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Outcome from the evaluations of the Regional Consultation Meetings in November 2008 and the 10th Global Civil Society Forum of, 14-15 February 2008

Since 2002, the Major Groups Stakeholders Branch (MGSB) has been organizing the Global Civil Society Forum Cycle which comprises Regional Consultative Meetings (RCM) in each of the six UNEP regions¹, and an Annual Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF), held prior to the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) as an associated meeting. The overall objective of the Cycle is to provide a platform for exchange and consultation around key environmental issues to be addressed by the Member states during the GC/GMEF, and to facilitate Major Groups' contribution to the GC/GMEF and other international environmental forums. The cycle is also meant to build the capacities of major groups² from developing regions and from regions with economies in transition, in the field of Environment and International Environmental Governance.

In 2006, changes were introduced to the Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) Cycle in order to improve the quality of engagement with major groups, with in particular the creation of the Global Steering Committee. This has resulted in an increased ownership of the process by civil society organizations and in an improved major groups balance. In addition to these changes, there were also improvements in the type of dialogue sessions at the GC/GMEF with the introduction of ministerial round-tables. Two major groups representatives were invited to attend each of the 18 Ministerial Roundtables organized during the GC/GMEF, and 11 slots were given to CSOs during the GC/GMEF plenary discussions. The civil society representatives successfully participated in the plenary sessions during the GMEF on globalization, and on the UN reform, the Committee of the Whole as well as in the Mercury Contact Group demonstrating that major groups' voice is increasingly incorporated and valued into the policy discussions at UNEP.

In 2007/8, further changes were introduced by the new Guidelines on Improving the Global Civil Society Cycle (http://www.unep.org/civil_society/PDF_docs/Guidelines-Round1-CSO-revised-31Mar08.pdf) to create a balanced and actively facilitated framework for managing major groups input to the UNEP governance process. The guidelines provide for a committee called "Major Groups Facilitating Committee" (MGFC) which aims at giving guidance and coordinating the engagement of major groups in the GCSF cycle. The committee in place for a year has played its role in ensuring that the cycle – of regional consultation meetings and global civil society forum – was successfully held.

¹ UNEP regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, West Asia.

² Major groups of civil society as per the Agenda 21: farmers, women, the scientific and technological community, children and youth, indigenous peoples and their communities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, non-governmental organizations as well as local authorities.

This report summarises the outcome of the comments made by participants, of the GCSF cycle, namely, the Regional Consultative Meetings (RCM), and the Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) of 2008-2009.

Part I. Regional Consultative Meetings

A. Background Information;

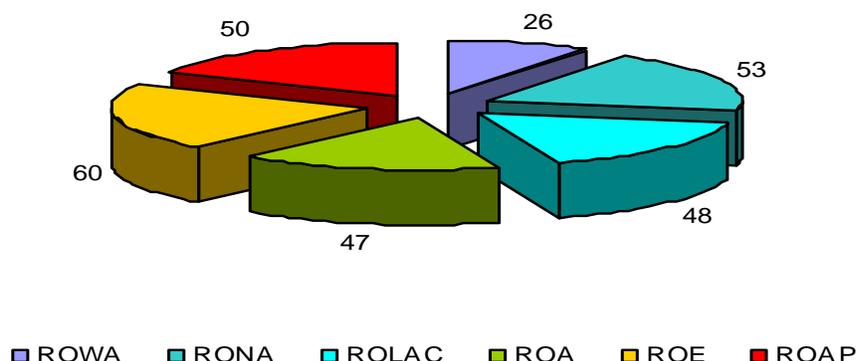
The RCMs were held in the six UNEP regions with the assistance of the respective Regional Offices, namely in Africa (ROA), Europe (ROE) Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC), North America (RONA), Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), and Western Asia (ROWA), in November 2008. The meetings were to prepare the regions' civil society's participation in the 10th Global Civil Society Forum that was held on 14-15 February 2009 prior to the 25th Session of the UNEP GC/GMEF that took place on 16-20 February 2009, in Nairobi Kenya. The theme of the consultations was Globalisation and the Environment: Global Crises; National Chaos? International Environmental Governance and United Nations Reform: IEG Help or Hindrance? The meetings also deliberated on other issues as outlined below in 3.

1. Participation:

The 2008 RCM were attended by a total of 284 participants, an increase by 48, from the previous year. The participants were from 202 organisations and from 84 countries distributed as follows: 47 participants from Africa, 50 participants from Asia and the Pacific, 60 participants from Europe, 48 participants from Latin America and the Caribbean, 53 participants from North America, and 26 participants from West Asia. As has been the case since the RCMs started, Europe and North America led in numbers of participants although participation of the rest of the regions has steadily grown over the years. Out of the 284 participants, 138 were female, making it 48% of the total participants – a significant increase from the 40% of the year before. UNEP sponsored a total of 124 participants and the rest were self sponsored or received external sponsorship. UNEP's staff participation (41) in the meetings, as resource people, presenters and facilitators - increased as well.

