

# MGFC, RF and UNEP teleconference

## Summary of minutes

6 November 2020

### **Agenda:**

1. Annual CPR Subcommittee Meeting
2. UNEA 5 settings
3. OECPR
4. GMGSF
5. UNEP @ 50
6. Stockholm 50
7. Participation in online meetings
8. Quadrennial Report
9. MGFC elections

### **Participants:**

- UNEP: Alexander Juras, Laetitia Zobel, Isaiah Otieno, Aurora Cheung
- Science MG: Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Stephen Stec
- NGO MG: Griffins Ochieng, Khawla Al-Muhannadi
- Women MG: Giulia Carlini
- Children and Youth MG: Yugratna Srivastava, Teresa Oberhauser
- Local Authorities MG: Yunus Arian
- Farmers MG: Gabor Figeczky
- Business and Industry MG: Michelle Tan
- Workers and Trade Unions: Bert de Wel
- Regional Facilitators:
  - West Asia: Fatima Frutan
  - Europe: Sophiko Akhobadze
  - Africa: Ayman Cherkaoui, Gertrude Kenyangi
  - Asia and the Pacific: Sarojeni V Rengam, Ajay K Jha

## Summary of Minutes

### 1. Annual [CPR Subcommittee Meeting](#)

- MGFC had a prep session on 9 November 2020, before the CPR started on 12 November 2020. MGFC thanked the participation of colleagues, UNEP, and Kenya.
- CPR Subcommittee meeting had a good platform, good engagement for MG and stakeholders, there was space for MGS to intervene.
- Suggestion: UNEP could put out a PR about UNEA-5, e.g. a webpage explaining the two-part format in 2021 and 2022.
- Upcoming CPR meeting on 10 Nov 2020: UNEP sent an email today, check the [documents](#) e.g. revised MTS.
- UNEP organized meetings between us (MGFC) and CPR Bureau chair, UNEA presidency, etc. Please come prepared with what we would like to achieve in those meetings, use the time well.
- From 23 Nov 2020, UNFCCC will replicate the subsidiary body negotiation, without negotiations. All should be prepared for future online decision-making. This could help the UNEA processes. There is no latest information overview on all UN meetings, but there is existing information on the UNEP website. We can keep each other informed.

### 2. UNEA 5 settings

- UNEA will be in two sessions:
  - ✓ UNEA 5.1 in 2021 on the original dates, 22-24 February (online), and
  - ✓ UNEA 5.2 in February 2022 (TBC, hopefully in person).
- The 2021 will be a mini session (maybe 2.5 days), including leadership dialogues.
- Norway will hold the presidency until UNEA 5.2. Whether there could be a Ministerial Declaration already in 2021 is still under discussion. It could be a shorter declaration focusing on COVID-19 and giving a political message (e.g. UNEP/UNEA are active).
- No science-policy-business forum, innovation expo or similar meetings are envisaged for UNEA 5.1, maybe not even side events, still to be confirmed. But people are free to organize informal side events online and invite Member States.
- This setting gives us one additional year to work on the substantial UNEA and learn from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UNEA 5.1 will host a **multi-stakeholder dialogue**, **please check the email sent by UNEP!**
  - ✓ Input to be sent **by 15 November 2020** on:
  - ✓ Proposed theme(s) for the dialogue; Proposed setting of the dialogue (e.g. parallel meetings, panels, or other innovative ideas); Expression of interest, if any, to partner with UNEP in organizing the dialogue; Suggestions for speakers/moderators, including from Member States (please keep in mind that we would like to put an emphasis on the dialogue part of the event, which means less presentations and more interaction between participants). We could also consider a prominent person as a moderator.
- UNEA 5.2: if there are no pandemic restrictions anymore, would be like the usual UNEA, with the OECPR, GMGSF, etc...

### 3. OECPR

- Will take place in the week of 15 February 2021, the week before UNEA 5.1.
- Programme Of Work, Budget and MTS are likely on the agenda.

