

# Major Groups and Stakeholders Engagement at UNEP

---

**Orientation Session for New Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives**

Tuesday, 17 September 2024

---

Civil Society Unit- Governance Affairs Office- UNEP

# Why civil society engagement?

---

- Rule 70 of UNEA 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 processes 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 constructive suggestions.

# The 9 Major Groups

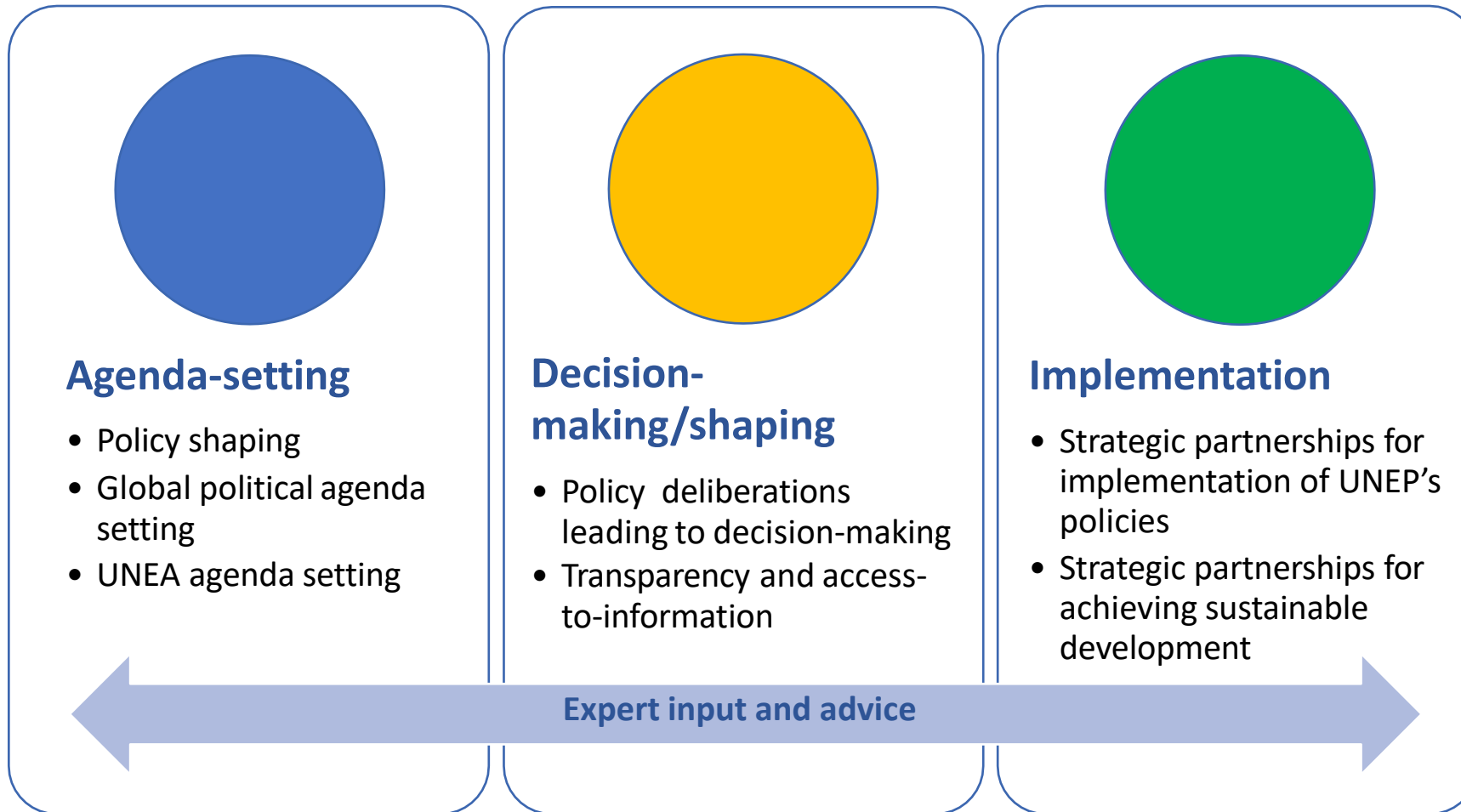
- Women
- Children and Youth
- Indigenous Peoples and their communities
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Local Authorities
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Business and Industry
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Farmers