This steady increase in participation demonstrates that UNEP's outreach to major groups of civil society across the different regions has improved tremendously, and that the response of major groups is equally sustained, most likely due to the mobilisation of the public opinion worldwide around climate change and environment issues.

Number of Participants by Region



The fields of expertise of the participants, varied from economists, scientists, educationists, researchers, animal protection, biodiversity and natural resources conservation, environment at large, to carbon trading, energy, indigenous knowledge, trade and environment, urban development, women and environment, environmental law, poverty reduction/sustainable livelihoods to name but few.

This was the first year since the establishment of the GCSF cycle, for the meetings to mobilize all the 9 major groups due to the active involvement of the Major Groups Facilitation Committee in the selection process of participants as they ensured that all the constituencies were represented. One can say that the MGFC is especially playing its role in this whole process. Additional groups (other) such as inter-governmental organisations, media, charity and faith based-groups as well as professional organisations also attended in record numbers. There was a general increase across the board; however, the large majority of participants still belong to the Non-governmental organisations category as reflected in the table below.

Type of major groups	Total
1. Business and industry	5
2. Children and youth	24
3. Farmers	7
4. Indigenous peoples and their communities	9
5. Local authorities	4
6. Non-governmental organisations	132
7. Scientific and technological community (research and academia)	29
8. Women	7
9. Workers and trade unions	10
Others(Faith based, media, charity, intergovernmental, professional organisations,)	16
UNEP	41
Grand Total	284

2. On-line registration

The electronic/on-line registration process continues to be a very useful tool in easing and streamlining the registration process. Two regions - Latin America and the

Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific – experienced problems with this system largely because of access issues as well as the slow pace of the internet system.

There has been some abuse of the system however by some people who fraudulently apply for participation under already established organisations in the UNEP civil society directory. Some people also register multiple times under different organisations and at times using different e-mail addresses. The only way to find out if they are genuine is to inquire with the organisations about their identities. This is a time consuming exercise on UNEP's part and as such the on-line registration system will be revisited to ensure that this practice is not repeated.

3. Topics for discussion

The Regional Consultative Meetings covered several topics, including:

1. Globalization and the Environment: Global Crises; National Chaos?
2. International Environmental Governance and United Nations Reform: IEG Help or Hindrance?
3. Introduction to the GCSF Cycle and achievements during the last cycle
4. Partnerships with major groups and stakeholders for the implementation of the UNEP Programme of Work (POW);
5. Chemicals Agenda- a global framework for mercury.
6. Gender mainstreaming
7. Poverty and Environment
8. Themes of regional interest and priorities such as engagement of youth (ROLAC)

The meetings provided an opportunity to go beyond the traditional thematic scope of engaging at UNEP Governance level, and discussed topical issues such as gender mainstreaming and the link between poverty and environment. These sessions contributed to further build the capacities of the participants.

Another topical issue, one that is very instrumental to the Medium Term Strategy (MTS), was on establishing partnerships with major groups in the implementation of UNEP's POW. This garnered a lot of interest and most organisations gave recommendations on how to propel this forward and expressed interest in working with UNEP at the programme level. The session on the GCSF itself was very much appreciated by participants particularly the new comers who do not have much experience with the work of UNEP and these processes. As one participant from ROLAC pointed out "*these fora are important as they bring new and old voices to dialogue on critical issues. I can see a deeper integration in UNEP*".

All meetings yielded regional statements containing recommendations that formed part of the information documents for the GC/GMEF, as per the Rule 69.2 of procedure of the Governing Council. The statements are available at http://www.unep.org/civil_society/GCSF10/regionalconsult-gcsf10.asp

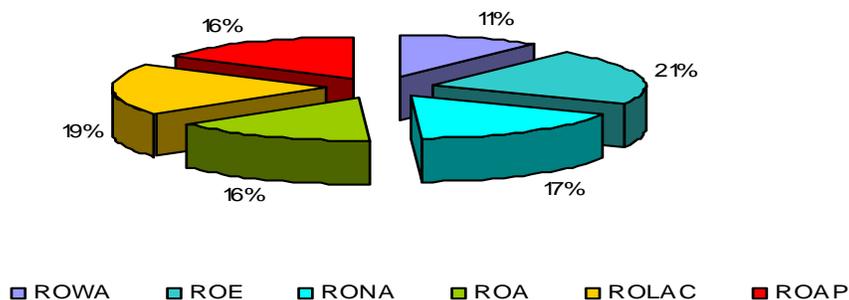
B. Evaluation of the RCMs:

