

Outcome Report of the Evaluation Survey
For
Major Groups and Stakeholder participants at the
Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4)
and its associated meetings

4th – 15th March 2019, Nairobi Kenya

Introduction

Major Groups and Stakeholders are essential partners for the United Nations Environment Programme, contributing to the governmental decision-making processes at the United Nations Environment Assembly. Over 900 representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders participated in the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, engaging at the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum, the Science Policy and Business Forum, at various side events and at the Assembly itself.

To continuously improve its services to Major Groups, UN Environment had developed a questionnaire that was sent to all Major Groups and Stakeholders that participated in the fourth United Nations Environmental Assembly. This report presents the results of the survey.

315 representatives from Major Groups and Stakeholders responded to the online survey – a third of the MGS attendees at UNEA-4. The survey had a completion rate of 75% with the average time of completion being 12 minutes.

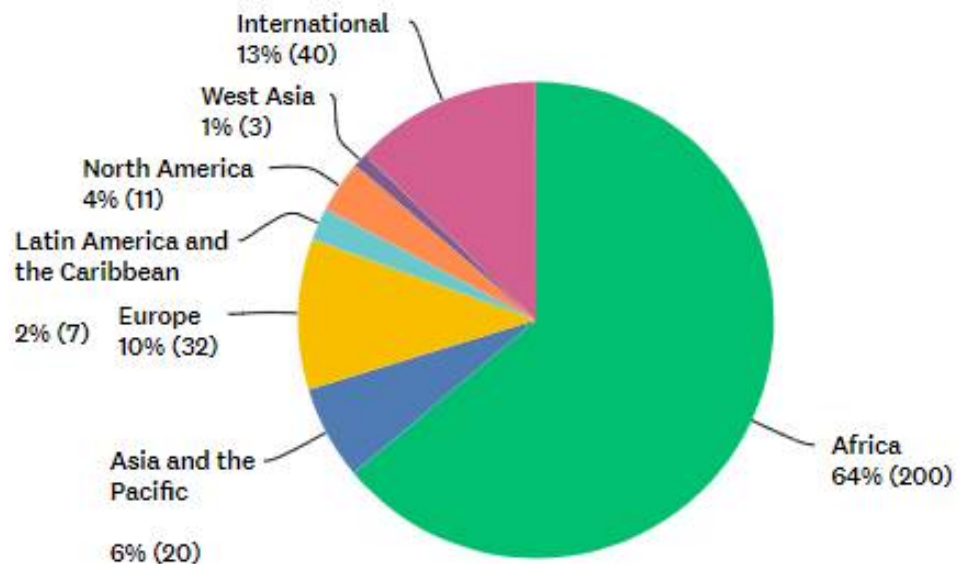
Accredited NGOs represented 73% of the respondents, while non-accredited represented 27%.

Respondents were predominantly from the Africa region, with 64% representation. Europe covered 10%, Asia-Pacific 6% while West Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean collectively made up 3%. North America accounted for 4%. International organisations comprised the remaining 13%.

Females represented 46% of survey participants, while males represented 54%.

Which region are you from or representing?

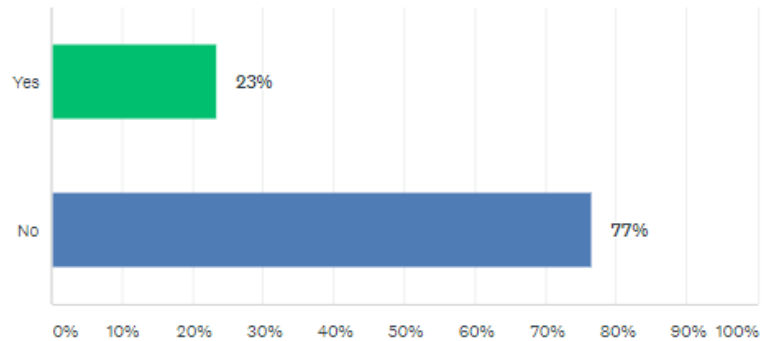
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Pre-UNEA Meetings Evaluation

1. Have you attended any UN Environment Regional Consultative Meetings (RCM) for and/or with civil society co-organized by UN Environment?

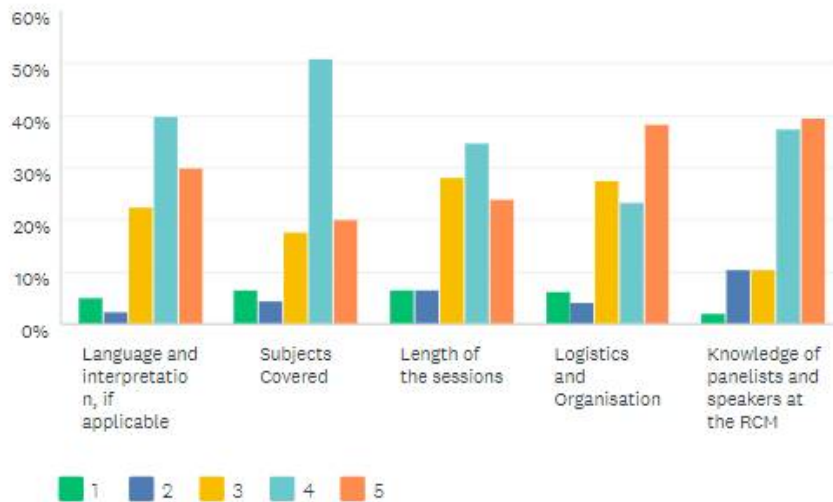
Answered: 311 Skipped: 4



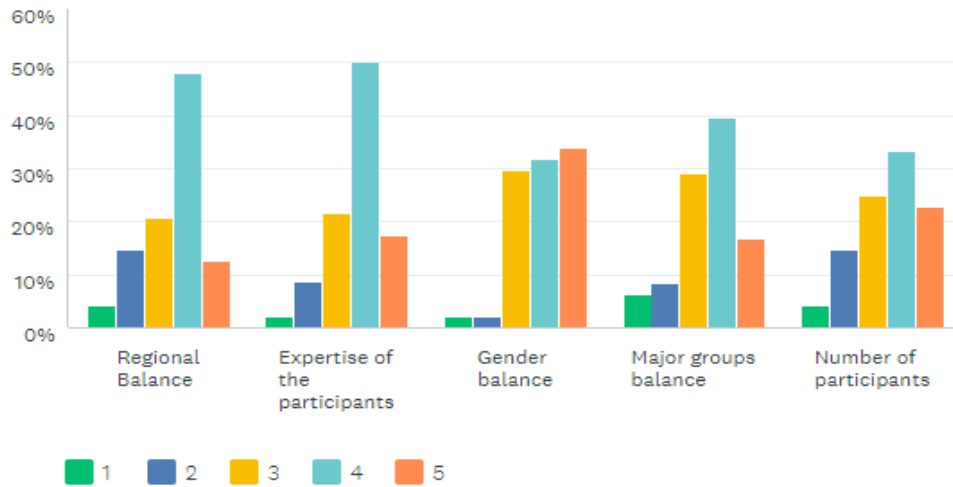
Of the 23% (47 people) of attended, most respondents attended the Africa 2019 meeting. Although there were several respondents who attended the Europe and West Asian meetings as well.

