

UNEA

United Nations Environment Assembly
of the United Nations Environment Programme
Delivering on the 2030 Agenda

GMGSF
15TH GLOBAL
MAJOR GROUPS
AND STAKEHOLDERS
FORUM
21-22 MAY 2016

UNEA

UNEP

UNEA 2

Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)

May 21 – 22, 2016 at UNEP Nairobi, Kenya



UNEP Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum prior to UNEA-2

May 21 – 22, 2016

UN Gigiri Complex, Conference Room 1,

Nairobi, Kenya

Influence! Innovate! Learn! Coordinate! Cooperate! Interact! Convene! Exchange!

AGENDA

Saturday, May 21, 2016

9:00 – 9:30 Opening and Welcome

Leida Rijnhout, Susana Rivero Baughman, (on behalf of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee)

Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP

Session 1: UNEA, Status of Negotiations and Expected Outcome

9:30 – 11:30 UNEA 2: Significance, Structure and Expected Outcome

H.E. Julia Pataki, Chairperson of UNEP's Committee of Permanent Representatives, Ambassador of Romania

Presentation by **Jorge Laguna-Celis**, Secretary of Governing Bodies, UNEP, on Significance, Structure and General Outcome (20 minutes)

Presentation by **Member State representatives** on Resolution Clusters: Update on the status of resolutions and opportunities for MGS to contribute (60 minutes)

Cluster 1: Pedro Escosteguy Cardoso, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil

Cluster 2: H. E. Mr. John Moreti, CPR Vice Chair, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana

Cluster 3: Corinna Enders, CPR Rapporteur, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany

Cluster 4: H.E. Mr. John Moreti, CPR Vice Chair, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana

Cluster 5: H.E. Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar, CPR Vice Chair, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Presentation by **Rosemary Mukasa**, Deputy Secretary of Governing Bodies: Other UNEA decisions and outcomes relevant for MGS (30 minutes)

Presentation by **Alexander Juras**, Senior Coordinator Major Groups and Stakeholder Relations at UNEP, Update on Stakeholder Engagement Policy (10 minutes)

Session 2: Multi-stakeholder Interaction on Main UNEA Themes and the Role of MGS in Multi-stakeholder Partnerships, Policy making and the Application of the Rule of Law, in Implementing the SDGs

11:30 – 13:00 1. Parallel Panel Discussion: Means of Implementations and Mobilising Resources for Sustainable Investments.

Facilitator: Neth Dano (Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration, ETC Group, Philippines)

Panelists: Ali Ahmed Hersi (Society for International Development, Kenya), **Norine Kennedy** (United States Council for International Business, USCIB, USA), **Ivo Mulder** (UNEP REDD+ Economics Advisor), **Kwesi Obeng** (Tax Justice Network Africa), **Pedro Escosteguy Cardoso** (Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil)

11.30 – 13.00 2. Parallel Panel Discussion (Room 14): UNEP and Principle 10: Access to Information Policy, Stakeholder Engagement Policy, Bali Guideline Implementation Guide

Facilitator: **Stephen Stec** (Central European University, CEU, Hungary)

Panelists: **Alexander Juras** (Senior Coordinator Major Groups and Stakeholders Relations, UNEP), **Carole Excell** (World Resources Institute, WRI, USA), **David Banisar** (Article 19, UK), **Benson Ochieng** (Institute for Law and Environmental Governance (ILEG), Kenya), **Marcos Orellana** (Center for International Environmental Law, USA)

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch Break,

In parallel: Brownbag Workshop (Delegates Lounge): Engaging with UNEA for Newcomers, Interactive Presentations by Peter Denton (Regional Representative of North America to UNEP, Canada), Leida Rijnhout (European Environmental Bureau, Co-Chair Major Groups Facilitating Committee, Belgium), Lucy Mungai (UNEP, Secretary of Governing Bodies and Stakeholders)

14.00 – 15.30 1. Parallel Panel Discussion: How can Multi-stakeholder Partnerships Strengthen and Complement Government Implementation of the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda

Facilitator: **Mark Halle** (International Institute for Sustainable Development, IISD)

Panelists: **Ms. Wardarina** (Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development APWLD – Regional Representative Asia Pacific to UNEP, Thailand), **Stella Simiyu Wafukho** (Croplife Africa, Kenya), **Herman Sips** (Senior Policy Coordinator, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment of The Netherlands), **Susan Brown** (World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF, Switzerland), **Luther Anukur** (Regional Director, International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN, Kenya), **Salina Sanou** (Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development, ACORD, Kenya, Action for Sustainable Development, A4SD)

14.00 – 15.30 2. Parallel Panel Discussion (Room 14): Multiple Pathways to Sustainable Development

