



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署

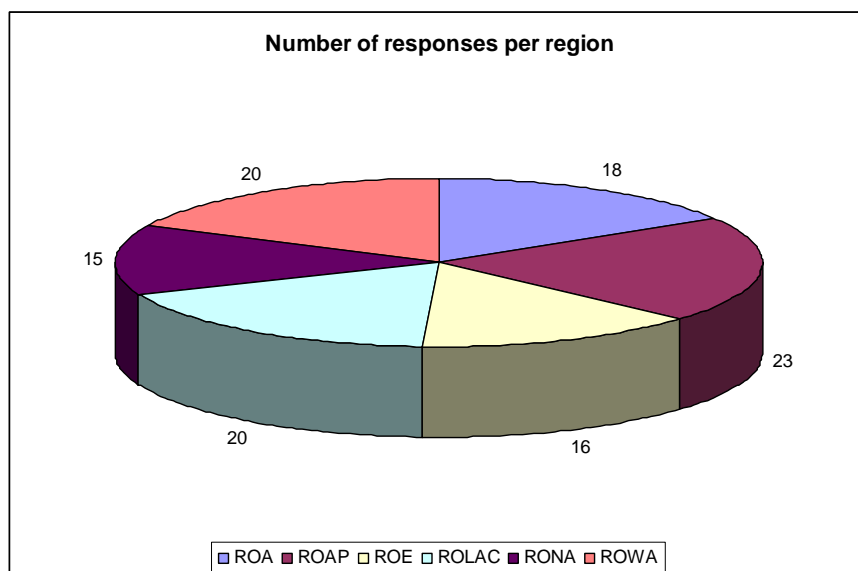
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

OUTCOMES OF THE EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRES GCSF CYCLE 2006-2007

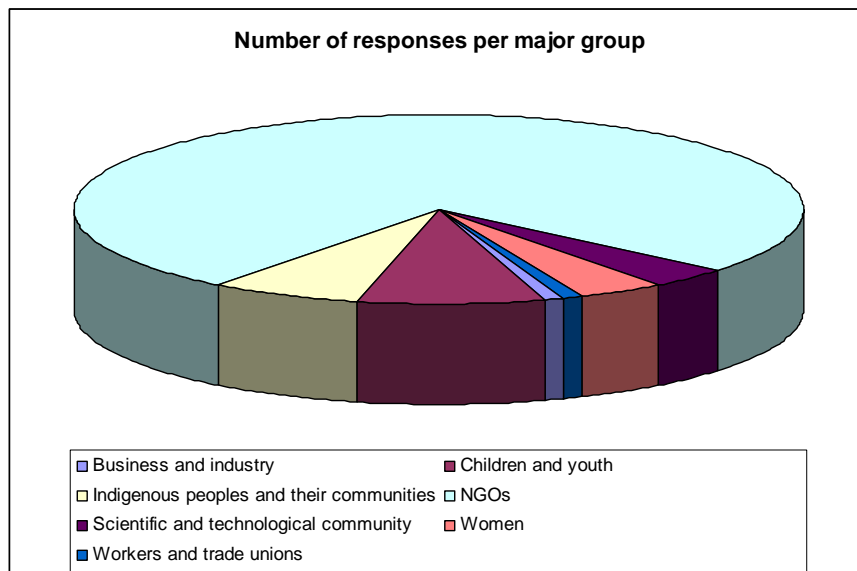
Regional consultation meetings

I. Background information

Out of 270, 112 participants to the regional meetings provided feedback by filling in the evaluation questionnaires (response rate of 41.8%). 45.8% of the respondents were female, 22% self-sponsored and the number of responses per region was well balanced, as illustrated by the chart below.



We should however note that most of the views come from NGOs while certain major groups such as business and industry and workers and trade unions are well under-represented.



