

Global Major Groups & Stakeholders Forum Prior to UN Environment Assembly of the UNEP

21-22 June 2014

UN Compound, Gigiri, Conference Room 1

Rapporteurs: Maggie Comstock, Regional Representative, North America; Norine Kennedy, Global Coordinator, Major Group for Business and Industry; Nhattan Nguyen, Global Coordinator, Major Group for Children & Youth; Chehek Bilgi, Women in Europe for a Common Future

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Common Statement to UNEA by the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum

The Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum acknowledges the historic significance of this first United Nations Environment Assembly of the UN Environment Programme. We join with everyone gathered here in celebrating this momentous event.

UNEA must be understood in the context of the dire environmental crisis facing our planet, a crisis that is pressing the boundaries of the planet's physical capacity to sustain a life of dignity for all. We must confront our common responsibility to resolve the severe challenges that face our generation. We therefore urge UNEA to deliver a bold, forward-looking and meaningful outcome that can be implemented in a timely and effective way.

We welcome UNEA's agenda, including the need to address the global challenges involved in Environmental Rule of Law, Sustainable Development Goals, and Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Timber. We underscore the centrality of a human rights-based approach as well as a science-based approach to UNEA's work, in order to transition toward a paradigm of harmony with nature. Special attention is due to the needs of Indigenous Peoples and communities in vulnerable situations. We call on Ministers and Delegates at UNEA to commit to the full implementation of UNEA's outcomes.

UNEP's mandate is key to safeguarding the global environment. Forty years of experience shows that UNEP can only deliver on its mandate by working in partnership with civil society. A robust and inclusive policy on stakeholder engagement is critical to enable this partnership. We are deeply concerned about the risk of regression from certain good practices on stakeholder participation at UNEP that have also been reflected in the UN General Assembly resolution (67/290) establishing the high level political forum on sustainable development. We are also concerned by the serious inadequacies in UNEP's new access to information policy because the grounds for refusal are too broad, the appeals panel is not independent and decision-making is not accountable. We expect UNEA to adopt rules of procedure that will enable meaningful and effective civil society engagement.

To conclude, we have great expectations for UNEA. We are fully committed to making UNEA an historic opportunity for the international community to come and work together, to respond with vision and determination to the hopes and aspirations of humanity. We cannot despair. We cannot give up. We all deserve a life of dignity and we demand respect for our right to live in a healthy environment. We all have a responsibility to our children, future generations and the totality of life on the planet.

Day One: Saturday, 21 June 2014 in Nairobi

Open and Welcoming: Review of Agenda and Objectives of Meeting



Marcos Orellana, Co-chair of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee, and Representative, NGO Major Group, welcomed attendees to the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum. We have learned a lot since 1972, including the effects that over-consumption and demographic pressures have on our planet. Inequitable political arrangements and economic structures, do not account for the environment; instead, they condemn poverty while exceeding planetary boundaries. The first session of UNEA is an important and historical opportunity to address environmental challenges.

Civil society involvement is essential for democratic dialogue and central to accountability. Civil society provides technical expertise to governments. We are compelled to act by moral imperative. Civil society has come to Nairobi at great effort to engage in a dialogue about our global environment, to strengthen civil society voices, and contribute to agenda setting, decision making and implementation. UNEA is a landmark opportunity to facilitate dialogue and agreements beyond political boundaries, in which the role of civil society cannot be overstated.

Ibrahim Thiaw, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Director, UNEP, welcomed major groups and stakeholders to the first ever UN Environment Assembly. This marks a historic moment in the environmental movement. We are very happy and proud to be a part of this history and we should not take it for granted that the world has made much progress towards the environment. This meeting will bring together governments, stakeholders and other actors to look after all environmental programs, from overseeing the work of Chief Executive to the General Assembly.

UNEP has just released its first ever access to information policy. This is a first and major step.

We have given ourselves a year to review this policy and issue a new one by the middle of next year. We look forward to your constructive engagement and comments. The themes of UNEA highlight the inter-linkages between the environment and sustainable development. From the green economy and health to SGDs and SCP, these inter-linkages are the important issues of our time. MGS play an important role in this process and can aid discussions through interaction with governments, one another and all actors, reminding them of these inter-linkages.

