

Preparations towards UNEA-7 and the Role of Major Groups and Stakeholders

to —
9th Africa Animal Welfare Conference
Yaounde, Cameroon, 28 - 30 July 2025

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Major Groups and Stakeholders



UNEP partnering with Civil society

- UNEP is committed to partnering with civil society actors to facilitate engagement and support transparency and inclusiveness in the intergovernmental decision-making process at UNEP.
- Supported by UNEP's Civil Society Unit in the Governance Affairs Office, UNEP is mandated to collaborate with non-governmental and non-for-profit civil society organizations and networks through the "Major Group and Stakeholder" approach - to ensure effective, broad and balanced participation and representation at UNEP-organized meetings.



Accreditation – application - approval/rejection – registration

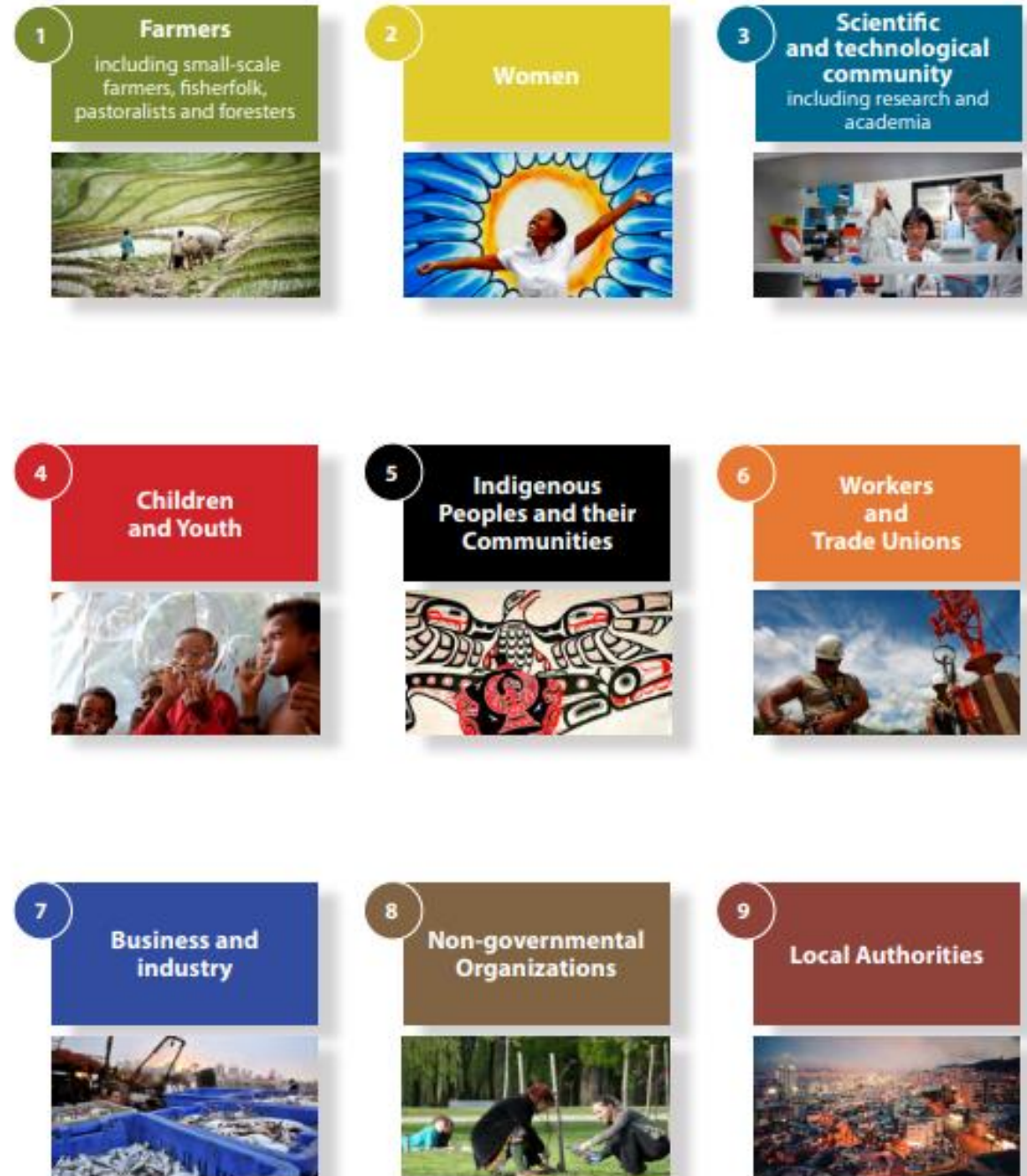
- Organizations accredited to UNEP are essential partners to UNEP's mission and mandate, by contributing to the formulation and implementation of UNEA decisions and resolutions, including UNEP's Programme of Work and Medium-Term Strategy.
- The interaction between UNEP and civil society has grown significantly in the past decade; over 1200 organizations have achieved formal consultative status through UNEP accreditation.