At the end of each meeting, participants were asked to evaluate the meeting. The purpose of the evaluation was to:

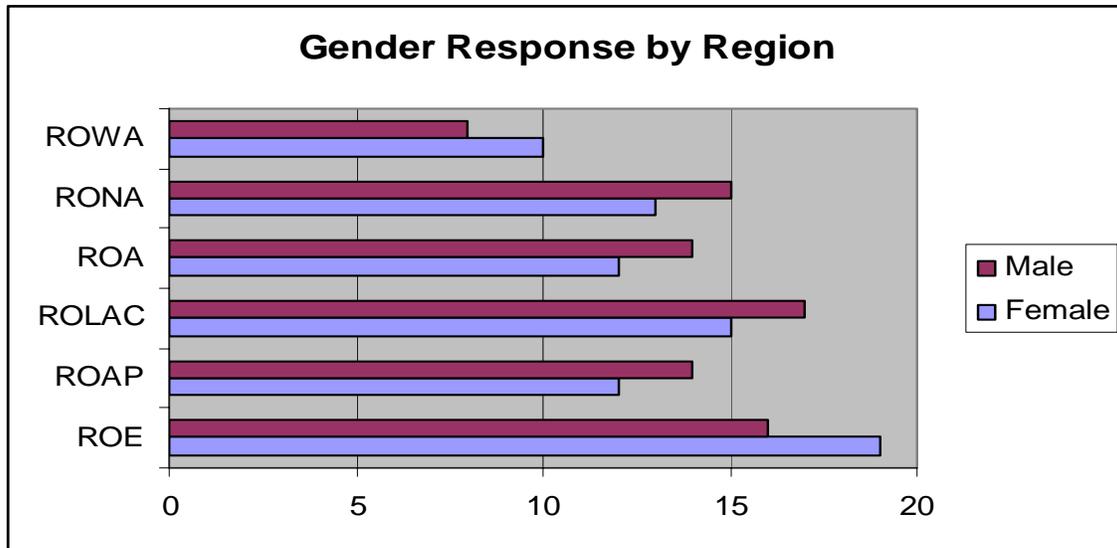
- Assess the extent to which the meeting achieved its stated objectives, expected results;
- Provide feedback to improve the quality of the agenda, sessions, plenary discussions, and group work.
- Provide feedback so that the lessons learned in terms of participation, representation, content and format could be used to improve the design of future meetings;
- Better respond to the specific needs and requirements of the participants;
- Assess of the quality of communication between UNEP and CSOs; websites etc
- Assess the organisation and logistics of the meetings.

The methodology used for this evaluation was in form of a questionnaire (**Annex I**). Participants were asked to give a quantitative indication, on a scale of 1 to 5, (with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest rating) of their overall assessment of the meeting. The rating for each question was converted to an average figure which gave an indication of the overall assessment by the participants for each of the questions. In addition, participants were also asked to give a short written assessment of the overall meeting. This allowed them the opportunity to comment on any aspect of the meeting. All evaluation forms were anonymous so that the respondents were free to give their honest opinion about the meeting.

No. of Respondents by Region



68% of the participants from all regions completed the evaluation. This was a significant turn out compared to last year's 54%. This year, a lot of effort on the part of the Regional Offices was made to ensure that evaluations were completed and reported to MGSB. Of the number that completed the evaluation, 49 % were female - also a significant increase by 10 points from last year (see graph below). Sponsored participants were likely to complete the evaluations – at 64%. The number of respondents per region is illustrated by the chart above.



1. Meeting Sessions

i). Presentation and dialogue sessions on key issues for the 25th GC/GMEF.

The rating used was on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest rating. The sessions receiving the highest rating of 3.9 were on the Globalisation and Environment/International Environmental Governance (IEG) and on Climate change followed closely at 3.8 by the session on Mercury and Chemicals Management. These scored highly obviously because of the current global crises and the urgent need to decide on IEG reform. The session on Mercury was also of great interest because the GC/GMEF was to decide whether a legally binding instrument would be put in place to phase out the use of mercury. The highest rating for this particular session was from ROE at 4.6 because the region has the largest number of mercury activists who have been campaigning very actively against continued use of the chemical. ROA and ROLAC rated it lowest at 3.5.

