

THE 18TH GLOBAL MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

HELD ON MARCH 7TH & 8TH 2019 AT UN GIGIRI, NAIROBI, KENYA.



Disclaimer

This document is the outcome of a two-day information exchange and rich debate on several topics being discussed during United Nations Environment Assembly 4 between approximately 300 participants from all 9 Major Groups and Regional Representatives.

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The presented views are entirely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of UN Environment.

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Introduction

The fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) took place on 11-15 March 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya. The Assembly brought together Heads of State, Ministers and Senior Officials to discuss best practices, policies, financing, technologies, partnerships and multi stakeholder processes in support of the overarching theme of the Assembly “Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production”. This theme provided a broad framework for the conference to enable a discussion to identify solutions to important aspects in people’s everyday life from an environmental and sustainability dimension. The theme also served to accelerate progress on the global environmental policy agenda and reinforce the trends towards reducing pollution and promoting sustainable lifestyles.

The 18th session of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum took place on 7th and 8th March 2019 at the UN premises in Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya. The Forum was self-organized by Major Groups and Stakeholders, through the Major Groups Facilitation Committee, with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) being in the lead. The 18th session of GMGSF provided a platform where representatives from Major Groups exchanged views and developed a common ground in preparation to contribute to the policy dialogues at a multi stakeholder level during UNEA 4. The Forum focused on the main theme of the Assembly “*Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Production and Consumption*” which was guided by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference), entitled “The future we want”, in which Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives recognized that “poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development”.

MGS welcomed the focus on innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumptions and productions as the theme of the UNEA 4. In response to the theme, Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) recommended that the scope of the meeting include not only the technological innovation, but also social innovation and local and indigenous knowledge. The Assembly discussed a number of issues e.g. food systems, life circle approaches and sustainable business development. To realize “*innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumptions and productions*”, MGS reiterated that there is need for the transformational change, a vision to guide the systematic innovation towards the sustainability, an enabling environment for each innovation include financial investments, economic incentives, removal of barriers of change in political institution and behavioral changes.

The 18th session of GMGSF highlighted the following issues:

- The critical role of Major Groups and Stakeholders for innovation and change

- Major Groups and Stakeholders as key actors implementing UNEA-4 resolutions on the ground
- The importance of ensuring broad and inclusive participation by stakeholders
- The responsibility of the participants in the room to represent those who were not able to come
- The need for increased political attention to biodiversity
- The overall challenges of the implementation of resolutions
- The limited financial resources for supporting civil society participation
- The trend of rolling back the role of women as human rights and environmental defenders in UNEA resolutions
- The environmental challenges of poverty
- The importance and role of local governments

The 18th GMGSF Preparations

The GMGSF was planned to be held at the backdrop of the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives that starts on March 4, 2019 and before the UN Environment Assembly. It targeted that at least members of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee and Regional Reps would participate in the Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives where many important negotiations take place. Further to this, the Major Groups and Stakeholders had the opportunity to engage on the weekend prior to the Assembly with the Science-Policy-Business Forum and other events that took place on March 9 – 10, 2019.

The 18th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum was grounded on the outcomes of the preceding Regional Consultative Meetings held in 2018. The outcomes and results of those meetings became direct inputs by Major Groups and Stakeholders into the Assembly's preparatory processes as well as the actual proceedings. As it is the tradition, the Forum undertook an open dialogue between UN Environment's Senior Management and Major Groups and Stakeholders ahead of the Assembly. The Facilitating Organization for the 2019 Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum was the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), an organization whose selection of PACJA was endorsed by the Major Groups Facilitating Committee. PACJA worked closely with the Major Groups Facilitating Committee, in developing the agenda and in identifying speakers and resource persons. PACJA's role entailed:

- Putting in place an organization team for the forum (taking into account gender balance)
- Leading the preparation and organization of the Forum
- Facilitating development of the agenda of the meeting, including the identification and invitation of facilitators, speakers and resource persons
- Organizing monthly and bi-weekly meetings with the Advisory Team
- Preparing the list of bios of all speakers, resource persons, etc.

- Overseeing the organization of the meeting and;
- Organizing the communication around the meeting (social media, press releases, interviews with Communications Division and bi-laterals etc.)

The **Advisory Team** Consisted of members of the Civil Society Unit at UN Environment, the Facilitating Organization, the Major Groups Facilitating Committee and the Regional Facilitators (see the list appended herewith). The Advisory Team advised on the scope and expected outcome of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum, considering that UN Environment has evolved, with the establishment of the UN Environment Assembly, universal membership and a strengthened mandate including the Agenda of the Forum; facilitated the involvement of Major Groups and Stakeholders with specific issue knowledge related to UNEA themes; supported on identification of MGS representatives, speakers and resource persons whose expertise in relation to Assembly themes is likely to enrich discussions and to strengthen UNEA outcomes and Actively participated in the Forum, e.g. by facilitating workshops, presenting topics, providing capacity building to new comers, etc.

