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

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- Rio+20
- UNEP Governing Council February 2013
- Expected Results
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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."
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:
Online Consultations with stakeholders and independent experts

August:
Consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

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

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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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