

Supporting and Coordinating the Africa Region MGS engagement in UNEP

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The UNEP MGS, Africa

- Comprises all organizations of Africa with accreditation to the UNEP
- Currently: 230 (22% of all accredited organizations)
- Major Groups: All 9
- Also works with non-accredited
- Regional Facilitators: Ayman Cherkaoui & David N. Munene

unep.org/civil-society-engagement/accreditation/list-accredited-organizations					
220	Wetlands International	Kenya	Non-governmental organizations	Africa	December 2017
221	Wilderness Foundation Africa	South Africa	Non-governmental organizations	Africa	October 2022
222	Wildlands Conservation Trust (WILDTRUST)	South Africa	Non-governmental organizations	Africa	March 2022
223	Women Environmental Programme	Nigeria	Women	Africa	October 2012
224	Women for a Change	Cameroon	Women	Africa	August 2023
225	World Phosphate Institute (IMPHOS)	Morocco	Non-governmental organizations	Africa	August 2009
226	World Youth Congress on Food and Development	Egypt	Children and youth	Africa	January 2002
227	Young Volunteers for the Environment (YVE)	Gambia	Children and youth	Africa	March 2023
228	Youth Loves Egypt	Egypt	Non-governmental organizations	Africa	September 2017
229	ZERO Regional Environment Organisation	Zimbabwe	Non-governmental organizations	Africa	August 2005
230	Zimbabwe Environment Law Association	Zimbabwe	Non-governmental organizations	Africa	September 2017


Communication Channels

- In person (for both accredited and non-accredited depending on context)
- Via Email (Accredited organizations only)
- Via WhatsApp (Accredited and non-accredited)



MGS Africa Region 

Group · 298 participants

Major Groups & Stakeholders Africa Region 
- UN Environment

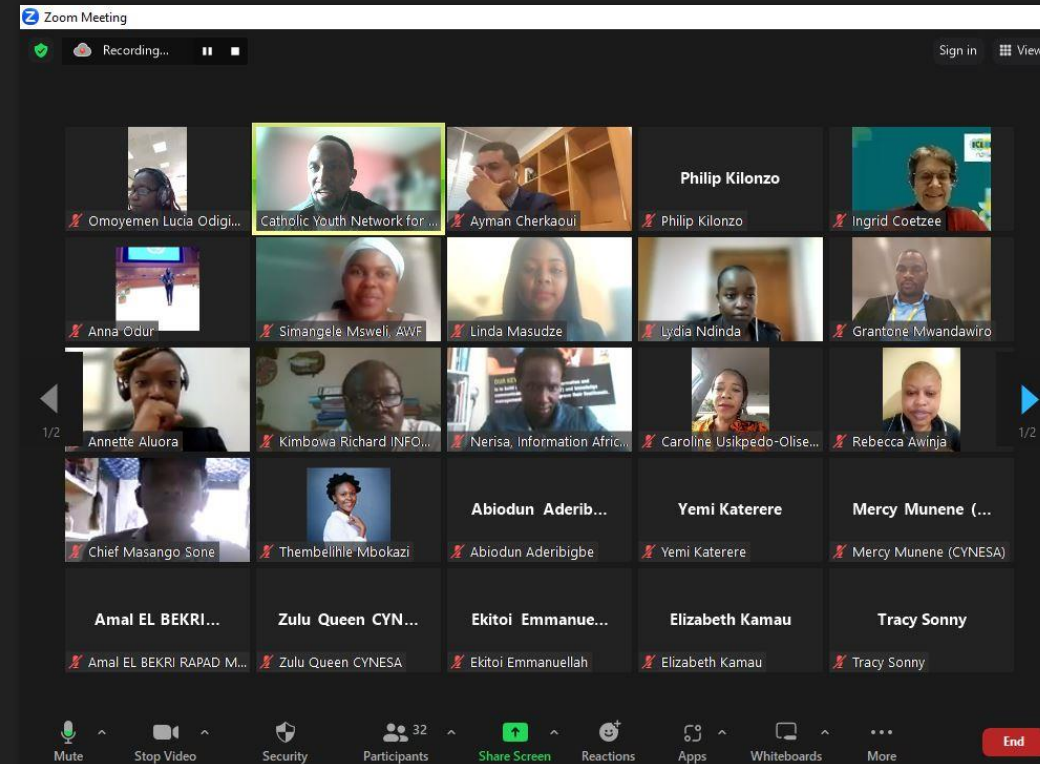
Mobilization and Engagement of Constituents

- Communicate in good time
- Allocate roles to others (they are leaders in their own right!) e.g., working group leadership, rapporteuring, facilitation of sessions, expert presentations, agenda preparations
- Work with influential leaders within your constituencies such as Major Groups' Facilitators, former regional facilitators
- Allow for self-organization
- Involve them in decision-making that concerns them including developing the RCM concept note and the agenda
- Allow for their input (including criticism) in regional statements, and interventions, etc.
- Encourage non-accredited organizations to be accredited
- Extend and share opportunities within and beyond the UNEP systems and encourage constituents to do so



Preparing for the RCM

- Identify dates of the RCM strategically (In Africa, we look at the dates of the subsequent African Ministerial Conference on the Environment – AMCEN)
- Understand the preparatory agenda of the target engagement (in Africa, we refer to the AMCEN agenda)
- Constitute a team to prepare a concept note in advance or critique your draft as RFs
- Engage UNEP (CSU regional focal point) for guidance, support, and expertise
- Engage your active constituents and leaders to take up roles
- Prepare the RCM agenda in line with the strategic meeting ahead
- Conduct pre-RCM engagements even virtually to get buy-in
- Look for partners to support your RCM activities
- Engage the host country leadership (In Africa, AMCEN host)
- Engage the Target meeting's convenors (e.g., in Africa, AMCEN Secretariat)
- Engage suppliers (e.g., hotel, interpretation, media, etc.).



