

**Engaging Stakeholders at the Retreat of the Bureaus of
the UN Environment Assembly and of the UNEP
Committee of Permanent Representatives, Oslo, June 7 -
10, 2020**

Draft Concept Note



UNEP Governance Affairs Office, December 2019

Introduction

The next meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), will take place in February 2021 in Nairobi under the leadership of the Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway, Mr Ola Elvestuen, President of UNEA-5.

UNEA-5 will bring together representatives of Governments, Civil Society, the Private Sector, Academia and other relevant stakeholders to discuss and decide upon the most urgent and emerging issues related to the environment as well as sustainable development, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The theme of the Assembly is currently under discussion and will be decided upon in early December 2019 and is likely to focus on Nature-based solution for sustainable development.

Having Civil Society Organizations and other non-state actors, represented by the nine Major Groups, fully engaged in the preparation of Assembly meetings as well as in implementing agreed outcomes, has always been of paramount importance to the United Nations Environment Programme. Nearly fifty years of experience prove that this enriches the intergovernmental decision-making process and adds transparency and legitimacy.

It is important for UNEP that all stakeholders including the private sector, science, media etc. are fully engaged in UNEA and its preparatory process.

On 9 – 10 June 2020 the two Bureaus of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, which is responsible for oversight and review and for preparing the decisions and resolution to be taken by UNEA, will get together in Oslo, Norway, for a UNEA preparatory meeting in the form of a retreat. As for similar retreats held previously (e.g. in Tallinn, Estonia in 2018), an **international consultation** targeting Major Groups and Stakeholder, and a **public forum**, targeting the general public, media, individual companies and other stakeholders, will be organized back-to-back to the retreat meeting. This concept note outlines these initiatives in more detail.

Background

Major Groups and Stakeholders Engagement towards UNEA-5

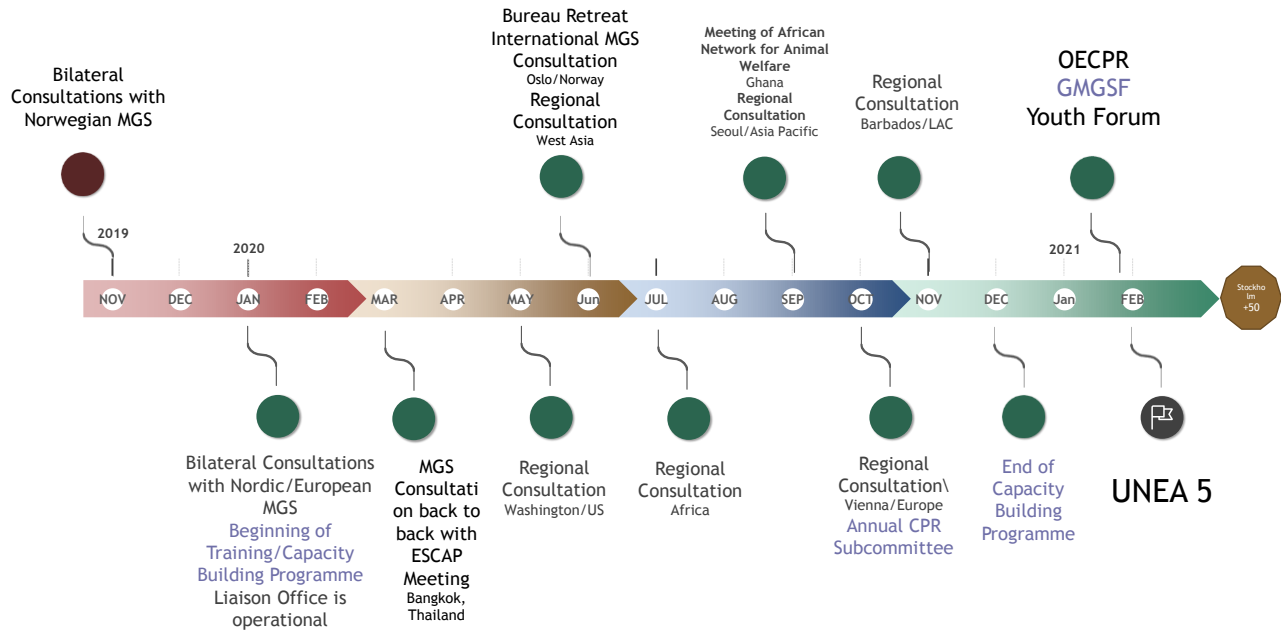
The term Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) was coined in Agenda 21 at the Rio Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and refers largely to not-for-profit, non-governmental organizations, accredited and not accredited to UNEP. MGS consist of nine different Major Groups¹ and other non-governmental, not-for-profit stakeholders such as faith-based organizations².