The nine Major Groups

The concept of the Major Groups and Stakeholders was established at the Rio Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and enshrined in the outcome document “Agenda 21”.

The nine Major Groups are the following:



Role of Major Groups and Stakeholders during UNEA



Agenda Setting: Shaping UNEA's Priorities

1. Contributions to the consultations on identifying a UNEA theme

MGS provide critical input into the selection of the theme for each upcoming UNEA sessions, to ensure that global priorities are aligned with stakeholder concerns.

2. Contributions to the tabling and negotiation on UNEA resolutions

MGS play a key role in influencing member states to champion and table specific resolutions to UNEA, as well as to the negotiations.

3. There are many opportunities to influence

MGS are invited to participate at any official CPR or UNEA meetings, and to contribute to UNEA and CPR bureaux meetings or retreats, often meeting back-to-back to prepare for those meetings.

4. There are many ways to influence

In UNEP-organized meetings, the civil society has an opportunity to make their voice heard in several important ways – such as:

- making statements

- Organizing side events

- providing written comments

- sharing their views on an on-going negotiations.

MGS also often engage in informal lobbying and work closely with Member States supporting their agenda.

Side-Events

Organizing or participating in Side-Events

Major Groups can propose or participate in side-events held during UNEA, which focus on a variety of environmental topics and provide an informal space for discussions outside the formal agenda.

They offer alternative spaces for deeper discussions on pressing environmental issues.



What is the “Green Room”

The “Green Room” is a physical and virtual platform belonging entirely to Major Groups and Stakeholders – to exchange, host events and hold discussions in parallel to UNEA.

It serves as an informal space designed to amplify voices from civil society, foster collaboration, and bring forward innovative ideas and solutions.



Role of Major Groups and Stakeholders during the consultation process for resolutions



UNEA Resolution Process

- All drafts can be accessed on the [UNEP resolution portal](#).
- Accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders have access to the Resolution Portal
- Resolutions are normally classified into clusters relating to relevant topics
- Co-facilitators are identified per each of the UNEP regions to lead consultations



Consultation process

CPR subcommittees

Proponents/main sponsors of drafts introduce their proposals followed by a presentation of the technical note prepared by the Secretariat and Q&A

Additional CPR subcommittees

Informal consultations continue under leadership of CPR Chair and co-facilitators.

In-depth consideration of the drafts to advance the preparations of the OECPR
Cluster by Cluster



Quarterly CPR

CPR Annual Subcommittee
Kick-starting consultations on draft resolutions

- takes stock of progress made
- recommends that the consultations on drafts continue under the guidance of the appointed co-facilitators
- Subject to agreement of proponents, ownership of the drafts transferred from proponents to co-facilitators

OECPR
Start of line-by-line negotiations

CPR consultations and negotiations

Before OECPR:

- Proponents or Co-facilitators presents the latest draft resolution to the Committee for further consideration
- The document may indicate various text proposals put forward by Member States in brackets

During OECPR:

- Word-by-word negotiations
- If consensus is reached, the draft is transmitted to UNEA for adoption
- If consensus is not reached, UNEA may establish a new negotiation committee (Committee of the Whole) to finalize negotiations



