

Notes of the MGFC RF Meeting dated 22 August 2023

22 August 2023,

Agenda:

1. MGFC Co-chairs Election Update
2. Africa RCM and AMCEN Update
3. Other RCM Updates
4. AOB

- **Participants:**

- **UNEP:** Ulf Bjornholm, Laetitia Zobel, Aurora Cheung, Edwike Nyauncho, Melissa Ngilandala
- Patrizia Heidegger
- David Munene
- Gyubin Hwang
- Ajay Jha
- Christopher Chin
- Lena Yanina
- Djatougbe Aziaka

Summary of Minutes:

1. MGFC Co-chairs Election Update:

- **Eligibility and Voting:** Representatives of the 9 MGs are eligible for co-chairs and can vote, but RF members cannot run or vote.
- **Nominations:** The nomination window has received four nominations (two men, two women). Each of the 18 facilitators from the 9 MGs will have two votes to cast for two candidates, considering gender balance.
- **Presentation by Candidates:** A survey was sent out for candidate introductions, but it was not possible to arrange a meeting for candidates to present themselves in person. David will share the candidates' introductions.
- **Election Timeline and Process:**
 - It was decided to open voting for 2 weeks, from **29 August to 12 September 2023**.
 - Voting will be confidential and done via email, sent to the election facilitation team.
 - The election period will remain open until all votes are received, after which vote counting will begin.

Decision: The election will be open for **two weeks** following a one-week notice after sharing candidate introductions. If all votes are received early, the election can be closed sooner.

2. Africa RCM and AMCEN Update (David and Ayman):

- **RCM Details:** The Africa RCM was held in Addis Ababa, with a two-day meeting. Participants were also required to get accreditation through the AMCEN Secretariat.
 - Day 1 featured a keynote by the AMCEN President (Senegal), an address from the UNEP Director for the Africa Office, and a presentation on the implementation of AMCEN decisions.
 - The high-level ministerial segment included a summary of the meeting, with **61 participants in person** and **10 online**.
 - The statement presented by Ayman on 17 August was a product of collaboration between David and Ayman.

- There was increased participation by MGs at AMCEN, though some elements were restricted to member states. MGs contributed significantly to the process.
- Five working groups were formed, with four facilitated by women.

3. Other RCM Updates:

- **Asia RCM:** The Asia Regional Consultative Meeting (RCM) is set to occur in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**. Registration is ongoing, and the meeting will be held in a hybrid format.
- **Europe RCM:** Tentatively scheduled for **November 2023**. Venue and date are yet to be confirmed.
- **LAC RCM:** Preparations for the **Latin America and Caribbean RCM** are well advanced, and it will be held back-to-back with the Ministerial Forum in **Panama in October 2023**.
- **West Asia RCM:** Likely to take place in **October 2023**.

4. Ministerial Declaration:

- A **draft Ministerial Declaration** was released for consultation in **June 2023**, with a new draft shared on **17 August 2023**. There have been some delays in the roadmap.
 - **Deadline for Comments:** Written comments on the new draft are due by **15 September 2023**, after which a second draft will be shared.

5. Draft UNEA Resolutions:

- **African Region's Planned Resolutions:** Two resolutions are planned from the African regions:
 1. Strengthening cooperation between UNEA and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).
 2. Clarification of UNEA's role in relation to MEAs and strengthening regional offices and structures.
 - This provides an opportunity for civil society to be integrated into regional forums and ministerial meetings.

- There may also be a resolution on **solar radiation modification**.
- **Political Input from the Executive Director (ED):** The ED's input on these resolutions will influence political preparations for UNEA. A consultation is still being considered, and it could either be an UNEP-only report or one with input from stakeholders.

6. AOB (Any Other Business):

- No other business.