¹ Women, Children and Youth, Farmers, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, Trade Unions, Local Authorities, Science and Technology, Business and Industry, as decided by UNCED, 1992, A/CONF.151/26

² Paragraph 43 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document, A/RES/66/288

The proposed MGS consultation to be held in June in Oslo in 2020 is part of a larger roadmap of MGS engagement towards UNEA 5 as illustrated by the following timeline³:

Major Groups Roadmap towards UNEA 5



Abbreviations: OECPR: Open Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives; GMGSF: Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum;

Engaging the Public, Media, Scientists and the Individual Companies

Engaging Major Groups and Stakeholders is only one element of engaging all relevant stakeholders towards UNEA-5. In addition to engaging with non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations, it is important to engage as far as possible the general public, media, interested individual companies, scientists and others.

Engagement with the general public will be largely governed by UNEP's communication strategy for UNEA-5. Contributions from the science community beyond those organized within the nine Major Groups, will be an integral part of the UNEA-5 preparatory process, including by providing scientific input to the UNEA theme. Their engagement will also take place through the UN Global Science – Policy – Business Forum on the Environment which is likely to be held in conjunction with UNEA 5. Furthermore, the participation of the business community will be guided by UNEP's corporate Private Sector Engagement Strategy and take place under the umbrella of a Sustainable Innovation Expo which is organized on the margins of UNEA 5.

³ Note that this timeline is work in progress and that dates and events may change.

Major Groups and Stakeholders Consultation, June 7 – 8, 2020

Objective

The consultation has the following objectives:

1. Increase the relevance of UNEA 5 by facilitating active and meaningful engagement by relevant stakeholders globally in the UNEA 5 preparatory process; Strengthen the inter-action and information flow between UNEA and CPR Bureaus and Major Groups and Stakeholders; Enrich the UNEA and CPR Bureau retreats with input and expertise from non-state actors, represented by the nine Major Groups and other Stakeholders;
2. Provide a platform for Major Groups and Stakeholders to discuss the UNEA theme, and to develop their input and positions with a view to contribute to the outcome of UNEA 5;
3. Strengthen the general capacity and knowledge base of civil society organizations and relevant stakeholders regionally and globally with regard to environmental multilateral processes;
4. Promote an increased number of civil society organizations and other stakeholders that engage with UNEP, including through formal accreditation;
5. Raise awareness among MGS about the commemoration of the creation of UNEP and of Stockholm + 50 in 2022 and support meaningful participation in the preparatory process.

Expected Outcome

The consultation is expected to result in:

- A set of proposals to be included in consolidated positions and statements from Major Groups and Stakeholder worldwide for UNEA 5;
- Proposals and ideas for inputs from Major Groups and Stakeholders on the UNEA theme;
- Input of MGS to the UNEA/CPR Bureaus' retreat, in form of oral and/or written statements;
- Preparation of inputs to regional ministerial fora in the run-up to UNEA-5 and to other MGS consultations;
- Development of concrete proposals on how to ensure a well-organized and impactful Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum during UNEA 5;
- Consultation on expectations and preparation of positions for Stockholm+50.

Participants

The meeting will be open to all interested Major Groups and Stakeholders. It is expected that up to 150 representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders will participate in person at the event. While many will come from various locations from around the globe, it is (due to the location of the meeting) anticipated that most participants come from Nordic countries and in

particular Norway. Broader participation will be offered through state-of-the-art video/teleconferencing/web streaming facilities.

For members of UNEP's Major Groups Facilitating Committee⁴, Regional Facilitators⁵ and representatives of organizations from developing countries and from organizations from East European Central Asia and Caucasus Countries, financial support for the participation in the event will be provided, subject to available funding.