The Major Groups Facilitating Committee and Regional Facilitators lead and facilitate the preparation of outcome documents, statements etc., Ensured engagement of their various constituencies and managed Green Tent during the 2019 Assembly days, including morning coordination meetings, press and media conferences, capacity building or training and awareness raising events, presentations, etc.

GMGSF targeted Representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders accredited to UN Environment, Representatives of CSOs not accredited to UN Environment, including citizens networks, youth networks, faith-based organizations, Observers (from governments, private sector, UN Environment, UN organization, Multi-lateral organizations, Media and Universities). Most of the preparatory meetings were undertaken via remote participation via teleconferencing. The preparations went commenced in October 2018 till February 2019.

Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Production and Consumption

Context

Innovation is not just the design and production of new products or new means of consumption. Technological or product innovation alone will not decouple us from the excessive resource use and massive environmental degradation that is breaching our planetary boundaries. Technological innovation is not a panacea or magic bullet. Nor will it alone lead to the social and economic changes that humanity desperately needs. In addition, even where innovation is limited to new technologies, it must not be restricted to new products, but must also address how all products are produced and within their entire lifecycle.

Innovative solutions to sustainable production and consumption require an enabling environment including financial investments, economic incentives, removal of barriers of change and supportive political institutions and transformative vision that accompanies behavioral change. Unsustainable growth has disrupted the earth's self-regulatory system due to pollution, climate change, bio-diversity loss and over extraction of natural resources. Limited knowledge regarding sustainable production and consumption limits the innovative options and ideas. To achieve this agenda will require engagement of all actors necessary, especially the major groups and stakeholders.

Unsustainable consumption patterns increase the pressure on natural resources, and intensify the human footprint of pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, waste generation, water degradation, resource depletion and loss of biodiversity. Unsustainable consumption can also contribute to social problems, such as unfair working conditions, social disparities, reduced quality of life and wellbeing and can harm the health of consumers themselves. Many of the economic impacts of unsustainable consumption follow directly from those impacts cited above. In addition, the choice of unsustainable products limits incentives for sustainability innovation by business, impacting their long-term viability and contributing to missed opportunities for exports and access to those markets in which demand for sustainable products is growing. Addressing these broad economic impacts requires policies, voluntary measures and accurate information to shift to sustainable production practices and enable consumers to identify and select sustainable products.

Advocating novel solutions to environmental challenges should proceed on the basis of a simple test:

- Firstly, does the innovation do no harm to the environment, humans and animals, now and in the future? (precautionary principle)
- Secondly, does it address the need for inclusive development, justice and equity?
- And finally, does your proposed approach already exist? If so, first apply transfer of technology to the groups needed, and/or upscale it via policy measures and/or financial investments.

Key Messages



▪ Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and should also become a central issue in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted by the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2020. For its

realization we need a fundamental change of the production chain to make it sustainable and fair. Our current economic system is based on the unsustainable extraction of natural resources, externalized costs and the exploitation of cheap labour and low environmental and social standards.

- We urge governments to build on the progress already made under the One Planet Network, formally the 10YFP on SCP, and to reiterate their support for the programmes through national policy changes and the allocation of resources. As we witness the growing demand for more ethical and sustainable business practices, consumers must be empowered with accessible and clear information on the sustainability of a product. For example, these include certification schemes that promote fair trade, sustainable forest, organic, animal welfare-friendly and toxic free products.
- We call on governments to scale up their support for initiatives that empower consumers with the information and tools they need to lead more sustainable lifestyles. We also call on governments to recognize and support the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to their lands, territories and resources to prevent some of the worst social and ecological impacts of large-scale unsustainable production systems and to encourage customary sustainable use of natural resources.
- A wide range of instruments are necessary to achieve the transition towards sustainable consumption and production. These include market, financial and regulatory instruments; behavioral change inspired through education, awareness and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles; a focus on well-being instead of GDP growth; redistribution of wealth; and the equitable sharing of environmental space. For that we need a new narrative encompassing human well-being, environmental protection, animal welfare and regenerative economic

development, which goes beyond the paradigm of infinite growth and the promise that innovation and technology will allow us to decouple our high levels of consumption from resource use and environmental degradation.

- Unsustainable production and consumption is not only the root cause of environmental degradation but also of the increasing environmental conflicts around the world. Local communities suffer disproportionately from resource depletion, pollution, and land-grabbing and dislocation. We see an increase in mining activities all around the globe, which is linked to the ever-expanding demand for raw materials. We also see other large-scale projects for agricultural, industrial and energy production leading to conflict, dispossession on indigenous peoples and local communities, and environmental degradation.
- We request that governments forge a transformative alliance with civil society and the private sector that will drive forward an innovative, productive, resource-efficient, low-carbon and pollution-free economy to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Life-cycle Approaches to Resource Efficiency, Energy, Chemicals and Waste Management

Context

The session focused on industrial agriculture and large-scale livestock production. The session noted that the two have substantial impacts on deforestation, biodiversity, climate change, and coastal water quality have been observed the last decades, since Brundtland 1983, Rio 1992, FAO 2006. This session highlighted that Sustainable Development Goal 2 has commented a need for a fundamental change in approach away from increasing economic performance. Overall, the session concluded that industrial agriculture contributes to climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, nutrient loading, and unsustainable resource use. The session also focused on Life Cycle Approaches to Resource Efficiency. The session looked at how cities can contribute the resource efficiency since they are responsible for 75% of global resource consumption. The local governments of different cities can be champions in use of Lifecycle Tools establish product impact.