Participation of accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders

At the discretion of the Chair and the co-facilitators and subject to agreement by Member States:

- Can**
- ✓ Attend and listen to the proceedings
 - ✓ Make a general statement at the end of the consideration, when Member States have exhausted their intervention
 - ✓ Ask for general comments on the drafts to be posted on the UNEA-7 Resolution portal

Cannot ✗
Make concrete textual proposals from the floor

Note: Major Groups and Stakeholders are encouraged to make textual proposals through a Member State



Participation of accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders

- Co-facilitators leading negotiations are encouraged to organize early consultations with Major Groups and Stakeholders.
- Major Groups and Stakeholders nominate “MGS resolution focal points”, to present common views on the drafts
- A list of focal points from MGS for each UNEA-6 resolution/decision is made available on the UNEA-6 Resolution portal



Towards UNEA-7



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Nairobi National Park, Kenya



Advancing sustainable solutions for a resilient planet

8 – 12 December 2025
UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya



When	Ministerial Declaration Milestones
Mid-2025	15 April: first intergovernmental consultations on the zero draft ministerial declaration 16 June: second intergovernmental consultations on the first draft ministerial declaration 19-20 June: MGS consultations (online) 30 June: Deadline for submission of written inputs to the first draft ministerial declaration. 3 July: UNEA & CPR Bureau meeting online
Late 2025	29 Aug: Revised first draft circulated, feedback requested (Deadline: 30 Sept) 17 Sept: Third intergovernmental consultations on the revised first draft ministerial declaration (hybrid) 15 Oct: Final draft reviewed in joint UNEA-CPR Bureau meeting 17 Oct: Final draft circulated; feedback requested (Deadline: 7 Nov) 5 Nov: Fourth intergovernmental consultations on the final draft ministerial declaration (hybrid) 27 Nov: Revised final draft reviewed in joint UNEA-CPR Bureau meeting
December 2025	1-5 Dec: Last consultations at OECPR-7 7 Dec: Final draft reviewed in joint UNEA-CPR Bureau meeting 12 Dec: Ministerial Declaration formally adopted at UNEA-7 High-Level Segment

Annual Subcommittee Meeting

1 – 5 September 2025

- Meet for 5 days (Hybrid)
- Review Medium-Term Strategy, Programme of Work & budget, to be endorsed by CPR & for UNEA's approval
- Initiate preparations for UNEA-7
 - Discuss and refine agenda for UNEA-7
 - Member States encouraged to **table their draft resolutions**- deadline 29th of September
- Oversee implementation & accountability of Secretariat
- Conduct its meetings in English only



Civil Society Engagement

- Global Virtual Consultations (online)
October 2025 (Date TBC)
- Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum
6-7 December 2025
- Green Room Events
6-12 December 2025
- Global Youth Environment Assembly
29-30 November and 7 December 2025
- Multistakeholder Dialogue during UNEA
11 December 2025



Group of Friends

- Group of Friends for enhanced civil society participation in UNEP led events
- Used as informal platform of exchange between MGS and Member States
- A platform to share your position on resolutions, decisions and ministerial declaration
 - Topics for resolutions
- Find partners and avenues for collaboration
 - Side events
 - Advance positions
- **3 nominated representatives** per constituency – channel your inputs through them



Modalities for participation in UNEA-7

Reserved seats for the 9 Major Groups

- **Opening plenary**
 - General statements from MGS
 - Regional statements as prepared in the RCMs
- **Committee of the Whole**
 - Concise statements after member states
- **Working Groups**
 - Concrete proposals on resolutions working with member states
 - Intervention by individual organization on behalf of MG
 - NB: Interventions carry more weight when supported by a larger group of MGS
- **High-Level Segment - Multistakeholder Dialogue**
 - By and for MGS

Green Room

- Dedicated space for MGS
- Morning briefings
- Bilateral meetings
- Caucus meetings
- Apply to organize a side event
 - Deadline: 30 October 2025





Thank you



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