II. Meeting sessions

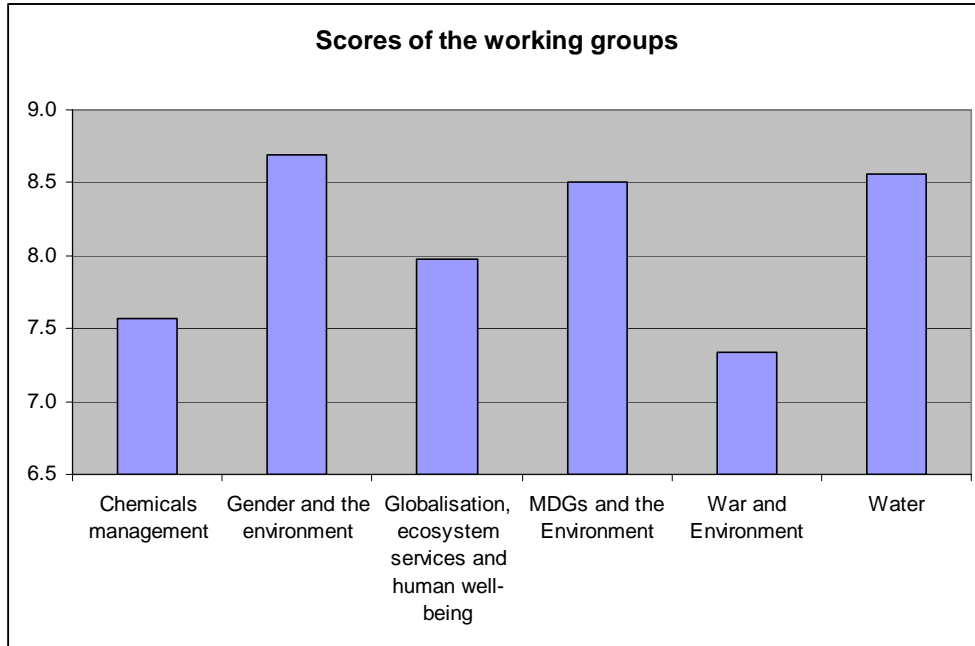
1. Presentations and dialogue sessions on key issues for UNEP 24th Governing Council

Out of 10, the water session received a score of 7.8, with the minimum score of 6.9 in Africa and 8.5 in North America. The session on gender and the environment was evaluated at 7.3 with a minimum of 6 in Asia and the Pacific and 8.8 in North America. The chemicals management session was rated 7.8 with a minimum of 6.9 in Africa and 9.1 in North America. One respondent from Europe said he was “unpleasantly surprised that there was no discussion on matters of nuclear waste, uranium and plutonium under "chemicals", whereas a large amount of time was dedicated to "gender and environment", which is really more a fashionable topic than an important issue for environmental conservation in Europe”.

Finally the session on globalization, ecosystem services and human well-being was evaluated at 7.9 with a score of 7.1 in West Asia and 8.9 in Latin America and the Caribbean. While participants seem overall satisfied, the difference among regions is relatively marked, suggesting the needs of some regions in terms of preparation or communication before the meeting are not fully answered and might benefit from additional support.