The participation of UNEP Staff to these meetings was considered important and useful, not only to contribute to the proceedings but also provide a link between the organisation and the major groups as well as to network. Participation of UNEP staff was also seen as important particularly in view of the envisaged partnerships in the implementation of the POW.

ii). Other sessions

The session on Introduction to the GCSF Cycle and achievements received a high rating of 3.9. It had been recommended from the previous year that such a session would be very useful particularly for the new comers who are not very familiar with UNEP and its work. It was also useful for it gave a synopsis of the achievements of the GCSF since its establishment. This session contributed to the high rating of the session on the selection of regional representative which was at 3.8 largely because participants were now fully aware of the requirements and criteria for selection, rendering them easier and transparent.

The session on partnerships and POW came in third at 3.6. Participants from RONA indicated that a clearer, simpler presentation of POW to first-time participants would have been very helpful and that it was not adequately addressed to explore which priority area the organisations would be interested in or have the comparative advantage to partner with UNEP. On the other hand, the partnerships part of the presentation was thoroughly discussed and many recommendations made. One recommendation made in many of the regions is the need for UNEP to ease requirements for accreditation particularly the requirement on international scope because there are many organizations/networks that do not have direct or very obvious international focus but are considered important national networks with strong links to big organisations such as IUCN, WWF etc.

Three regions – ROA, ROAP and ROLAC all had a session on poverty and its link with environment which scored highly at 3.8. This year this session has been replicated for the first time in ROLAC and received positive response with a high of 3.7. A session on gender mainstreaming was also carried out in two regions namely ROWA and ROLAC and received a rating of 3.6. This is the first time such a topic is introduced as a separate agenda item and based on this positive response, UNEP should consider including it in future regional meetings.

The session on formulating the regional statement received a rating of 3.8. Having been given the option of not preparing statement, all the regional meetings made a unanimous decision to prepare statements that would be communicated to the GC/GMEF. There were some reservations however in the manner in which some of them were prepared. For instance, a participant from ROAP recommended that the statement should have been drafted on day 3 and participants given time to digest and suggest amendments prior to debating the final draft on day 4. In RONA, participants noted the session was poorly run because the statement was pre-written without the full knowledge of the participants, and participants were not allowed to vote on whether this would be the best way to create this statement beforehand.

As a conclusion, the sessions were very much appreciated by the participants. They welcomed the improvements made in the past years, under the leadership of the Executive Director Achim Steiner, to bring the voice of the Major Groups and stakeholders to the Governing Council. However, they pointed to lingering limitations (such as under-representation in the GC/GMEF e.g. at ministerial roundtables), and noted that additional reforms are needed to ensure that civil society participation is continuous, meaningful and influential.

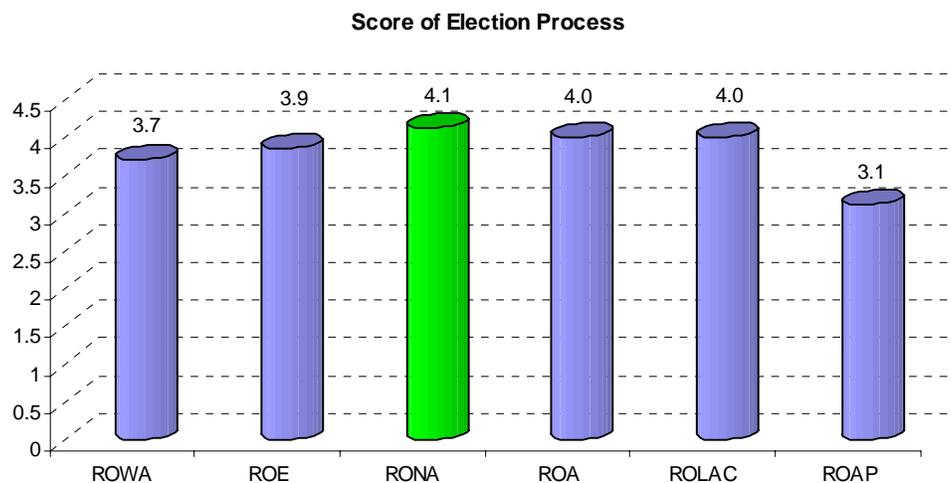
iii). Working Groups

The working groups were evaluated highly at 4 indicating how useful participants find these sessions. For instance RONA which did not organise for group work sessions during the last RCM, found the breakout groups to be a particularly useful vehicle for discussing the POW and opportunities for civil society to engage with it. On the other hand, in ROAP, a participant wondered whether the questions were fully understood by participants in order to provide the right answers. This however is a function of good chairmanship. The facilitators of the groups should be able to steer the discussions towards the right direction. The highest score was in 4.2 in Europe which went on to

propose that election of regional representatives should be done in the working groups as this would allow enough time for consultations within the groups. The session of reporting on the working groups also scored highly at 3.9 as groups shared their findings and recommendations.

