

Major Groups and Stakeholders Engagement at UNEP

Africa Animal Welfare Conference

Tuesday 26 September 2023

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Why civil society engagement?

- **Rule 70 of Rules of Procedure**
(https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39812/OEWG_PP_1_INF_2_UNEA%20Rules%20of%20Procedure.pdf?sequence=15&isAllowed=y)
 - **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 UNEP**
 - **Adds transparency and legitimacy**
 - **Gives an opportunity for those who might be affected by decisions to raise their concerns**
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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**

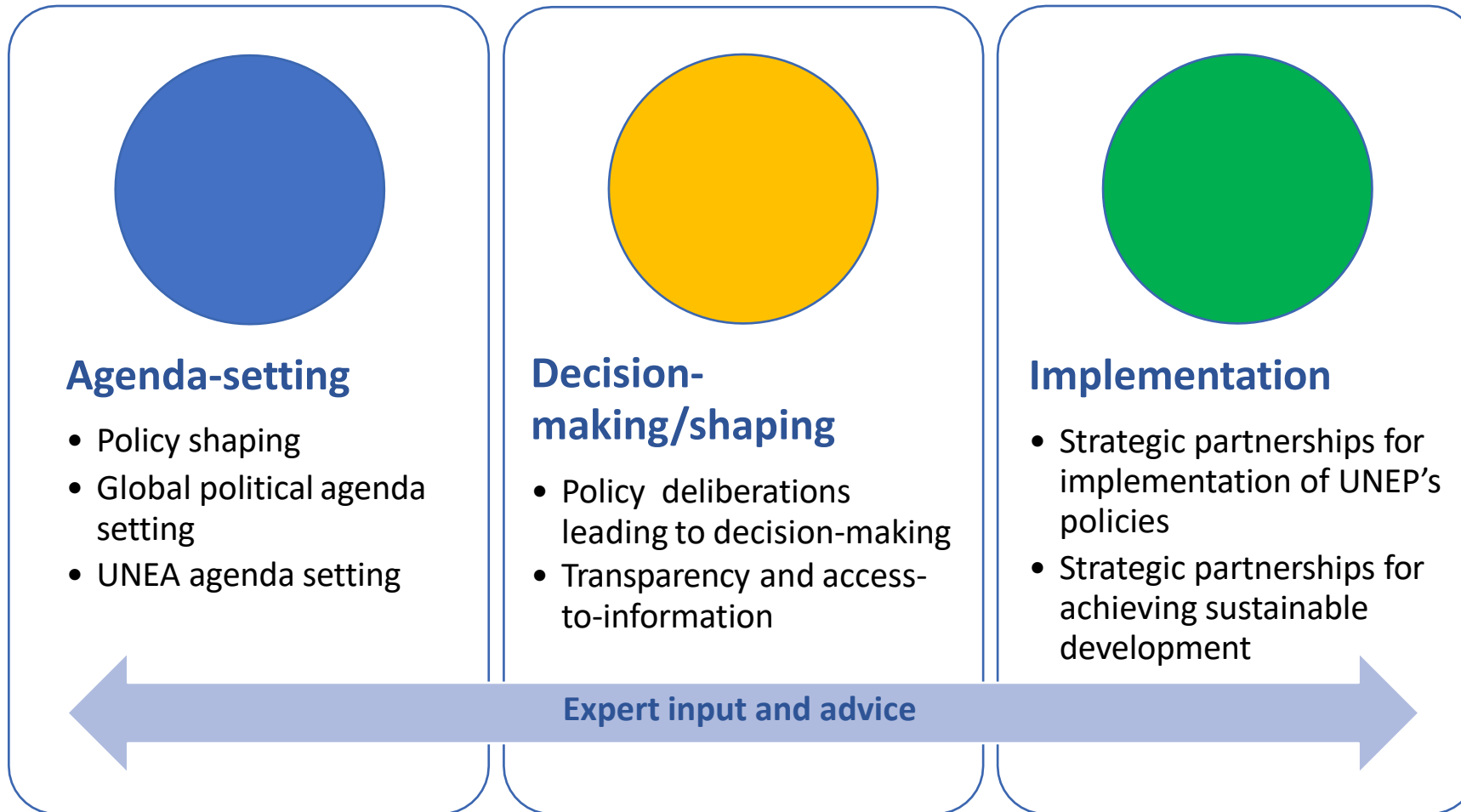




HOW?