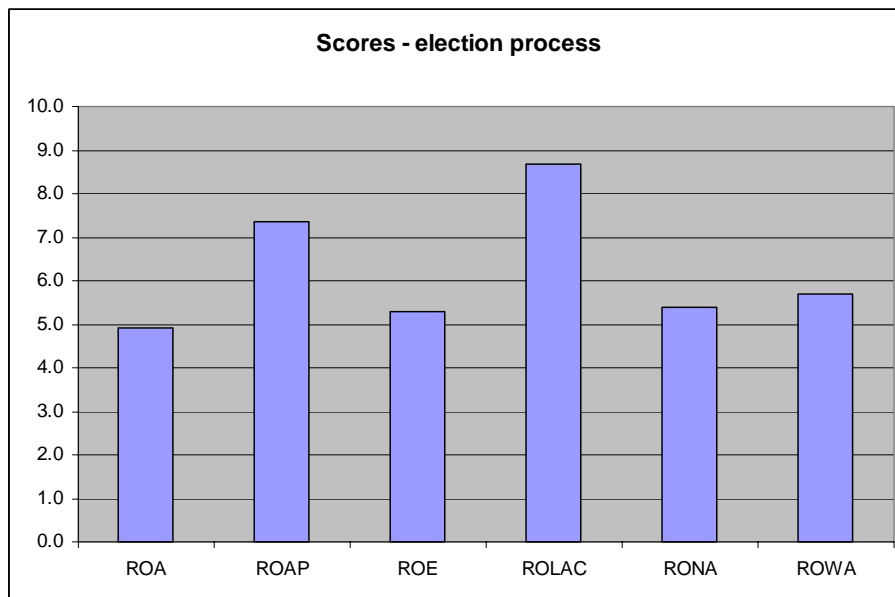
2. Working groups

The working groups were evaluated on average at 8.2, indicating a preference for working groups rather than plenary sessions. The working groups the most appreciated were the groups on gender and environment and water while the group on war and the environment (West Asia) was rated lower. In general the working groups received the highest score in North America (8.9) and the lowest in West Asia (7.5). The reports from the working groups were evaluated at 8.1 on average.



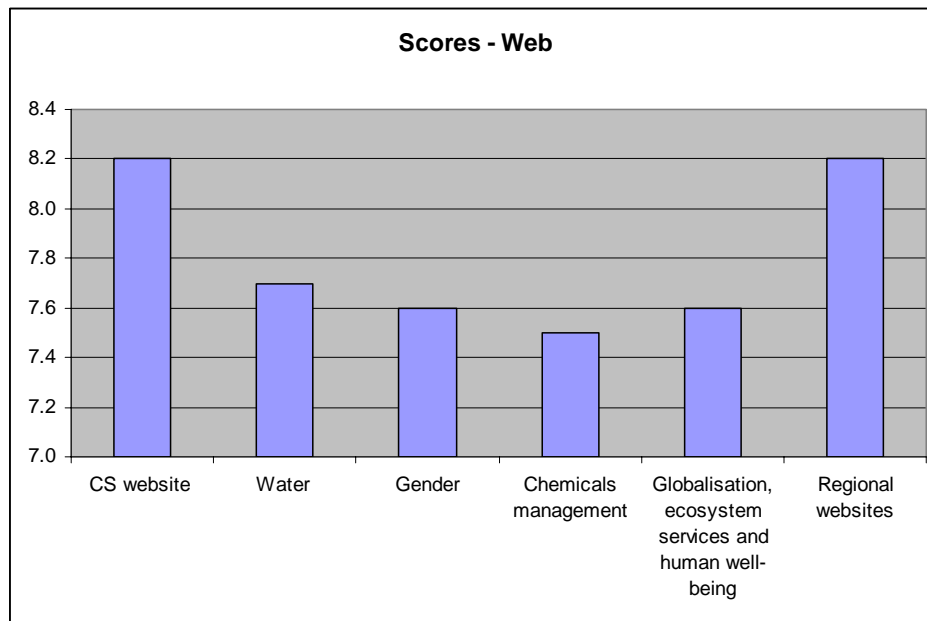
III. Election process

With an average score of 6.5, the election of representatives to the Global Civil Society Forum was poorly rated in all the regions except Latin America and the Caribbean and was particularly low in Africa and Europe. This suggests the need for transparent and uniformed election rules. A respondent from Asia and the Pacific explicitly commented on the fact the election process was not well organized while respondents from Europe and West Asia criticized strongly the election process, mentioning the need for clear procedures or the fact that only accredited organizations could be sponsored to the GCSF.



IV. Communication and pre-meeting consultation

The UNEP Civil society website was on average evaluated at 8.2, with the highest score given by participants from Europe (8.9) and the lowest by North Americans (7.6). The regional websites were also well appreciated in particular in Europe (9.2) and Latin America and the Caribbean (8.7). Thematic web pages were rated between 7.5 and 7.7. A participant from North America said these webpage were helpful but contained “almost too much information”.



The overall communication with UNEP was evaluated at 7.9.

A participant from North America said UNEP/RONA needs a more regular avenue and schedule/frequency of 2-way or multi-path communications with NGOs/IGOs in North America and offered its help to set up and or moderate e-mail group on the model of DCMC or the WW2BW groups. One participant from Europe mentioned the possibility to set the assignment prior to the meeting to allow advanced preparation and consultation. A respondent from Latin America and the Caribbean also mentioned the need to facilitate the sub-region consultations in a more systematic way and many referred to the late distribution of background documents.