UNEA: Significance, Structure and Expected Outcomes

Facilitated by Representatives of Children and Youth Major Group



Kehkashan Basu, Representative, Children and Youth Major Group, opened the session with a quote from UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner, "The environment is set to take center stage this June, with the holding of the landmark UNEA here, in Nairobi, Kenya." UNEA, being the subsidiary assembly of the UNGA, will allow environmental issues to have a similar status to those of peace, security, finance, health and trade, and also provide civil society and other stakeholders with an unprecedented engagement platform of engagement in the dialogue process.

Jiri Hlavacek, Secretary of the Governing Bodies, UNEP, presented on the significance of UNEA. Representatives of more than 160 Member States have registered to attend the first session of UNEA and more than 90 delegations will be led by Ministers or Vice Ministers. Additionally, 1,200 individuals have registered to participate in UNEA. Various events are being organized to bring diverse actors to Nairobi, making UNEA a truly interactive forum to discuss global environmental issues.

UNEA responds to the call of Rio+20, as outlined in Paragraph 88 of the "Future We Want" document, to extend participation in UNEP to universal membership. Prior to the introduction of universal membership to the governing body, the Governing Council comprised 58 members elected by the General Assembly for staggered four calendar-year terms. The Committee of Permanent Representatives, which includes missions accredited to UNEP, serves as the inter-sessional governing body of UNEP. The Open Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, held in March 2014, considered the reports of the Executive Director and decisions/resolutions to be adopted at UNEA, discussed the structure of the high-level segment and possible outcome of UNEA, and agreed on inter-sessional work to be undertaken by the CPR, including amendments to the rules of procedure, stakeholder engagement policy and UNEP programme of work and budget.

Currently, the provisional agenda for UNEA addresses amendments to the rules of procedures, as well as policy issues, including the state of the environment, emerging policy issues, international environmental governance, coordination and cooperation within the UN system on environment matters, coordination and cooperation with major groups, and the inter-linkages between environment and development. UNEA will follow up on the implementation of the outcomes of various UN summits and discuss the budget and programme of work from 2016-2017.

UNEA is expected to adopt the following decisions and resolutions:

- Omnibus decision on science-policy interface;
- Omnibus decision on chemicals and waste;
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation;

- Promoting air quality through UNEP;
- Marine plastic debris and micro plastics;
- GEMS/Water;
- Illegal trade in wildlife;
- Amendments to the Instrument to the Establishments of the Restructured Global; Environment Facilities;
- Trust funds and earmarked contributions; and
- Stakeholder engagement.

The High-level Segment of UNEA has two themes: SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including Sustainable Consumption and Production, and Illegal Trade in Wildlife. There is agreement that the first session of UNEA should highlight critical environmental issues and mobilize concerted actions. However, the format of an outcome is still under debate by member states, i.e. a President's summary or Ministerial declaration.

The outcomes of UNEA will be compiled into a report submitted to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). UNEA President is expected to report on the outcome of UNEA to the second meeting of the High Level Political Forum in July 2014 in New York. UNEA's contribution may help deepen the environmental dimension in the ongoing discussion on SDGs. UNEA provides the highest-level political forum in which the world's Ministers of Environment can issue a message.

UNEA Bureau conducts the business of the governing body session and guides its preparation. Amended rules of procedure will likely have the Bureau members elected at the end of each UNEA session. The First session of the UN Environment Assembly will feature many important discussions and concurrent events, many of which are open to civil society organizations.

Alexander Juras, Chief, UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, reported on the status of the Stakeholder Engagement Policy. There are several opportunities for civil society engagement throughout the week, including the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, Ministerial Dialogue, Working Groups, Contact Groups, the Committee of the Whole and the High-level Segment.

There will also be many important events occurring simultaneously, including the Symposium on Environmental Rule of Law, Symposium on Green Economy, Social and Special Events, the Green Room and Side Events. All of the meetings, with the exception of some social events, are open for attendance by all.

In UNEA meetings, there will be designated seats for two representatives of the 9 Major Groups, including specifically the opening and closing ceremonies, Committee of the Whole plenaries, opening plenary of the high-level segment, and ministerial plenaries and dialogues. MGS may access all in-session documents, decisions and meetings through the online Paper Smart portal. MGS may submit oral statements and written inputs through the Secretariat. As there is limited time for interventions, Mr. Juras recommended that MGS prepare consolidated, short and joint statements where possible. Access to other sessions are at the discretion of the President of the GC/GMEF of the organizing party of the Chair, e.g. special lunches, working groups, contact groups, etc.

