

The role of non-state actors in intergovernmental negotiations on pollution and other environmental issues

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One of the main lessons I have learned during my five years as Secretary-General is that broad partnerships are the key to solving broad challenges. When governments, the United Nations, businesses, philanthropies and civil society work hand-in-hand, we can achieve great things.

Ban Ki-Moon

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What are non-state actors?

- Non-Governmental Organizations/Major Groups
 - Women; Children and Youth; Indigenous Peoples; NGOs, Local Authorities; Workers and Trade Unions; Business and Industry; Scientific and Technological Community; Farmers
 - Others: Elderly, disabled, LGBTQT...
- Private Sector, including consultants
- Journalists/Media
- Individuals: Experts, Students, affected persons



Why to engage with non-state actors: what do governments want?

- ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31 on Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations
- Rio+20 and HLPF: member states call for enhanced participation of civil society and to include “other stakeholders”, e.g. private philanthropic organizations, educational and academic entities, persons with disabilities, volunteer groups
- Guidelines on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector (Issued on 20 November, 2009)
- Rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Why to engage non-state actors: the added value

- Stakeholder *expertise* and knowledge enriches the inter-governmental decision making
- Adds transparency and legitimacy
- They challenge decision makers
- They channel the voices of those most likely to be directly affected by environmental problems and related policies
- They call needed attention to emerging issues as they reach out to their respective communities and the public at large
- They may play an important role in the implementation of decisions, including by providing financial means and expertise
- Commitments

Three levels of engagement



Agenda-setting

- Policy shaping
- Global political agenda setting
- Assembly agenda setting



Decision-making/shaping

- Policy deliberations leading to decision-making
- Transparency and access



Implementation

- Strategic partnerships for implementation of UN Environment's policies
- Strategic partnerships for

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