# How does civil society engage?

- **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 Environment Assembly (YEA)**
- **Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs)** – often back-to-back with Regional Ministerial Fora
- **Major Groups Facilitating Committee**, including Regional Facilitators (**MGFC**)

# Three levels of engagement



# Civil Society at meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

- Accredited organizations may participate and make statements at all CPR meetings, including sub-committees
- Reserved seats for the nine Major Groups
- Online participation possible
- Opportunity to provide written and oral comments
- Accredited organizations have access to all relevant documentation and access to portals

# Role of the Civil Society Unit in the Governance Affairs Office

- Administers accreditation of non-governmental observers to UNEA/CPR
- Runs the UNEP [Civil Society Engagement Website](#)
- Facilitates and organizes meetings, consultations, training, outreach
- Maintains the [Stakeholder Engagement Handbook](#) as a guiding tool
- Assists the [Major Groups Facilitating Committee](#)
- Facilitates [Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum](#) and [Regional Consultative Meetings](#) and the UNEA [Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue](#)
- Supports MGS engagement across UNEP, such as in the process to establish a Science-policy panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention
- Administers the dissemination of the [“Perspectives”](#) publication, with inputs from civil society

# Recent and upcoming meetings/events

- 10th special session of AMCEN, **3-6 September** in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire focusing on Desertification and Land Degradation (RCM on 1-2 September)
- UNEP supporting 7 MGS representatives to the Summit of the Future, 21-22 September
- Major groups and stakeholders participated in INC 4. Similar interest is expected for **INC 5** scheduled to take place **25 Nov – 1 Dec** in Busan, South Korea
- **Global Environment Outlook 7** – MGS are participating in dialogues and chapter-writing

•



# Main stakeholder events ahead of a UNEA-7



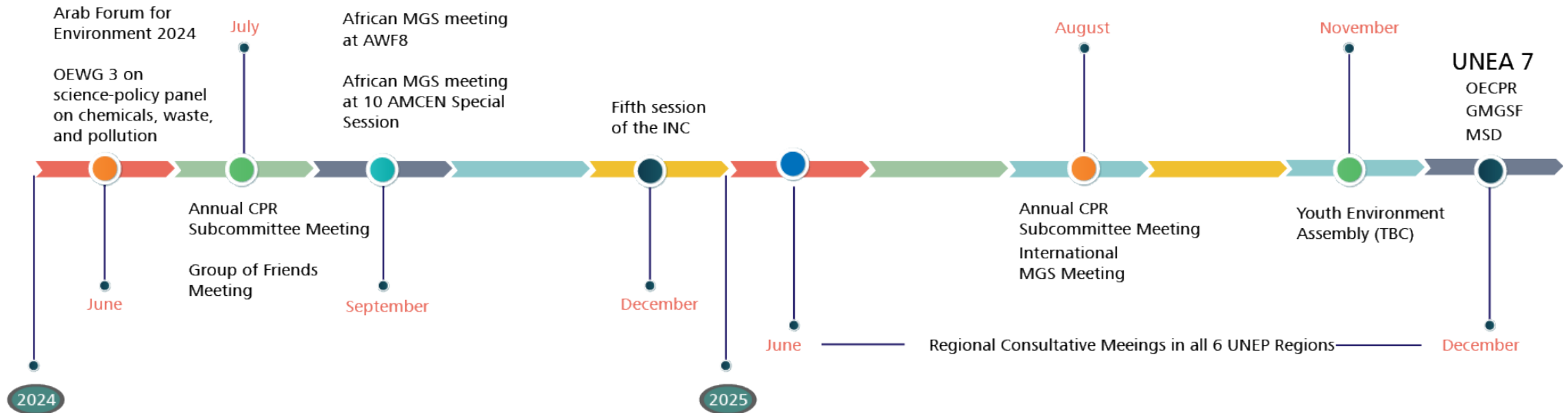
Major Groups and Stakeholders global consultations