Stakeholder engagement in UNEP is facilitated through the 9 Major Groups, which is coordinated through the Major Groups Facilitating Committee and Regional Representatives. MGS will host daily morning briefings in the Green Room.

While the Stakeholder Engagement Policy is not yet finalized, there are a number of provisions within the policy which support increased stakeholder engagement. By 2014, UNEP plans to develop a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation, mechanisms and rules for stakeholder expert input and advice, and working methods and processes for contributions by all relevant stakeholders toward the intergovernmental decision making process. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to lend expert input and advice to aid agenda-setting, decision-making and implementation.

In the development of this policy, there was in-depth discussion of Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedure, and input from MGS was considered. Currently, there is no final agreement among member states and this discussion will be continued at UNEA in the Working Group on Rules and Procedures. Notable accomplishments regarding stakeholder engagement include the right for MGS to participate in all meetings of UNEA and Subsidiary Organs (including the CPR), the right to submit written and oral statements, recognition of the important role of environmental NGOs and a call for more inclusiveness, accreditation for national-level organizations, Major Groups and Stakeholders Fora held in conjunction with the OECPR and UNEA, the right for MGS to self-organize, and acknowledgement of the potential for ICT.

There are open issues remaining related to accreditation, access-to-documents and meetings with the bureaus. Namely:

- Who approves the list of accredited organizations and when does such an approval take place? (Para 15, Rule 69)
- Which information is accessible for accredited stakeholders (beyond what is spelled out in UNEP's access to information policy)? (Para 18d, Rule 69)
- Informal meetings of UNEA/OECPR bureaus with MGS representatives. (Para 26)

There are three potential outcomes related to the Stakeholder Engagement Policy:

1. UNEA adopts the policy based on consensus by member states.
2. UNEA adopts the policy, except for the text in brackets. Parts in brackets may be reopened at a future session of UNEA. UNEP will apply agreed regulations and continue to apply current rules and practices for topics not agreed.
3. UNEA does not adopt the policy. UNEA may request the Executive Director, in consultations with the CPR, to further prepare the draft policy for submission to the second session of UNEA. Current rules and practices continue to be applied by UNEP.

The Chair opened the floor to questions from MGS.

John Hontelez, Forest Stewardship Council, asked Mr. Hlavacek to identify the events during UNEA open to all. To which **Mr. Hlavacek** responded that the social activities to be held on Monday and Tuesday are open to all. The screening of the film *Wasteland* is open to all. The Thursday cocktail reception from 7-8PM is open to ministers only and the Friday evening dinner hosted by Cabinet Secretary is invitation only. **Mr. Hontelez** continued his inquiry, asking Mr. Juras what he meant when he said UNEP acknowledges the importance of environmental NGOs. Will ENGOs become a 10th Major Group? To which **Mr. Juras** responded that while UNEP acknowledges importance of ENGOs they are not recommending the creation of a 10th Major Group. He reminded the GMGSF that the text was supported by the MGS during the OECPR.

Neth Dano, Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration (ETC Group), a member of the NGO Major Group asked if MGS will have the opportunity to draft the Ministerial statement. To which **Mr. Juras** responded this will be done by governments.

Susan Brown, WWF International, remarked that it is unclear what the format of UNEA outcome will take. Is there a timeline for when we will know? **Mr. Juras** responded explaining that this is in the hands of the governments.

UNEA: Common Statement – Introduction and Process

Facilitated by Representatives of Farmers MG



Calvin James, Representative, Farmers Major Group, noted that his task this morning is to facilitate the development of a common major groups and stakeholder statement. It is customary that MGS work together to develop such a statement, which should be clear, concise and representative of the views of civil society. This statement will be read at the opening of UNEA. Possible input documents for the common statement include the common statement developed at the OECPR, the Regional Consultation statements, as well as papers by expert groups. The rules of engagement for the drafting committee dictate that the committee shall meet at an appropriate venue, choose a chair and develop own terms of engagement, and seek expert help as necessary. The committee will submit a final advanced draft to MGSB for circulation to all MGS for review before the plenary on 22 June.