V. Agenda

Generally speaking the respondents were very satisfied with the subjects covered (8.2) and the length of the sessions (7.4). One respondent from Africa however suggested the choice of the subjects should be done through an open process. As mentioned above, a participant from Europe questioned the interest of the subject gender and environment for their region. This suggests the need to explain better and in advance to the participants why and how subjects are chosen, and are part of a global consultation process related to UNEP GC / GMEF.

A participant from Asia and the Pacific said there was not enough time for discussions. Several respondents from Europe also mentioned the lack of time to prepare the regional statement or in working groups, the possibility to have some participants stay longer, the meeting extended by one day or some presentations and sessions not included, shortened or run in parallel. Respondents from North America said that sessions were too short and that

four topics are too many to allow the development of specific recommendations. Others participants from North America mentioned that the meeting was extremely well run, organized, focused and that facilitators were knowledgeable, well-prepared, and effective in getting the task done in an enjoyable way.

VI. Participation

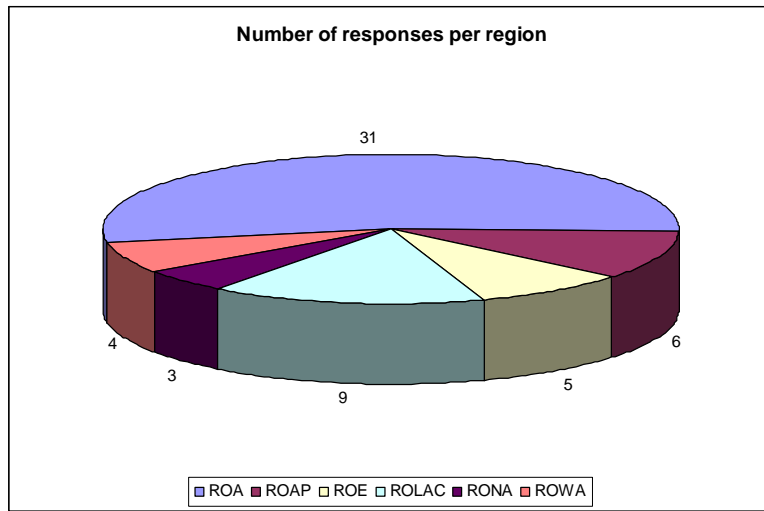
On average respondents evaluated positively the gender balance (8.2), the expertise of participants (7.9) and the regional balance (7.3) while the major groups balance was evaluated at 6.7 only. Regional differences can be observed. North American participants questioned and commented on the regional balance (6.5) but valued very much the expertise of the participants (8.9). Latin American and Caribbean also underlined the good expertise (8.7) while African evaluated the gender and major groups balance at 5.4 only. Respondents from African, Latin American and Caribbean and European indigenous groups appreciated their involvement and expressed their willingness to increase their participation in the future. Participants from North America said additional outreach efforts could help involve other major groups such as workers and trade unions, the scientific and technological community, indigenous peoples and their communities, local authorities and youth. The lack of youth representatives from the Caribbean and the importance to have each country from Latin America and the Caribbean were also mentioned. One respondent however appreciated the balance of groups. Several respondents from West Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean really valued the exchange of ideas and discussions. Financial resources were mentioned as an issue by one respondent from Latin America and the Caribbean.