The answers for questions 2 – 11 (on pages 2 – 7) were answered by the 47 individuals that responded “yes” to question one.

2. How would you rate the consultation in your region regarding: *Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate)?*



3. How would you rate the participation regarding: *Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate)*?



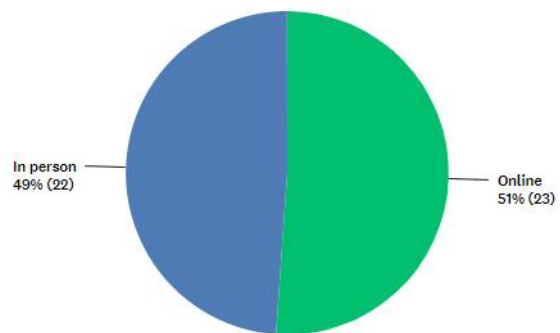
The gender balance was well received across all the RCMs. Whereas the Regional and Major Groups balance was poor.

4. Do you have any other comments on the RCM you attended in 2018?

40 responses received. Largely positive responses. Time allocation for the event remained an issue (from previous years) in certain regions. The process needs refining, with a need to draw up agenda strategically, to cover key UNEA issues/themes. Subsequent RCMs need rigorous selection criteria for those whose trip is funded. Participants need to show previous engagement at UNEA, or the subsidiary events. There is a need for capacity building sessions for new NGOs – explaining how NGOs can play a role in UNEA related events as well as how they can host an event during UNEA. Furthermore, training on how to write regional statements. How to follow set resolutions, based on regional priorities to involve themselves in resolution comments, so all involved can follow the process in depth with a solid understanding of procedures.

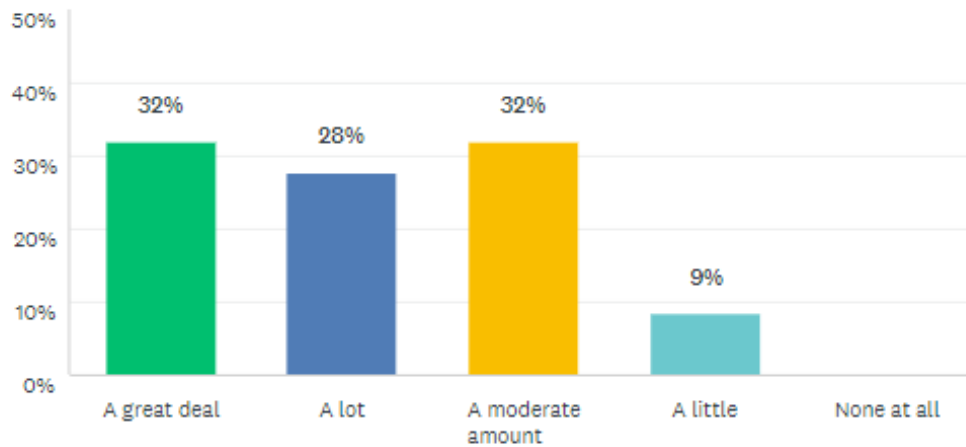
5. Did you attend any of the preparatory Committee of the Permanent Representatives (CPR) meetings during 2018 in person or online?

Of the 45 people that attended the RCMs, just over half (51%) attended the meetings online.



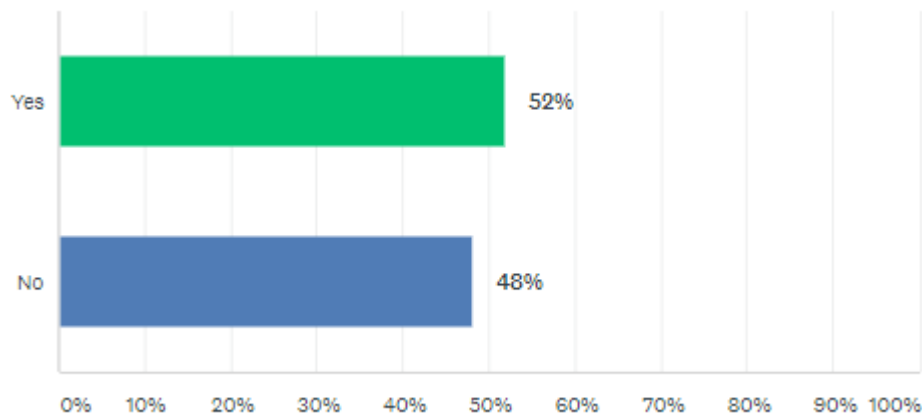
6. How effective did you perceive your participation in the CPR meetings held in Nairobi?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 268



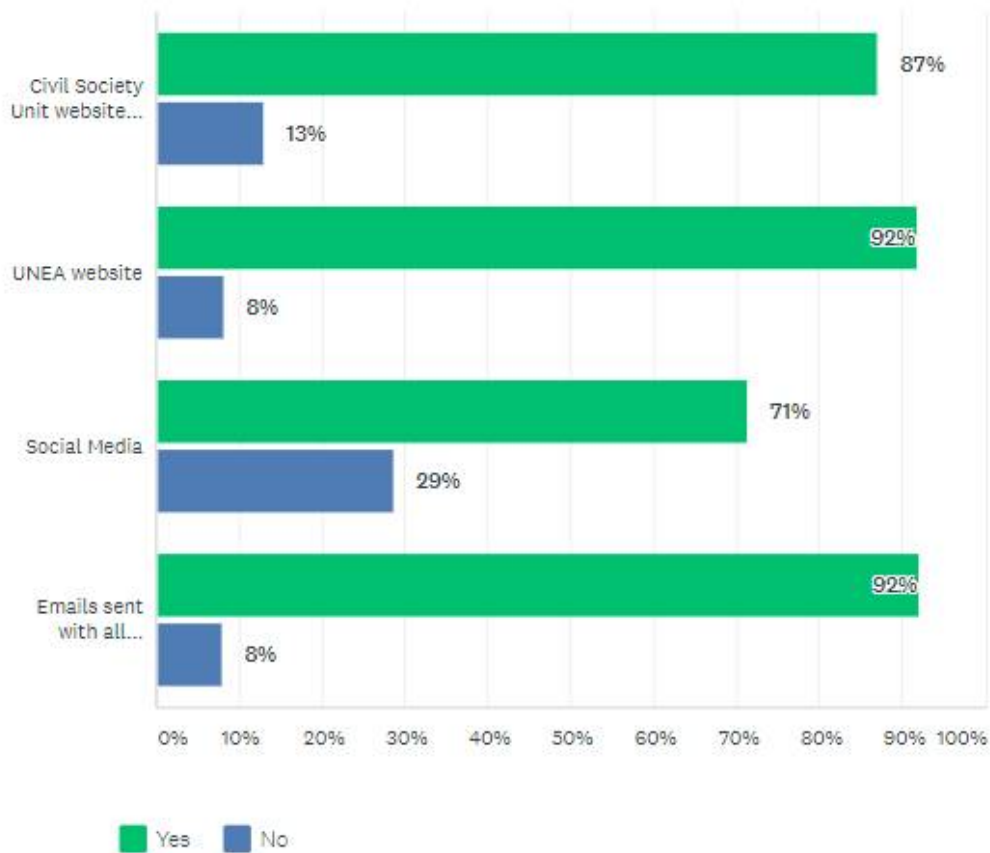
There was a great deal of people who were indifferent about their participation during the CPR meetings. This should be improved for people to feel as though they are making worthwhile contributions.

