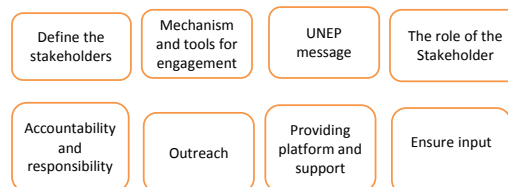


Stakeholders contributions to the UNEP should be based, *inter alia*, on local, national and regional experiences, practices and knowledge.

Hence, special attention should be given to creating an enabling environment for the engagement of local, national and regional stakeholders.

The global environmental issues should be contextualized within the regional, national and local realities in order to ensure effective and efficient engagement of stakeholders at all levels as well as at all stages of adequate implementation of environmental agreements.



- Stakeholder engagement in general strengthens intergovernmental processes and meaningful participation by major groups and relevant stakeholders, as *inter alia*, enumerated in paragraph 43 of the Rio Outcome Document, will strengthen the work of UNEP at all levels, local, national, regional and global, and in all contexts, normative, policy and implementation.
- We support the principle of participation, meaningful engagement and access to intergovernmental processes for the afore mentioned stakeholders as expressed in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in resolution 67/290 of July 9, 2013 establishing the High Level Political Forum, the HLPF, and further expressed in the Human Rights Covenants, the Aarhus Convention and in similar documents of equal formal standing.
- We would like to exemplify these rights by referencing the following paragraphs of the UN GA Resolution (67/290)
- A/RES/66/288

- Paragraph 15 –
- While retaining the intergovernmental character of the forum, major groups and other relevant stakeholders will be allowed:
- (a) To attend all official meetings of the forum;
- (b) To have access to all official information and documents;
- (c) To intervene in official meetings;
- (d) To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
- (e) To make recommendations;
- (f) To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat of the United Nations;

- Paragraph 8, inviting Major Groups to be involved in the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC when the forum will conduct regular reviews,
- Paragraph 13 directing the Regional Commissions to involve the major groups
- Paragraph 16 guaranteeing the right to Major Groups to self-organise
- Paragraph 24 helping to fund stakeholders irrespective of their country of origin
- Paragraph 22 inviting major groups in the agenda setting process.
- We further support the construct of the major groups as recognised and further resolved by the Rio 2012 Summit and would emphasise the usefulness of the major groups system as an effective tool to access the UN system.
- To further strengthen the position of the major groups and other stakeholders, criteria for stakeholder organisations must be developed, using the criteria enumerated in the ECOSOC resolution as a minimum (see the ANNEX for details).
- Consultative Relationship between the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations, Resolution 1996/31.
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- In line with practise developed at the first UN Summit in 1991, UNCED, and further elaborated and streamlined for the 2002 Johannesburg Summit, and qualitatively strengthened through two decades with CSD, as well as practise employed by other UN relevant conferences (UNFCCC, UN CBD and so on), accreditation should be given all interested stakeholder organisation that can prove they comply with standards base on this referenced criteria ad utilised by the UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholder Office in Nairobi.
- UNEP's mandate, as expanded and rearticulated by the Nairobi Declaration adopted in 1997, is to serve as "the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment".

- Within the current 'nine major groups' configuration, environmental NGOs function today a sub-set of the NGOs major group.
- NGOs with a specific environmental profile and expertise represent additional knowledge and experience that would be important for UNEP to harness.
- In the future work of UNEP having been given the major role of providing the environmental dimension in sustainable development within the UN family, UNEP should seek ways to accommodate this special expertise provided by these environmental NGOs in terms of accreditation, representativity and participation.

- Major groups and other stakeholders should always be given access to the UNEA of UNEP and its subsidiary bodies including the Open Ended CPR as well as other CPR meetings as appropriate and when needed. Given the frequency of these meetings, a process could be developed whereby the CPR addresses the coordinating body of the major groups at regular intervals. Major groups and other stakeholders should also be given access to meetings dealing in substance with content relevant to the HLPF meetings.

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