VII. Organization

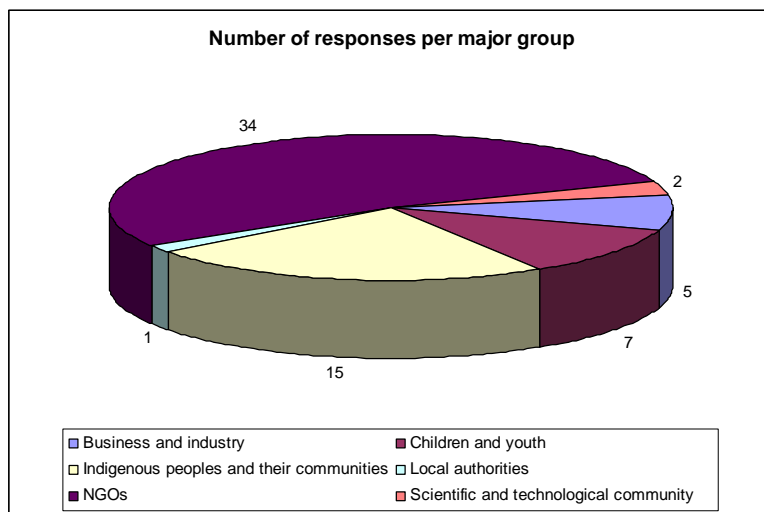
Respondents evaluated the organization of the meeting in general at 8.4, with a maximum score of 9.1 in Latin America and the Caribbean and a minimum of 6.4 in Africa. For sponsored participants, air travel arrangements were evaluated at 8.4 with a maximum of 9.1 in Europe and a minimum score of 6.9 in Africa. In Africa one respondent mentioned that the dates of the meeting, close to public holidays, affected the attendance of some members. Other respondents from Africa mentioned the lack of French interpretation, late travel arrangements, delays in DSA payment and the lack of support in terms of hotel booking and airport pick up. A respondent from North America also encouraged having invitations and background documents ready earlier. Several respondents from Asia and the Pacific praised their host for their great hospitality. A number of West Asian, European and North American respondents also commented very positively on the organization of the meetings. Participants from Latin America and the Caribbean extensively commented on the good organization and work from UNEP but deplored as well the fact background documents were available too late and one issue with the flights, although secondary they said

I. Background information

Out of 203, 64 participants to the 8th Global Civil Society Forum provided feedback by filling in the evaluation questionnaires (response rate of 31.5%). 32.8% of the respondents were female, 40.7% self-sponsored and all regions were represented, with an over-representation of Africa, as illustrated by the chart below. The participants sponsored by UNEP are on average significantly more satisfied by the meeting than the self-sponsored participants. Female respondents are also on average less satisfied, although this factor is less significant than the fact to be sponsored. In regards to sponsorship, respondents mentioned the need to make sure the various major groups were sponsored, with a focus on developing countries, the host country and economies in transition.

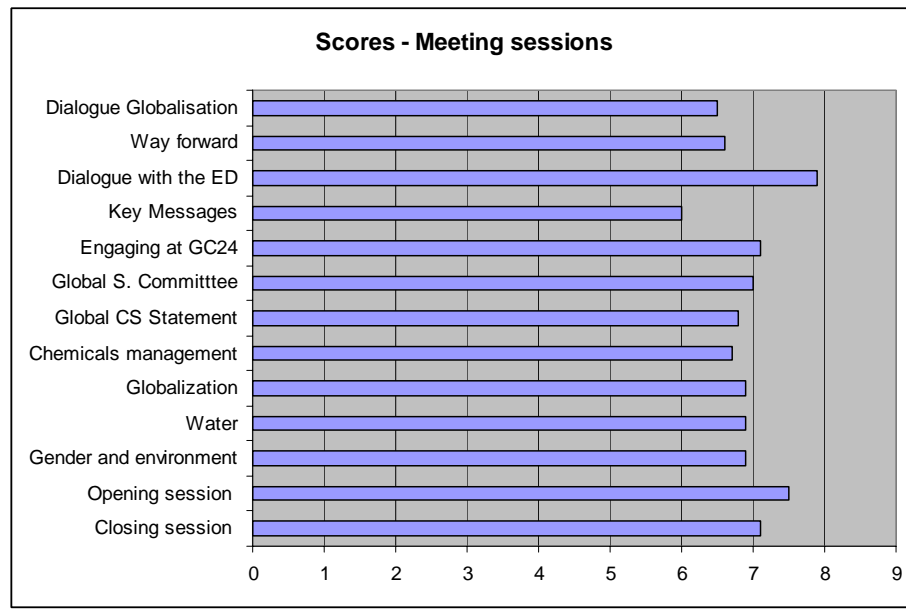


In terms of major groups, the highest number of responses comes from NGOs while the views of workers and trade unions, women and farmers are not represented.