7. Did you participate in any of the other preparatory meetings on the way to UNEA-4?



Nearly half of the people that attended RCMs on the lead up to UNEA-4 did not attend any other preparatory meetings. Therefore, only 22 people attended multiple lead-up meetings. This means that most attendees at UNEA-4 were NOT adequately prepared to be there – a major issue. It should be considered compulsory to attend a lead-up meeting in order to attend the UNEA.

8. Would you consider our communication strategies prior to UNEA effective enough?



The few negative comments/feedbacks regarding the communication strategies are below:

CS Website:

The website should be translatable into the other core UN languages.
Also, all documents should be found on a single webpage.

UNEA Website:

The order of documents was not user friendly, causing difficulty finding older versions of resolutions.
Could have been more interactive.

Social Media:

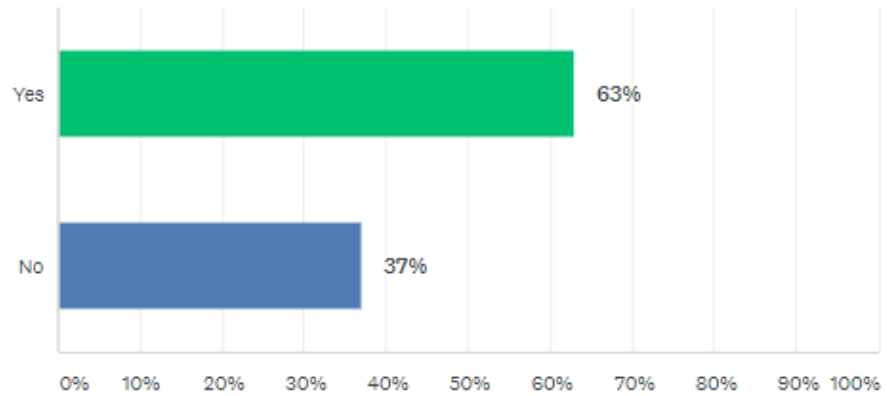
Could be made available in more languages – especially during UNEA week.
Showcase the constructive solutions to problems rather than constant negativity.

Emails:

Emails were prompt and adequate.
Lists of current members of Major Groups must be kept up to date.
Sometimes deadlines are too short to really consult with our network and get substantial feedback.

9. Did you engage through the CPR platform?

Answered: 54 Skipped: 261

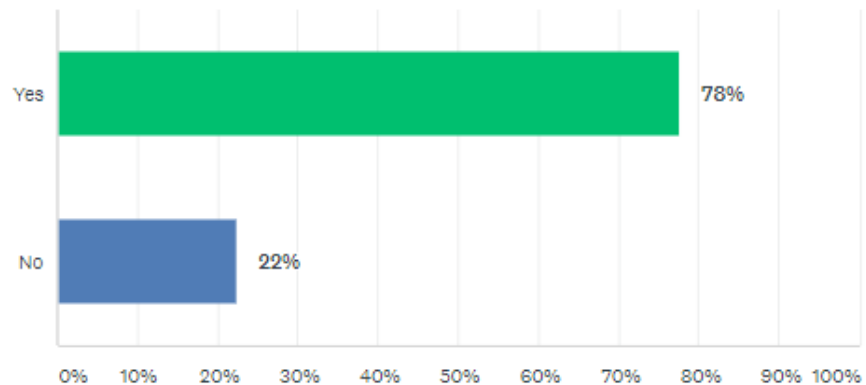


Comments:

Through email contributions and other small group meetings.
Yes, but it was difficult to get information on the resolutions to comment on it. Only the Ministerial Declaration was open for contributions and comments?

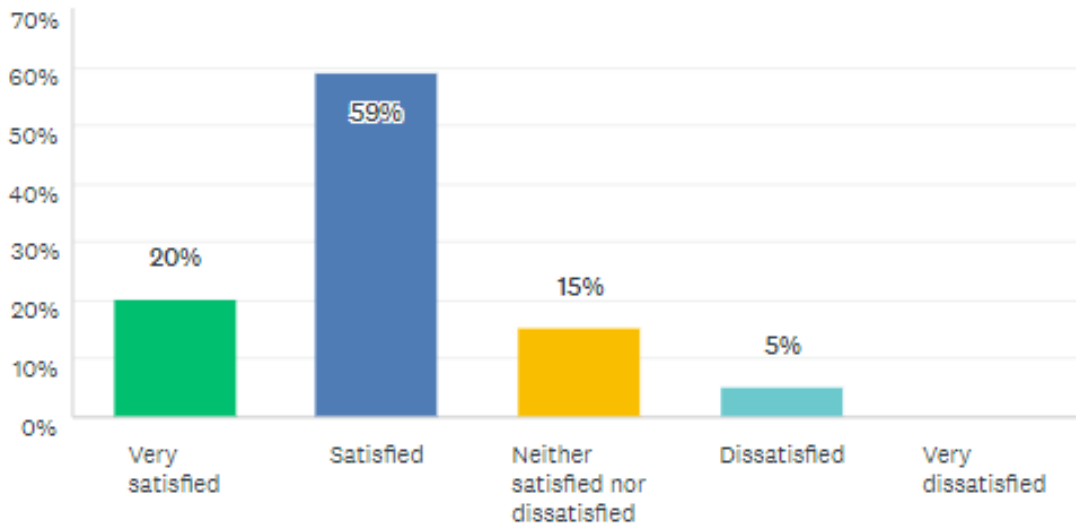
10. Have you attended any previous UNEA?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 257



11. How well do you feel the goals were met?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 256



Comments:

Issues lie with many of the member states, as it is unclear how resolutions will be made and whether previous ones have been implemented. There is a need for quantitative targets to track implementations of resolutions.