Timing and Location

The consultation will take place on June 7 - 8, 2020 in Oslo, Norway. The exact location is still to be determined.

Organising Partners

The consultation will be organized by the UNEP Secretariat and the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, in close cooperation of UNEP's Major Groups Facilitating Committee with a Norwegian organizing partner and UNEP's Regional MGS Facilitator. The role of UNEP and the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment will be limited to providing guidance, expertise (including by providing panelists etc.), providing the venue of the event and to contribution to the costs of holding the meeting. It is expected that the Norwegian organizing partners, most likely Norwegian NGOs, take full responsibility for the logistic of the event, including the organization of travel and accommodation. From UNEP's side, the Civil Society Unit of the Governance Affairs Office will have the lead.

Agenda

A detailed agenda will be developed by the organizing partners themselves, thus ensuring that the content of the event responds to the expectations of Major Groups. Some of the main elements of the Agenda may include:

- Welcome by the UNEA President and Norwegian Minister of Climate and Environment and the Director of UNEP (tbc)
- Interactive question and answer session with the UNEA Presidency
- Thematic discussions in the plenary on
 - the UNEA theme and related sub-themes (e.g. in form of panel discussions)
 - MGS engagement towards UNEA 5
 - Putting UNEA-5 in the context of the SDGs
- Working Groups on:

⁴ The Major Groups Facilitating Committee consists of elected representatives (2 per Major Group) of organizations accredited to UN Environment. See: <https://www.unenvironment.org/civil-society-engagement/major-groups-facilitating-committee-and-regional-facilitators>

⁵ For each region, Major Groups accredited to UNEP, have elected two regional Facilitators that are responsible to facilitate regional MGS input towards UNEP. For Europe these are Janis Brizga from the European Environmental Bureau, Belgium and Sascha Gabizon from Women Engage for a Common Future, Netherlands. For other regional please see the link above.

- Main messages to UNEA and CPR Bureaus
- Input to the UNEA theme and sub-themes
- Stockholm + 50
- Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum at UNEA 5
- Youth Engagement
- Business Engagement

Workplan

Task/Activity	Responsibility	Time Frame
<i>Identification of Norwegian Partner Institution</i>	<i>UNEP, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment</i>	<i>By January 15, 2020</i>
<i>MOU/Contract with Norwegian Partner</i>	<i>UNEP, Norwegian Partner</i>	<i>By January 25, 2020</i>
<i>Preparatory coordination meeting in Oslo</i>	<i>UNEP, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norwegian Partner,</i>	<i>By January 30, 2020</i>
<i>Identification of Meeting Location</i>	<i>UNEP, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, Partners Institution</i>	<i>By February 15, 2020</i>
<i>Send “save the date” to MGS</i>	<i>UNEP</i>	<i>By January 15, 2020</i>
<i>Send out invitation to MGS, open the registration process</i>	<i>UNEP, Norwegian Partner</i>	<i>By February 15, 2020</i>
<i>Finalize the agenda for the consultation</i>	<i>UNEP, MGFC, Norwegian Partner</i>	<i>By February 30, 2020</i>
<i>Select participants, decide on distribution of financial travel support</i>	<i>UNEP, MGFC, Norwegian Partner</i>	<i>By March 15, 2020</i>
<i>Notify selected participants</i>	<i>Norwegian Partner</i>	<i>By March 30, 2020</i>
<i>Identify and invite speakers, resource persons</i>	<i>UNEP, Norwegian Partner, MGFC</i>	<i>By April 15, 2020</i>
<i>Arrange logistical preparations (travel, accommodation etc) for participants.</i>	<i>Norwegian Partner</i>	<i>By April 30, 2020</i>
<i>Hold event</i>	<i>UNEP, Norwegian Partner, MGFC</i>	<i>June 7 - 8, 2020</i>

Budget

While a detailed budget still needs to be developed, costs for the consultation are estimated to around USD 150,000.

Public UNEA-5 Forum, June 9, 2020

Title of the Forum

The title of the Forum needs to be catchy, related to the UNEA theme and it needs to create a link between UNEA-5 and the expectations of the next generation, as articulated for instance by youth movements. The title also needs to be compelling for the business community to participate and make the critical transformations that will ensure sustainable development.

