

UNEP including OECPR:
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%
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%
2023

February

OEWG 1.2 on science-policy panel on chemicals, waste, and pollution

May

Second session of the INC

July

Major Groups Consultations Back to back with Joint retreat of the Bureaus of UNEA6 and CPR in Morocco

August

RCM in all Regions

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

October

International MGS Meeting African MGS meeting at AWF7

UNECA 6

October

Annual CPR Subcommittee Meeting

January

Youth Environment Assembly (TBC)

February

UNECA 6 OECPR GMGSF MSD
Resources

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

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