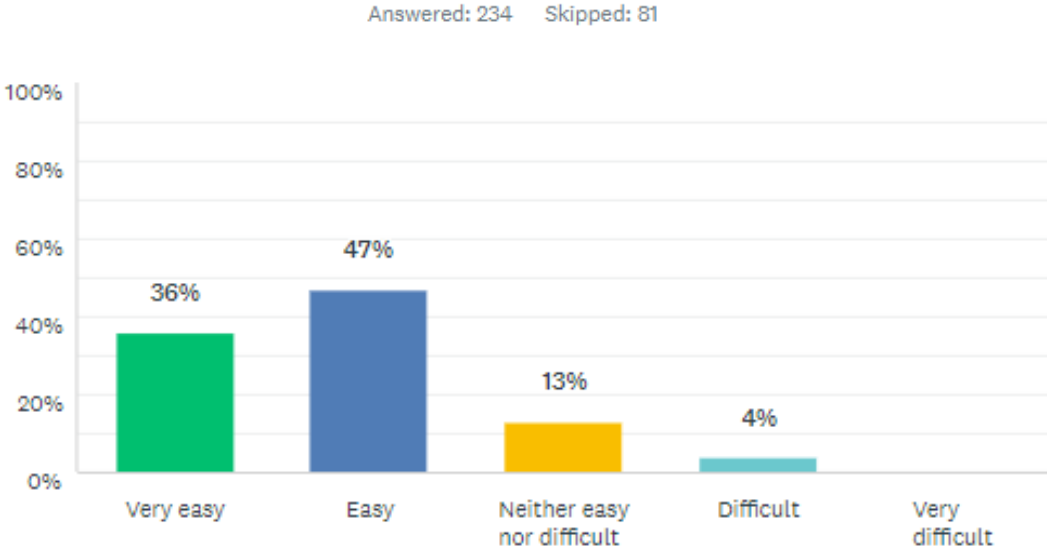
Governments are not ambitious, or courageous enough to take the urgent decisions that are needed NOW to preserve our planet for future generations.

There are still improvements to be made to ensure effective civil society participation with the need for capacity building to improve general understanding of UNEA. Major groups and non-state stakeholders are often not well prepared, have little knowledge of the process which is important as governments often treat them as second-hand participants, and keep blocking them from contributing.

Questions Related to UNEA-4

I. Registration

1. Was the online registration system user friendly? *Please rate from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)*

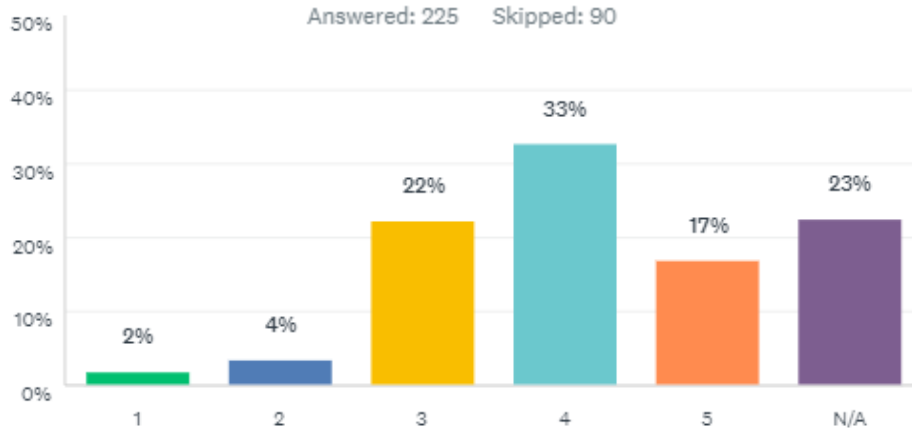


2. What specific problems did you encounter with the registration system, if any?

Majority of the respondents acknowledged that any issues were personal systems failures. There were issues surrounding the deadlines which caused confusion. Information about the requested photograph was different in the PDF (it said 45x35 mm) and in the registration tool (it said the picture should be square). Uncertainty regarding the appropriate registration form, and what category the organization falls under. Confusion about whether each event required separate registration.

II. Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR)

3. How would you rate the Open-Ended CPR sessions? *Please rate from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent).*



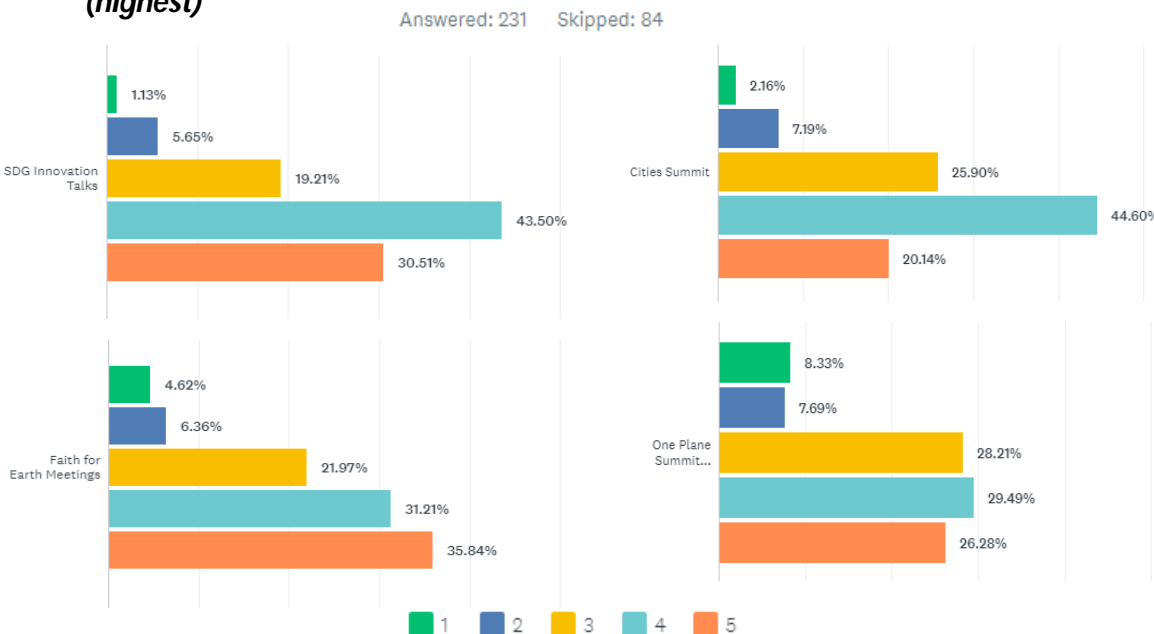
The concern was raised that only few of the civil society contributions get carried to the drafting of resolutions.

Guidance offering an improved understanding of the event could be improved.

To ensure that actions are followed up more consistently the OECPR should be held as frequently as possible and should be aligned to real actions on the ground.

III. Sessions/Events

4. How would you rate the following sessions/Events? *Please rate from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)*





	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
GMGSF	19% 1	6% 9	28% 40	46% 66	18% 26	142
Science-Policy-Business Forum	3% 5	4% 7	28% 46	46% 77	19% 32	167
Green Tent Events	1% 2	4% 8	17% 36	39% 81	40% 83	210
Official Side Events	1% 1	4% 7	24% 45	46% 85	26% 48	186
Leadership Dialogue	2% 3	6% 9	28% 45	43% 70	22% 36	163
Multi Stakeholder Dialogue	3% 5	7% 12	20% 33	45% 76	25% 43	169
Sustainable Innovation Expo	3% 5	6% 11	19% 37	41% 80	32% 64	197
Meeting of Marine Litter Partnerships	2% 4	2% 3	18% 31	40% 68	38% 65	171
SDG Innovation Talks	1% 2	6% 10	19% 34	44% 77	31% 54	177
Faith for Earth Meetings	5% 8	6% 11	22% 38	31% 54	36% 62	173
Cities Summit	2% 3	7% 10	26% 36	45% 62	20% 28	139
One Plane Summit (Organised by France,	8% 13	8% 12	28% 44	29% 46	26% 41	156

Comments:

The UNEA 4 Sessions, were generally seen as very encouraging and motivating, as far as environmental resolutions were concerned. However, there was the resounding consensus that there were too many events running in parallel. This detracted from the overall goal of UNEA-4 to press the major environmental issues which governments should be seeking to address.