### 4. GMGSF

- The actual GMGSF will take part in 2022.
- For UNEA 5.1, there will be **consultations**. UNEP sent an email asking for our input, asking for related themes, leaders... **please check the email sent by UNEP!** Discuss this within your constituency and let UNEP know **by 20 November 2020**:
  - ✓ Themes for the various consultation sessions, including themes not mentioned in the email;
  - ✓ MGS leads for the various sessions (not that the leads are expected to take full responsibility for organizing the sessions including reporting. UNEP will provide technical support and any other support needed);
  - ✓ Any other proposal you might have.
- For MGFC to take this forward, suggestion from UNEP: don't overstretch the consultations; the outcome of this consultation will be useful for UNEA 5.2. UNEP suggested only 4 themes to be discussed. Maybe we can make it easy where UNEP will consolidate inputs. Other results/approaches are also fine.
- Youth is planning to organize a meeting prior to UNEA 5.1 (Global Youth Environment Forum).

### 5. RCMs

- Several regions will have the regional consultations shortly, these should cover more than just the UNEA5.1. Updates can be found here: <https://www.unenvironment.org/civil-society-engagement/meetings>.
- Regional stakeholders should prepare an outcome document of their consultation.
- There will be a summary document with the outcomes of all RCMs, to be shared with Member States.
- The outcome document should be useful for the negotiations in 2022, sharing views of our regions on substantial UNEA themes.
- UNEP is encouraging RCMs also in 2022, these could build on the outcomes of the RCMs that are about to happen.
- Please be in touch with UNEP if any individual Major Group needs clarification.

### 6. Reporting to UNEP:

- 2 reports to send to UNEP:
  - ✓ One from each single facilitator in the MGFC (deadline 31 Dec 2020), which is a request from the MGFC itself to increase transparency, and
  - ✓ One is a quadrennial report from UNEP-accredited organizations accredited before April 2017:
    - Compliance to UNEP reports from some organizations has been very little. This reporting is a requirement from accredited organizations as stated in the Stakeholder Engagement Handbook.
    - Member States questions what some NGOs do, and some accredited organizations are silent and their existence is in doubt.
    - The reporting requirement is not to create extra work. Normal annual reports from the organizations would be enough.

## 7. **UNEP @ 50**

- Commemoration of these 2 events, are 2 separate types of work.
- Taking place in Nairobi, likely back-to-back with UNEA5.2, Member States are on the driving seat.
- UNEP reached out to Children and Youth & Science and Technology to initiate dialogue with Major Groups. The idea is to have a meeting on UNEP+50 in 2021, surveys, outcomes with alternative proposals, ideas, on how the next 50 years of UNEP could look like, how governance and MG could look like etc.
- UNEP will also do its own assessment, looking backwards and forward on challenges.

## 8. **Stockholm+50**

- Separate event, Sweden is in the lead for its organization.
- Some MS wanted the CPR to decide on this too.
- UNEP could organize a meeting between Sweden and MGFC if needed.
- Swedish NGOs play an important role, they started discussion with the government. It is important to get in contact with Swedish NGOs because of their contact with the Swedish government.
- NGOs can also decide to have a big gathering in Stockholm in 2021.

## 9. **Participation in online meetings**

- During CPR and meeting with the Presidency and others, some major groups were participating but were not entitled to be in the meeting, e.g. not belonging/representing an accredited organization.
- According to UNEA rules of procedures, only accredited NGOs should be able to participate in selected meetings. Some Member States are very careful about this.
- Issue of security and potential harm on the openness of these meetings, e.g. if someone enters and makes harmful interventions. Please do NOT share links to connect to the CPR or similar meetings.
- The chat function is only for administrative issues and not for substantial statements or to put pressure on the chair.
- MGCY runs a competitive process for every single negotiation, but then everyone who is registered receives the link, so it's a potential issue
- UNEP: in principle all accredited organizations receive meeting links. Maybe there could be a password or a registration set up to avoid the meeting link being shared to those not entitled to join the meeting.

## 10. **MGFC elections in some Major Groups**

- Timetables were shared by UNEP, please answer UNEP by 15 Nov 2020 if you would run the election yourself (self-organized) or if you want UNEP's help.
- All accredited organizations should have the opportunity to participate and vote.
- UNEP suggested that those who already stayed twice in the mandate step down and leave the mandate to others.
- Transparency is key. Even for self-organized elections, keep UNEP in copy on all elections' stages.

***End of meeting***