Update on latest developments regarding UNEP’s Stakeholder Engagement Policy and Access-to-Information Policy

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I. UNEP GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Governed by Rules of Procedure (most recently amended in June 2014)

- **UNEA**
  - 1st session in June 2014
  - 2nd session on 23-27 May 2016

- **Open-ended CPR**
  - 1st meeting in March 2014
  - 2nd meeting on 15-19 February 2016

- **Annual CPR subcommittee**
  - 1st meeting in September 2013
  - 2nd meeting in October 2014
  - 3rd meeting on 26-30 October 2015

- **CPR regular quarterly meetings**
  - (2015 – 13/1, 31/3, 16/6, 30/10)

- **CPR subcommittee & briefings**
  - Throughout the year as necessary
II. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

- Result of Rio + 20
- Strengthening of UNEP by creating UNEA as an unparalleled platform and voice for the international environmental community
- Sets the global environmental agenda
- Leads and guides the United Nations in environmental matters
- New and better opportunities for Civil Society Engagement: participation in UNEA and Subsidiary Organs with the right to intervene
- Universal Membership: all 193 UN members states
- Decisions and resolutions are taken on behalf of all UN members
III. Opportunities for CSO Participation

Representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders Organisations (MGS) Accredited to UNEP may participate in the following bodies, with the opportunity for interventions:

- UNEA
- Meetings of Subsidiary Organs: CPR, CPR subcommittee, Annual CPR, Open ended CPR, CPR Briefings

MGS may provide written input to agenda setting and decision making through the Major Groups and Stakeholder Branch

Facilitation of MGS participation through Major Groups Facilitating Committee and Regional Representatives.

Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum

Stakeholder Engagement Policy

- under consideration/informal process
- Endorsement of new Policy at UNEA 2
## IV. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT POLICY: OPEN ISSUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Possible best practice</th>
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<tr>
<td>Limit Accreditation to organizations working in the field of environment vs. in environment and /or sustainable development (Para 12 and 14d)</td>
<td>Environment and sustainable development</td>
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<td>Require legal registration for accreditation vs. not having this as a requirement (Para 12)</td>
<td>?</td>
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<td>Accept Accreditation with MEAs for UNEP (Para 13)</td>
<td>Accept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who approves Accreditation/Veto Right for Member States (Para 15)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Current practice. UNEP Secretariat approves accreditation against criteria and MS are informed through UNEA.</strong></td>
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<td>Access to Information (Para 18d)</td>
<td><strong>Current practice. MGS have access to UNEA related documents similar to CPR members.</strong></td>
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<td>Meeting of accredited MGS with UNEA Bureau (Para 26)</td>
<td>Such meetings should be possible</td>
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IV. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT POLICY – THE WAY FORWARD

**Informal Process**

- Bilateral Consultations of UNEA President with MS, Experts and MGS
  - Expert Consultations
  - Sharing Results with Member States

**Formal Process**

- March 2015
- April/May 2015
- June-October 2015
- February 2016
- May 2016
Established by the Executive Director of UNEP in accordance with paragraph 17 of Governing Council decision 27/2 of 27 February 2013, in June 2014

1 year provisional application

From mid November 2014: General Public was invited for commenting (webpage for commenting still open, 30 comments received)

May 26, 2015: Open Dialogue on UNEP Access-to-Information Policy in Nairobi (Major Groups designated two experts to participate)

June 29, 2015: UNEP response to received comments will be prepared and circulated among governments and MGS

June 29 – July 24, 2015: UNEP response will be open for comments

August 17 – September 15, 2015: New draft policy will be open for comments

September 17, 2015: 2nd Open Dialogue

October 8, 2015: Policy finalised
Important Links


UNEP CPR: [http://www.unep.org/about/sgb/CommitteeofPermanentRepresentatives/tabid/129502/Default.aspx](http://www.unep.org/about/sgb/CommitteeofPermanentRepresentatives/tabid/129502/Default.aspx)

CSO Involvement: [www.unpe.org/civil-society](http://www.unpe.org/civil-society)


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