II. Meeting sessions

The session that was most appreciated was the dialogue with the Executive Director (7.9). The opening session (7.5), and the sessions on engaging at the 24th GC/GMEF (7.1) and on the work programme of the Global Steering Committee (7) were well rated by respondents. Other plenary sessions including the dialogue on globalization were rated between 6.5 and 6.9 only while the finalization of key messages was not so appreciated (6).



While the process for selecting the Global Steering Committee raised some concerns, several respondents appreciated their commitment, work and roles as co-chairs or liaison with various major groups and major networks of NGOs engaged in the UN system.

Several participants questioned the fact the Global Statement was not open for discussion again but also highlighted the importance of developing short messages submitted by individual CSOs or groups of organizations. One participant mentioned that over the years the rhythm of the meetings gets faster and subjects are increasingly well tackled by the GCSF.

In regards to the GC/GMEF, several respondents said the new format of CS participation was excellent as well as the inclusion of other UN agencies in the opening showing the synergies between their work and that of UNEP.

III. Communication

Respondents rated UNEP CS website at 7.4 while the average score for the overall communication is 7.3. One respondent showed interest in getting more information on CSOs present, UNEP staff present at the meeting and their speeches. Another underlined that UNEP continues to put significant efforts to facilitate access, participation and sharing information.

IV. Agenda

Respondents were generally satisfied with the subjects covered by the agenda (7.3) although there is room for improvement in terms of the session length (6.9). Some mentioned the need to have more time when it comes to working groups and drafting statements.

V. Participation

In terms of balance of participation, most of the respondents (in particular men) seemed satisfied with the gender balance (7.3) and the expertise of participants (6.8). Respondents were less satisfied with the regional balance (6.3) and not satisfied with the major groups' balance (5.2).

In regards to expertise the most satisfied were NGOs and respondents from Latin America and the Caribbean. One participant mentioned the lack of knowledge about the UN system (e.g. budget, processes, UN reform). The importance of participants coming prepared was also underlined. One respondent mentioned the need to have greater support and deeper technical cooperation with developing countries representatives.

Although the most present in the meeting, the regions the least satisfied by the regional balance were Africa and Europe.

Business and industry and indigenous peoples and their communities were the groups the least satisfied about the major group's balance while NGOs, the most present group, also rated this dimension very low (5.4), suggesting a common interest for more multi-stakeholder dialogue. Several respondents commented on the need to involve more major groups, to diversify their representation and to also involve community-based organizations and rural groups.

Other respondents really appreciated the diversity of participants present at the meeting and the dialogue with all stakeholders. One respondent mentioned the need to have participants attend regularly for better continuity in the process.

VI. Organization

Respondents whose travel was arranged by UNEP rated the air travel organization very well (7.9). The organization of the meeting in general received a score of 7.7. Several respondents appreciated the interpretation but noted that no discussion should take place without it, possibly referring to ad hoc working groups. One respondent also said it would be good to have documents translated into French. The organization of the coffee breaks was not good said one respondent.

A number of participants congratulated UNEP for the useful meeting and the good work done to involve various major groups, looking forward to follow up and input in the draft implementation plan presented and for new steps for enhancing the process. In this regard, one participant suggested relating to other international bodies or forums, such as the World Social Forum.

Recommendations

Based on the above, a number of recommendations can be identified for further consideration:

- Improve communication in regards to the selection of subjects to be discussed at the regional meetings in the wider context of the GCSF/GC/GMEF
- Limit the number of subjects discussed at the regional consultation meetings and GCSF (3 maximum)
- Organize a more continuous dialogue and preparation of CSO prior to the regional meetings and the GCSF, possibly through email or an on-line forum
- Pursue the practice of developing thematic and regional web pages
- Distribute the background documents earlier
- Clarify and harmonize the election process of representatives from the regions to the GCSF (transparent and uniformed election rules)
- Organize working groups both at regional and global levels and allocate sufficient time to the working groups in particular to draft statements
- Harmonize presentation material and facilitation of the dialogue sessions and identify well on time adequate resource persons
- Further promote the participation of various major groups, including through sponsorship, and regional balance at the GCSF
- Pursue the new format of participation during the GC/GMEF
- Take into account public holidays and define earlier the meeting dates