

AFRICAN REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING

MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS

METCOURT HOTEL
GABORONE

13 OCTOBER 2013
DAVID OMBISI, REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA, UNEP

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Mission:

“To provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations”.

Established in **1972 at the UN Conference on the Human Environment** to promote international environmental cooperation, provide policy guidance and to keep the world environmental situation under review.



Presentation of Stockholm Conference Poster to Secretary-General U Thant (1971)



Delegates discussing a document at the Conference (1972)

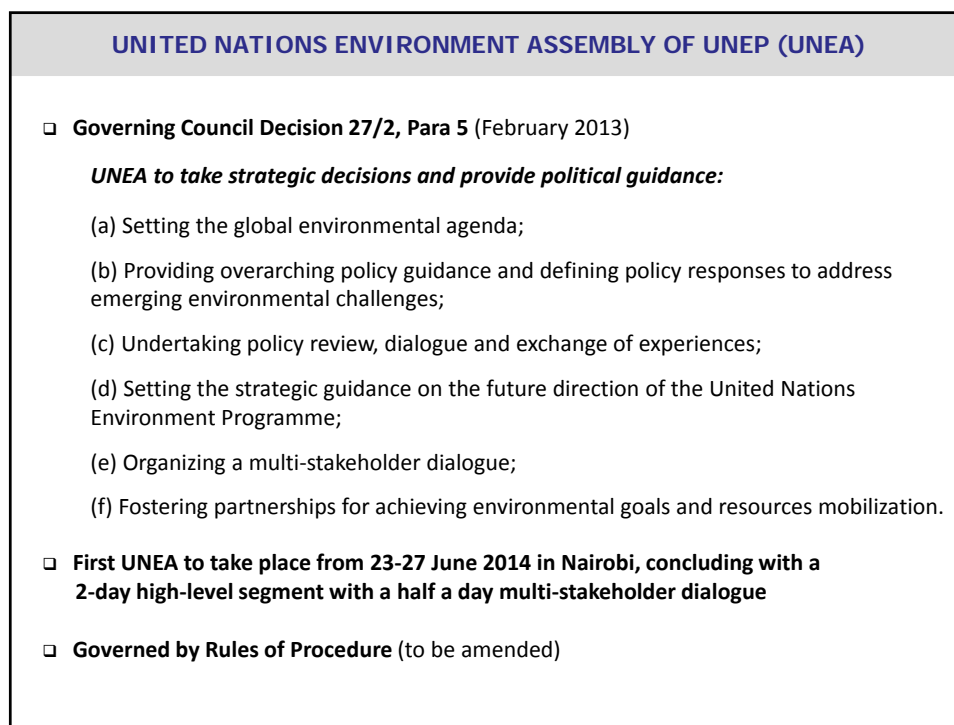
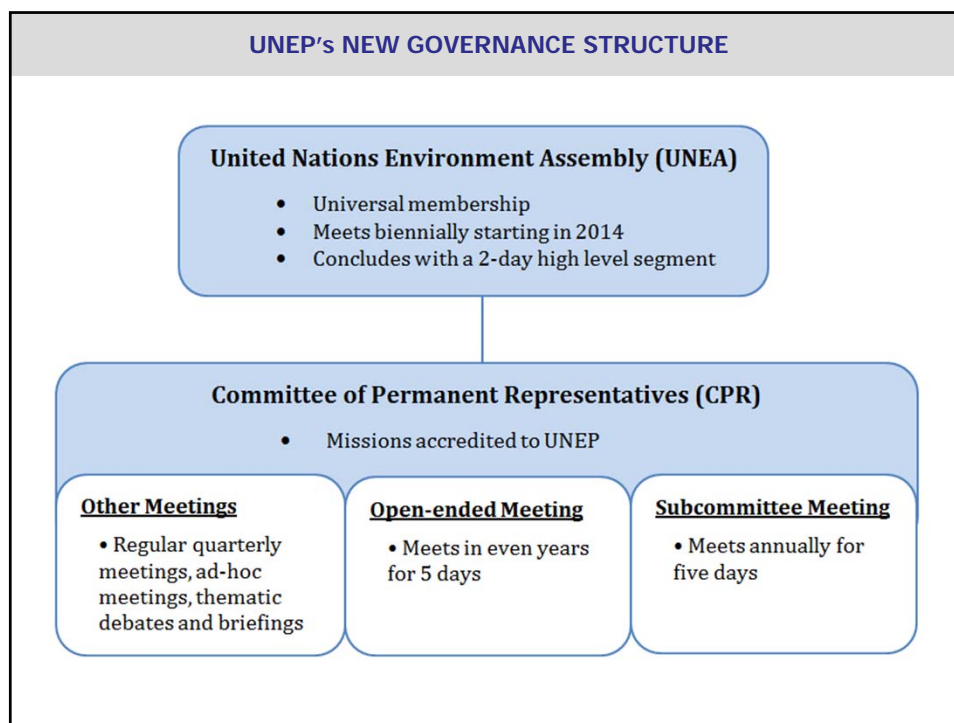
KEY MILESTONES IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), June 2012

- ❑ **Paragraph 88** on strengthening and upgrading UNEP as the **leading global environmental authority** that:
 - 1) Have secure, stable, adequate & increased financial resources
 - 2) Coordinate environmental activities in UN system
 - 3) Promote strong science-policy interface
 - 4) Disseminate evidence-based environmental information
 - 5) Provide capacity-building & facilitate access to technology
 - 6) Consolidate HQ functions & strengthen regional presence
 - 7) Ensure participation of all relevant stakeholders

First Universal Session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, February 2013

- ❑ Decision 27/2 on institutional arrangements – new governance structure for UNEP
- ❑ 58-membership Governing Council changed to “**United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP**” (UNEA) by the General Assembly (March 2013)



COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (CPR)

□ **Governing Council Decision 27/2, Para 9 (February 2013)**

CPR is the subsidiary inter-sessional body of the UNEP governing body

- (a) Contribute to the preparation of the agenda of its governing body
- (b) Provide advice to its governing body on policy matters;
- (c) Prepare decisions for adoption by its governing body and oversee their implementation;
- (d) Convene thematic and/or programmatic debates;
- (e) Promote effective ways and means to facilitate participation of the non-resident members of the Committee, particularly from developing countries
- (f) Perform any other functions delegated to it by its governing body;



UNEA and AFRICA

- **The up-grading of UNEP is due mainly for the strong commitment and engagement of the African countries and the AU**
- **A strengthened and upgraded UNEP with universal membership is poised to play an effective role in following up on the Rio +20 outcomes**
- **Africa is the current President of UNEA**
- **How can African countries (governments and stakeholders) effectively engage UNEP to shape the environmental agenda**

Key dates

- ❑ **Annual Subcommittee Meeting: 23-27 September 2013 in Nairobi**
- ❑ **Open-ended Meeting of the CPR: 24-28 March 2014 in Nairobi**
- ❑ **First UNEA: 23-27 June 2014 in Nairobi**



THANK YOU