

MGFC and RF and UNEP meeting

Summary

1 July 2024

Time: 1530 – 1700hrs, Nairobi time

Agenda Points:

- **Reflections from OEWG3**
- **Reflections from Group of Friends (GoF)**
- **Updates on coming 11th ASC**
- **Task forces (Committee for zero harassment and MGRF reporting form)**
- **Next elections processes (LAC) (B&I Major Group)**
- **Proposal of capacity building to conflict resolution and having difficult conversations to the MGFC and UNEP accredited organizations.**
- **LAC suggested new guidelines for Regional Facilitator's.**
- **AOB**

Participants

- **UNEP:** David Ombisi, Laetitia Zobel, Isaiah Otieno, Peter Kirongothi, Maria Haanes, Melissa Ngilandala, Edwike Nyauncho
- **Business and Industry:** Nill
- **Children and Youth:** Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik
- **Farmers:** Arthur Kawamura
- **Indigenous Peoples and their Communities:** Lena Yanina Estrada
- **Local Authorities:** Jean-Baptiste Buffet
- **NGO:** Djatougbe Aziaka, Christopher Chin
- **Scientific and Technological Community:** Stephen Stec, Mohamed Abdelraouf
- **Women:** Frezer Yeheyis
- **Workers and Trade Unions:** Nil
- **Africa:** David Munene, Ayman Bel Hassan Cherkaoui
- **Asia and the Pacific:** Ajay Jha
- **Europe:** Natasha Dokovska Spirovska
- **North America:** Prof. Medani P. Bhandari
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Nill
- **West Asia:** Nill

Summary of Minutes

1. Reflections from OEWG3

Natasha: Very busy 3 days, witness to change. Lots of discussion. Each morning preparatory meetings. One statement for the opening and statement at the end. Few statements were also sent online. CYMG read a few statements. Worked hard and together even when there were disagreements about the role of MGS. Daily posts about it from WMG. The UPAC Meeting Breakfast Initiative in February WMG will be taking place. Long week, no agreement on the number of seats for stakeholders in the Panel to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. MGS showed they can work together. Women's Major Group worked well and tried to highlight the gender dimensions in the discussions.

Zuhair: civil society day (June). Very debated issue of participation of stakeholders in the interdisciplinary expert committee. The session was not fully successful as member states could not finish negotiations on the key elements. Resumed session of this meeting, potentially February 2025. 2 Civil Society Meetings with ED: MGS and Youth Meeting (Youth Engagement). Meetings went well overall.

Djatougbe: platform to express ourselves. Wants to express herself openly. NGO MG is having a problem, and it is affecting the MGFC. Being a member or an Elector: not looking for fights or opportunities to travel. Need to respect each other, doesn't want to keep quiet. Coordination on the ground must be done in coordination with the relevant MG Facilitators. Conflict for Nominations issues among NGOs. On several occasions, civil society unit has selected NGO speakers. Issue of disrespect, previous hack issue/ Good relationship between UNEP CSU and MGFC. One person was nominated: Ana.

Ajay: Concerned about Djatougbe is saying. Not the first time he heard this. Appreciate and share the agony. A very simple solution for the selection of MGS, avoid bypassing the CF/RF. Observed that some opportunities are lost. New people should be allowed to speak. Selection will be made transparent to declare who has applied and who was selected by whom and for what reasons.

Mohamed: Suggestion to leave the issue to Mohamed and Dalia and will be discussed in a meeting with UNEP CSU.

Dalia:

- The third session of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-3) was, in my view, a well-organized event. The MGS daily meetings facilitated meaningful engagement among various Major Groups and Stakeholders. These interactions were crucial in fostering a sense of community and shared purpose among participants MGS.
- It is concerning that the main objective of the session was not achieved. However, feedback from various states indicated a preference for taking additional time to develop a more viable and comprehensive result, rather than rushing to a conclusion that could be unfeasible or riddled with ambiguities. This cautious approach highlights the importance of thoroughness and clarity in international agreements, even if it requires extended discussions.
- From the perspective of the Women's Major Group (WMG), our focus was primarily on direct lobbying efforts with individual countries and engaging in regional meetings. This strategy was chosen over making interventions during the sessions, as the dynamics of the meetings did not seem conducive to impactful interventions.
- Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the UNEP Civil Society Unit for their amazing support and collaboration throughout the OEWG-3. Their assistance was invaluable in navigating the complex landscape of international environmental negotiations and ensuring that our voices

were heard.

