

MGFC, RF and UNEP teleconference

Summary of minutes

18 March 2021

Agenda:

1. GMGSF/UNEA 5 Post-mortem, including
 - Report GMGSF
 - Speakers at UNEA meetings/qualifications
 - Follow up to UNEA
2. MGS engagement towards UNEA 5.2.
 - Activation of Clusters
 - New Clusters
3. UNEP @ 50
4. Stockholm + 50
5. Youth engagement towards UNEA 5.2.
6. MGFC elections
7. Chairmanship MGFC
8. Other issues

Participants:

- UNEP: Alexander Juras, Laetitia Zobel, Isaiah Otieno, Aurora Cheung
- Scientific and Technological Community MG: Mohamed Abdelraouf
- NGO MG: Ingrid Rostad, Djatougbe Aziaka
- Indigenous Peoples and their Communities MG: Nil
- Children and Youth MG: Yugratna Srivastava, Tereas Oberhauser
- Farmers MG: Gabor Figezky
- Workers and Trade Unions: Bert de Wel
- Business and Industry: Nil
- Women: Frezer Yeheyis, Carmen Capriles
- Local Authorities MG: Ingrid Coetzee
- Regional Facilitators:
 - Africa: Ayman Bel Hassan Cherkaoui
 - Asia and the Pacific: Nil
 - Europe: Patrizia Heidegger
 - Latin America and the Caribbean: Nil
 - West Asia: Fatema Frutan
 - North America: Dan Burns, Jennifer Garard

Summary of Minutes

1. GMGSF/UNEA 5 Post-mortem, including
 - Report GMGSF: three remaining reports to be submitted to Laetitia Zobel by mid-next week (i.e. 24 March 2021)
 - Speakers at UNEA meetings/qualifications: it was reflected that sometimes speakers had to be chosen ad hoc, it is important to have backups to ensure quality of the presentations. Given the challenges of the platform and the limited speaking slot, it is important to prioritize the messages to ensure that reached the target audience.
 - Follow up to UNEA: given the challenges of the platform, the beginning of OECP and UNEA 5.1 were difficult. Gradually it improved and showed that online negotiations are possible. MGS had a few speaking slots in the meetings, but would love to have more opportunities to engage. Better coordination between MGS and prioritizing messages would be helpful.

2. MGS engagement towards UNEA 5.2.
 - Activation of Clusters:
There are 7 clusters -
 - i. Nature for Poverty Eradication, Jobs and Economic Prosperity:
 - Bert de Wel (Trade Unions MG)
 - Caroline Usikpedo, (Noble Delta Women for Peace and Development)
 - ii. Nature for Human and Ecosystem Health (including role of UNEA 5 in COVID 19 recovery):
 - Jessica Bridgers (World Federation for Animals)
 - Khawla Al-Muhannadi (Environment Friends Society) and
 - Frederick Kwame Kumah (African Wildlife Foundation)
 - iii. Nature for Climate:
 - Ayman Cherkaoui (Africa RF),
 - Djatougbe Aziaka (NGO MG),
 - Fatema Frutan (NGO MG)
 - Carmen Capriles (Women MG)
 - iv. Nature for Sustainable Food Systems:
 - Angela Wright (World Farming),
 - Ajay K Jha (Asia Pacific RF),
 - Wali Haider (Farmers MG).
 - v. Environmental Governance (including in the light of the COVID Pandemic):
 - Leida Rijnhout (Stakeholder Forum),
 - Mohamed Abdelraouf (S&T MG),
 - Patrizia Heidegger (Europe RF),
 - Djatougbe Aziaka (NGO MG)
 - vi. UNEP@50:
 - Stephen Stec (S&T MG) and
 - Yugratna Srivastava (Children and Youth MG)
 - vii. Stockholm +50:
 - Teresa Oberhauser (Children and Youth MG),
 - Jan-Gustav Strandenaes (Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future),
 - Ingrid Rostad (NGO MG)

- It was agreed that the group sticks to these 7 clusters. The communication between the clusters is important, the resolutions would touch upon issues under different clusters, so it would be good to have a joint issues and resolution tracker. The link between UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50 were questioned. A teleconference with the cluster leaders would be organized in April 2021.
- UNEA 5.2: Whether the meeting will be physical, hybrid, or online is not yet confirmed. Depending on the vaccination situation.
- New Clusters: Nil.

3. UNEP @ 50

Led by the Children and Youth MG and Scientific and Technological MG, the goal is to produce a report “The UNEP we want” by end 2021. The report will capture how stakeholders see possible improvements of UNEP. Various consultations will take place; link to regional consultations and other consultations. Authorship remains with task force but will reach out the MGS for input and framing of report and conduct interviews with stakeholders.

4. Stockholm + 50

There was very engaged discussion on the topic during GMGSF, a survey on expectation of Stockholm + 50 will be sent out. The Swedish Environment Ministry might be interested in discussing support for this in a few weeks’ time.

5. Youth engagement towards UNEA 5.2

The Children and Youth Major Group was grateful to the UNEP Civil Society Unit for the support during the Global Youth Environment Assembly 2021. Work plan of working towards UNEA 5.2 and Stockholm + 50 is under way, with national, regional consultations. It is hoped that around the World Environment Day some major milestones will be reached, e.g. a mini Youth Environment Assembly. Currently also working on different MEAs, e.g. chemicals. Discussion is underway to establish a ‘Youth Trust Fund’, in which UNEP ED and the UNEA President showed interest.

6. MGFC elections

NGO MG and Women MG elections finalized. Farmers MG election ongoing: UNEP is running the election by request by the Farmers MG, only 1 nomination received.

7. Chairmanship MGFC

Current chairs were Mohamed and Khawla. Khawla not in the MGFC anymore. A separate call with all MGFC members is to be held to discuss chairmanship and the election process. Mohamed and Ingrid showed interest for the chairmanship; interested colleagues should also show their intention.

8. Other issues

Civil Society Unit would send an email regarding the next GMGSF. Between June/September 2021 there is an MGS Global consultation similar to the one in 2020, Women MG would this consultation. Organization of GMGSF in 2022 would have to be discussed.

End of meeting