2. Election process

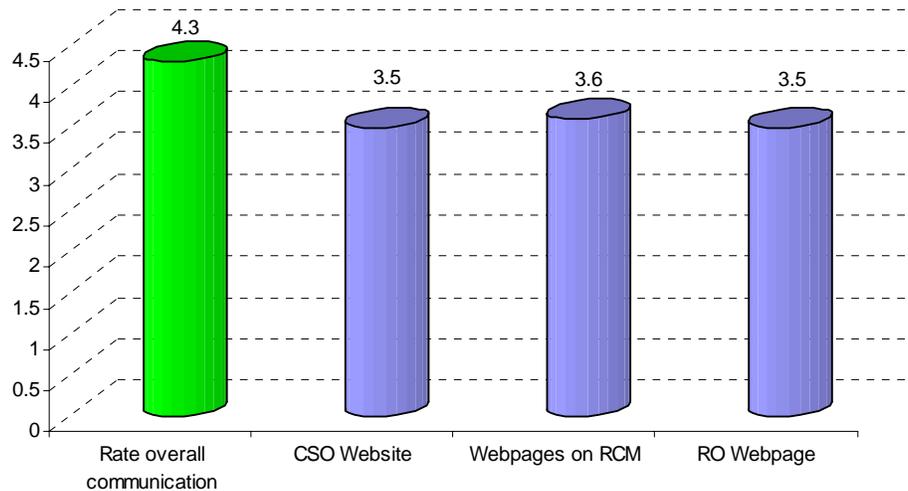
The recommendations to define the modalities for elections were implemented this year by including on the agenda, a presentation on the GCSF cycle and selection criteria. As a result the elections were transparent and espoused the principles of gender, regional balance as well as expertise and knowledge of the issues of the GC/GMEF. The sessions rated highly at 3.8; an increase from last year. The highest rating was 4.1 from North America which in the previous year had rated it lowest. It was followed by Africa and Latin American and the Caribbean at 4.



3. Communication and pre-meeting consultation

The rate of overall communication with UNEP received the highest rating of 4.3 in the entire evaluation process. Highest rating was from North America at 4.2 followed by Europe at 4.1. It is likely that the reason for such high rating is that most accredited organisations which receive constant communication from UNEP reside in these regions. The West Asia region which has the least number of accredited organisations, rated it lowest at 3.5. The overall communication was followed by the webpages on the RCMs at 3.6 which was an improvement from the last year. The CSO website and Regional office websites tied at 3.5 and had both dropped in rating from a high of 3.9 in the previous year. Obviously a lot of work has to be done to enhance/improve both the CSO and RO websites

Score - Web



4. Agenda

With regard to subjects covered in the agenda, respondents gave an average rating of 4. This high rating could be attributed to the fact that recommendations from the previous year on how to improve the agenda have been implemented. The recommendation was for broader introduction of the agenda items and themes at the start of the meeting that would help make the meetings more efficient and elicit more active participation. The agenda had also been extensively discussed with the MGFC and the Regional Offices. As a result, subjects such as - UNEP and its priority areas of work; GCSF cycle process, the format of the GCSF and of the GC/GMEF, including the role and functions of each meeting; the achievements made by CSOs; and emerging global and regional environmental issues – were introduced. On the other hand, some regions like ROAP felt that the agenda needs to reflect more CSO issues from the regions as well as UNEP requirements. The complaint was that the meeting was dominated by developing countries issues with no real voice for the developed ones. This could have been due to the fact that the meeting took place back-to-back with a forum on international environmental governance.

The lengths of the sessions got a rating of 3.7 with. Some regions like Europe indicating that two days are not enough for substantial discussions and that meetings should start from the analysis of feed back from GCSF and GC to the qualitative impact of the statement produced during the two sessions. Several comments from ROA and ROLAC meetings also referred to a lack of adequate time for question/answer/discussion period and called for enough time to be allocated for this kind of interaction, dialogue and debate. On the whole, participants were happy with the agenda.

5. Participation

As mentioned above, in terms of representation, all the major groups, and more, were at the table but as usual the meetings were dominated by NGOs. One participant from Europe noted that while, NGOs have a wealth of information and knowledge to support and actively participate in the discussions, there is a need to balance the numbers, for example having three representatives from each major group rather than having more NGOs and the others in single digits. On the other hand, participants from RONA and ROLAC noted the absence of the most politically influential and knowledgeable non-governmental experts/environmental organizations such as IUCN, WWF, Greenpeace, etc. ROAP felt that better UNEP accountability with adequate level and numbers of representation would help CSO to develop greater confidence of UNEP. ROWA which historically has the least attendance, called for an increased number of participants for richer abatements in future meetings. ROA called for broader sponsorship to include host country nationals and that sponsorship should not be limited to only participants coming from outside.