- **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
- **Major Groups Facilitating Committee and Regional Facilitators (MGFC)**

Three levels of engagement



Main Planned Activities ahead of a UNEA/ UNEA-6



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)

UNEA including OECPR: ensuring MGS participation

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 at the moment.
- **Perspectives** publication series

Recent, Upcoming Events and Activities with MGS

- **The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)-** 14 to 18 August 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (preceded by a regional consultative Meeting on 12 and 13 of August)
- **Regional Consultative Meeting: Latin America and the Caribbean 2023** – 23 October. Organized in parallel to the XXIII Meeting of the Forum, which will take place in Panama City from October 24 to 26, 2023
- **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) 3 – 13 – 19** November 2023. Nairobi, Kenya
- **10th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives** 20-24 October
- **Ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention** – 11 to 15 December 2023, Dead Sea, Jordan

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

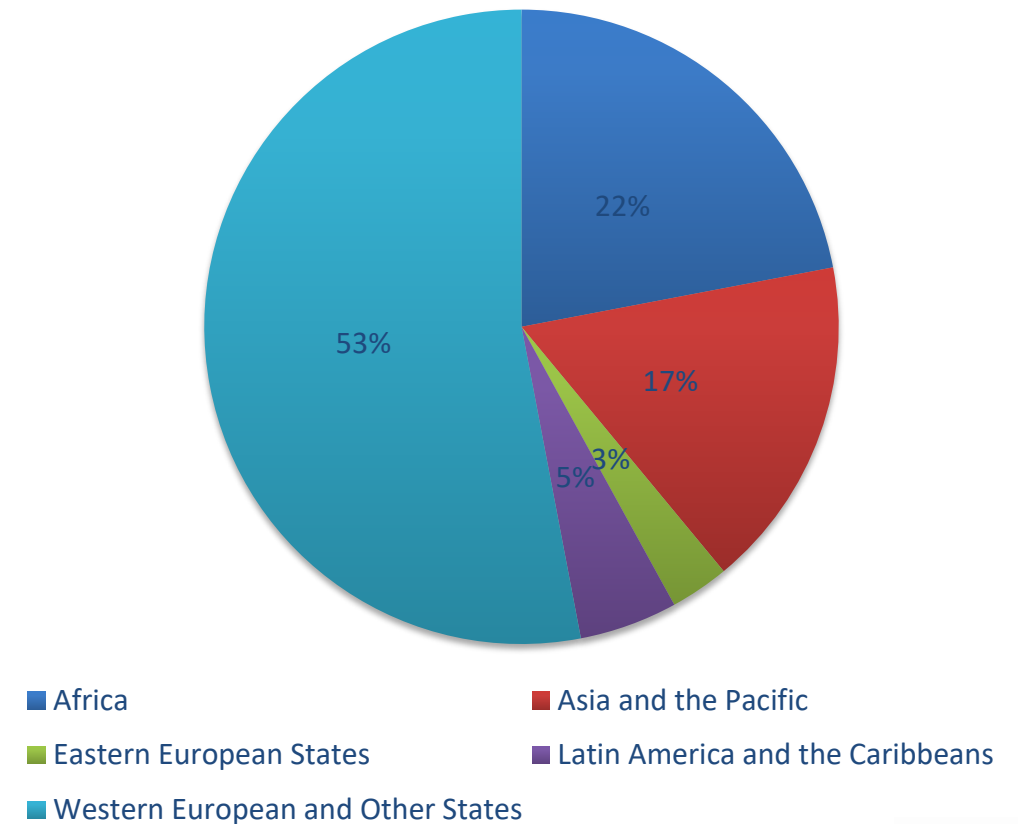
Number of accredited organizations:

- 1045 as of 26 September 2023. List can be found [here](#)

Regional distribution as on 2 Sept 2022:

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

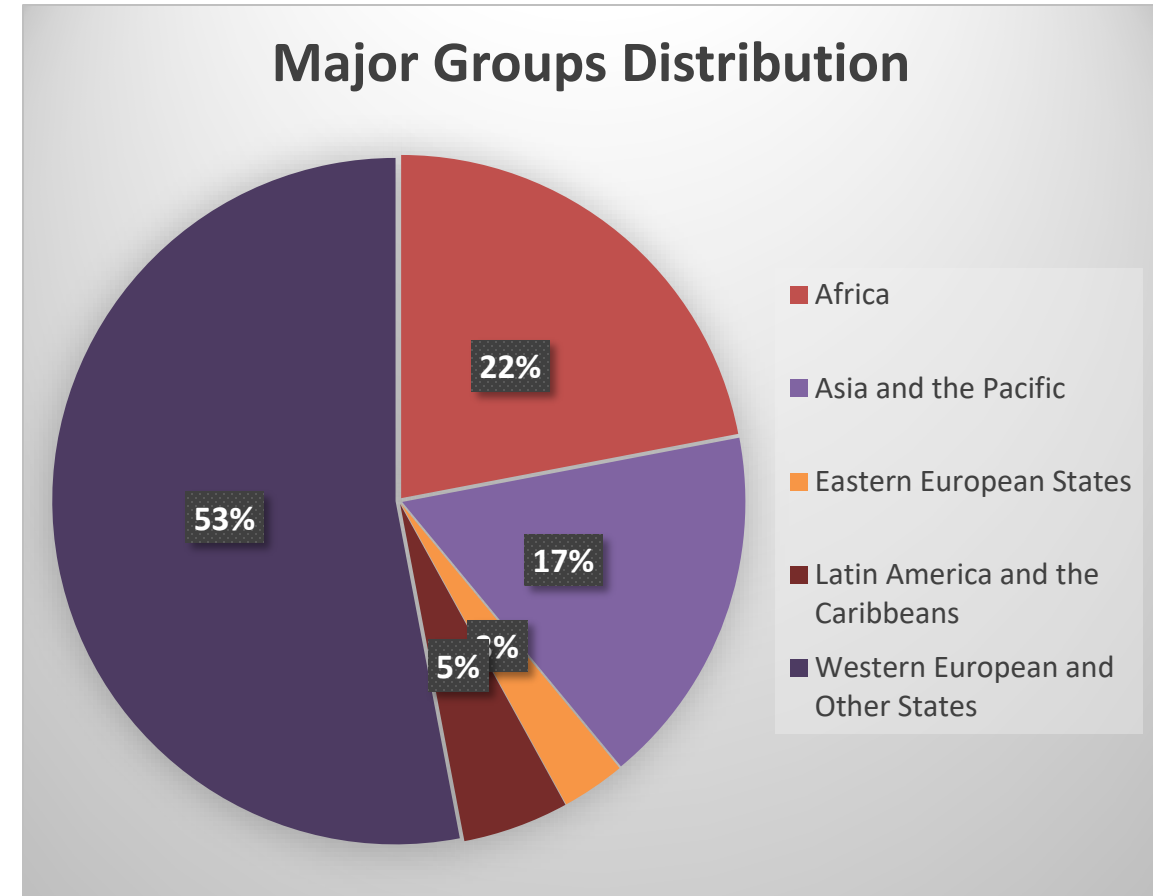
Regional Distribution by September 2023

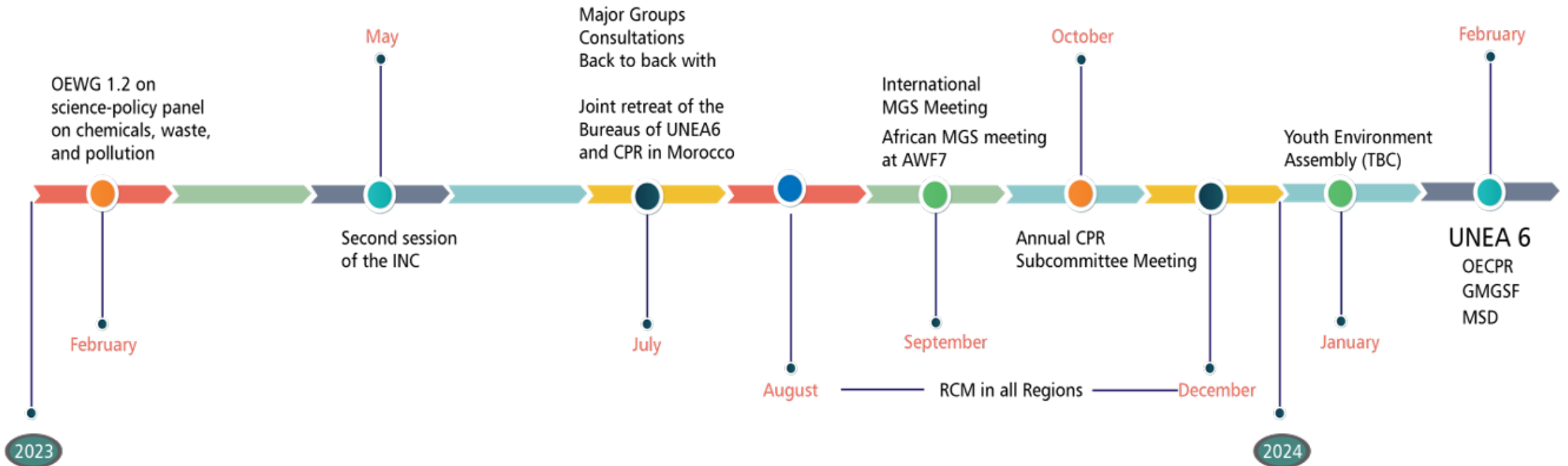


Accreditation continued

Distribution by Major Groups as of 5 September 2023:

- Business and Industry: 5%
- Children and Youth: 6%
- Farmers: 1%
- Indigenous Peoples: 2%
- Local Authorities: 0.5%
- NGO: 75%
- Scientific and Technological communities: 7%
- Women: 3%
- Workers and Trade Unions: 0.5%





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>



Who we are ▾

Where we work ▾

What we do ▾

Publications & data



Civil Society Engagement

UN Environment Programme (UNEP) 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 policy-making and decision-making processes. Major Groups and other Stakeholders also play a direct role in the formation of policy as researchers, think-tanks, and watchdogs, or through advocacy.

[Read more](#)

[Why civil society matters](#)

[Major Groups Modalities](#)

[Accreditation](#)

[Participation and engagement](#)

[Policies](#)

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[Meetings](#)

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Thank you

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