Key Messages

Resource efficiency

- We request that governments ensure that only products that can be safely and sustainably reused, repaired, recycled or composted, are produced and put on the market and include the true cost accounting in every part of the production chain is a must.
- We urge governments to implement extended producer responsibility policies that drive producers to redesign products and processes in order to prevent pollution, toxic substances, and be resource efficient. The “Polluter Pays Principle” is a strong principle, but the main goal is to prevent pollution, not let the rich pay for it. Policies should also ensure the safe reuse, recycling, or composting of products while retaining materials in the economy as long as possible, at their highest possible quality.
- We recognize that plastics are a lifeline for the fossil fuel industry and as such, are structurally linked to climate change, in addition to polluting marine and other ecosystems. On this basis, we call on governments to reduce virgin plastic production, consumption and waste.
- Industrially farmed animals are fed on human-edible cereals and soy which they convert very inefficiently into meat and milk. This is an inefficient use of resources and undermines food security by reducing the grain available for human consumption. Livestock are only efficient when they are converting materials we cannot consume - e.g. grass, crop residues and by products - into food we can eat.
- Life cycle approach should be used to inform investment decisions and policies and ensure that they take into account the impacts of social and environmental products and infrastructure over the full value chains, a focus of end of life fails to address resource scarcity and other environmental issues rather waste need to be designed out of production to promoting repair, reusing or refurbishment.

Chemicals

- Materials and additives currently used in plastic production include synthetic endocrine disruptors and persistent organic pollutants that threaten human, animal and ecosystem health. We call on governments to phase out the use of toxic materials and additives in plastics, in order to achieve safe, non-toxic circular material flows.
- Chemicals are used in industrial animal agriculture to treat and control disease, promote growth and product quality, and to control “pests”. The routine use of antibiotics in industrial animal agriculture to prevent the diseases that are inevitable when animals are kept in crowded, stressful conditions leads to people developing resistance to key antibiotics. Residues in food and the environment can have serious health impacts (especially as concerns pesticides, fertilizers, and antibiotics).
- The intensive use of chemicals in agriculture, particularly of fertilizers, is also a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Excess fertilizer is converted to nitrous oxide which is a greenhouse gas 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide.
- We urge governments to establish systems that link composting initiatives or facilities to farms and urban food producers so that the need for chemical fertilizers is reduced.

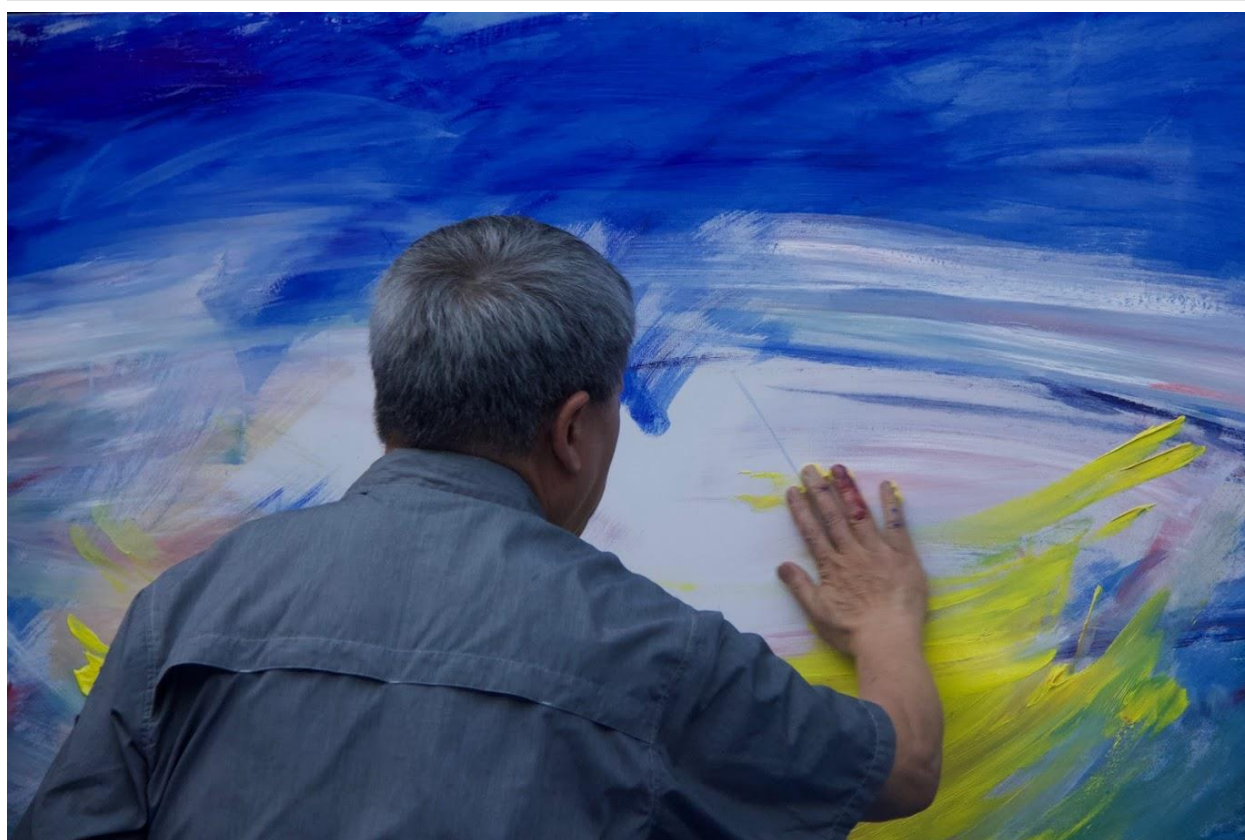
- On chemicals, there should be awareness creation particularly to those who are using the chemicals through consumer education as a component in every industry with respect to toxic plastic chemicals effluent. In all hazardous chemicals and pesticides, consumer education should be put in place, life circle approach should be used to inform investment decision, policy action should be taken to ensure that they take into account the impact both social and environmental that these investments have on the products and infrastructure or on the value chain.
- UNEA4 need to take action on the extension of the responsibility on producers, in this case in stopping the legal dumping of the products or materials that are near end of life. That also include improving capacities of low-income countries in dealing with the type of these various types e.g. plastics.