The participants evaluated positively the gender balance with a high rating of 4.2 which is an improvement from the previous year as evidenced by the number of female participants. Regional balance followed with 3.8.

The lowest rating of 3.4 was that of major groups balance because there was an overrepresentation of the NGO major group. Responding to the question as which other major groups could have been invited, respondents (18) noted that more business and industry groups should have been invited, followed by indigenous people and their communities (15). A recommendation from ROLAC was that UNEP must lift the rules and regulation with regard to accreditation of the Indigenous People (IP) major group if they are to participate in UNEP's processes effectively. There are very few IP organisations that are well established or attached to an international network or organization. The Farmers' major group followed (14), and then Local Authorities (11), Workers and trade Unions (9); Children and Youth (8); Science and technology (6) and Women (4). No one felt that NGOs major group was underrepresented in fact one respondent said that the meetings should have less NGOs. Other groups worth mentioning that could have been invited were academia/education groups (4) as well as media (2), others were rural/slum dwellers; research institutions, human rights and health organisations. Obviously more work has to be done to ensure that selection of participants including sponsorship by UNEP to the meetings is balanced particularly targeting major groups like those mentioned above. Furthermore, the process of identifying sponsored participants should be improved on by increased brainstorming between the Regional Offices and the MGFC.

With regard to expertise, the rating was 3.7 with many regions indicating that it was satisfactory. ROLAC however noted that there was little use of civil society expertise and instead had too many government officials as facilitators and presenters. ROAP commented that a good mix of more issue knowledgeable expertise from CSO stakeholders is as important as it is necessary. ROLAC noted that some participants had not read the documents beforehand and had no knowledge of the key issues and therefore could not engage adequately in the discussions. MGSB needs to explore ways of ensuring that participants have read the materials before hand so as to be better prepared for the meetings. For instance participants could be tasked to make brief presentations.

As mentioned above, the meetings were unsuccessful in attracting substantial participation from the most influential non-governmental environmental organizations. Such organizations face many competing claims on their time, and generally do not find it worth their while to spend 2 days in a civil society consultation. UNEP needs to inspire more invitees to accept the invitation as this would greatly increase the effectiveness and group diversity of the meetings. It also needs to carefully look at the international meetings schedule so as to not plan the RCMs close to bigger/more influential meetings (such as POZNAN which was held a few days after the ROLAC meeting). One recommendation put forth by RONA is to convene, smaller, shorter, and more issue-specific meetings.

A persistent issue that was reported last year as well is the inclusion of the private sector in the definition of "Civil Society", with many participants finding this confusing as well as inconsistent with generally accepted understandings of the term "Civil Society". Some NGO participants felt that there was a risk that private sector involvement in the proceedings would weaken the impact and voice of NGOs and other non-private sector Major Groups. There is need to settle this confusion once and for all perhaps at the next Summit in 2012 - when a re-definition of the "major groups" should be revisited.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that this year also noted a significant increase in the number of UNEP staff (41) from headquarters and Regional Officers participating substantively in the meeting as keynote speakers, facilitators and panellists etc.

6. Organisation

Respondents evaluated the organisation of the meeting highly at 4 with Europe giving the maximum score of 4.6 followed by North America at 4.3 which had given the lowest rating the previous year. It was followed by West Asia at 4.1 and closely followed by Latin American and the Caribbean at 3.9 which felt that that the organisation of the meeting could have been better had it been given more time. ROAP rated it at 3.7. The Africa region gave the lowest rating at 3.6. While the average rating was high some participants from RONA, ROWA, and ROE intimated that the meetings need to be more focused in order to come up with implementable outcomes and that UNEP needs to be more committed in implementing the decisions that arise of these regional meetings.

Participants from North America recommended that UNEP should consider organising smaller, more issue-specific meetings, roundtables, and consultations that have a greater chance of attracting the participation of leading civil society representatives and organizations. It was also suggest that UNEP clarify the question of how business and industry relates to civil society in the UNEP context.

ROLAC recommended that UNEP should forward all meeting documentation early on (2 months) to allow first for translation and then dissemination/discussions/consultation with other organisations before the RCM.

Travel arrangements was rated it highly at 4.5. Participants from the European region recommended that UNEP should consider making train transport mandatory as common practice for all travel sponsored by UNEP because there is little need for Western European participants to travel by plane. This would as to cut on costs.

