MGFC and RF and UNEP meeting

Summary

6 May 2024 Time: 1530 – 1700hrs, Nairobi time

Agenda Points:

- **UN Civil Society Conference (UN CSC)**
- **Updates on the meeting of Group of Friends**
- **INC-4 Updates**
- **Preparations for OEWG SPP**
- **AOB**

Participants

- UNEP: David Ombisi, Laetitia Zobel, Isaiah Otieno, Peter Kirongothi, Maria Haanes, Melissa Ngilandala, Edwike Nyauncho
- Business and Industry: Duncan Ochieng' Onduu
- Children and Youth: Gyubin Hwang, Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik
- Farmers: Paul Temple
- Indigenous Peoples and their Communities: Lena Yanina Estrada
- Local Authorities: Magash Naidoo
- NGO: Djatougbe Aziaka
- Scientific and Technological Community: Nill
- Women: Nill
- Workers and Trade Unions: Nil
- Africa: David Munene
- Asia and the Pacific: Ajay Jha
- Europe: Nil
- North America: Nill
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Nill
- West Asia: Nill

Summary of Minutes

1. **UN CSC**

Laetitia: Next week is a busy week with the UN CSC and numerous events planned onsite and offsite. Some members of the UNEP MGS will be attending and particularly those based in Kenya. Organizing is a bit hectic and Laetitia's still following up on tickets.

- Workshops and imPACT coalitions have already been announced
- The MGFC workshop is not yet listed online as of the published list last night
- Earlier communications had indicated that workshops would be organized by CSOs although it appears that UN agencies have organized the same. CYNESA is also co-organizing a workshop and only one workshop is focusing on the environment on policy solutions for the environment submitted by SEI, Bahai, DWW, and other partners.
- Generally, there will be two busy days, and it is not clear whether the input being shared will be
- The SG will be coming to Nairobi and likely speaking at the closing - all this information is available on the CSC website

David Munene: provided a brief overview for the MGFC workshop, "Empowering Youth for Sustainable Development and a more Equitable Future"

- On ImPACT coalitions, David Munene indicated that he had signed up for the "Arts, Culture, and Faith-based Solutions imPACT Coalition."

Action point: CSU will send a reminder of the email about the UN CSC imPACT Coalitions so that colleagues can sign up.

2. **Group of Friends' Meeting**

Ajay: Many member states were present, and it was a good initial meeting. Two issues of concerns, though:

1. Unwillingness of Portugal to co-chair with the CS co-chair was a bit astounding.
2. For the first meeting it was alright, but there is need to be more substantive going forward. Miguel's (DPR Portugal) suggestion to discuss processes that do not have MGFC mechanisms, it is possible that this Group of Friends could be home for such

David Ombisi: CSU is working on a report of the first meeting, and this will be shared soon. The second meeting is set for 2nd July where an updated concept note would be introduced. The issue of co-chairing on the side of member states also needs to be addressed. UNCSC outcomes will also feature as an agenda item and how this applies to UNEP and UNEP MGS. A member state proposed suggesting key processes that could fit into the agenda of the next meeting. CSU is just facilitating and the work of, for example, putting the agenda together, would be the work of the stakeholders.

3. **INC-4 Updates**

Zuhair: Many substantive matters and, especially, the intersessional works stalled on reaching consensus before the final session in Korea. A decision was reached on administrative work with a legal drafting group working on non-prescriptive matters to draft the legal language of the future treaty (only open to Member States). Two ad hoc intersessional expert groups formed working on:

1. means for implementation with special focus on financing
2. keeping the discussions on product design, recycling, etc

Groups to comprise member states although there have been expressions of interest to include observers

- decision open to bureau and the chair.
    - Outcome: A 70-page long draft of the treaty. Several discussions on streamlining the text for different elements of the draft treaty and these have been shared on the website and likely to continue being populated.
    - There are opinions that the INC mechanism of stakeholder engagement differs from that of the UNEP MGS mechanism. However, MGS have found innovative ways to work with other MG&S from other processes in a coalition manner with coalitions getting more opportunities to present interventions. Thus, it would be helpful to engage as UNEP MGS in the evolving processes of forming coalitions as women and children and youth MGs have done.
    - The dates for the final session of the INC (INC-5) are Nov 25 to Dec 1 (right after UNFCCC COP29 and right before the UNCBD COP16 and UNCCD COP16) in Busan, South Korea.

Ajay: Coalitions are good and hopefully this evolves further. However, other colleagues were concerned about some statements such as "good" and "bad" plastic, "we are not fighting plastic, but plastic pollution," etc.

Zuhair: Likely this will continue although the pushback against primary plastic polymers is gaining momentum. However, being a consensus-based process, the risk that one country stalls the debate given the huge economic interest puts this debate to risk.

4. **Preparations for OEWG SPP**

Laetitia: Funding still trickling in for supporting MGS with one person to be supported. Webinars in the pipeline. UNEP CSU will be speaking to the Secretariat about the accreditation and registration process for SPP membership. June open-ended working group happening in Geneva combining Youth meeting in the morning and overall MG/S meeting later during the day. There is more openness in the process of the SPP. Colleagues can sign up to the GEM network emails for regular updates on webinars.

Zuhair: Is it the admission of observers/organizations for future SPP?

Laetitia: Yes. Given that this will be a process independent of UNEA

Ajay: Are you aware that the Asia-Pacific regional consultation has been extended and whether the dates have been released?

Laetitia: Confirmed (via chat).

Zuhair: Opportunities for engagement are many and colleagues with interest in the processes are welcome to engage. A webinar is scheduled for tomorrow (May 7, 2024) on the Road to OEWG3: https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/events/road-to-oewg-3-introduction-to-the-documentation/

David Munene: Better communication needed for regional consultations. Laetitia confirmed that this will be presented to the Secretariat and appreciated the attention to process being paid to spot such mishaps when they happen.

Laetitia: There may be funding to support at least one person from the MGS for the regional consultations although there, initially, had been no funding available for the same.

5. **AOB**

David Munene: UNEP MGS Africa held a webinar on, "Charting the Path Forward: An African Perspective Towards Implementing Resolutions of UNEA-6," hosted by the Mohamed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection and attended by at least 117 unique logins to the meeting. The webinar

was about reviewing the outcomes of the UNEA-6 resolutions and looking ahead to their implementation from an African context and perspective. He expressed appreciation to the Foundation for hosting the webinar, UNEP CSU (in particular, Ulf, David Ombisi, and Isaiah Otieno) for their support.

Zuhair: Several other meetings perhaps not under UNEA and are important to follow:

- Symposium for the monte video programme in Nairobi: https://www.unep.org/events/symposium/emerging-issues-environmental-rule-law-contributions-academia-and-civil-society
- Second global meeting on the monte video programme: https://leap.unep.org/en/about/meetings/second-global-meeting-national-focal-points
- World Environment Day - Jun 5, 2024: https://www.unep.org/events/un-day/world-environment-day-2024
- Global training on the ocean governance - Jun 6, 2024
- Sixth Nitrogen WG meeting - Jun 26, 2024- https://www.unep.org/events/working-group-meeting/sixth-meeting-unep-working-group-nitrogen
- HLPF - 10-19 July, 2024: https://hlpf.un.org/

David Munene:

- Twenty-sixth CBD meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-26) - 13-18 May 2024
- Fourth CBD meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-04) - 21-29 May 2024