Waste

- We call on governments to acknowledge and support the work of NGOs and communities implementing zero waste systems at the local level in partnership with local authorities, reducing waste generation, improving separate collection, recycling and composting or anaerobic digestion.
- We congratulate governments that are taking courageous steps to prevent waste including plastic waste, through policies such as bans or fees on unnecessary single-use plastic items. We strongly encourage all governments to take similar steps as soon as possible, and to seek expertise from NGOs implementing zero waste work on safe alternative materials and alternative distribution systems.
- Global dependence on plastic scrap trade implies severe environmental injustices as it burdens certain communities, especially in Southeast Asian countries, with low-grade hard-to-recover mixed plastics. We call for strengthened international cooperation that can ensure transparency and accountability in plastic scrap trade.
- We call on governments to integrate waste pickers as municipal waste service providers in cities, offering them safe, toxic-free and just working conditions. Their waste collection, separation and recycling in the informal economy offers crucial support to overburdened municipal waste systems, and makes an important contribution to circular economy.
- We request the phase-out of waste incineration (even with energy recovery), as it wastes resources that could otherwise be reused, recycled or composted, it feeds unsustainable consumption through a lock-in effect, it generates toxic air pollution and ashes, and contributes to climate change.
- A third of global food production is lost or wasted annually, and food waste is a leading greenhouse gas emitter. The question of food waste must be effectively addressed by food policy strategy, regulation and enforcement, and education/awareness. There are best practices which could be mandated – for example, national food waste reduction plans; regulation to ensure that food businesses give away/donate edible surplus foods; effective government recycling schemes and penalties for excess waste disposal; composting or anaerobic digestion of food waste.

- The use of human-edible crops to feed farm animals should be regarded as a form of food loss as 3.5 billion extra people could be fed each year if the crops used to feed animals were instead used for direct human consumption.

Solidarity Economy & Community Initiatives for Innovative Sustainable Business Development



Key Messages

- Government should set up the framework to support innovations but not only technological innovations but also social innovations since social innovations could be more important for societal changes.
- Governmental role should be to ensure framework for the knowledge exchange. New business models which are actually part of the social innovation should look at new different ways for the business ownership models which could be more community involving, stakeholder involving, green and social justice
- International trade rules could also be good innovative social innovations connecting consumers and communities which would provide for the needs as well as supporting consumer awareness in more sustainable choices and behaviors as well as some of the social

innovations which are part of the circle economy approaches like moving away from owning things to sharing and using services.

- The need to involving youths, women and indigenous people using their specific knowledge as well as values to shape the business models. This would mean changing business approaches from existing extractive economy to more regenerative reproductive one. This would also mean moving away from eco-efficiency as a main kind of indicator which means less damage to doing better. This should include prioritization for efficiency and resiliency preferring small and centralized solutions which shows feedback loops and localizing of economic circles.
- The aim of the business should be to improve equality, eliminate poverty and create resilient livelihoods instead of creating jobs and fragile global supply chains and at the same time, we ensure we eliminate the environmental pollutions and degradations.
- Technological and business models are good only if they are replacing polluting technologies and polluting business models. Technologies like fracking and using of hazardous chemicals should be eliminated. We need not to make these processes efficient but to eliminate them.
- For UNEA 4, we need to come up with the community policy interface as a new way of looking where policy should focus on.