Facilitation: **Scott Vaughan** (International Institute for Sustainable Development, IISD, USA)

Panelists: **Helge Zeitler** (EU, European Commission, DG environment), **Polina Shulbaeva** (Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North, CSIPN, Russia), **Michael Stanley-Jones** (UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative), **Ashok Khosla** (Development Alternatives, India), **Najib Saab** (Arab Forum for Environment and Development, Lebanon)

15.30 – 17.00 1. Parallel Panel Discussion: How can MGs' Technical Expertise and Research, Citizen Science and Indigenous Knowledge Contribute to Advance the Monitoring of SDG GB Implementation, Including in the context of Geo 6,

Facilitation: **Jacqueline McGlade** (Director of the Division of Early Warning and Assessment, Chief Scientist, UNEP)

Panelists: **James Donovan** (ADEC Innovation, Philippines), **Peter Denton** (United Church of Canada), **Isis Alvarez** (Global Forest Coalition, Colombia), **Florence Daguitan** (Tebtebba, Philippines), **Charles Mwangi** (GLOBE Kenya), **Diana Mangalagiu** (Science Po France), **Peter King** (Institute for Global Strategies, IGES Japan), **Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf** (Sustainability Program Research Manager at the Gulf Research Center)

15.30 – 17.00 2. Parallel Panel Discussion (Room 14): Healthy People, Healthy Environment

Facilitation: **Anna Coopman** (Stakeholder Forum)

Panelists: **Fanny Demassieux** (Environment and Health Coordinator, UNEP), **Sascha Gabizon** (Women in Europe for a Common Future, WECF, Germany), **Oyuntsetseg Oidov** (Development Horizons, Mongolia), **Helen Hakena** (Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea), **Saltanat Zhakenova** (Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia, Kazakhstan), **Dan Reifsnnyder** (Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental Affairs of the U.S. State Department)

17.00 – 18.30 Open dialogue with Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP

Facilitation: **Calvin James** (Co-Chair Major Groups Facilitating Committee)

19.00 Fashioning Rural Women's Self-Empowerment: A Benefit Dinner, Discussion and Fashion Evening, Abyssinia Restaurant at Brookside, Westlands, Nairobi

Sunday, May 22, 2016

Session 3: MGS Coordination and Preparation of UNEA 2 input

9.00 – 9.30 Common MGS Statement, UNEA Thematic Clusters, Working Groups

Introduction and Facilitation by **Leida Rijnhout** (Co-Chair Major Groups Facilitating Committee)

9.30 – 12.00 Parallel working groups on possible common statement, thematic clusters

12.00 – 13.00 Report back from Working Groups, Presentation of Statements

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch Break

In parallel: Brownbag presentation by UNEP (Press room) on Social and Environmental Safeguards
Presenter: **Yunae Yi** (UNEP)

Session 4: The Future Vision for UNEA and GMGSF

14.30h – 15.15 Presentation by Jan-Gustav Strandenaes (Stakeholder Forum, UK), Option for the Future of the GMGSF

15.15 – 16.30 Moderated Discussion: How can the engagement with UNEA and subsidiary bodies be strengthened, Moderator: **Ken Mwathe** (Bird Life International, Kenya)

16.30 – 18.00 Panel discussion: How Can the GMGSF Evolve into a Strong Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Platform?

Facilitation: **Alison Tate** (International Trade Union Confederation, ITUC, Belgium)

Panelists: **Jorge Laguna Celis** (Secretary of Governing Bodies, UNEP), **Mark Halle** (International Institute for Sustainable Development, IISD, Switzerland), **Norine Kennedy** (States Council for International Business, USCIB, USA), **Leida Rijnhout** (European Environmental Bureau, EEB, Belgium), **Yunus Arikon** (Local Governments for Sustainability, ICLEI), **Mirna Ines Fernández** (World Association of Girl Scouts, Bolivia)

19.00 Party at UN Recreation Center

CVs and contacts of all the panelists are available [here](#).



Saturday, May 21, 2016

Introduction

289 persons participated at the GMGSF, where interactive discussion took place, exchange of information and updates were done, included status report and discussion on the state of UNEA2 negotiations. One of the hot issues was of course the update of the UNEP's Stakeholder Engagement Policy. The GMGSF also included a short course: "How to Engage with UNEA for newcomers" and an event on UNEP Social and Environmental Safeguards. Several panels on main topics were organised to discuss options for implementation of SDGs, environmental actions and other UNEA2 outcomes. The meeting developed as always a common statement for the opening plenary and "thematic cluster" groups were established to follow and interact on main messages for UNEA2. Participants also dialogued with outgoing ED Achim Steiner.

The meeting ended with a lively discussion on options to strengthen GMGSF and other aspects of ongoing MGoS involvement in UNEP discussions and initiatives.