The multitude of events made it impossible to fully follow and engage in all the events – this would have been the same for delegations. UNEA should refocus on finding agreements on pressing environmental issues through strong resolutions and not take everyone's attention away through parallel summits and meetings.

The dialogue meetings seemed to be so heavily loaded with podium speakers that the time allocation wasn't enough for participants from the floor to engage. So, the dialogues ended up being mostly 'monologues'.

The suggestion of implementing smaller focus groups would allow significant speaking time. The current process of sitting and listening might not necessarily be the best use of time.

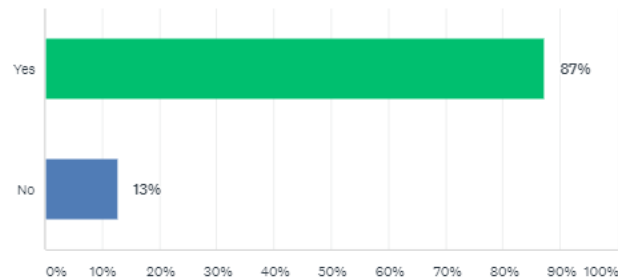
Some presentations deviated from the UNEA 4 theme.

All events should be attempt to a balanced representation of MGS.

There was uncertainty as to which events people could attend. Have a central information centre to address this. For future events, suggest providing access to everybody to all events on campus (except of course the closed-door things).

5. Were the Daily Morning Coordination Meetings for participating Major Groups and Stakeholders useful?

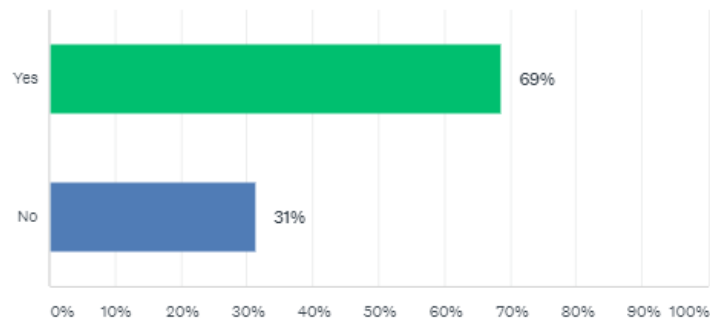
Answered: 213 Skipped: 102



It made planning time and prioritising easy. They gave good insights into the progress of negotiations and highlighted where MGS may have most impact through interventions. There should be a clearer structure in place to report back from all key resolutions and negotiations.

6. Was the time allocation to the sessions/events enough?

Answered: 229 Skipped: 86



7. If you attended the Multi-Stakeholder-Dialogue, please share your opinion about set up and speakers and contributions made:

This event was negatively affected by the delay in proceedings. It meant that the event was rushed and that there was not as much participation from the floor as would have been liked. Yet, it was largely viewed as an amazing session where the speakers were informative and very interesting, teaching people a lot! The use of the interactive survey (Slido) was thought of as a "silly idea".

The feeling was that there was not enough representation from Member States, so it was not truly multi-stakeholder. Additionally, there was also a call for more involvement of Youth and Indigenous peoples, that can add another dimension to proceedings.

This was a good opportunity to engage governments to try to persuade them to increase their level of ambition on the environment. However, it was mainly a discussion about abstract idealistic principles combined with "show and tell" of activities implemented by speakers' organizations, and what some countries are doing. Some thought that there were too many speakers on the podium.

8. What are your suggestions for a future Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue in terms of theme, set up, participants and speakers?

The main criticism of the MSD was that there was not enough time to properly engage the floor for discussion. This prompted suggestions that the number of speakers should be reduced or that the time of the dialogue should be earlier in the day.

While the theme would be largely dependent on the theme of UNEA-5, suggestions included: Food and Agriculture – a major driver of climate change, resource use and environmental degradation; A world without coal; Biodiversity/Nature protection – what can we do different?

9. Which session/event during the UNEA week and its associated meetings did you like most and why?

188 responses received.

While all the events were popular, the most appreciated events were the Marine Litter Tent, the Faith for Earth Tent and the Green Tent.

The Marine Tent was very well run and essential considering the urgency of the problem.

Faith for Earth was popular as it was the first time that the event was being run and gave a new angle towards solving these environmental issues.

The Green Tent allowed for great capacity building which allowed for extensive interaction.

10. Which session/event during the UNEA week and its associated meetings did you like least and why?

147 responses received.

Majority were positive comments and didn't think there were any bad events. Thus, here this is only seen as constructive criticism. Disorganization created confusion especially with the meetings displays on the screens, this was noted by numerous respondents.

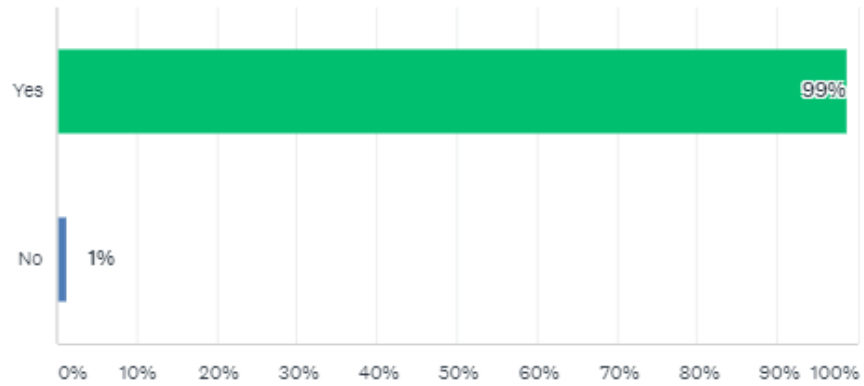
The least popular events were the One Planet Summit and the Cities Summit.

The One Planet Summit registration was poorly thought out as approved members were not allowed to participate in the morning session. It was an unnecessary distraction diverting attention without adding much value to UNEA4.

Cities summit inaccessible because off campus. Another distraction to the UNEA-4.