Key Messages

- During the review of these NDCs, stakeholders should be part of it so that we can raise ambitions to be submitted and this also goes to adaptation planning processes within the country and at the regional level.
- Generation of information sharing and access to information to all stakeholders. Awareness creations and education on both the process of the Paris Agreement and SDGs at all levels.
- The financing and the implementation of the plans that exist and financing the major groups as part of the independent monitoring of the implementation.
- Enactment of national legislation. Government to strengthen the national legislation and sustainable political good will in terms of supporting such implementations.
- Improvement of coordination and synergies. Now we have the SDGs, NDCs and National Adaptation Plan in the country, so creating synergy so that they could link to one another and complement to one another.
- Transparency, justice and improve civic space. Calling for a strong measure to do away with the war fighting the environment watchdogs, CSOs.
- Making good use of the available science including the IPCC special report on 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Creating or strengthening on tracking and reporting mechanisms. This is where we track the progress of the SDGs, NDCs and other national processes and ensure that the best reporting is possible to assess the outcome and impact of what has been done. It could be annual or periodically.
- Creating supporting environment and means of implementation.



Key Messages

Wildlife and Ecosystems

- Since 1970, 70% of our wildlife has been wiped out. The key drivers of biodiversity loss include habitat loss and degradation, climate change, pollution, and over-exploitation. These threats continue to grow, and biodiversity continues to be lost at an alarming rate, despite the current sustainable use

paradigm that underlies many multilateral environmental agreements.

- Traditional societies had a sense of respect and reverence for wildlife, and only took what they needed. But increasingly wildlife is viewed as a “money maker”, and inessential and unsustainable uses abound. Unless steps are taken to stem this, and to recognize the need to protect nature and wildlife because of its intrinsic value, we will obliterate our wildlife and destroy the habitats which sustain it.
- Governments should recognize, promote and support indigenous and community-based conservation and ecotourism that is based on conservation of terrestrial and marine habitats.
- We call upon governments to ban and combat illegal trade of wild fauna and flora. Increasingly, exotic birds and reptiles are sold in all sort of markets in many countries, where consumers are tempted to acquire them as pets, without being aware of the suffering and impact on the species and their habitats by encouraging that trade.

Food Systems and Food Sovereignty



- Since intensive livestock systems are at the heart of -or contribute to - many problems affecting health, food security, the environment and animal welfare, it is vital that we build sustainable food systems. We need to promote production systems using closed cycles (circularity, agroecology, organic agriculture, integrated crop-livestock systems), and which treat animals ethically. The polluter pays principle shall be used for agricultural inputs and to restore damaged ecosystems. Hazardous pesticides, excessive use of fertilizers and routine use of antibiotics should be banned and current subsidies for resource-depleting and environmentally damaging practices and products should be terminated.
- Our food systems should be made resource-efficient, thereby encouraging the reduction of meat and dairy consumption, encouraging the consumption of sustainably produced plant-based foods, using organic fertilizers (e.g. manure, other by-products) and legumes which can fix atmospheric nitrogen in soils, using bio based products such as biopesticides, and crop rotation to promote nitrogen and carbon cycles and restoring degraded soils.
- We call on countries to promote and support small-scale production, thereby improving the livelihoods of the rural population, food security and even economic development as opposed to industrial farming. Environmentally damaging trade practices (such as livestock fed by imported soy or palm causing deforestation, pollution of water, products containing unsustainably sourced

palm oil) should be eliminated, as well as subsidies for environmentally damaging production methods (like fertilizers).

- We call on countries to halt the expansion of cattle pastures and cropland (mainly used to produce animal feed crops) into forests and other important ecosystems as this leads to massive loss of wildlife habitats and biodiversity and the release of stored carbon into the atmosphere.
- Companies should minimize the amount of packaging used for the production of food and provide a clear and honest labelling system with information about environmental footprint and method of production. In order to move to a sustainable agricultural model, patents on living organisms such as seeds should be avoided, and instead there should be a promotion of seed exchange among farmers and the revitalization of traditional seeds by indigenous peoples and local communities.
- We call on countries to establish independent training and extension services for farmers and processors on sustainable production methods.
- To ensure safe reuse of wastewater, agricultural pollution of water sources has to be halted at source, by fully closed cycles and transition to agro-ecological practices that exclude synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.
- We call governments to promote small scale food producers and traditional sustainable agricultural practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, and give all necessary supports to them, so that this essential source of food security is not lost.