Regional Consultative Meetings covering all UNEP regions

Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum: 2 day meeting prior to UNEA

Children and Youth MG planning ahead of UNEA 7 with regional meetings and Youth Environment Assembly (3)

# Timeline for key events leading up to UNEA-7



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



# Accreditation

## Accreditation criteria:

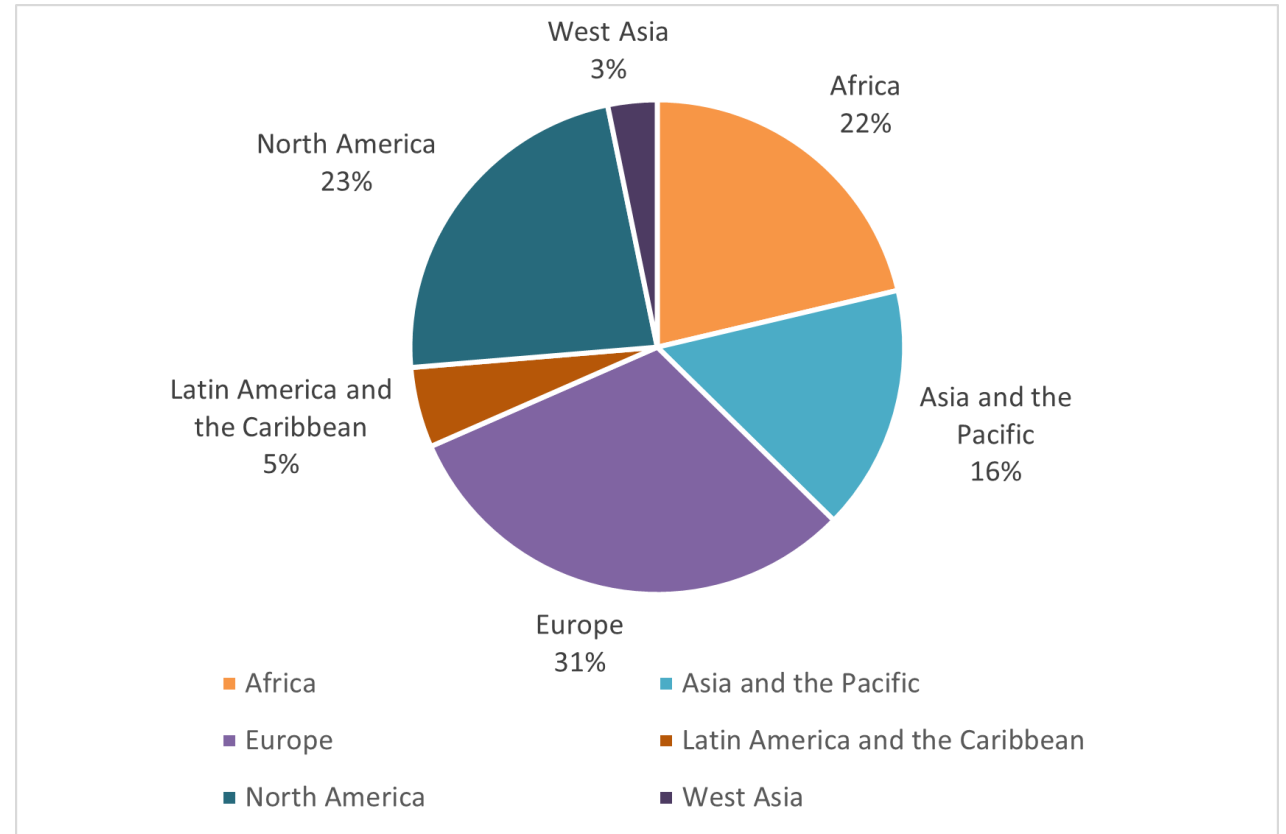
- Registered with a Government for at least 2 years
- Non-governmental, non-profit
- Focus on environment
- With environmental work locally and internationally