I. Opening and Welcome

Leida Rijnhout, EEB and **Susana Rivero Baughman**, Co-chairs of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC), reviewed meeting objectives and agenda, and stated that a GMGSF report will be shared through the UNEP website.

Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, UNEP, noted that twice as many participants were expected for UNEA2 as attended the first UNEA. He reviewed the 2 main themes for UNEA2: Environment Dimensions of the SDGs and Healthy Planet, Healthy People. He also noted many important themes to be covered by the resolutions and symposia, as well as the High Level sessions.

UNEA must involve and be relevant to all sectors of society, and therefore will keep moving towards becoming more inclusive.



II. Status of UNEA2 Negotiations and Expected Outcomes: Dialogue with Major Groups and Stakeholders

- **Perspective of CPR: Julia Pataki**, CPR Chair and Permanent Representative of Romania.

Ms. Pataki stated that 125 countries were expected to attend UNEA2 at ministerial level. She indicated that the structure of UNEA is evolving, and every opinion is crucial to give UNEP the strongest possible voice on environment. Major Groups and Stakeholders (MG/S) improve UNEP debate, strengthen outcomes and support vital partnerships.

- **UNEA2 Significance**, Structure and Outcome: **Jorge Laguna-Celis**, Secretary of Governing Bodies, UNEP, on Significance, Structure and General Outcome.

Jorge Laguna-Celis indicated that the GMGSF is integral to UNEA2. He pointed to links between GMGSF's multistakeholder dialogue and implementation. He drew attention to other UNEA2-related meetings, such as the Sustainable Innovation Forum, and Symposia on Mobilizing Resources for Investment for Sustainability and on Environmental Impacts of the Refugee and Migrant Crisis. He described the Sustainable Innovation Expo as a totally open platform where all MG/S are welcome.

The facilitators of the Resolution Clusters provided a pre-UNEA2 status report on their work.

- **Cluster 1: Pedro Escosteguy Cardoso**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil.
- **Cluster 2: H. E. Mr. John Moreti**, CPR Vice Chair, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana.
- **Cluster 3: Corinna Enders**, CPR Rapporteur, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany.
- **Cluster 4: H.E. Mr. John Moreti**, CPR Vice Chair, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of Botswana.
- **Cluster 5: H.E. Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar**, CPR Vice Chair, High Commissioner and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Ms. Rosemary Mukasa briefed the group on other UNEA decisions and outcomes relevant to MGS.

Alexander Juras, Senior Coordinator Major Groups and Stakeholder Relations at UNEP, provided an update on the negotiations on the proposed UNEP Stakeholder Engagement Policy.

III. Panels on UNEA Themes and the Role of MG/S in Multi-stakeholder Partnerships, Policy making and Rule of Law, in Implementing the SDGs

A. Means of Implementations and Mobilising Resources for Sustainable Investments

Facilitator: Neth Dano (Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration, ETC Group, Philippines)

Panelists:

Ali Ahmed Hersi (Society for International Development, Kenya)

- Highlighted the need to mobilize domestic resources and stop illicit financial flows.

Norine Kennedy (United States Council for International Business, USCIB, USA)

- Emphasized the need for enabling frameworks for trade, investment and entrepreneurship, and assist domestic resource mobilization by stopping bribery and corruption and bring business and people out of the informal economy.

Ivo Mulder (UNEP REDD+ Economics Advisor)

- Discussed aspects of natural capital relevant to REDD+.

Kwesi Obeng (Tax Justice Africa, Kenya)

- Expressed concerns about tax evasion and argued for a stronger role of the UN on taxation policy.

Pedro Escosteguy Cardoso (Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil)

- Highlighted collaborative approach of Brazil to work with private sector and civil society, and emphasized the potential of trade to advance sustainability with the appropriate rules and safeguards.

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B. UNEP and Principle 10: Access to Information Policy, Stakeholder Engagement Policy, Bali Guideline Implementation Guide

Facilitator: **Stephen Stec** (Central European University, CEU, Hungary)

Panelists:

Alexander Juras (Senior Coordinator Major Groups and Stakeholders Relations, UNEP)

Carole Excell (World Resources Institute, WRI, USA)

David Banisar (Article 19, UK)

Benson Ochieng (Institute for Law and Environmental Governance (ILEG), Kenya)

Marcos Orellana (Center for International Environmental Law, USA)

Participants acknowledged UNEP's efforts in promoting Rio Principle 10 worldwide through the Bali Guidelines and through implementation efforts, guidance documents, regional workshops, and capacity-building on the national level in cooperation with other UN agencies.

