

Developing New Modalities for Stakeholders Engagement in UNEP

Update provided by UNEP's Major Groups and Stakeholder Branch, February 24, 2014

The [Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want"](#) in its paragraph 88(h), invites UNEP to review its mechanisms for Major Groups and Stakeholders' participation. It states:

"We are committed to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda (...) (and) (h) Ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society."

Subsequently, the UNEP Governing Council at its First Universal session in February 2013 adopted the [Decision 27/2 on institutional arrangements](#) which requests, in its paragraph 7:

"Decides that the governing body will ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and will explore new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, inter alia by:

- a) Developing by 2014 a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation that builds on the existing rules of procedure and takes into account inclusive modalities of the Commission of Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations bodies;*
- b) Establishing by 2014 mechanism and rules for stakeholders expert input and advice;*
- c) Enhancing by 2014 working methods and processes for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision making process"*

Furthermore, Paragraph 17 of the same decision states:

"Decides to enhance transparency and openness in its work and in this regard request the Executive Direction to establish a written access-to-information policy;"

In response, UNEP is currently developing new modalities for stakeholder engagement in UNEP, and takes this opportunity to broaden the scope and address the engagement with stakeholders in its work as well as in the implementation of its Programme of Work; in particular on:

- New accreditation modalities;
- Working methods and processes for stakeholder contribution towards the intergovernmental decision-making process;
- Mechanisms for expert input and advice; and
- A new access-to-information policy, including the use of modern information and communication technology to enhance stakeholder engagement and access to information.

UNEP Stakeholder Engagement Policy will be reviewed by Member States at the First Open-ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to be held from 24-28 March 2014, in Nairobi, Kenya



Since January 2013, UNEP has held a series of consultations internally and externally with Member States and Stakeholders. This process has resulted in the following outcome documents:

1. [Online survey on models and mechanisms of civil society participation in UNEP](#)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) undertook an online survey with Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) in order to collect feedback on UNEP's current engagement system and inputs on new models of participation that can respond to the needs of all stakeholders. The objectives of the survey were to: (i) Map out the gaps in UNEP's current engagement systems; (ii) Document cases of best/good practices within other multilateral organisations; (iii) Identify potential avenues for engagement and new models of participation. The survey was opened from 7 December 2012 to 9 January 2013.

- [Executive Summary](#)
- [Survey Report](#)

2. [Report of Expert Group Meeting on "Models and Mechanisms of Civil Society Participation in UNEP: Building on the Experiences of Multilateral Organisations", January 22 - 23, 2013, Geneva, Switzerland](#)

This report presents a summary of the discussions and outcomes of the Expert Group Meeting that took place on January 22-23 in Geneva, Switzerland, which gathered 22 participants with extensive experience in governance, transparency and public participation, and environmental issues. Participants reviewed gaps in current engagement practices, looked at best practices across the multi-lateral system, and made some proposals for the future.

3. [Review of current practices of stakeholder engagement in multilateral organizations, July 2013](#)

The purpose of this report is to inform the discussions on the establishment of new mechanisms for stakeholder engagement that build on practices in multilateral organisations. The organisations listed in the report have been selected for review based on: (i) most commonly cited practices because of their uniqueness (both among stakeholders and Member States); and (ii) progressive practices which go beyond the mere status of observer and accommodate more constructive engagement with stakeholders.

4. Informal consultation of UNEP's Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) with the Major Groups and Stakeholders Facilitating Committee and Regional Major Groups and Stakeholders Representatives held on September 9, 2013

5. [Independent group of experts on options for stakeholder engagement](#)

The Expert Group deliberated on different options for stakeholder engagement between September and October 2013.

6. [Options for Stakeholder Engagement in UNEP, November 2013](#)

This document was prepared by the UNEP Secretariat at the request of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP (CPR) to inform the discussions on stakeholder engagement in UNEP. The table within the report presents different options for stakeholder engagement in UNEP, the current practices in UNEP, a brief assessment of those practices, one to three options of proposed new modalities for engagement and mechanisms building on existing practices, and makes a reference to the organisations within the multilateral system that apply those modalities or mechanisms, as appropriate or if they exist.

More information, including access to mentioned documents under: <http://www.unep.org/civil-society/GetInvolved/DevelopingNewModalitiesforMajorGroupsandSta/tabid/128498/Default.aspx>

UNEP contact: Alexander Juras, Chief, Major Groups and Stakeholder Branch (alexander.juras@unep.org)