

Notes of the MGFC RF Meeting dated 13 June 2023

13 June 2023, 2- 3pm, Nairobi Time

Agenda Points:

1. New MGFC and RF Members
2. INC-2 Update
3. OEWG Chemicals Update
4. Morocco Meeting Update
5. RCMs Update
6. Meeting with the Chief Scientist of UNEP
7. A.O.B

Participants:

- **UNEP:** Aurora Cheung, Edwike Nyauncho, Isaiah Otieno, Leatitia Zobel
- Paul Temple
- A.G. Kawamura
- Ingrid Rostad
- Ajay Jha
- Bert De Wel
- Djatougbe Aziaka
- Duncan Ochieng
- Stephen Stec
- Yarivith Gonzalez
- Zuhair Kowshik
- Ernie Shea
- Faisal Alfadl
- Mumbi Munene
- Patrizia Heidegger
- Magash Naidoo

Summary of Minutes:

1. New MGFC and RF Members

- **CSU** welcomed the new members from the NGO MG (Christopher Chin) and Farmers MG (A.G. Kawamura, Paul Temple). Christopher, A.G., and Paul briefly introduced themselves.

2. INC-2 Update

- **Christopher** shared that the process was cumbersome, with time spent on administrative issues that had already been decided, which seemed to be a delay tactic.
- **Zuhair** agreed with Christopher, mentioning delays and the unfinished status of Rules 37 and 38. He noted that several youth groups had collaborated to present a unified position under the Children and Youth Major Group. IPEN had also replaced the 'observer' sign with its own during their interventions.
- **Magash** stated that despite challenges, the INC Secretariat did a good job under the circumstances and emphasized the importance of MGs presenting consolidated approaches and sharing plans.
- **Bert** commented on the complicated and biased process at the conference, especially regarding stakeholder participation. He highlighted concerns from workers and trade unions about being excluded in favor of waste pickers.
- **Yarivith** observed that negotiations were slow, particularly in the first two days.
- **Faisal** acknowledged good engagement but hoped for more interaction with MGs. He noted that while some people received financial support, others did not, and this discrepancy could be addressed in future meetings.
- **Djatougbe** questioned the role of facilitators and called for clarification on MGs' involvement, particularly regarding the INC and its observer status. **Aurora** explained that the INC had adopted an observer approach for the MGs and that MGs play a key role through lobbying. Some networks oppose MGFC's involvement in UNEA processes, and Ingrid suggested organizing a separate meeting to address these concerns.

3. OEWG Chemicals Update

- **CSU** informed that the next OEWG meeting will be held just before Christmas in Jordan. Background documents are still in development, and the scheduled Bureau meeting on 27 June will revisit MG and stakeholder engagement following UNEA's best practices and rules. There is also a push to include more observers while maintaining MG participation. Legal opinions are being sought regarding this.
- **Zuhair** confirmed the meeting would take place in December in Jordan and suggested that MGs could propose ideas on how stakeholder consultations should proceed.

4. **Morocco Meeting Update**

- **CSU** shared that preparations for the Morocco meeting are progressing well, with UNEP assisting with travel arrangements for some participants. The agenda task force is working and making good progress.
- **Zuhair** warned that many MGs would require visas, and proper invitation letters and documentation should be prepared to avoid missed opportunities.
- **Ingrid** acknowledged the challenges but encouraged the CSU to follow up and offer support where needed.

5. **RCMs Update**

- **CSU** provided an update on the Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs) scheduled ahead of UNEA6. The African meeting will be in August, followed by Latin America and Asia Pacific in October. These meetings may be held alongside Ministerial sessions.

6. **Meeting with the Chief Scientist of UNEP**

- **CSU** mentioned that MGs have been invited to contribute to a survey ahead of a meeting with the Chief Scientist of UNEP on 29 June. MGs were asked to respond to an email sent by Laetitia with their nominations for participation.
- **Faisal** clarified that he is part of a different survey on the 30th, but Laetitia was uncertain if this was distinct from the 29th of June meeting.

7. **A.O.B.**

- No other business.