PART 2: GCSF

A. Background information

The 10th Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) is an associated meeting of the 25th session of the UNEP Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-25/GMEF) and met on 14-15 February 2009, at UNEP offices in Nairobi Kenya, prior to the GC/GMEF. The theme of the consultations was *Globalization and the Environment: Global Crises; National Chaos? International Environmental Governance and United Nations Reform: IEG Help or Hindrance?* Other topics discussed were Partnerships with major groups and stakeholders for the implementation of the UNEP Programme of Work (POW); the Chemicals Agenda- a global framework for mercury. In addition, participants had a dialogue with the Executive Director of UNEP. Participants also had the opportunity to engage in the Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum by attending meetings of the Committees of the Whole (COW) and some selected representatives attended the Ministerial Round Tables. The report of the GCSF can be accessed at http://www.unep.org/civil_society/GCSF10/pdfs/Report-10th-GCSF.pdf.

B. Participation

The GCSF was attended by 190 participants representing 138 civil society organizations (CSOs) from 52 countries. Participants used again for the second consecutive year, the electronic registration system to register on-line for participation in the meeting. Out of the 343 registrations, 278 were eligible for participation and were hence approved to attend. However of those, only 190 actually attended the meeting. A total of 38 participants were sponsored by UNEP and they included members of the Major Groups Facilitation Committee (MGFC), Regional Representatives of civil society, key note speakers at the GCSF as well as invited panellists to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Participants to the GCSF are also invited to attend the GC/GMEF and interestingly enough, most of the speakers, panellists and facilitators to the ministerial plenaries and roundtables were from civil society e.g. Dave Foster of Blue Green Alliance; Mark Halle of International Institute for Sustainable Development; Ricardo Melendez of International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development; Julia Marton-Lefevre of IUCN; Kevin Conrad of Coalition for Rainforest Nations; Maria Ivanova of College of William and Mary and; Nic Gowing from the British Broadcasting Corporation (media). There was therefore, direct influence by civil society in the drafting of the reports and decisions (such as on international environmental governance and green economy) of the GC/GMEF. Furthermore, several civil society participants attended special working group sessions where they were able to make significant contributions and influence the decision making at the GC/GMEF. For example, the “Zero Mercury Group” supported by the voices of most of the major groups, such as NGOS, Women, Indigenous Peoples and Youth during the GC/GMEF COW, pushed substantially towards the constructive negotiation process for a decision on Mercury. The youth major groups contributed substantively to the decision on long term strategy on the involvement of young people in environmental issues. Civil society pushed for the decisions on the environmental situation in the Gaza Strip; environmental

law among others. Key messages from civil society can be found at, http://www.unep.org/civil_society/GCSF10/keymessages.asp

Africa had the largest number of participants mainly because the meeting was hosted in the region although there were fewer participants from countries other than Kenya (only 9 other African countries were represented), a concern that participants expressed. Europe came in second followed by North America. The large numbers from these regions could be attributed to the ability to finance their participation to the meeting. Asia and the Pacific came in fourth while West Asia tied with Latin America and the Caribbean.

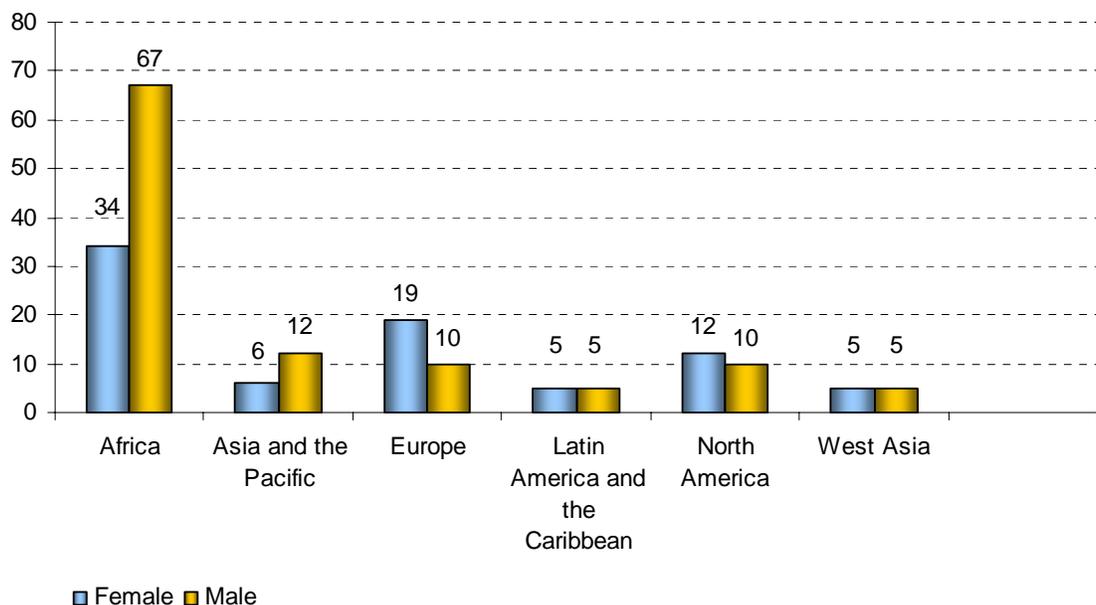
With regard to major groups represented, as usual there was a preponderance of Non-governmental organisations. It was followed by Children and Youth contrary to last year where there was hardly any. This is because of the TUNZA Children and Youth Conference that preceded the GCSF and some participants were sponsored to remain and attend it as well as the GC/GMEF. It was followed by Indigenous Peoples and their Communities, a fact that could be attributed to efforts of the Indigenous Information Network (IIN) that sponsored seven participants from the East Africa region, while the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East (RAIPON) mobilised three participants. Another group that improved its participation by fivefold was the Farmers major group. Credit should be give to the Farmers major group representative who worked very hard to ensure that this group was well represented. Women's' groups also increased by 4 points. Attendance by Business and Industry was a big disappointment as it fell from 18 last year to only 4 this year probably due to travel restrictions following the current recession.