11. Did you consider UNEA-4 a good networking opportunity?

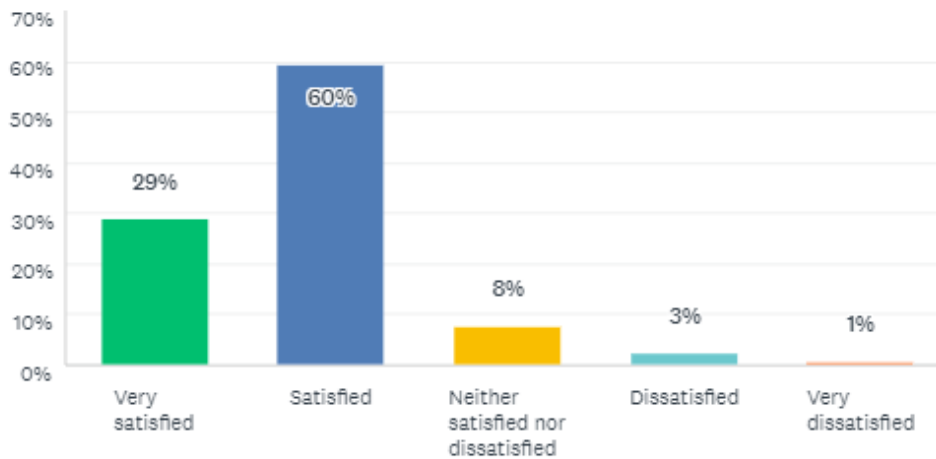
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IV. Organisation and Communication

12. Overall, how you would you rate your experience at UNEA-4?

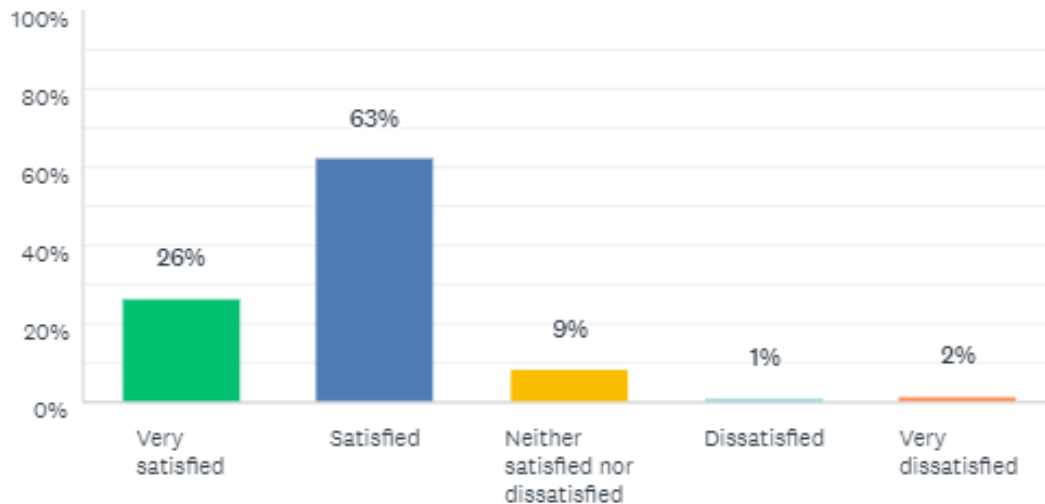
Answered: 230 Skipped: 85



Most people were satisfied by their overall experiences at UNEA-4. We believe that there is room for improvement as seen by the 4% of dissatisfied attendees.

13. How would you rate the overall organization of the UNEA-4?

Answered: 232 Skipped: 83



Based on the responses of previous UNEA attendees, this was the best organised. However, the general organisation could still have been better as it was quite confusing about who could help you. Suggestions: 1. Clearly marked UNEA helpers who could assist with general queries - there was no one manning the help desk every time I passed. Helpers could 'float' around rather than be stationary. 2. Clearer event timings - there were changes to timings and rooms made throughout UNEA and beforehand, and there were discrepancies between different schedules 3. The app was good - a short email explaining how to make the most of the app (e.g. highlighting that you can create your own schedule, upload images etc) and including a map in the app would have been very helpful.

Too many sessions on related themes happening around the same time at different places. The app was not very intuitive, so people missed multiple events that they couldn't find. The lack of a central location with information about all the events and in which rooms and at what times was noticed.

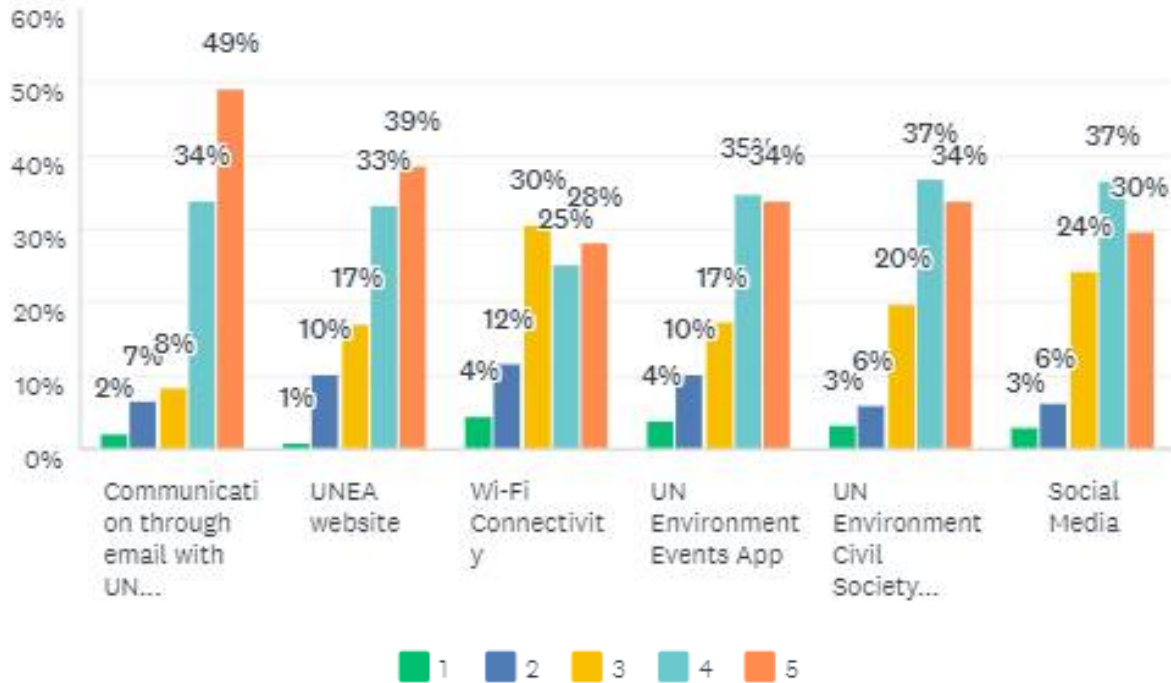
The 'green tent' could have a better location and be more functional. A call was made to get rid of the tall stage, it does not add to the sense of equality to have the 'leadership' looking down on their 'members'.

The UN PASSES different colours weren't very clear.

The decadence and hypocrisy of thousands of people pretending to protect the environment destroying it by flying from all parts is stunning. The fact that all these people are traveling here – contribution to GHG emissions by doing so – for an environmental conference needs to be addressed.