Participants commended UNEP for substantially improving the initial Access to Information Policy and welcomed the Policy, also acknowledging that greater efforts should be made to publicize its availability and to make it user-friendly through web access etc.

UNEP should review its policies and practices on active dissemination of information, including by assessing the types of information needed by stakeholders in a participatory way. It should also review its existing document management system, with a view towards making publicly accessible indices of records held.

UNEP should issue annual reports on implementation of its AIP, listing requests and responses, as well as internal measures to improve access that have been taken; and on SEP, once it is adopted.

UNEP should commission an independent external review on the success of implementation of the AIP in order to report to UNEA 3 or 4, and such reviews should be undertaken periodically thereafter.

The participants considered the current UNEA-1 President's proposal on SEP and accepted it as a viable compromise as currently written, noting that future work is needed to meet the promise of Para 88(h). However, any weakening of the draft policy, such as with a silent veto to accreditation (termed a no-objection principle) would unacceptably regress and fatally undermine an effective Stakeholder Engagement Policy.



C. How can Multi-stakeholder Partnerships Strengthen and Complement Government Implementation of the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda

Facilitator: **Mark Halle** (International Institute for Sustainable Development, IISD),

Panelists:

Ms. Wardarina (Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development APWLD & Regional Representative Asia Pacific to UNEP, Thailand)

Stella Simiyu Wafukho (Croplife Africa, Kenya)

Herman Sips (Netherlands/EU Presidency)

Susan Brown (World Wide Fund for Nature, WWF, Switzerland)

Luther Anukur (Regional Director, International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN, Kenya)

Salina Sanou (Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development, ACORD, Kenya, Action for Sustainable Development, A4SD)

Following an introduction and context-setting by the facilitator, each of the panelists presented in turn. This was followed by an interactive session, short reactions by the panel, and a summary by the facilitator.

The panel explored the critical question of how to design and implement multi-stakeholder partnerships so as to rise to the challenge of fully implementing the 2030 Agenda by the 2030 deadline. Many panelists pointed out that the adoption of the Agenda provides an opportunity for leverage and action that is unique in the history of sustainable development. It was clear to all that, despite UNEP's positive track record in - and particular openness to - working in partnership, the challenges of the 2030 Agenda requires that the full potential of partnerships be explored and acted upon. The panel reviewed many of the aspects of successful partnerships and the lessons that may be drawn from these experiences. They also reviewed the role of both UNEP and UNEA in providing a favorable platform and environment in which such partnerships could thrive.

The panel identified several features of successful partnership models – including the need for transparency, strong accountability mechanisms, a clear statement of purpose and of expectations from the different partners, the need to build a strong foundation of trust, and a clear understanding of the value that each partner brings to the partnership. The potential for partnerships involving private sector actors is great, but requires a particular effort at transparency and accountability aimed at countering suspicion and perception issues linked to their motivation. The test of a partnership is not only achieving the goals it may set for itself but also how it affects equity, social justice, and the interests of the most vulnerable. Partnerships whose purpose is to disrupt conventional approaches to open the way for new one might also be part of the mix.

At the same time, the full potential of Multistakeholder Partnerships is limited by a sometimes unfavorable policy and regulatory environment. It is essential to identify and remove the obstacles still in the way of these partnerships in many countries. Reaching the full potential for these partnerships implies a deep transformation in the governance of sustainable development, with less domination of governments and, in places, powerful corporate interests, and instead a greater voice for stakeholders, and particular those at the community level.

Multistakeholder Partnerships are particularly valuable where conventional approaches do not

work. They should be seen as exceptional opportunities for consensus-building, dialogue and mutual learning, helping to break down the barriers among the different stakeholders to the common Agenda.

The role of UNEP was examined. In light of the new challenges and in view of likely resource constraints when compared to needs, UNEP should re-examine its optimal role in respect of partnerships. Beyond operating and participating in partnerships (such as the 10 Year Framework of Programmes) it should examine whether a more useful role might not be to gather and disseminate information on how to construct and run successful Multistakeholder Partnerships, to catalyze and broker partnerships in its areas of interest even without taking part, or to serve as an accountability point, reviewing and evaluating partnership impact. An early first step would be the development of a handbook on successful partnership design and management for its broad stakeholder group.

The role of UNEA as a platform or even market-place for partnerships was also discussed. The potential for UNEA to provide space for a kind of partnership fair was deemed to be of interest. GMGSF could play a role in spelling out the options for a more proactive role for both UNEP and UNEA in this respect.

Finally, it is clear that we have entered a period where a great deal of experimentation, imagination and innovation will be needed. The rather stolid partnership models of the past century must give way to new, flexible, nimble and fast-moving ones. The achievement of the 2030 Agenda requires no less.

