

Major Groups and Stakeholders Engagement at UNEP

Orientation Session for New Members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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David Ombisi
Programme Management Officer

O-i-C, Civil Society Unit- Governance Affairs Office- UNEP

Why major groups engagement?

- Rule 70 of UNEA Rules of Procedure
- UNEP recognizes importance of engaging MGS as partners & appreciates the perspectives they bring to the table, advocacy functions they perform & role in helping foster long-term, broad-based support for UNEP's mission
- Civil Society and stakeholder expertise enriches inter-governmental decision-making processes without questioning intergovernmental nature of UNEP
- Adds transparency and legitimacy to the work of UNEP
- Gives an opportunity for those who might be affected by decisions to raise their concerns and make constructive suggestions.

The 9 Major Groups

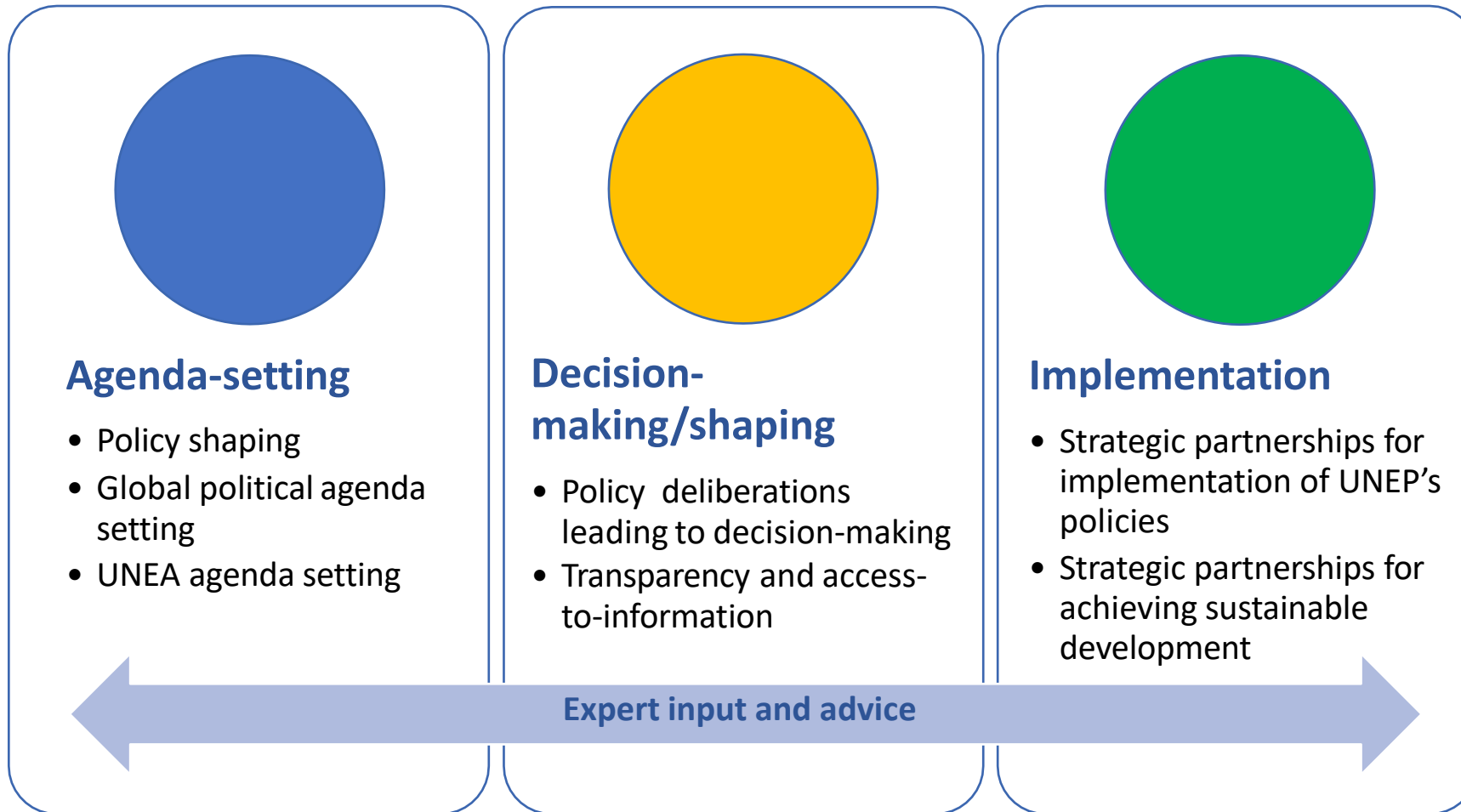
- Women
- Children and Youth
- Indigenous Peoples and their communities
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Local Authorities
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Business and Industry
- Scientific & Technological Community
- Farmers



How do major groups engage?

- Formal **accreditation** as a condition for engagement/participation
- **Nine Major Groups** and Stakeholders
- In UNEA and CPR as **observer** with opportunity to provide oral and written statements
- Access to CPR portal including to un-edited working documents and **submission of written inputs**
- **Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)** prior to the UN Environment Assembly as well as **Youth Environment Assembly (YEA)** and MSD
- **Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs)** – often back-to-back with Regional Ministerial Fora
- **Major Groups Facilitating Committee**, including Regional Facilitators (**MGFC**)
- Group of Friends

Three levels of engagement



Role of the Civil Society Unit in the Governance Affairs Office

- Administers accreditation of non-governmental observers to UNEA/CPR
- Maintains the UNEP [Civil Society Engagement Website](#)
- Facilitates and organizes meetings, consultations, training, outreach
- Maintains the [Stakeholder Engagement Handbook](#) as a guiding tool
- Supports the [Major Groups Facilitating Committee](#)
- Facilitates [Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum](#) and [Regional Consultative Meetings](#), [Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue](#) and YEA
- Supports MGS engagement across UNEP