Halting Deforestation and Forest Degradation

- Deforestation and forest degradation are, in particular in the tropics, a main driver of climate change. Urgent action is needed to halt both. Where deforestation is mainly driven by agriculture expansion and illegal logging, forest degradation is mainly caused by unsustainable harvesting practices. Sustainable Forest Management should be promoted in different ways, including through legislation and strong enforcement, while buffering and protecting intact primary forests. Forest certification needs to be promoted also through the shifting of tax burdens so that a level playing field also in economic terms is created for such practices as opposed to those ignoring the social and environmental functions forests have and should maintain. The certification of agricultural commodities, such as palm oil, soy and sugar need to be effectively assessed and monitored, to ensure that companies fully comply with the certification principles and criteria. Voluntary certification standards need to be complemented by legal regulatory processes to ensure that sustainable consumption and production are achieved.

The Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary (MAPS)

- We call upon governments to become signatories to the Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary (MAPS) Treaty on an urgent basis to allow the effective entry into force by December 2019 of this vital protection for the Arctic Ocean, its ecosystems, and all life on Earth.

- The Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary (MAPS) Treaty is an immediate and decisive response to the global crisis of the melting Arctic sea ice. The most direct and effective method of cooling the overheated earth is to protect its own cooling system - the Arctic ice cap. The MAPS Treaty establishes the Arctic Ocean north of the Arctic Circle as an international marine protected area free from commercialization and militarization, safeguarding sea ice from pollution and ice break-up and maintaining peace.

Environmental governance



Key Messages

- We consider that there should be more strategic and proactive environmental governance; with greater attention paid to the root causes of environmental degradation, and the development of effective preventive approaches. We should reform our institutions and governance systems to recognize and respect the biophysical reality of Earth Systems, using the planetary boundaries framework to ensure that we return to and remain within those boundaries.

- We urge governments of the world, especially those supporting wars, financing war machines, benefiting from wars, to acknowledge the impact of wars and armed conflicts and creating refugees on human rights, health, environmental rights of victims of wars and armed conflicts, the environment and natural resources. More specifically, we call UN Environment and governments to respond to the increasing pressure and impacts the current crisis of several countries in the world, like Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Venezuela, causing millions of refugees. The displaced population is significantly affected by and affecting the fragile environmental situation in the regions they are displaced to.
- We urge governments to realize that NGOs and public should be informed about forthcoming projects with possible impacts on the environment. Consultation meetings and workshops, public hearing and stakeholder's roundtable discussions should be part of the decision-making process from beginning to end.
- We call on governments to help boost accountability efforts by governments and civil society organizations to hold culprits of environmental infringement, including but not limited to the private sector, legally and financially liable.
- We call on UN Environment to support and facilitate the engagement between concerned NGOs and governments on monitoring and recording of environmental damage, especially in the projects conducted by UN Environment.
- We strongly request governments to work on building the capacity of the environmental judicial system across their countries. Environmental NGOs could be great partners, in review of existing legislations, and suggesting stronger ones that can fill gaps, strengthen loose ends, and put workable processes. This would require an open-source database that is easily accessible to the public, easy and fast access to law, and rule of law.
- Concerning the Global Pact for the Environment, we support the development of a Global Pact for the Environment, as a binding international legal instrument to unify and structure the rules and principles of environmental law for the long term. The Secretary-General's report on gaps in the international environmental law highlighted the piecemeal and reactive character of the existing sectoral regulatory framework, with gaps in both coverage and implementation. However, it did not point out that the main gap lies on the lack of consideration of the Earth System as an object of law. The Global Pact represent a unique opportunity to establish the framework necessary to maintain the state of the Earth System within a safe operating space for life which entails operating within the planetary boundaries.
- We ask that the Global Pact for the Environment recognizes the Earth System as intangible natural heritage of mankind and introduces a definition of the Earth System. A Global Pact has the potential to achieve coherence across sectors, and more effective implementation at national and international levels for this reason the Global Pact for the Environment must introduce the need to include in all MEAs compliance mechanisms allowing members of the public to file submissions

of cases of non-compliance by the Parties following the Aarhus Convention model. Right to information and to meaningfully participate in environmental decisions (Principle10)

- We call on governments to uphold the right of people and communities to information on pollutants and to meaningfully participate in environmental decisions, in line with the Aarhus and Escazu Conventions. Access to information on the environmental and social impact of products will allow communities to fully play their role in climate change mitigation, and in safeguarding human and ecosystem wellbeing. Specifically, we request the disclosure of product information to consumers and communities, including the nature of materials and chemical additives, the ratio of recycled content, the carbon footprint (including biogenic carbon) miles, the water and energy footprints, and the fairness of labour practices. Concerning shrinking space for civil society
- We call on governments to realize the potential of partnership with NGOs rather than trying to silence them, ignore, or discredit them. NGOs are civil society's movement and voice; governments should stop attempting to form "Governmental organized -NGOs (GONGOs) to represent the government's view, and compete with the true NGOs and community-based organizations. Instead, governments should attempt to open a dialogue with existing active NGOs with justified constituencies and networks with grassroots organizations. They should listen to their views, and utilize them as citizens critics of the government's and the private sector's performance towards sustainability.
- Environmental media is an important tool for public awareness, and for making NGOs' and researchers' voice heard. Governments should support freedom of speech, and encourage official media to be open and inviting for those views.
- Concerning marine plastic pollution, we recognize the severity and urgency of the plastic pollution crisis, including in our oceans. We also recognize the insufficient reach and effectiveness of current environmental governance instruments on the marine plastic pollution crisis, and the need for a new and binding global instrument focused on prevention, as was clear from the assessment of the UNEA-mandated Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on marine litter and microplastics, and from NGO expert interventions in this forum. We call governments to take decisive action on this issue by supporting relevant resolutions at UNEA4.

