New Mechanisms for Stakeholder Engagement and Transparency in the *United Nations Environment Assembly* (UNEA)

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Rio+20: The Future We Want

Paragraph 88h:

The upgraded UNEP to "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."

UNEP GC Decision 27/2: February 2013

- Paragraph 5 (e): **multi-stakeholder dialogue** during UNEA
- Paragraph 7: Active participation of stakeholders, drawing in best practices and models from relevant multilateral organisations, in UNEA and subsidiary bodies:
  - Paragraph 7 (a): Developing by 2014 a process for stakeholder **accreditation** and **participation** that builds on the existing rules of procedures and takes into account inclusive modalities of the Commission of Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations bodies;
  - Paragraph 7(b): Establishing by 2014 **mechanisms** and **rules** for stakeholder **expert input** and **advice**;
  - Paragraph 7(c): Enhancing by 2014 **working methods** and **processes** for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental **decision-making** process.
- Paragraph 10: Open ended CPR with stakeholder participation
- Paragraph 11: Access to Information Policy

Expected Results: March 2014

- New Stakeholder Engagement Policy, including mechanisms for expert input and advice
- New Access to Information Policy
- New Rules of Procedures of the UNEA

Timeline

July:	August:	September:	October:	November:	January 2014:	March 2014:
Online Consultations with stakeholders and independent experts	Consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)	CPR Consultations: 1st progress Report, including presentation of best practice report; Joint meeting CPR/Major Groups Facilitation Committee; 2nd Consultation with experts	Annual CPR subcommittee: Progress reports	CPR Consultations: 2nd Progress report	Consultations with CPR: 3rd Progress report and final drafts of Policies	Open ended CPR (March 24-28): Presentation of Stakeholder Engagement Policy and Access to Information Policy

Current Practices at UNEP

- Nine Major Groups approach
- Rule 69 of Rules of Procedures of the Governing Council (GC): practices beyond the rule
- Participation as observers in GC for accredited Major Groups: statements and written inputs
- Accreditation: international scope, focus on environment
- Representation through Major Groups Facilitating Committee and Regional Representatives (MGFC)
- No participation in CPR and sub-committees/subsidiary organs (but formally requested by MGFC)
- No written access-to-information policy, but fairly good practices
- Financial support for GC participation and regional consultations

Critical Issues

- Regression behind current practices at UNEP
- Full participation rights: access, speaking and written input rights at UNEA and all subsidiary organs
- Participation in CPR meetings and other sub-committees
- Accreditation
- Major Groups approach

Thank you for your attention!

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