2. Reflections from Group of Friends (GoF)

Mohamed: Successful first meeting. Next meeting is tomorrow. Ask for feedback and report back from the meeting. There should be after each meeting a simple email as for what was agreed.

Ajay: MGFC works with UNEP and is the only one. Lack of link between group of friends and MGFC. There should be a link between Group of friends and MGFC. Was told that group of friends is independent. Request monthly meetings between group of friends and the MGFC.

Zuhair: Nominations were made by their respective constituencies. Obligated to report back to their constituencies on their engagement. Monthly meetings may be a lot as the group of friends doesn't necessarily meet at such a periodicity. Alternate proposal: invite to the next MGFC monthly meeting our representatives to report back.

Mohamed: Reiterate the request. Request to leave it to Dalia and Mohamed to further clarify the link.

Zuhair: Invite the Group of friends to brief their MGFC. It is advisable to strengthen the connection between facilitators and the representatives of their constituencies.

David: There should be a link between the groups of friends and MGFC. We also need to strengthen our own participation in those meetings.

David O: Related to the meeting to the Group of friends: engagement of the Member States to already share some of the views.

Dalia: I asked some participants of the groups of friends about their opinions and the answer was: "There is no clarity about the purpose of the Group of Friends, we are getting in knowledge about the process and its purposes"

3. Updates on coming 11th ASC

David O.: Monday July 8th to 12th. Most of the information is available on the website, including the agenda and the background document. Some of the highlights for the week: focus on the implementation of the programme of work 2022-2023, looking at the review of that. Opening by ED and Regional Groups and individual Member States. Chair of the CPR indicated that they want just one joint statement. Budget issues will be discussed most likely starting from Wednesday, as well as regional forums, financial outlook for UNEP. On Thursday, focus will move towards preparations for UNEA 7, issues related to the theme, proposals will be discussed, roadmap for the development for the new MTS 2026-2029 as the current MTS is ending next year. Programme of Work 2026/2027. Between now and UNEA 7, a lot of effort will be put in developing the new MTS. On Friday, the work will be focused on the Draft Chair Summary for the meeting. In terms of other related meetings, coordination meetings will be taking place every morning (CR 14), should be hybrid for those not present in person in Nairobi. Special events will be taking place during lunch hours from Monday to Friday (Global foresight report, AI, accessing carbon markets, climate change: keeping 1.5 degree within reach). Reception hosted by the Presidency of UNEA 7 (Wednesday), arrangements have been made for the supported participants from MGS.

Laetitia: CPR Chair confirms that CPR Chair Joint statement request from the UNEP MGFC. Eric Fongoh was supported but visa issue.

Mohamed: In order to prepare the joint statement, send an email to MGFC and also include all those that are coming in person. For the hybrid, request to CSU to set up the links for the morning meetings every day.

Zuhair: MGFC should decide to have a joint statement and should not be pushed into it. Communication about this should be done well before. Short lead time for coordination weakens the coordination. Request to UNEP CSU to follow timely communication on this matter. CYMG already started preparations for the statements. Regarding the coordination meeting, request to be able to use it for CYMG to do consultations about implementation of adopted resolutions and to the expectations for UNEA 7: 8 and 9 of July.

Isaiah: Links will be sent by Friday for the entire meeting. Schedule for the room is up to the MGFC Co chairs.

David O: Information to have a joint statement was only made available this morning and shared same day. Feedback will be provided to have more time. Each MG will need to consolidate their inputs that will then be consolidated for a global statement. Different major groups should be able to consult and ideally a draft should be made by Friday ideally.

Mohamed: Currently no reason not to have the youth meeting at noon but is waiting to make sure from a formal perspective. The email from UNEP CSU will help in kickstarting some work.

David: Personal Concern that he observed some lack of consistency in space for engagement from MGFC. ASC expectation from MG that they will be getting adequate airtime in an engagement that is lasting a whole week.

Zuhair: they can hustle and bustle with everyone but the issue when it is a common global statement it ends up diluted for various reasons, including time.

Mohamed: David and Zuhair. There will be a push for more statements, push for more slots. Let us plan for the global one.

Dalia: Women's Major Group is coordinating a consultation meeting.

4. Task forces (Committee for zero harassment and MGRF reporting form)

Mohamed: call for open invitation to join the task forces (email Dalia) and report templates to be shared.