Main stakeholder events ahead of UNEA-7



RCMs in all UNEP regions

2-day GMGSF prior
to UNEA-7

GYEA ahead of UNEA-7

Indigenous Peoples event

Ministerial Declaration &
Resolution coordination

UNEA including OECPR:
ensuring MGS participation

Group of Friends

Multistakeholder Dialogue

Accreditation

Accreditation criteria (Apply 1 Jan-30 June):

- Registered with a Government for at least 2 years
- Non-governmental, non-profit
- Focus on environment
- With environmental work locally and internationally

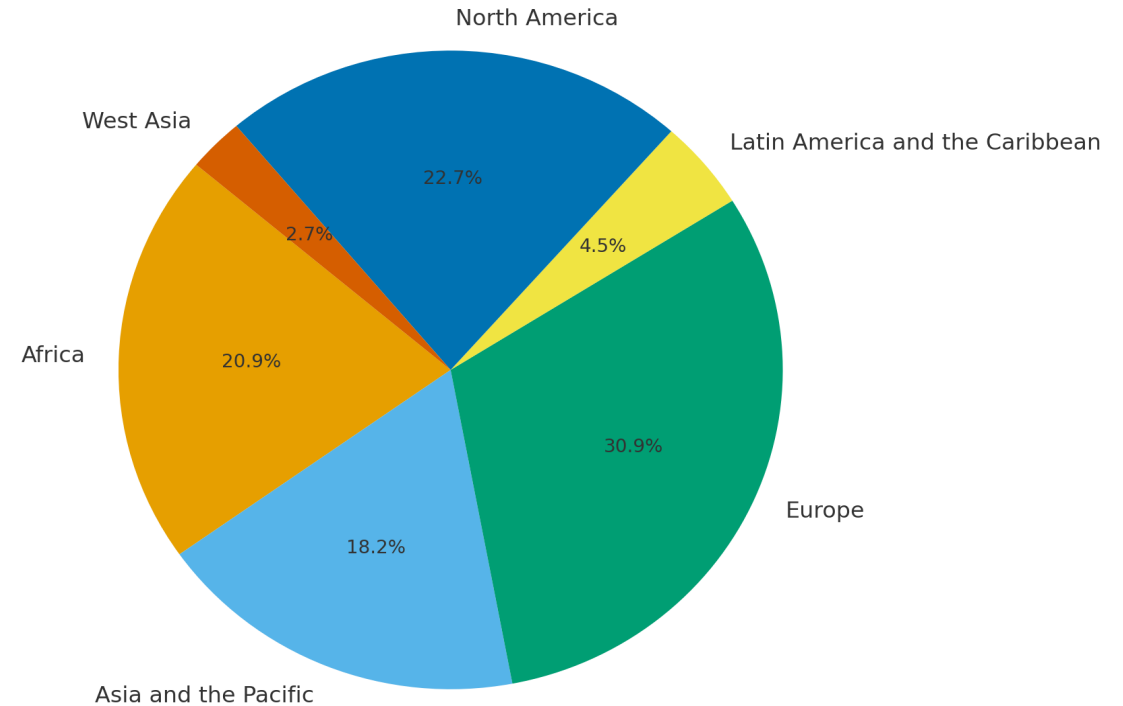
Number of accredited organizations:

- 1309 as of 15 September 2025. List can be found [here](#)

Regional distribution as of 15 September 2025:

- Africa: 20.9%
- Asia and the Pacific: 18.2%
- Europe: 30.9%
- Latin America and the Caribbeans: 4.5%
- North America: 22.7%
- West Asia: 2.7%

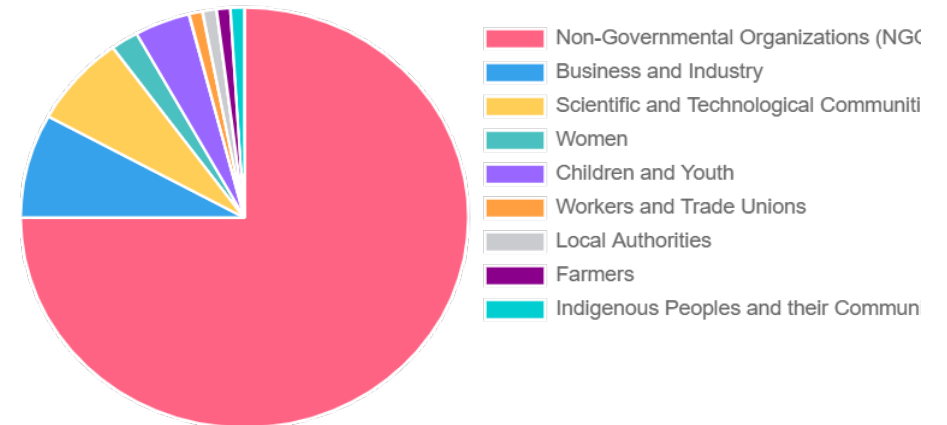
Distribution of Organizations by Region (Updated)



Accreditation (cont')

Distribution by Major Groups as of 15 September 2025:

- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO): 75%
- Business and Industry: 8%
- Scientific and Technological Communities: 7%
- Women: 2%
- Children and Youth: 4%
- Workers and Trade Unions: 1%
- Local Authorities: 1%
- Farmers: 1%
- Indigenous Peoples and their Communities: 1%



Resources:

www.unep.org/civil-society-engagement

E-mail: Unep-civilsociety@un.org

Thank you