Concerning Geoengineering

- Some bigger groups among international civil society, are extremely worried about the resolution on geoengineering submitted by Switzerland in Cluster 4.
- Climate geoengineering refers to large-scale technological schemes for intervention in the Earth's oceans, soils and atmosphere with the aim of reducing the effects of climate change, usually temporarily. All of them come with large-scale social and ecological risks, in particular for those already disproportionately affected by climate change and other ecological crises.
- Geoengineering technologies are being researched and developed primarily in high-emission countries in the Global North, with fossil fuel companies being at the forefront due to their

interest in technologies that create the illusion of a technological “fix” for the climate problem that would allow business-as-usual to continue.

- The debate on geoengineering is highly biased toward certain types of knowledge and expertise. Pro-geoengineering researchers are usually considered the only credible source of knowledge, while the risks and concerns of civil society and social movements, Indigenous Peoples, farmers, women’s and other rights holders are frequently discarded as second-order problems. We are concerned that the resolution submitted by Switzerland that aims to establish an Expert Group would repeat that fallacy and thereby serve to create further legitimacy for high-risk large-scale technological schemes to manipulate the environment.
- At the very least, the Expert Group established for conducting an assessment on geoengineering for UNEA must be open-ended to ensure full participation and engagement of all relevant stakeholders. A robust review mechanism for Expert Reviewers, including civil society, and Governments must be put in place (see, for instance, Review Mechanism for reports at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).
- The 2010 de facto moratorium on all climate-related geoengineering agreed upon unanimously by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the regulatory approaches to marine geoengineering put in place under the London Protocol of the London Convention, prohibiting ocean fertilization, must be honored and serve as the only legitimate starting point for further deliberations on the governance of geoengineering.

Advisory Team Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Meeting 2019

Civil Society Unit, UN Environment

- Alexander Juras: alexander.juras@un.org
- Laetitia Zobel: laetitia.zobel@un.org
- Charlotte Ndakorerwa: charlotte.ndakorerwa@UN.ORG
- Isaiah Otieno: isaiah.otieno@un.org
- Tabea Zwimpfer: zwimpfer.tabea@un.org

- Hellen Kuria: kuria@pacja.org
- Obed Koringo: koringo@pacja.org

Major Groups Facilitating Committee

- James Donovan: james.donovan@globalalliance.org
- Norine Kennedy: nkennedy@uscib.org
- Wali Haider: walikhi@yahoo.com
- Rodion Sulyandziga: rodion@csipn.ru

Facilitating Organization: PACJA

- Mithika Mwenda: mithika@pacja.org

- Edna Kaptoyo: kaptoyoedna@gmail.com
 - Rhoda Boateng: Rhoda.BOATENG@ituc-africa.org
 - Rodrigo Messias: rmessias@nrg4sd.org
 - Yunus Arikan: yunus.arikan@iclei.org
 - Khawla Al-Muhannadi: Khawla.almuhannadi@gmail.com
 - Griffins Ochieng: ogriffins@gmail.com
 - Mohamed Abdel Raouf : mhdraouf@yahoo.com
 - Stephen Stec: stephenstec@gmail.com
 - Priscilla Achakpa: pmachakpa@gmail.com
 - Mrinalini Rai: mrinalini.rai@globalforestcoalition.org
 - Caroline Usikipedo : nigerdeltawomen@gmail.com
 - Isis Alvarez: isis.alvarez@globalforestcoalition.org
 - Giulia Carlini: gcarlini@ciel.org
 - Marie Therese Merhei Seif : mtseif4@gmail.com
 - Tareq Ahmed Abdo Hassan : eng_taareq3333@hotmail.com
- Regional Facilitators**
- Kenyangi Gertrude Kabusimbi: ruralwomenug@gmail.com
 - Fazal Issa: f.issa@forumcc.org
 - April Porteria: april@cecphilis.org
 - Prem Singh Tharu: prem@aippnet.org
 - Janis Brizga: janis@zalabriviba.lv
 - Sascha Gabizon: sascha.gabizon@wecf.org
 - Pedro Pereira Marques da Cunha: pedrocunha.eco@gmail.com
 - Dalia Fernanda Marques Ane: abgdmarquez@gmail.com
 - Christian Ledwell: clledwell@iisd.ca
 - Michelle Wyman: mwyman@ncseglobal.org
 - Kristan Uhlenbrock : kuhlenbrock@usclivar.org
 - Scott Bohachyk : Scott.Bohachyk@unac.org
 - Deirdre Laframboise: dlaframboise@climateforum.ca

