

MGFC and RF and UNEP meeting

Summary

3 June 2024

Time: 0930 – 1100hrs, Nairobi time

Agenda Points:

- **New Guidelines approved**
- **Task force (reports template guideline 5)**
- **ASC meeting July**
- **Task force (Committee for zero harassment)**
- **Next elections processes (LAC)**
- **UN CSC Update and preparation for Summit of the future**
- **Group of Friends**
- **AOB**

Participants

- **UNEP:** David Ombisi, Laetitia Zobel, Isaiah Otieno, Peter Kirongothi, Maria Haanes, Melissa Ngilandala, Edwike Nyauncho
- **Business and Industry:** Nill
- **Children and Youth:** Nill
- **Farmers:** Paul Temple, Arthur Kawamura
- **Indigenous Peoples and their Communities:** Lena Yanina Estrada
- **Local Authorities:** Magash Naidoo
- **NGO:** Djatougbe Aziaka
- **Scientific and Technological Community:** Stephen Stec, Mohamed Abdelraouf
- **Women:** Dalia Fernanda Márquez Añez
- **Workers and Trade Unions:** Nil
- **Africa:** Nill
- **Asia and the Pacific:** Ajay Jha
- **Europe:** Patrizia Heidegger, Natasha Dokovska Spirovska
- **North America:** Nill
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Nill
- **West Asia:** Nill

Summary of Minutes

1. New Guidelines approved.

Dalia introduced the Guidelines and updated on the latest developments. All comments received were accepted or the commenter was directly consulted. The procedure is that the Guidelines can be considered approved 15 working days after the final draft was circulated. She thanked those who participated in their development. This is an enhancement of the existing Guidelines.

2. Task force (reports template guideline 5)

Dalia: Recalled Guideline 5 about reporting and the decision to form a Task Force to produce a reporting template.

Mohamed: it should be simple, 1-2 pages, can be done quickly.

Dalia: contents of reports are in the guideline. Stephen: there were examples that were discussed earlier and should be collected. Natasha and Dalia will start this process.

3. Annual SubCommittee meeting July

Maria from CSU provided background information.

Mohamed raised questions about the timing of the Group of Friends, the date has been changed.

David CSU explained that it makes sense to have the meeting a few days before the ASC to prepare input. The Bureau changed the dates because of the crowded schedule in the second half of the year.

4. Task force (Committee for zero harassment).

Dalia and Mohamed asked for 3 volunteers to form the Task Force. Dalia asked whether people outside the MGFC should be invited, since we may have experts outside MGFC. Mohamed supported this. Co-chairs will send emails to MGFC.

5. Next election processes (LAC)

The LAC Regional Facilitators have resigned, and an election will be held June 16. MGFC could remind members in LAC about the process.

Dalia asked whether there are other election processes underway.

David (CSU): There will need to be an election in North America after Jennifer resigned. Business and Industry call for nominations is starting now.

Maria: Later in the summer, Indigenous Peoples MG will start an election process.

Dalia suggested a capacity-building session for the new members organized by MGFC and CSU.

A.G.: Farmers are putting together protocols on internal processes to develop priorities, positions etc.

6. UN CSC Update and preparation for Summit of the Future

Dalia: This week there was a consultation of co-chairs of coalitions. UNEP MG tried to get the floor but there was no opportunity unless it was arranged in advance. May 31 was the last day for special

accreditation for organizations without ECOSOC accreditation. Dalia's organization has applied and could help others.

Mohamed: Will share link to next consultation. Discussion on a Global Environment Agency. Can update by July, will be clear by ASC. Planning a side event.

Maria: UNEP is looking for ways for UNEP MGs to have meaningful engagement. The Summit is looking for input from us. Maria shared a link –

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScF1nU_4myePZM0ayqz3PXCmMmVYp_aZP1tGBAyku2WqU379w/viewform

Dalia: We took notes of one of the coalition meetings and the report of the coalition in plenary did not reflect the discussion. This is a problem. There is no clarity about how to participate. Need to keep more channels open to follow the New York processes. CY MG has been sharing info, but we need direct contact with co-chairs of the Civil Society Conference.

7. Group of Friends

Dalia: Chair of Group of Friends. A Member State suggested CSU should chair. Who can join GOF? Any Member State or should there be a litmus test?

Maria: Discussed with Law Division. CSU cannot be co-chair because does not fit mandate. Can only provide support. CSU will suggest in a revised concept note that membership will be decided by the group itself. Will circulate the minutes of the meetings. Establishment of the group will be discussed in today's CPR meeting.

Dalia: Someone questioned why one representative per MG should belong to the group, especially if different expertise would be required at different times.

David (CSU): Following the principle of "like-minded" member states. If special expertise is required, co-chairs could invite persons from the MGs. Besides the nominated MG reps, others can participate as observers.

Dalia: Are there any criteria about belonging to the Group of Friends?

Stephen: We talked about the fact that Rio Principle 10 is endorsed by countries which can be emphasized, but we cannot use that as a prior restraint.

Isaiah: Issue of MS - we have to be careful because it can backfire. MSs could use their rejection against MGs on the floor.