Running the RCM

- As much as possible, set up a hybrid RCM
- Invite UNEP Heads, Experts, Host Country Leadership/Government Representation, and relevant Secretariats (e.g., AMCEN Secretariat) to open and present
- Run the first day as an information-sharing day and capacity-building
- Use the subsequent day(s) to work in groups aligned to the agenda to develop a common position (**we, RFs, do not facilitate or rapporteur in any working groups – we only share insights as may be required**)
- Lead the consolidation of the final long statement
- Work with group thematic leads to develop the summary statement



At the Regional Forum of Ministers

- Participate actively in the meeting (in Africa, we engage in expert segment with member states)
- Organize bilateral meetings with key persons with your constituency members (e.g., UNEP Heads, Member States, Heads of Regional Ministers' Secretariats, Presidents of Regional Ministers' Forums)
- Continually engage with the Regional Forum's Secretariat for updates on the agenda
- Consult and update your constituents on what is happening at the Forum (both those in-person and those away e.g., via WhatsApp)
- Engage constituents in side events and events happening on the side (cocktails, dinners, etc.).



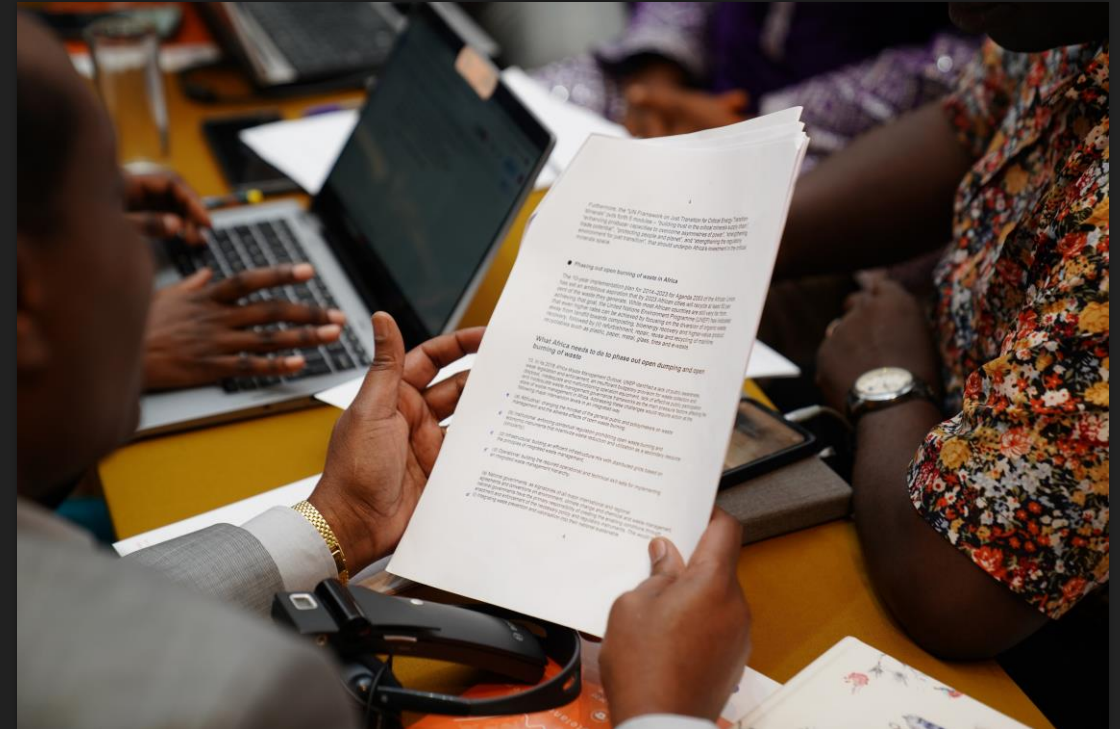
Post-RCM

- Share the outcomes (long and summary statements with your region, UNEP, and the public.
- Hold a post-RCM meeting (virtual)
- Write appreciation letters
- Think ahead about the next RCM and start engaging (e.g., with the regional meeting of ministers in your region, the leadership, UNEP regional focal point, etc.).



Post-RCM: Some Other Engagements

- World Environment Day
- INC Processes
- Open-Ended Working Groups
- Committee of Permanent Representatives



Challenges

- Not all accredited organizations engage
- Some accredited organizations do not understand their responsibilities and UNEP processes
- Some individuals/organizations do not understand our role as Regional Facilitators
- Inadequate resources (financial, human, time...)
- Language barriers (English, French, Arabic + some others)

Lessons Learnt

- Working in sync and collaboratively as Regional Facilitators is critical
- Our constituents are leaders, experts, and representatives in their own right – we will accord them all the respect they deserve and engage them consistently
- Understanding our role as facilitators and not chairpersons/presidents/UNEP representatives/if extremely vital
- Identify crucial members of your constituency and the most active one – engage them
- Engage early and plan properly (for RCM and all other meetings)
- The RCM is just one meeting – don't just do the RCM
- Develop good relations and work closely and respectfully with the UNEP CSU (if only your focal point!)
- Work closely with your UNEP Regional Office and your region's experts and organizations
- Engage with UNEP processes consistently
- Engage speakers, experts, partners, host government, and regional meeting secretariats early

Opportunities

- Engage, involve, and encourage active participation of all 200+ accredited organizations
- Strengthen working groups and task forces to increase engagement in processes
- Increase the pool of partners
- Bigger RCMs (more participants, more diversity, etc.).
- Several RCMs before the AMCEN and a final one days ahead of the AMCEN

Shukhran!

Q & A