Annex

TIME	ACTIVITY/TOPIC	SPEAKER/FACILITATOR
Day 1: Wednesday, March 6, 2019		
8:00 -17:00	Arrival and Registration	
Day 2: Thursday: March 7, 2019		
Moderator: Augustine Njamnshi, Technical & Political Affairs, PACJA		
Session 1: Opening and Welcome, report from the OECPR		

8:00 – 8:45	Arrival and Registration	UN Environment/PACJA
8:45 – 9:30	Welcome remarks, Co-Chairs of the MGFC, including outcomes of the OECPR so far	Mohamed Abdelraouf Mrinalini Rai (Tina) Khawla Al-Muhannadi
	Welcome remarks, Facilitating organization	Mithika Mwenda, Executive Director, PACJA
	Keynote Address and official Opening	UNEA 4 President/Secretary of Governing Bodies
9.30-10.00	Photo Session and Coffee break	
Session 2: Reflection and Interactive Discussions		
10:00-11:00	<p>Panel Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflections on UNEA-3 & holding Governments accountable: <i>How far have decisions & declarations been implemented</i> • Linking to the UNEA4 themes and draft resolutions, including Plastics, Geo-engineering and Gender draft resolutions 	<p>Chair: Priscilla Achakpa</p> <p>Panelists: Leida Rijnhout Neth Dano-ETC Group Christopher Chin-COARE Giulia Carlini, Center for International Environmental Law Hugo Maria Schally, European Commission</p>
11:00-12:00	<p>First Interactive Discussion: Environmental Challenges related to Poverty, and Natural Resources Management, including sustainable food systems, food security, payment for environmental services, climate change and halting biodiversity loss</p>	<p>Chair: Wali Haider-Roots for Equity</p> <p>Panelists: Ajay Jha-CECODECON Janice Cox -World Animal Net Isis Alvarez-GFC Isabelle Kempf, UNEP Gabor Figeczky, IFOAM</p>
12:00-13:00	<p>Second Interactive Discussion: Life Cycle approaches to Resource Efficiency and sufficiency, energy, chemicals and waste management</p>	<p>Chair: Mohamed Abdelraouf</p> <p>Panelists: Sarojeni Rangam, PAN AP, Pedro Cunha-LACEMOS Marion Guenard, ICLEI Elisa Tonda, UNEP</p>

		Erick Omollo Juma, Novozyme
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:00	Third Interactive discussion: Solidarity economy and community initiatives for innovative sustainable business development	Chair: Tareq Hassan- SPN Panelists: Rhoda Boateng-ITUC Edna Kaptoyo-IIN Alberto Quesada, MarViva Jacqui Patterson, NAACP, US Norine Kennedy, USCIB
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30-16:30	Break out session: MGs to discuss their statements and engagement in UNEA 4	MG Constituency Leads
16:30-18:00	Open dialogue with the Director of UN Environment: Facilitated by the Chairpersons Major Groups Facilitating Committee	DED and OIC, Mrs. Joyce Msuya
18:00-19:00	Slide show: Oasis Earth- Pictures of Planet in Peril	Richard Steiner, Oasis Earth, Anchorage
	Meeting of the drafting group for common statement	Regional Coordinators
End of Day 2		
Day 3: Friday March 8, 2019		
Moderator: Mohamed Abdelraouf, Chair of the 18th GMGSF		
8:30-9:30	Options for Major Groups and Stakeholder engagement and participation during UNEA	Laetitia Zobel- UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholder Branch
9:30-10:30	Presentation and open Plenary on the outcomes of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD-14) and Climate Change Negotiations (UNFCCC-COP24) and the link with 2030 agenda	Mithika Mwenda, PACJA Innocent Maloba, WWF Getrude Kenyangi, SWAGEN
10:30-10:50	Coffee Break	
10:50-13:00	Break Out Sessions: 1. Environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management, including sustainable food systems, food security, payment for environmental services, climate change and halting biodiversity loss	Prem Singh, AIPP

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Life-cycle approaches to resource efficiency, energy, chemicals and waste management 3. Innovative sustainable business development at a time of rapid technological change 4. Progress in the implementation of Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals 5. Innovative financing solutions for environmental challenges 	<p>Griffins Ochieng-Kenya</p> <p>Janis Brizga, European Environmental Bureau</p> <p>Fazal Issa, Forum CC</p> <p>Sascha Gabizon, WECF</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break	
14:00-15:30	Report back by Working group Facilitators-discussion	Group facilitators
15:30-16:30	Presentation and agreement of Common Statement	Drafting team
16:30-16:45	Closing Session	Mithika Mwenda, Ex. Director, PACJA and Mohamed Abdelraouf, Chair, 18 th GMGSF
16:45-17:00	Tea Break and departure	ALL
18:00	Party at the UN Recreational Centre	PACJA/UNEP