14. How would you rate the overall communication with UN Environment in preparation for the UNEA-4? Please rate from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)

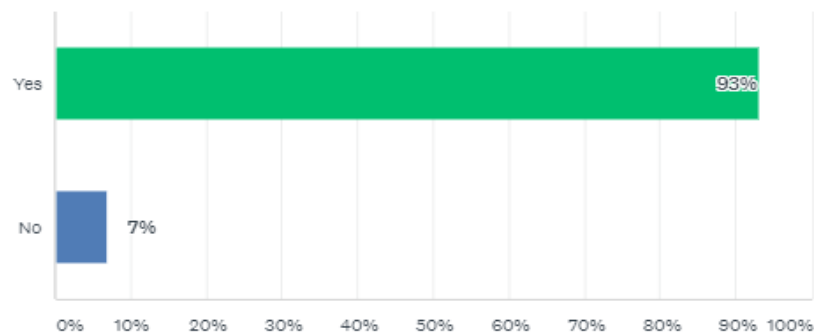
Answered: 232 Skipped: 83



Email was perceived as the best means of communication by the civil society unit. During UNEA-4 there was obvious need for improvement with the Wi-Fi connectivity and the Social Media coverage of the event could also have been better.

15. Did you receive adequate guidance and support by UN Environment’s Secretariat?

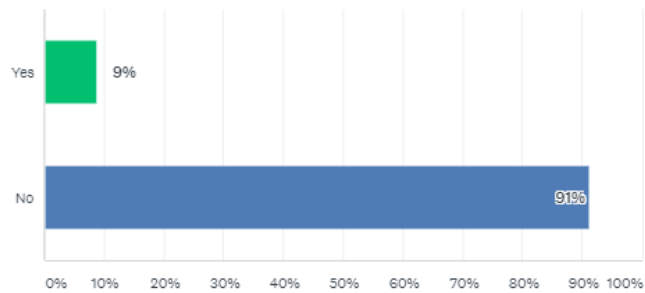
Answered: 230 Skipped: 85



All very positive responses. Some people said the availability of the App could have been communicated sooner.

16. Did you have any security concerns during the UNEA week?

Answered: 230 Skipped: 85



A point that was also made at UNEA-3 – security staff should stop delegates from walking outside the compound while still wearing their badges. It would be easy for a terrorist or criminal to snatch a badge from a lapel. Then security is breached.

Also, there were supposedly small thefts occurring on the grounds – bags going missing.

It was suggested that some areas in Nairobi that are not very secure should be mapped out so that people attending UNEA will be mindful of them. UNEP should liaise with the Government of Kenya to intensify security during UNEA because of the number of visitors that come in.

17. Do you have any comments on the daily morning meetings as organized by the MGFC and any suggestions to make?

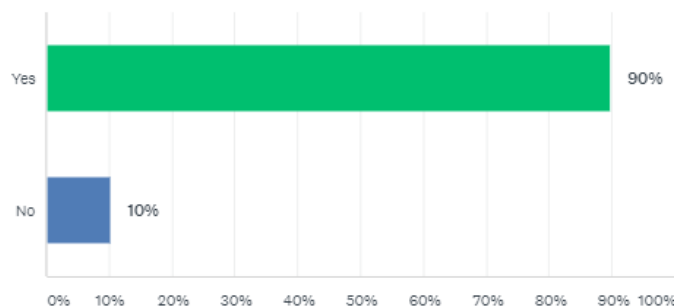
They are a great idea, should be posted to a forum for anybody who misses it.

These meetings were very organised and informative. All participants, especially the Chairpersons, should be encouraged to arrive early so that individuals can have adequate time to share their experiences and for the Civil Society Unit to brief of what is expected.

Need clearer structure and better moderation. Clear links to negotiations and resolutions were missing.

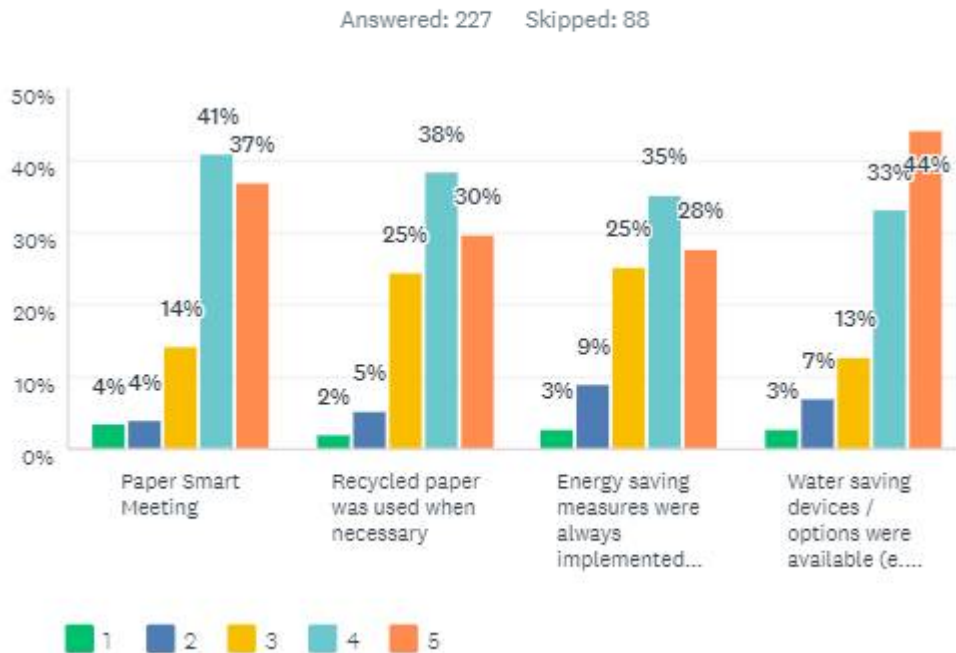
18. Did the Major Groups representatives from the MGFC and the Regional Representatives adequately deliver on their mandate and responsibilities in preparation for and during UNEA-4?

Answered: 194 Skipped: 121



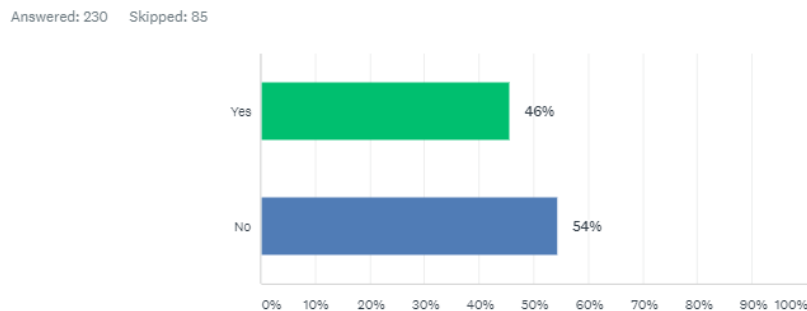
Meeting agenda and processes could be improved. So could the process of formulating positions and statements. Communication needed throughout preparations. For example, committee representatives should attend CPR and then brief others, as well as seeking their advice to represent these views.

