Rio+20, from outcome to implementation: The United Nations Environment Assembly

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Part 1 - The Rio+20 Legacy: the United Nations Environment Assembly



1. Key milestones in environmental governance

UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), June 2012

- □ Paragraph 88 on strengthening and upgrading UNEP as the leading global environmental authority that:
 - 1) Have secure, stable, adequate & increased financial resources
 - 2) Coordinate environmental activities in UN system
 - 3) Promote strong science-policy interface
 - 4) Disseminate evidence-based environmental information
 - 5) Provide capacity-building & facilitate access to technology
 - 6) Consolidate HQ functions & strengthen regional presence
 - 7) Ensure participation of all relevant stakeholders

UNGA decision on UNEP strengthening and upgrade, December 2012

□ 58-membership Governing Council changed to universal membership and to the "United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP" (UNEA)

First Universal Session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, February 2013

□ Decision 27/2 on institutional arrangements – new governance structure for UNEP

Part 1 - The Rio+20 Legacy: the United Nations Environment Assembly 2. UNEP's new governance structure **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)** Universal membership Meets biennially starting in 2014 Concludes with a 2-day high level segment Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) Missions accredited to UNEP **Other Meetings Subcommittee Meeting** Open-ended Meeting • Regular quarterly Meets annually for · Meets in even years meetings, ad-hoc five days for 5 days meetings, thematic debates and briefings

Part 1 - The Rio+20 Legacy: the United Nations Environment Assembly



3. United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (UNEA)

- □ Decision 27/2, Para 5 . UNEA to take strategic decisions and provide political guidance:
 - (a) Setting the global environmental agenda;
 - (b) Providing overarching policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges;
 - (c) Undertaking policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences;
 - (d) Setting the strategic guidance on the future direction of the United Nations Environment Programme;
 - (e) Organizing a multi-stakeholder dialogue;
 - (f) Fostering partnerships for achieving environmental goals and resources mobilization.
- ☐ First UNEA to take place from 23-27 June 2014 in Nairobi
- ☐ Governed by Rules of Procedure (to be amended)

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4. Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

Decision 27/2, Para 9. CPR is the subsidiary inter-sessional body of the UNEP governing body

- (a) Contribute to the preparation of the agenda of its governing body
- (b) Provide advice to its governing body on policy matters;
- (c) Prepare decisions for adoption by its governing body and oversee their implementation;
- (d) Convene thematic and/or programmatic debates;
- (e) Promote effective ways and means to facilitate participation of the non-resident members of the Committee, particularly from developing countries
- (f) Perform any other functions delegated to it by its governing body;



Part 1 - The Rio+20 Legacy: the United Nations Environment Assembly 5. Proposed structure of the UNEA Morning (10am - 1pm) Afternoon (3-6 pm) 23 June 1. Opening of the UNEA 1. COW: Policy issues; review of draft 2. Organisation of work: sessional decisions committees including CoW, drafting 2. Amendments to the Rules of group and Friends of the President procedures 3. Amendments to the Rules of procedures 24 June 1. COW: Policy issues; review of draft 1. COW: Policy issues; review of draft decisions decisions 2. Amendments to the Rules of 2. Amendments to the Rules of procedures procedures 3. Stakeholder events (tbc) 3. Stakeholder events (tbc) 25 June 1. Report back COW 1. COW: Policy issues; review of draft 2. Report back amendments to the 2. Amendments to the Rules of Rules of procedures procedures 3. Stakeholder events (tbc) 3. Multistakeholder dialogue (tbc) 26 June High level segment High level segment 27 June High level segment 1. High level segment 2. Closure of the session

Part 1 - The Rio+20 Legacy: the United Nations Environment Assembly



6. Proposed themes for discussion at the UNEA high level segment

- Reviewing Progress on Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda
- The Science-Policy Interface: Keeping the Global Environment under Review
- Rule of Law, Illegal Wildlife Trade and Environmental Crime

Parallel Symposium on financing a Green Economy "Financing Change, Changing Finance"

Part 2 – Current Stakeholder Engagement in UNEP



1. Current rules of procedures: Rule 69

1. International non-governmental organizations having an interest in the field of the environments, referred to in section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any. The Governing Council shall from time to time adopt and revise when necessary a list of such organizations. Upon the invitation of the President or Chairman, as the case may be, and subject to the approval of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned, international non-governmental organizations may make oral statements on matters within the scope of their activities.

Part 2 – Current Stakeholder Engagement in UNEP



2. Current stakeholder engagement approach

- Nine Major Groups and Stakeholders approach
- Accreditation for international organizations
- Participation in GC only as observer with opportunity to provide oral statements
 - Participation in GC: seats allocated to 9 MGS in COW and GMEF
 - Participation in ministerial roundtables
 - Participation in sessional committees
- Access to un-edited working documents of the GC and submission of written input
- Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum
- Regional Consultations Meetings
- Major Groups Facilitating Committee

Part 3 - Stakeholder Engagement in UNEP: changes, modalities, mechanisms



1. Paragraph 7 of the GC Decision 27/2

Decides that the governing body will ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and will explore new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, inter alia by:

- Developing by 2014 a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation that builds on the existing rules of procedure and takes into account inclusive modalities of the Commission of Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations bodies;
- Establishing by 2014 mechanisms and rules for stakeholders expert input and advice;
- Enhancing by 2014 working methods and processes for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision making process;

Part 3 - Stakeholder Engagement in UNEP: changes, modalities, mechanisms



2. Levels of engagement







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