MGFC and RF and UNEP meeting

Summary

4th November 2024 Time: 4pm-5pm, Nairobi time

Agenda Points:

- Perspectives Publication (CSU)
- MTS consultations
- MGos Nairobi and NY coordination (Mohamed)
- Updates on INC plastic (All)
- Updates on OEWG 3.2 of SPP (CSU and others)
- UNEP/UNEA meetings plans for the next 8 Months (CSU)
- Election updates- Newly appointed MGFC members' Induction- Orientation for newly elected MGFC members to familiarize them with roles, responsibilities, and ongoing initiatives. - MGFC Handover Process- Have a structured handover from outgoing to incoming MGFC members, including a joint handover call with the Civil Society Unit (CSU) to ensure a smooth transition.
- MGFC meetings rules and reminders- notetakers/ uploading of minutes and notes. Chairing of MGFC rotation
- Enhancing Participation in CPR Sessions- Discuss strategies to increase engagement and participation in Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) sessions among members.
- GoF Updates
- COP's updates by MGFC members or their constituencies
- AOB

Participants

- UNEP: David Ombisi, Laetitia Zobel, Isaiah Otieno, Peter Kirongothi, Maria Haanes, Melissa Ngilandala, Edwike Nyauncho, Hezrone Okoth
- Business and Industry: Dominic Kailash Nath Waughray
- Children and Youth: Gyubin Hwang
- Farmers: Arthur Kawamura
- Indigenous Peoples and their Communities: Rodion Sulyandziga
- Local Authorities: Jean-Baptiste Buffet
- NGO: Nill
- Scientific and Technological Community: Stephen Stec
- Women: Frezer Yeheyis, Dalia Fernanda Márquez Añez
- Workers and Trade Unions: Nil
- Africa: David Munene, Ayman Bel Hassan Cherkaoui
- Asia and the Pacific: Ajay Jha

- Europe: Natasha Dokovska Spirovska
- North America: Nill
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Nill
- West Asia: Nill

Summary of Minutes

The meeting starts with key updates and discussions regarding ongoing projects, team performance, and strategic planning. Participants shared insights on challenges faced and proposed solutions to enhance productivity. Action items were assigned, with deadlines established for follow-up.

During the meeting, several issues and problems were discussed, along with proposed solutions and assigned responsibilities:

1. Issue: Complaints regarding the UNEP logo endorsement on publications.
 - Problem: The logo's presence was perceived as UNEP endorsing majority opinions, leading to internal complaints.
 - Solution: Maintain a disclaimer on publications clarifying UNEP's role and ensure proper communication about the logo's use.
 - Responsible Party: Communication team to oversee the disclaimer and logo usage.

2. Issue: Difficulty in reaching the target clientele with publications.
 - Problem: Ineffective distribution methods for publications.
 - Solution: Utilize email notifications and website uploads to enhance accessibility.
 - Responsible Party: Marketing team to implement email strategies and website updates.

3. Issue: Need for timely communication on relevant topics (e.g., plastic).
 - Problem: Lack of proactive outreach on current issues.
 - Solution: Send out email requests based on trending topics to gather input and move forward.
 - Responsible Party: Research team to identify hot topics and coordinate email outreach.

About the importance of IFC members registering for upcoming breakout groups to contribute their experiences and insights, particularly regarding the UNEP and UNEA processes. It highlights that a member state consultation occurred in October, with major group and private sector discussions scheduled for November. Members are encouraged to participate to provide perspectives for the media strategy for 2026 and 2029. Additionally, a meeting of the Group of Friends is set for November 11.

The meeting focused also on enhancing collaboration between the MGFC and UNEP to improve participation in various activities and meetings in New York, particularly emphasizing the need for stronger environmental perspectives at high-level political forums. Participants discussed the importance of sharing agendas and understanding the roles within the major groups. There were acknowledgments of the challenges faced in elections and regional participation, with suggestions for restructuring to empower local representatives. Additionally, opportunities for civil society engagement at upcoming events, such as COP16, were highlighted, encouraging broader participation and input from various stakeholders.

The meeting focused on updates regarding upcoming events and consultations. A bureau meeting is scheduled in two weeks, which is expected to provide further updates. The women's major group is coordinating a side event on November 15 related to the Open-ended Working Group on the science and policy panel, with an agenda already prepared. Additionally, the Indigenous People Caucus is planning forums on plastic, although the venue is yet to be confirmed. Overall, participants expressed eagerness to share and receive updates on various initiatives.

The meeting discussed the scheduling of upcoming regional and annual meetings, including the Africa animal welfare meeting. It was noted that regional meetings are expected to occur around July or August, with the annual subcommittee meeting planned for December. Specific dates for the spp meeting are anticipated for February but are not yet confirmed. Further information regarding the INC will be available after the December meeting.

We discuss the importance of setting up an agenda or calendar for relevant sessions leading up to the AR7. It emphasizes the role of facilitators in motivating and engaging constituency members who may not be able to attend meetings. Additionally, it highlights the need for these facilitators to report back on relevant topics to their constituencies and the MGFC.

The meeting also focused on updates regarding COP16 held in Cali, which concluded recently. Key outcomes included the adoption of the California Digital Secrets Information, the establishment of a new subsidiary body for Indigenous peoples, and the non-adoption of the financial budget for the Global Framework on Biodiversity. The discussions highlighted significant participation and advancements in various areas during the conference.