19. Help us improve the ecological footprint of the UNEA-4: how would you rate the environmental performance of the meeting in general? Please rate from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).



There is a need for these questions to be re-evaluated for subsequent UNEAs – single use plastic, food options, etc. However, the water saving devices were very successful, while energy saving measures were not as positively viewed.

20. Did you attend the entire UNEA-4 from the Open-Ended CPR to the Closing Ceremony?



This showed that most people are unable to stay for the whole two-week period. This might be because of the length, transportation or cost of attendance.

21. Are you planning to attend UNEA-5 in 2021 and its preceding GMGSF?

97% of people said they were planning on attending UNEA-5.

22. What would you suggest doing differently at the next UNEA?

- More recycling bins.
- Better communication of event schedules and locations.
- Organize fewer events with greater focus on the theme(s).
- Have more collaborative events.
- Increased engagement of youth and children.
- Provision of updated resolutions during text negotiations – noted this may be difficult.
- Making the entire meeting open to attendees, especially the accredited organizations.
- Make the agenda more easily accessible - it was divided into multiple documents and webpages which made it hard to understand what was happening where and when.
- Central location where attendees can get information about every event, room, and time for every day each day.
- Improved logistics/travel for participants to and from the event.
- Install multiple Wi-Fi Hotspots. Or improve current system.
- Have a dedicated UNEA social media team. Pushing for international exposure.
- Release numerous UNEA-cantered videos like the ED used to do during UNEA3.
- Encourage member states to prepare better next time.
- Host UNEA in a cooler month – March was too hot!
- More water fountains, clearly signposted.
- Discounted coffee/tea with reusable cups.
- Live stream all events.
- Improve delegate parking.
- Have a woman president for UNEA-5.
- Having few resolutions with targets and timelines or even making a review of the past UNEAs to evaluate the implementation instead of bringing more resolutions and adding to the old ones - let it be harmonised.

23. What are your thematic suggestions towards the fifth session of the UN Environment Assembly in 2021, which themes should be addressed and focused on?

- Earth Systems and Planetary Boundaries. This could include - Science and analysis - Key priorities/areas of concern - root causes and drivers - Policy and practice - reversing and restoring - Monitoring/evaluation 2.
- Food and Agriculture - Science and analysis - Resource use and environmental degradation - Changes needed, methodology. experiences/case studies
- Poverty and dependence on natural resources
- The role of religion in public environmental awareness.
- Toxic Free Future
- Circular economy
- Mitigations and Adaptations - Climate change
- The Mining and Extractives industry
- Food security
- Biodiversity Reflecting on UNEA 1 – 4
- Environmental Business opportunities.
- Valuing nature; what is wealth?
- Feedback on the previous UNEA, what was planned and how much was done. It should be available online
- One Planet One Earth One People, a time to act.
- 2030 Agenda
- Decarbonisation of the global economy
- Developing real markets for secondary raw materials
- Tracking performance and highlighting the laggards in both industry and national governments.
- Single-use plastics and marine litter
- Renewable Energy for cooking

24. Any General Comments?

There was a wide sense of gratitude to everyone involved. UNEA-4 was generally seen as a success, though of course there is always room for improvement – hopefully this survey will go towards solving some of these issues/flaws in proceedings.

The resolutions passed at UNEA4 are a good step forward, but they lack clear hard numerical targets. We need to measure progress against ambitious targets and hold both companies and governments to account. If this is not possible we need to publish performance data to highlight laggards and leaders to make it clear who is responsible for our slow progress.

Some of the print materials were voluminous even though they were useful and informative. Going paperless will make them more accessible.

Our hearts and minds still go out to those who died at the tragic ET 302 where several UNEA members were present.

UNEA-4 Beyond the Numbers – A qualitative collection of individual responses

These responses have come from members of the Major Groups and Stakeholders Facilitating Committee and the GMGSF organisers and attendees.

Preparation

There was little or no contact from the MGS Facilitating Committee between UNEA 3 and UNEA 4. There should be ongoing contact and updates, to maximise opportunities for influence. Lack of MGSFC representation at CPR meetings, where the most important aspects are discussed. Suggested that the MGS Facilitating Committee organises for at least two representatives to attend each relevant CPR meeting, reporting back to Major Groups and Accredited NGOs, and coordinating any comments/positions in advance on agenda items. Online attendance is possible, so not a problem or cost.

NGOs need to be able to influence the UNEA theme, agendas and the scope and content of draft resolutions. As well as coordinate advocacy on emerging resolutions.

Too many NGOs were present, many of which were not focused on the agenda. Need for quality of quantity, where substantial preparations are made.

Regional Preparatory Meetings

Discrepancies regarding the organisation and coordination of regional preparatory meetings. Some were combined with regional meetings of Environment Ministers, and this could cause UNEA preparatory work to lack time and focus. The outcomes of some regional meetings were not very useful or impactful in the UNEA process. There was a serious lack of action and communication between regional preparatory meetings.

It is important to ensure:

- Impactful and focal themes are chosen (relative to UNEA theme, agenda and resolutions);
- Key issues are discussed, and pertinent statements and positions drafted and agreed.
- Inputs from NGOs in the region who do not have the resources to attend meetings in person.
- Work and advocacy throughout the year(s), in between official meetings.

Agenda & Process

MGS/NGOs be given the opportunity for consultation on meeting structures, processes and agendas, so good models of participation could be built into preparatory stages. This didn't happen after post UNEA-3 discussions! Plea to consult MGS/NGOs on planned themes, agendas next time.

Include more on capacity building for UNEA 4 participation. Included background perspectives on the subjects/clusters of resolutions, rather than other issues.

On thematic issues and working groups, this could have been planned in a more progressive way. Start with presentations and/or discussions on pertinent issues, and then move to issue-specific working groups (once knowledge has been built), and then finally on to higher level structural and systemic issues.

Statements

There was no prior work on MGS statements or positions – bar the NGO MG.

During the first part of the Forum, drafters were allocated to work on certain issue positions. Then these were opened for comments (Google Doc) and improved further. However, the break-out sessions took different issues/themes, which caused the carefully crafted position of the paper to be lost.

Unclear how the subjects were chosen for the break-out sessions. The topics were often too broad. Discussion were sometimes “all over the place”, ranging from detailed information to waffling to high-level structural and systemic issues... Think about refining the break-out sessions.

Plea:

- Begin with working groups on salient issues (to theme, resolutions etc.), guide by carefully crafted question(s) to structure debate. Then after issues, work on higher-level structural and systemic issues, including root causes and drivers. Don't confuse the two but build progressively.
- Make themes flow – from expert presentations and dialogues to working groups and ensure relevance.

Other Comments

A major issue that was NOT resolved from UNEA-3 was that NGO participants stressed the need for greater opportunities to engage with UNEA in a meaningful way - without relegation to final speaking slots where time permitted, and chairs agreed, but to be engaged as important policy and implementation partners.

The location of documents needs to be more accessible – with links from the homepage!