

Opportunities for Major Groups to Engage at UNEP and UNEA

9th Africa Animal Welfare Conference
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Isaiah Otieno
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Engaging with UNEP: general rules

- Accreditation is not a requirement for participation in the implementation of projects, programmes or partnerships with UNEP
- Accreditation is required to participate in UNEP's policy-making processes as observers and contributors.

Accreditation to UNEP

- Why accreditation?

Formal accreditation is the entry point for engaging with UNEP and UNEA processes. It allows organizations to participate in meetings, submit written inputs, and make oral interventions.

- Accreditation Process

Organizations can apply for accreditation under one of the nine Major Groups

Engaging with UNEP: meetings you can attend

- Preparatory stakeholder meetings to UNEA such as Regional Consultative Meetings (RCM) and the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)
- [UNEA](#) – Next UNEA: 8-12 December 2025 UNEA-7
- [Meetings of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives \(CPR\)](#): subcommittee meetings (hybrid, not translated), quarterly meeting (hybrid, translated in 6 UN languages, participants online must speak in english), annual subcommittee and open-ended CPR (both hybrid, not translated)
- Other meetings such as INC or the OEWG on SPP
- The CSU also reaches out when UNEP offices are seeking MGS voices and inputs on specific issues

During CPR meetings



- Join in person or virtually
- Attend as observers. with the possibility of providing oral and written comments
- Relevant links are shared in the invitation email
- Preparation and inputs are channeled through the MGFC and their respective facilitators.

Before and during UNEA

Before UNEA

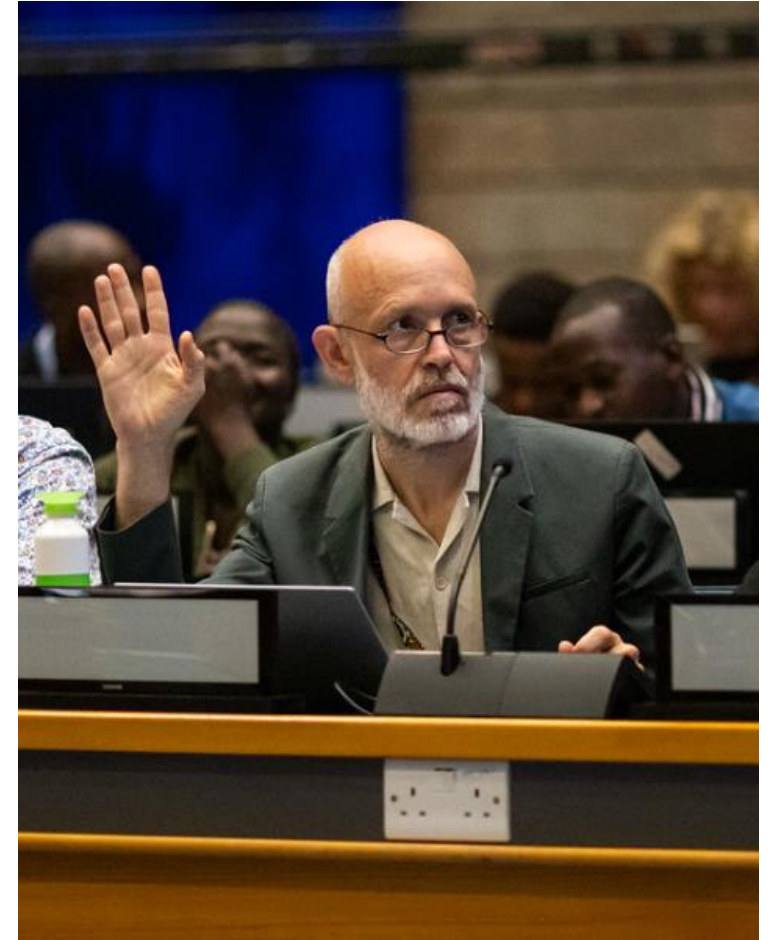
- Participate in consultations on the UNEA theme, UNEA ministerial declaration, preliminary consultations on tabled resolutions and the Open-Ended CPR
- Participate in the Regional Consultative Meetings (RCM) and prepare for UNEA with civil society organizations in your region.
- Attend Ministerial Consultations as observer, exchange views with Governments present
- Propose official side events, or green room side events on topics relevant to the UNEA theme

During UNEA

- Attend and make oral statements during the plenary sessions of the [Committee of the Whole](#)
- Exchange views and interact with Governments present
- Participate in the negotiations of resolutions as observers with the ability to intervene at the discretion of the chair.

General advice

- **Oral or written statements should be concise**, to the point and tailored to the audience and setting.
- **Do not repeat previous points**, but rather seek to add to the discussions
- **Strive to create cohesion between MGS** – statements carry more weight when endorsed by a larger group of stakeholders
- **Shout out to MGS Champions amongst member states**



Engaging with your Major Group and region



- Find out who your [Major Group Facilitator\(s\)](#) and your [Regional Facilitator\(s\)](#) are and get in touch with them
- Participate in the elections: nominate, get nominated and vote
- Engage fully in your Major Group's activities.

Networking and bilateral engagement opportunities

1. Networking with other organizations:

Accredited organizations gain access to a wide network of like-minded groups working on similar issues, providing opportunities for collaboration, shared initiatives, and the exchange of best practices.



2. Bilateral meetings with Member States and senior UN staff:

Major Groups have the chance to meet with Member States representatives and senior officials from UNEP. These bilateral engagements can be instrumental in lobbying for specific issues, building alliances, and seeking support for initiatives.



Implementation: From Decisions to Action

Collaborative Projects with UNEP or Member States

- After resolutions are adopted, Major Groups and stakeholders play an active role in implementation, often through joint projects with UNEP or member states.
- These projects can cover diverse areas such as environmental protection, climate change mitigation, and community-based sustainability initiatives.



Why Engagement Matters

- **Enriching Decision-Making:**

Stakeholders bring a wealth of expertise, local knowledge, and innovative ideas that enrich inter-governmental discussions.

- **Voices of Affected Communities:**

Stakeholders provide a platform for communities most affected by environmental challenges to voice their concerns and influence the policies that impact their lives.

- **Collaborative Governance:**

Engaging Major Groups fosters a participatory approach to global environmental governance, where policy-making is not confined to governments but involves civil society, businesses, and local communities.



Conclusion

Engage Actively:

Accreditation offers a gateway to numerous opportunities for influence and impact within UNEP and UNEA processes. Through active engagement, Major Groups can make valuable contributions, advocate for policies, and shape the global environmental agenda.

Call to Action:

Stay informed, participate in upcoming meetings and events, and leverage these opportunities to push for meaningful change in environmental governance.



Thank you



ISAIAH OTIENO
isaiah.otieno@un.org
Associate Programme Management Officer

United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
PO Box 30552 – 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya

www.unep.org