

MGFC and RF and UNEP meeting

Summary

6th November 2023

Time: 1300hrs, CET

Agenda Points:

- **UNEA-6 and how MGS engages**
- **Update on INC**
- **OEWG 2: meeting is moved from Jordan to Nairobi, in December 2023**
- **Update on 10th ASC**
- **updates on RCMs**
- **Updates on Major Groups guidelines and RCM guidelines**
- **COP 28**

Participants

- **UNEP:** Ulf Bjornholm, Laetitia Zobel, Aurora Cheung, Maria Haanes, Melissa Ngilandala, Edwike Nyauncho, Peter Kirongothi, Thomas Nyambosero, Katharina Kalbitz
- **UNEP INC Secretariat:** Juan Pablo Celis
- **Business and Industry:** Nill
- **Children and Youth:** Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik
- **Farmers:** A.G. Kawamura
- **Indigenous Peoples and their Communities:** Nill
- **Local Authorities:** Magash Naidoo
- **NGO:** Christopher CHIN, Djatougbe AZIAKA
- **Scientific and Technological Community:** Stephen Stec
- **Women:** Frezer Yeheyis, Dalia Márquez
- **Workers and Trade Unions:** Nill
- **Africa:** David Munene
- **Asia and the Pacific:** Ajay Jha
- **Europe:** Natasha Dokovska, Patrizia Heidegger
- **North America:** Medani Bhandari
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Nill
- **West Asia:** Faisal Al-Fadl

Summary of Minutes

1. UNEA-6 and how MGS engages

- Regional consultative meetings have already taken place or are scheduled. The North America and Europe consultative meetings are still to occur, with the global online consultation scheduled for 16 November 2023. Notably, the global meeting will be held before the regional meetings for North America and Europe.
- Information on the upcoming events leading to UNEA-6 was shared. The DPR of Portugal has invited the MGFC to coordinate inputs for draft resolutions. A potential meeting with a core group from the CPR and MGFC will be arranged to facilitate this coordination.
- A presentation on UNEA-6 was shared, and the UNEP Executive Director's Report is also available [here](#).
- Member states are requesting **coordinated responses** from MGs. As such, it is crucial for MGs to consult with their constituencies to develop collective responses. The current UNEA is suggested to serve as a **pilot** for MGs on how to effectively engage with UNEA.
- MGs are advised to engage with member states well ahead of UNEA to ensure influence on key discussions. Focal points within each MG should be identified based on specific topics to help in coordinating this engagement.
- Ayman raised concerns about the range of topics covered in Regional Consultations, including Climate COP and other issues beyond UNEA. He emphasized the importance of broader statements from regions, as seen during UNEA 5.2 where thematic clusters and volunteers were called upon.
- Ayman asked whether the Youth Environment Assembly was organized by the Youth MG. Laetitia clarified that it is indeed organized by the Youth MG, with UNEP providing support such as meeting rooms and travel assistance for youth participants from select member states.
- Zuhair mentioned outreach efforts to Africa RFs and highlighted that Ayman's organization had supported the Youth MG during the Rabat meeting. He noted the openness to suggestions and expressions of interest in supporting the Youth MG for the Youth Assembly. Ayman added that both his Foundation and Region remain interested in supporting, especially as many of them will be present at the INC and COP28 events.
- Ayman asked how UNEP's pavilion at COP could be used to help bring MGs to member states. Laetitia encouraged MGs to reach out to UNEP, and the CSU would then engage member states interested in collaborating with MGs.
- Frezer inquired about the number of interventions allowed during the meeting and whether there would be opportunities for one-on-one meetings with member states and other delegates in the green room.
- **Response from Laetitia:** The Green Room will be available, with a capacity of up to 40 people for morning and other meetings. The Green Room focal points for MGFC are Mohamed and AG, while the CSU's focal point is Isaiah. There will also be a traditional meeting with the UNEA president. Regular seating arrangements will also be available for the delegates.

2. Update on INC

- Juan Pablo Celis serves as the main contact for observers within the Secretariat. Relevant information, including details about a dialogue with observers and the participation code of conduct, was shared last Friday.

- Frezer raised a question about the Women MG's representation. Specifically, they aim to ensure that different representatives engage rather than the same person repeatedly. For INC-4, he asked whether prior participation in INC-3 or previous INCs is required for travel support.
- Pablo clarified that prior participation in previous INC meetings helps with registration approval but does not impact whether travel support will be approved

3. OEWG 2

- Laetitia informed that official communication will soon be issued. The meeting for EWG 2 will be held in Nairobi on 11 to 15 December 2023 with preparatory meetings, including a youth preparatory meeting scheduled for 9-10 December.
- Updates on travel support will be shared during the week.
- Dalia asked if it was possible to change a name on the Women MG's travel support list.
- **Response from Laetitia:** Yes, it is possible to submit alternate names for travel support.
- Ajay inquired about the process for confirming nominations for MG members attending **EWG 2** in December. He questioned the coordination efforts among co-chairs and MG focal points, as the process seemed unclear from previous correspondence.
- Response from Laetitia: Laetitia clarified that all MGs were invited to nominate representatives and that no coordination was yet done with Mohamed and Dalia.

4. Update on 10th ASC:

- Ulf: [10ASC-Structure.pdf \(unep.org\)](#), [10th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives \(unep.org\)](#)
- Ulf highlighted the cycle of UNEA being held every two years, alternating between odd and even years.
- A discussion on the draft resolutions will occur, with member states having the opportunity to state their intended resolutions or even present draft resolutions or concept notes.
- A panel discussion on the funding base of UNEP will be of particular interest to MGs, as it underlines the need to broaden UNEP's financial base. Less than a quarter of member states contribute their full share to UNEP.
- Proposals to strengthen environmental multilateralism, building on the summit of the future, will be discussed.
- The UN System-Wide Coordination Function.
- A draft chair summary will be discussed on Friday morning.
- A special event is scheduled for Thursday lunch, where the Emissions Gap Report will be presented.
- Laetitia suggested that one hour might not be enough for meetings and proposed scheduling for 1.5 hours instead. The Global Consultations will occur on 16 November and have two sessions in December.
- Ulf proposed having a 30-minute briefing on the global consultations, which was approved. Laetitia suggested scheduling the meeting for early next week with Patrizia and all of MGFC.
- Dalia confirmed that CSU would schedule the meeting.
- Laetitia called for a new meeting on **Monday** to discuss Europe RCM, OEWG 2, global consultations.
- Saro raised a concern about whether corporate funding for UNEP is being considered, as it could pose a conflict of interest.
- **Ulf's Response:** The Environment Fund is meant to support UNEP's programme of work, and while the target is 100 billion, the actual contributions from member states often fall short, typically around 80 billion if lucky.

5. Updates on RCMs.

- **Maria's Update:** Draft guidelines for Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs) have been sent to the MGFC, Regional Facilitators, and regional offices for feedback. The review period has been extended until March/April next year, with the aim to finalize the guidelines after UNEA-6. In-person meetings will be organized to consult on these guidelines, capitalizing on everyone's presence.

Dalia: The final discussion on the Major Groups guidelines will be postponed to next week. Members are encouraged to read the email from Mohamed.

Laetitia expressed regret that feedback could not be obtained from RCM in West Asia and LAC due to time constraints. However, she assured that a 5-minute update would be provided in the next call. Members are encouraged to share any comments in the chat.