Objectives

The public forum will be held as a Science-Policy-Business Forum and have the following objectives:

6. Increase the awareness among the general public, media, science and the private sector about UNEA-5, its theme and the role of Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment;
7. Underline the role of the science and the private sector in developing meaningful outcomes in UNEA-5 and encourage their engagement;
8. Present the UNEA theme, its relevance and relationship to ongoing initiatives in environment and development to a wider audience;
9. Demonstrate how youth/the young generation may benefit from UNEA-5 and its outcome and how their concerns are taken into consideration
10. Increase business commitment in an action agenda for transformation and moving from a linear to a circular economy
11. Find Champions in the Norwegian and global business community who can pave the way for greater transformation in the business community in the runup to UNEA-5 and beyond.
12. Raise awareness about Stockholm + 50

Expected Outcome

The public forum will result into:

- Increased awareness and understanding of the Norwegian public about UNEA, its theme and the role of Norway;
- Increased interest of interested stakeholders to engage with and contribute to UNEA and its preparatory process
- It will be demonstrated how UNEA 5 intends to address the concerns of the young generation
- Increased awareness from the business community on UNEA, its theme and potential interest in commitments for action from the business community

Participants

The meeting will be held as a public meeting with formally identified and invited participants, but also allow for walk-ins, within the limits of the available space. Additional publicity will be achieved by web-streaming the meeting. Overall a participation of approximately 300 (500) persons is anticipated. Invitations will go out to all relevant Norwegian institutions.

Speakers and resource persons will come from UNEP, the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, science and academia, the private sector, civil society (e.g. youth organizations) and UN sister organizations, such as UNDP (which has an office in Norway) or GRID Arendal.

Costs for travel including other expenses will not be covered for the general participant except for selected speakers/resource persons, if needed.

Timing and Location

The Forum will last ½ day and take place either on day 1 or day 2 of the retreat, in Oslo, Norway. The location is still to be determined.

Organising Partners

The consultation will be organized in close cooperation between UNEP, Nairobi and with the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment that will host the Forum. It is expected that the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment takes full responsibility for the logistic of the event, including by subcontracting an organizing partner/event manager to steer the logistics. From UNEP's side its Private Sector Unit will be in the lead, working closely with UNEP's Science Division.

Agenda

A detailed agenda will be developed by the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment in close cooperation with UNEP. Main elements of the agenda include but are not limited to:

- Welcome by the UNEA President and Norwegian Minister of Climate and Environment and the Director of UNEP (tbc)
- Display of a video relating to the theme of UNEA 5 (tbc)
- Interactive question and answer session with the UNEA Presidency
- 1 – 2 panel discussion, focusing on the UNEA theme, the role and contributions of the private sector, science and other actors and the expectations of youth.

Video

It is expected that for the public forum (but also for other occasions and for uploading it on the Web) a 2-3 minutes video is produced that presents in an easily digestible format the UNEA theme and the importance and relevance of UNEA-5.

Workplan

Task/Activity	Responsibility	Time Frame
<i>Decide on date and location of the Forum</i>	<i>Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, UNEP</i>	<i>By January 15, 2020</i>
<i>Develop TOR for Video</i>	<i>UNEP, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment</i>	<i>By January 15, 2020</i>
<i>Contract Video</i>	<i>?</i>	<i>By February 15, 2020</i>
<i>Video Production</i>	<i>Contracted Partner</i>	<i>By April 15, 2020</i>
<i>Send out Save the Date for Forum</i>	<i>Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, Organising Partner</i>	<i>By January 30, 2020</i>
<i>Finalise Agenda of Forum</i>	<i>UNEP, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment</i>	<i>By February 15, 2020</i>
<i>Identify Speakers and Resource Persons</i>	<i>UNEP, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, Organising Partner</i>	<i>By April 15, 2020</i>
<i>Send out invitation, announce the event</i>	<i>Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, Organising Partner</i>	<i>By April 30, 2020</i>
<i>Event</i>	<i>UNEP, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment</i>	<i>June 9 or 10 (tbc), 2020</i>

Budget

The budget for the Forum still has to be determined. Costs factors include:

- Costs to produce the Video
- Costs for contracting an events manager
- Costs for the location and related costs (equipment, catering)
- Travel for speakers and resource/person
- Other costs

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