D. Multiple Pathways to Sustainable Development

Facilitator: **Scott Vaughan** (International Institute for Sustainable Development, IISD, USA),

Panelists:

Helge-Elizabeth Zeitler, (DG Environment – European Commission)

Polina Shulbaeva (Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North, CSIPN, Russia)

Michael Stanley-Jones (UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative)

Ashok Khosla (Development Alternatives, India)

Najib Saab (Arab Forum for Environment and Development, Lebanon)

Then panelists looked at different aspects to advance the SDGs, including:

First, identify the root causes of unsustainable development, including economic, institutional and legal barriers. Second, the need for a wider approach to sustainable resource management was underscored, including a wider approach to resources that include maintaining and restoring the natural resource base. However examples were given of resource mismanagement, with withdrawal of sand from river catchments illustrating links between poverty and environmental issues.

Third, can institutions help become more accountable, transparent and inclusive as envisioned in the SDGs. Examples included setting out standards and steps to support civil society actors; advancing access to justice, watchdogs and accountability scorecards, among others.

Fourth, indigenous peoples are central for the SDGs to succeed. Examples include ensuring access to justice, advancing free and prior informed consent, and the need for languages diversity,



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land rights and many others. Only two SDGs substantively address indigenous peoples; more proactive action is needed to support meaningful indigenous peoples partnerships.

Finally, it was noted that CSOs are central to linking the SDGs to on-the-ground changes. However, the space for effective participation of CSOs is shrinking in many countries.

E. How can MGs' Technical Expertise and Research, Citizen Science and Indigenous Knowledge Contribute to Advance the Monitoring of SDG GB Implementation, Including in the context of GEO6

Facilitator: Jacqueline McGlade (Director of the Division of Early Warning and Assessment, Chief Scientist, UNEP)

Panelists:

James Donovan (ADEC Innovation, Philippines)

Peter Denton (United Church of Canada)

Isis Alvarez (Global Forest Coalition, Colombia)

Florence Daguitan (Tebtebba, Philippines)

Charles Mwangi (GLOBE Kenya)

Diana Mangalagiu (Sciences Po France)

Peter King (Institute for Global Strategies, IGES Japan, tbc)


Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf (Sustainability Program Research Manager at the Gulf Research Center)

Isis Alvarez – Global Forest Coalition/ICCA Consortium, stressed that global knowledge systems are currently dominated by western science and called for greater recognition of indigenous conservation practices, citing various studies that show that adapting data collection and verification systems to local cultures can make the resulting data as reliable as that of researchers:

“For Indigenous Peoples and local communities, Mother Earth is alive and is sacred since ancestral times, having taken care of and preserved resources for all generations to come. Indigenous Peoples and local communities’ traditional knowledge is key in coping with climate change, through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). ICCA’s and Community-based Conservation Initiatives require further recognition and support. Indigenous Knowledge systems should have a more prominent role and should be promoted, not eroded. In fact, the best-conserved natural resources are located where Indigenous Peoples live, because “No one is in a better position to monitor environmental conditions in remote areas of the natural world than the people living there.”

Diana Mangalagiu, Science Po, observed that meeting the transformative goals of Agenda 2030 will require going from “normal to post-normal science,” highlighting the need to integrate SDGs into national development frameworks and involve actors at the local scale.

Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Gulf Research Center, said MG&S are well organized and could provide a useful mechanism to bring indigenous knowledge to the table. Giving the example of air circulation systems for cooling traditional homes and markets as a simple but effective traditional technology, he stressed the importance of entering into dialogue with private companies in order to develop context-appropriate and sustainable technologies.



Florence Daguitan, Tebtebba, underlined that the SDGs did not come out of a vacuum as they were shaped by decades of struggle for human rights and inclusive global processes.

She highlighted the contribution of indigenous groups in these processes through such initiatives as contributing to indicator development for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and UN-REDD: “Our [indigenous peoples'] close relationship with our environment made it possible for us to develop our knowledge systems and practices in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems services in our lands and territories. We were able to develop our livelihoods, that optimize yet conserve our natural resources. From 2006 to present, we were able to conceptualize and very recently operationalize the community-based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS) and the Indigenous Navigator. CBMIS intends to empower communities to be able to own and manage their information and monitoring systems on their development intervention and to monitor status and trends on the state’s fulfillment of its obligation on rights and development. It makes use of both western scientific methodologies and traditional ways of monitoring. This will be enriched to encompass other relevant issues as contained in the SDG's whose preamble and introduction embodies much of our values.”