Dalia:

- So far, I have received only two nominations to the Task forces - Committee for zero harassment from WMG, any from other groups.
- MGFC Reporting Form: I have received a proposal from Natasa, so I will draft it and share it with you before our next MGFC monthly meeting.

5. Next elections processes (LAC) (B&I Major Group)

Mohamed: Call for elections. One of the nominees. Email from UNEP CSU. Something that should not be allowed. Requires a reaction from UNEP.

David O.: Isaiah to come in. Regional Facilitators are not members to the MGFC and are more observers.

Isaiah: Issue has been an outstanding one. Issue is that as a matter of process, MGFC Members are only from the 9 MG. Has been an issue even when it comes to MGFC as RFs can't vote. RFs are just observers and are not really Members of the MGFC. This needs to be addressed as otherwise no reason to run for both. Election for West Asia ends in October 2024/ whereas Business ends in

August. This has never happened before, need to look into it. As of now, there is no ground to stop Faisal from running as MGFC Member.

Mohamed: Disagrees with a rationale. Believes that RF should not be in a position to run.

Isaiah: Can't be a marriage of convenience, either they are a member or not.

Lena: Open call for LAC RF, indigenous people can't nominate because of deadline. Local Communities/ Which major group.

Laetitia: One full month to make nominations, multiple reminders have been sent to make nominations. Only three nominations were received. The particular individual is registered from the Caribbean (Ruth Spencer), she is from an NGO.

6. Proposal of capacity building to conflict resolution and having difficult conversations to the MGFC and UNEP accredited organizations.

Mohamed: Proposal to further refine the concept and proposal and send it to UNEP

Dalia: As the CEO of Juventud Unida en Acción, which also focuses on peacebuilding, we regularly provide free training to volunteers and other organizations on key topics such as "How to Have Difficult Conversations" and "Dialogue as a Tool for Peaceful Conflict Resolution." Recognizing the diverse cultural backgrounds and the various groups we represent as leaders, it is timely and beneficial to offer these training sessions to UNEP-accredited organizations, with a special emphasis on the MGFC. This training would be coordinated by our organization (Juventud Unida en Acción) in collaboration with the UNEP Civil Society Unit and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), which is the primary organization managing the training methodology. I look forward to your feedback on this initiative.

7. LAC suggested new guidelines for Regional Facilitator's.

Laetitia: Some discussions from LAC representatives during UNEA 6 and Dalia has been co-leading some work with the outgoing RF (code of conduct, ethical behavior and options as for how and how often they can be reelected)

Dalia: During the UNEA-6 Latin America had a meeting where it was proposed to add a few new guidelines to the Regional Facilitators handbook. (I will ask to the UNEP CSU please share these proposed guidelines) they want to know if is necessary to approve this from the MGFC or if it is possible to apply these rules to LAC once the New Regional Facilitators decides on the procedure to approve those guidelines to LAC Region.

8. AOB

Mohamed: Meeting with ECOSOC President UNEA 6 (coordination between MG system in NYC and MG system in Nairobi): a call a few days ago in presence of ECOSOC President. ECOSOC President by end of July. Institutionalising the coordination: coordination. Co drafted letters among the 4 Co Chairs coordination, at least 2 meeting per year (January and July) unless there is a need for an ad hoc meeting. Potential coordination for the Summit of the Future.

Isaiah: rollcall of the attendance of the MGFC members. Views of sharing this with accredited organisations.

Mohamed: This ought to be shared to the whole MGFC and further discussed.

Dalia: Since participating in the UN Civil Society Conference, Mohamed has been lobbying with the President of ECOSOC to coordinate a meeting between the Co-Chairs of the Major Groups at UNEP and the Co-Chairs of the Major Groups at the UN. Last week, Mohamed and I met with the Co-Chairs of the UN Major Groups and the President of ECOSOC. In the meeting, Mohamed presented the proposal to collaborate between both groups, similar to the Stockholm+50 process. I emphasized the importance of including the environmental dimension in various spaces and highlighted its absence during the UN Civil Society Conference in Nairobi. I also mentioned that the UNEP MGFC representatives added this environmental perspective to the various coalitions and suggested future collaboration. The President of ECOSOC found the proposal interesting. The Co-Chairs of the UN Major Groups stated they would consult with the different Major Groups at the UN about the proposal.