

MGFC and RF and UNEP meeting

Summary

3 March 2025

Time: 9:30 am, Nairobi time

Agenda Points:

- **Letter to the INC Chair on behalf of the MGFC regarding the Observer's participation during INC.**
- **Update about the OEWG 3.2**
- **Update on the Proposal for a Major Groups engagement modalities in SPP chemicals.. Webinar.**
- **Updates on INC plastic (All)**
- **Co-chairs Major Groups annual report.**
- **Election updates**
- **GoF Updates**
- **AOB**

Participants

- **UNEP:** Laetitia Zobel, Isaiah Otieno, Edwike Nyauncho, John Bernard, Maria Aarre Haanes, Nyasha Henrieta Najira, Stephanie Akinyi, Peter Kirongothi, David Ombisi, Rubies Kyama Kwalia
- **Business and Industry:** Nill
- **Children and Youth:** Nill
- **Farmers:** AG Kawamura, Paul Temple
- **Indigenous Peoples and their Communities:** Prem Singh Tharu, Frankie Orona
- **Local Authorities:** Magash Naidoo
- **NGO:** Djatougbe Aziaka, Christopher Chin
- **Scientific and Technological Community:** Stephen Stec, Mohamed
- **Women:** Dalia Marquez
- **Workers and Trade Unions:** Bert De Wel
- **Africa:** David Munene, Nfatou Ndiaye
- **Asia and the Pacific:** Chinkie Pelino Golle, Ajay K Jha
- **Europe:** Oksana Volosko-Demkiv
- **North America:** Kelly Sheridan
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Alejandro Luque
- **West Asia:** Nill

Summary of Minutes

1. Letter to the INC Chair on behalf of the MGFC regarding the Observer's participation during INC.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DaTPu1UpH1FxKSvxVEEuHACWi-fR5F6ngyWlychiVH4/edit?usp=sharing>

- Many comments were received on the draft letter regarding lacking observer participation at INC5.
- Multiple letters have already been submitted from different Major Groups and Stakeholders along with individual accredited organizations. There is support from different groups to send the letter.
- Trade unions do not support joint letters, only when the urgency and our capacity is available do we engage.
- INC 5.2 has been rumoured to take place - 4-15 August in Geneva. Not yet confirmed officially.
- There is reference to the complicated procedural rules of the INC, which make major group participation complicated as it was decided that the INC would work with the broader concept of 'observer participation' where groups have to organise in coalitions that do not overlap with the UNEP major groups.
- Consider updating the letter to include the numbers of interventions provided by observers to represent the decrease in interventions between INC-1 to INC-5
- Chair proposes to edit the draft and focus only on meaningful participation of all observers without going into detail regarding different groups.
- Those who are present need to agree that it is useful to have a joint statement or do you want the different major groups to submit standalone statements. May benefit from a joint statement to provide more weight to the letter.
- NGO cannot sign as a group, North America Region cannot sign on as region,
- It is stressed that the letter should not open the discussion on major group participation vs observer participation as this discussion is settled in the context of INC.
- Suggested that the letter *could* be sent as the MGFC - so from us as individuals.

Action: Letter to be updated based on the above discussion and recirculated

2. Update about the OEWG 3.2.

- Logistics are online, taking place in 14 – 18 June in Punta Del Este
- Mohamed is preparing a webinar on how to participate in the OEWG as major groups and stakeholders. (see agenda item 3)
- Waiting for the opening of the registration (invitations are going out this week), concerns about getting Visas in time.

3. Update on the Proposal for a Major Groups engagement modalities in SPP chemicals.. Webinar.

- Still confirming the date with the Secretariat. Mohamed is confirming the draft agenda with the Secretariat
- Discuss the best modality for engagement of the MGS in the process, will have to address all civil society actors across the MEAs
- Those who have participated should submit their relevant issues for the SPP and provide some unity of thoughts going into the webinar

Action: Mohamed is confirming the date and agenda with the Secretariat.

4. Updates on INC plastic (All)

- INC 5.2 is awaiting confirmation of the dates to be held in August in Geneva. Should hopefully be confirmed this week by the Secretariat.
- Women's major group is planning to have a lunch with the women delegates during INC 5.2

5. Co-chairs Major Groups annual report

- Those co-chairs who are ending their mandate need to ensure they submit their annual report to the MGFC and CSU along with sending them to their Major Group.
- This is a part of the new guidelines from the MGFC. This includes the MGS and Regions.

6. Election updates.

- Nominations are open for the Farmers Major Group and are due by 26 March. CSU is handling.
- Science and Tech nominations are open. CSU is handling.
- Women's Major Group is holding their own. The Election Committee has been selected. An official call for nominations will be sent out today.
- You cannot self-nominate, but someone within your organization can nominate you.
- Stephen is not running again for Science and Tech and extends his thanks to the MGFC.

7. GoF Updates.

- 6th meeting of the GOF took place and discussions on ministerial declaration
- 9th of April is the next meeting
- Europe region will need to nominate representatives to the GOF

8. AOB

- Suggestion on the notetakers, it would be good to ensure that those in North America and Latin America be the note takers for the Nairobi afternoon times. Should be done for the other time zones as well. 3 pm Nairobi time is usually ok but is difficult for North America West Coast time. Develop a schedule to accommodate everyone and change timing so we can give everyone a break sometime, Dalia.
- The Asia Pacific Peoples Forum on Sustainable Development took place and Maria attended. Receiving requests from organizations who attended to receive UNEP accreditation.
- Mohamed would like to confirm the rules of the MGFC and attendance at these calls. The guidelines say that you are not to miss more than 2 or 3 of these meetings. CSU had an overview - asking Edwike to update the attendance sheet.
- CPR orientation is scheduled and MGFC members are invited and encouraged to attend.
- Africa held regional consultation.