James Donovan, ADEC Innovation, observed that his company processes five billion data transactions a month in order to help people make smarter decisions and described UNEA as an ideal forum for “incubating” multiple coalitions, but noted that it will need to bring thousands more into the room to strengthen its decision-making base:

“The private sector is looking for an enabling environment. We absolutely know that the environment has changed, that society is looking for a new contract. There are leaders in all the various industries that are taking the environment to heart and putting sustainability into their businesses. What we believe we need to introduce is organized disruption. We need to introduce innovation at a pace that really needs to take science, policy makers, the private sector and civil society in total along in this journey of change.

“We do not have the time. We do not have the timeline of another twenty years or fifty years to make these changes. The private sector is willing to become involved, but we need an enabling environment, whether provided by the UN, UNEA, UNEP or other agencies: a safe zone in which we can fail—and fail forward—to be able to bring innovation to the table. Data is a new currency, and I don’t believe we are truly embracing it and all its possibilities.”

Peter Denton, United Church of Canada, said that to arrive at sound evidence to implement the 2030 Agenda there is need to look at the values behind scientific knowledge and called on UNEA to include faith-based organizations (FBOs) in this dialogue, stressing that they are present in every community and can contribute to exploring diverse pathways to sustainable development. He noted the extent to which FBOs are also involved in social service delivery everywhere, and that the successful delivery of the 2030 Agenda thus requires the intentional inclusion of FBOs in the decision-making process. He highlighted the recent Second International Seminar on Environment, Religion and Culture, co-organized by the Iranian government, UNEP and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as an example of how to promote respectful inter-cultural, inter-religious dialogue in support of the 2030 Agenda.

Charles Mwangi, Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) described how the programme works with primary and secondary school pupils to collect millions of measurements across different areas of research, enabling this data to be made available for science and decision making. He noted that GLOBE members are helping to monitor environmental trends such as mosquito breeding grounds, river flows, atmospheric variations, and changes in soil cover.



Participants raised issues on the need to: develop national capacities for science, technology and innovation; ensure transparency when collecting large amounts of data; formally recognize and institutionalize citizen science; and fulfill verification and prior informed consent (PIC) criteria when working with groups such as school children. In their responses, panelists suggested that UNEA and the GMGSF could provide a mechanism for incorporating indigenous knowledge systems in scientific and policy processes, and welcomed attempts by GEO-6 to find new ways of incorporating diverse types of knowledge.

F. Healthy Environment, Healthy People

Facilitator: Anna Coopman (Stakeholder Forum)

Panelists:

Fanny Demassieux (Environment and Health Coordinator, UNEP)

- Presented the Healthy Environment, Healthy People report prepared by UNEP and described joint efforts with WHO.

Sascha Gabizon (Women in Europe for a Common Future, WECE, Germany)

- Stated that providing information on health impacts is a way to get public involved in support of environmental policy.

Oyuntsetseg Oidov (Development Horizons, Mongolia)

- Described health impacts of mining and other industrial operations in Mongolia.

Helen Hakena (Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea)

- Gave examples of particular health impacts on women in PNG arising from climate change.

Saltanat Zhakenova (Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia, Kazakhstan)

- Talked about different environmental impacts that effect health in central asia, including from air pollution and industrial operation without proposer environmental controls.

Daniel Reifsnyder, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment (USA)

- Expressed satisfaction with the conclusion of the Minimate Convention on Mercury and other UNEP work to limit risks to ecosystems and human health.



IV. Dialogue with Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP

Facilitator: Calvin James (Co-Chair Major Groups Facilitating Committee)

The Executive Director talked about the important roles of civil society and the private sector in UNEP. He encouraged both to step up their involvement for solutions at UNEA2 and beyond. He emphasized the need to take the environmental dimensions of the SDGs as a given that must be understood as inherent to all activities to advance the 2030 Development Agenda, and should therefor be mainstreamed.



Sunday, May 22, 2016

V. MGS Coordination and Preparation of UNEA 2 input

Facilitated by **Leida Rijnhout** (Co-Chair Major Groups Facilitating Committee)

Parallel working groups were established to develop a common statement for the UNEA2 Opening Plenary, and gather recommendations on thematic clusters.

VI. A Future Vision for UNEA and GMGSF

Jan-Gustav Strandenaes (Stakeholder Forum, UK)

- Presented a proposal with options for the future of the GMGSF. A discussion of those options and other issues relating to strengthening MGS engagement with UNEA and other subsidiary bodies followed the presentation. **Mr. Ken Mwathe** (Bird Life International, Kenya) served as moderator.

VII. How Can the GMGSF Evolve into a Strong Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Platform?

Facilitator: Alison Tate (International Trade Union Confederation, ITUC, Belgium)

Panelists:

Jorge Laguna Celis (Secretary of Governing Bodies, UNEP)

- Described the interest of UNEP to create enabling conditions for MSPs.