## Number of accredited organizations:

- 1182 as of 15 August 2024. List can be found [here](#)

## Regional distribution as of 15 August 2024:

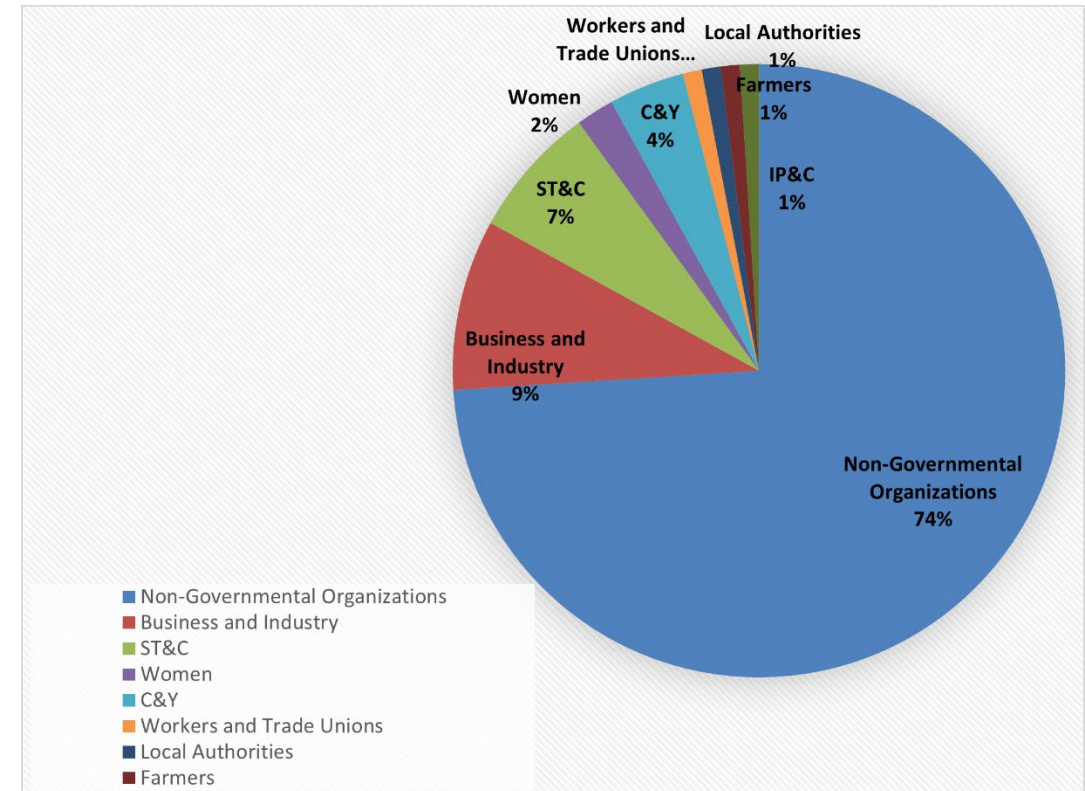
- Africa: 22%
- Asia and the Pacific: 16%
- Europe: 31%
- Latin America and the Caribbeans: 5%
- North America: 23%
- West Asia: 3%



# Accreditation (cont´)

## Distribution by Major Groups as of 15 August 2024:

- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO): 74%
- Business and Industry: 9%
- Scientific and Technological Communities: 7%
- Women: 2%
- Children and Youth: 4%
- Workers and Trade Unions: 1%
- Local Authorities: 1%
- Farmers: 1%
- Indigenous Peoples and their Communities: 1%



# Resources

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



Who we are ▾

Where we work ▾

What we do ▾

Publications & data



Home / Civil society engagement

## Civil society engagement



### 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

### ► Overview

Why civil society matters

Major Groups Modalities

Accreditation

Participation and engagement

Policies



# Thank you

---

**Civil Society Unit**

[Unep-civilsociety@un.org](mailto:Unep-civilsociety@un.org)