Marcos Orellana, James Cole, Susana Rivero Baughman, Meena Bilgi, Essam Nada and Peter Denton volunteered to form a core sub-team of the drafting team, which will also seek the advice of **Jan-Gustav Strandenaes**. Additionally, **Calvin James** will serve on the committee as an ad-hoc member. The MGS are free to present contributions to the drafting committee as well as submit contributions in writing to the Chair.

Leida Rijnhout, European Environmental Bureau, asked if there will be an opportunity to comment on the first draft.

Norine Kennedy, Co-Chair, MGFC, responded that the preparation of this common statement is not the only time for the MGS to develop positions. Tomorrow over lunch, the regions will convene and weigh in as well.

Calvin James, Representative, Farmers Major Group, continued, the final advanced draft will be submitted before the final plenary. The drafting committee will have until 10PM to deliver an initial draft of the common statement. That document will not be the final document. Additionally, 30 minutes on Sunday will be allocated to MGS positions on the draft. Calvin James closed with a quote by Babe

Ruth, “The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don’t play together, the club won’t be worth a dime.”

UNEA: Thematic Clusters – Definitions, Facilitators and Breakout

Facilitated by the Co-Chairs of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee



Marcos Orellana, Co-Chair, MGFC, opened the afternoon session of the GMGSF. Thematic clusters do not replace the Major Groups structure; instead, they facilitate cross-sector discussions along the subject themes of UNEA. It is the role of the thematic cluster facilitator to facilitate development of MGS statements, track the discussions and report back to the larger group. There is no expectation for consensus within the clusters. We want to preserve the diversity of views, while facilitating in-depth discussions along a theme.

Norine Kennedy, Co-Chair, MGFC, added that we had a first experience of the thematic clusters in March at the OECPR. They provided a helpful forum to share information about the discussions. **Nhattan Nguyen, Representative, Children and Youth**, volunteered to support the technical needs of the thematic clusters.

Susan Brown, WWF International, inquired about the expected outcomes of the clusters. Is there an official process or mechanism for input into UNEA process? **Marcos Orellana, Co-Chair, MGFC**, responded that the clusters will need to identify pressure points and opportunities within UNEA for written or oral statements. These statements would be delivered by the Major Groups, not as a joint statement from the clusters. When it comes to decisions and resolutions, we have the right to submit written or oral statements. In other sessions and symposia, it is less clear.

Alexander Juras, Chief, UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch, responded, stating that thematic cluster statements can be delivered at the appropriate times during the Committee of the Whole and Major Groups are always welcome to submit written statements to the Secretariat.

Norine Kennedy, Co-Chair, MGFC, identified the suggested thematic clusters:

UNEA High Level Themes

- Environmental Rule of Law
- Green Economy/Financing for the Environment
- Illegal Trade in Timber and Wildlife
- SDGs & Post-2015/Sustainable Consumption and Production

UNEA Decisions

- Rules of Procedure/Stakeholder Engagement Policy
- Science and Policy Interface

- Chemicals and Waste
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation

Norine Kennedy, Co-Chair, MGFC, reminded the GMGSF that we want to work from the themes and decisions of UNEA. She continued, asking if there are any objections or revisions to the suggested thematic clusters. Participants requested an additional cluster be formed on Marine Plastic Debris and Air Quality. **Imogen Ingram, Regional Representative for Asia-Pacific**, recommended that the Marine Plastic Debris Cluster be combined with the Chemicals and Waste Cluster.

John Hontelez, Forest Stewardship Council, asked about expectations for the clusters before tomorrow's plenary. Perhaps it would be prudent to spend more time working in the clusters and less time reporting back. **Marcos Orellana, Co-Chair, MGFC**, responded, stating that the first thematic cluster breakout will take place today. There will be a second breakout tomorrow before lunch and tomorrow afternoon, the clusters will report back to the group.

Final Thematic Clusters

UNEA High Level Themes

- Environmental Rule of Law
- Green Economy/Financing for the Environment
- Illegal Trade in Timber and Wildlife
- SDGs & Post-2015/Sustainable Consumption and Production

UNEA Decisions

- Rules of Procedure/Stakeholder Engagement Policy
- Science and Policy Interface
- Chemicals and Waste/Marine Plastic Debris
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation
- Air Quality

****Thematic Cluster Breakouts****

Open Dialogue with Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

Facilitated by Representatives of the Local Authorities MG



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/云报告?reportId=5_12057