Mark Halle (International Institute for Sustainable Development, IISD, Switzerland)

- Recommended an open, inclusive approach to stimulate social entrepreneurship

Norine Kennedy (United States Council for International Business, USCIB, USA)

- Developing a platform suggests recognition, diversity of constituency arrangements, and ongoing relations

Leida Rijnhout (European Environmental Bureau, EEB, Belgium)

- Stated importance of preserving major group structure and long term process work, to avoid more ad-hoc approach emerging in New York (HLPF – ECOSOC).

Yunus Arikian (Local Governments for Sustainability, ICLEI)

- Supported the importance of strengthening GMGSF with more mainstreaming and connection to UNEA itself.

Mirna Ines Fernández (World Association of Girl Scouts, Bolivia)

- Described examples of grassroots actions by civil society groups.
- Our intention to effectively "bring the voices from outside, inside". to contribute to making visible local, national and regional experiences, struggles and campaigns into global processes; connect the global with the local; participate in setting agendas; build connections and alliances across social movements and civil society organizations.

- Create spaces to advance the strategic issues through an engagement mechanism that is ongoing, beyond official UNEP/UNEA meetings, self-organising, independent, with ownership from the bottom-up, that builds on good practice and includes principles of transparency, accountability, representation, and inclusiveness. We should draw on the example of the Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism.
- Whilst the participation of civil society groups aims to forward an integrated, ambitious agenda within the UNEP, as our part in global environmental governance, our diversity, specific experience and unique contributions need to be recognised and engaged. Our participation in UNEP fora aims to contribute to good processes and improved outcomes for our members/constituents that ensures greater accountability of the UNEP, governments, and other Stakeholders and ourselves. We seek ongoing good cooperation as equal partners with the UNEP Secretariat.



IX. Agreement of Common Statement and Recommendation

Working Group 1: (related to Cluster/drafting group 1)

Role of UNEA and UNEP in Agenda 2030

- Member States to provide UNEA and UNEP with a strong mandate in delivering, reporting, reviewing and monitoring of the environmental dimension of the Agenda 2030.
- UNEA should align with HLPF meetings cycle, and be coherent with its programme.
- UNEA should also consider and encourage the alignment of these efforts through regional environmental ministers forum.
- UNEA should also take into consideration regional development strategies, based on local and bottom-up experiences, for example the Africa 2063 Agenda.
- UNEP should promote an efficient science-policy interface on the environmental dimension of Agenda 2030.

Inputs for HLPF, especially 2016 – “Ensuring that no one is left behind”

- Recognize the importance of the universal, integrated, and indivisible nature of this agenda.
- Ensuring that no one is left behind is also about not leaving the environmental dimension behind, UNEP and its MGS.
- UNEA should adopt and deliver strong message to HLPF on its share of responsibility and capacity to contribute.
- Member States to provide UNEA and UNEP with a mandate to review and monitor the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, suggest guidelines and convey the findings and recommendations of these reviews yearly to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).
- Call on Environment Ministers to ensure policy coherence between Conventions and institutions, both at the national and international levels.
- UNEP to provide input to Global Sustainable Development Report - GSDR and Secretary General SDG progress report.

Strengthening the environmental dimension across future HLPF

- Raise ambitious: rights-based approach – right to healthy environment, gender and closing the inequality gap. We urge for fundamental principles for civil engagement.
- Call on Environment Ministers to safeguard the environmental dimension in national actions and strategies for implementation, follow-up and review.

We would like to raise our concern about the weak review process and dilution of the environmental dimension as originally expressed in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. We are worried about the draft resolution the co-chairs of HLPF presented, where they propose to cluster the review of the SDGs over 3 year periods. Our concerns are that review of goals only once every 3 years for 8 days is not enough, and that the proposed titles for the clusters are not balanced and too focused on development challenges, where effort is indeed done to integrate the environmental challenges. But we would strongly urge you to aim at a continued review making use of existing UN review processes and consider a year of review where the state of the

environment is the main focus, though with integrating the development challenges (access to soil, energy, clean water, inequality etc.).

- 2017: Ensuring food security on a healthy and safe planet.
- 2018: Proposal: Making cities sustainable and resilient, and building social and physical infrastructure.

Regarding the Paris agreement, we call for:

- A clear roadmap on fulfilment of financial goal/commitment of US \$ 100b per year by 2020.
- Messages implementation of the forest.
- Clear strategy on how to reach the 1.5°C goal?.
- CBDR language in the resolution.
- Human rights at the core of implementation.
- Legally-binding enforcement.
- Using the language and outcome from Bonn to link and include the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Ratification of the Agreement as soon as possible.
- UNEP and UNFCCC to coordinate the implementation.

Working Group 2 (related to cluster/drafting group 2)

Overarching messages

- There is a paramount need for meaningful participation of stakeholders in decision-making and implementation of these issues.
- Overall, the political priority of chemical safety is low, including at the national level. UNEA2 should request the Executive Director to support efforts to raise the political priority of chemical safety at all levels, including the national level.
- UNEA2 should reinforce the urgent need to eliminate lead paint globally.
- There should be an active shift towards sustainable consumption and production – not just promotion.
- There is an important role of developed countries to take the lead in sustainable consumption and production.
- UNEP should be cautious on promoting market based solutions.
- UNEP should promote communities' knowledge and wisdom to ensure sustainable solutions to all issues.
- UNEP should help developing countries for pesticide/ chemicals/ biocides reduction and regulations.
- UNEP should promote sustainable agriculture production system in line with environmentally and socially acceptable methods.
- UNEP should ensure substantial language in the text i.e encourage, affirms, ensure.
- There is a need for a legally-binding instrument concerning marine plastic debris.

- Stress that prevention is key to long-term success in combating marine pollution.
- Need for creating an effective after-use plastics economy on the basis of developing a circular economy.
- Need to update London Protocol in relation to marine pollution.

Working Group 3 (related to Cluster 4 and SEP)

Stakeholder Engagement Policy

We welcome the efforts and proposal of UNEA President on the Stakeholder Engagement Policy. We have reached this point through much compromise and good faith negotiations, but future work is needed to meet Para 88 (h) of the Rio+20 Outcome Document. At this time, the President's proposal is our bottom line. Further weakening the policy, such as with a silent veto to accreditation (otherwise termed a no-objection principle), would be unacceptable and result in our rejection of the entire policy.

Regarding Montevideo Program

The working group on Montevideo raised concerns about the lack of reference to Principle 10 on access to information, public participation and access to justice in the resolution. It suggested that references to existing UNEP GC and UNEA resolutions be incorporated in the L.21 resolution to ensure that the priority is maintained. It also welcomed the new initiative of UNEP with UNDP and UNITAR to support implementation of the new UNEP guide on implementation of P10. Further, the group also discussed the relationship of the Montevideo Program with other related work on rule of law in enforcing wildlife crime and suggested language to link the two to ensure consistency.

Regarding Environmental Human Rights Defenders

The risks posed to environmental defenders are staggering; on average two people are killed every week defending their land, forests and waterways against threats from corporate and state interests. We call upon Member States to protect those who put their lives on the line for the environment. Propose a resolution at UNEA-3 on the protection of environmental human rights defenders in environmental conflicts caused some extractive activities, big infrastructure projects and landgrabbing.

Working Group 4 (related to cluster/drafting group 5)

Illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products

- Preamble paragraph 3: Keep original text. We oppose mixing legal and illegal trade
- Operative part paragraph 1: remove "ensure sustainable use and"

Sustainable and optimal management of natural capital for sustainable development and poverty eradication

We are proposing that member states consider the use of natural patrimony/heritage. We recognise that many developing and least developed countries are heavily dependent on the contribution of natural patrimony/heritage in their national economies. Civil society, however, is

deeply concerned on the use of the concept of 'natural capital' as a framework in conservation and development of natural patrimony/heritage. The use of 'capital' to describe the value of natural patrimony/heritage dangerously limits it to economic and financial valuation, which are not necessarily consistent with sustainable use. The concept of 'natural resources' also leaves developing countries vulnerable to exploitation and implies infinite use without responsibility and obligation to safeguard and nurture for future generations. These concepts fail to capture the intrinsic value of natural patrimony/heritage and the invaluable contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation, development and sustainable use of natural heritage.

We believe that there are elements to which we cannot attach a monetary value. We need to recognise the responsibility of people to protect, conserve and restore ecosystems and natural patrimony/heritage, not just to exploit.

Mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being

- Paragraph 5: retain Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Target
- Paragraph 8:
 - Stress the importance of this and welcome the work of the CBD over the last 20 years
 - Propose to add 'water' as a sector
 - Lack of references to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and women that are intimately connected to protection and preservation of biodiversity

Combating desertification, land degradation and sustainable management of rangelands

Recognising and upscaling the contributions of civil society and local communities and the role of indigenous knowledge in combating desertification

Protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflict

- UNEP needs a mandate to work effectively throughout the conflict cycle
- Legal protection of the environment during conflict needs to be strengthened, based on principles of human rights and international environmental law
- Needs stronger implementation of existing law in protecting the environment in relation armed conflict

Field based environmental assessment of the effects after the November 2012 and July and August 2014 wars on the Gaza strip

- Support Morocco's Gaza resolution
- Call for UNEP to do more post-conflict environmental assessments for countries where UNEP has not yet studied and monitoring the environment during conflicts

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Delivering on the 2030 Agenda