While there was indeed marked improvements in participation this year of some of the major groups mentioned above, there is need to continue in our efforts to bring more on board - Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, Women, etc.

Number of Participants by Civil Society Organization Type	
Business and Industry	4
Children and Youth	13
Consumer Group	1
Faith/Charity based	6
Farmers	5
Indigenous Peoples and their Communities	10
Local Authorities	3
Media	1
NGO	118
Scientific and Technological Community	7
Women	9
Workers and Trade Unions	6
Other (including professional organizations)	6
TOTAL	190

In terms of gender, out of the 190 participants, only 81 women making it 43% of all the participants and an increase of 4% from last year. Understandably, as one can see from the graph below, the largest number came from Africa because the meeting took place in the region. It was followed by Europe which also had more female participants this year than male. Similarly, North America which came in third also had more female participants. In Latin America and the Caribbean and West Asia regions, the ratio of male to female was one while in Asia and the Pacific, males dominated by half the number of women. In general terms, one can say that women's participation in environmental governance is indeed on the increase.

Gender Distribution by Region



C. Evaluation

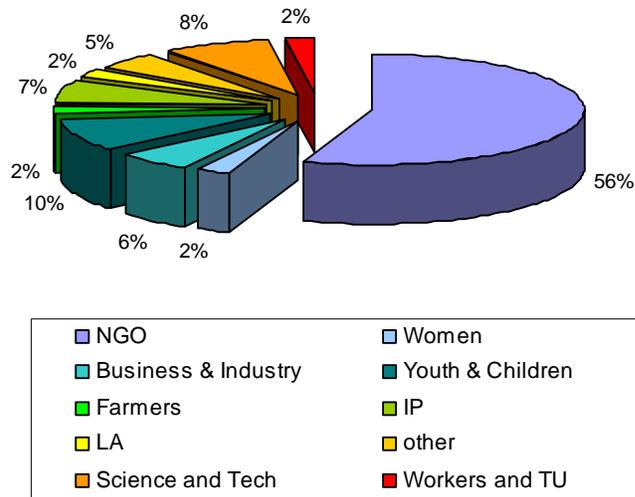
The evaluation process this time around was a big improvement from last year and collected 85 evaluations out of the 190 participants. There was sufficient backstopping in terms of staff to ensure that evaluations were completed and submitted. However, it must be noted many had left the meeting room by the time of the evaluation session. Needless to say, 85 is a good enough number to represent the views of the meeting.

An evaluation form/questionnaire (**Annex II**) was used for the Global Civil Society Forum.

Out of the 85 respondents, 35 were female. The sponsored participants were 31 and the non-sponsored (self sponsored or received some kind of sponsorship other than UNEP) were 54.

In terms of major groups, the NGOs made up the highest number of 56%, followed by Children and Youth with 10%. This is the first time that there has been a significant number of Scientific and Technological Community participants at 8%. Indigenous Peoples and their Communities came next with 7%, followed by Business and Industry at 6% while the rest of the groups were between 4% and 2%. The high number of participants from the Scientific and Technological Community as well as the Indigenous Peoples and their Communities could be attributed to efforts by MGSB and the MGFC to encourage their participation. The Kenyan based Indigenous Information Network IIN, an established and accredited organisation, which sponsored several indigenous peoples' representatives from the East African region was a an excellent example of well functioning networking and capacity building - having supported and facilitated the access to the GCSF and the GC of seven (7) newcomers from the region to attend the GC/GMEF for the first time. They attended all the relevant sessions regularly and reported back to their major group on a daily basis.

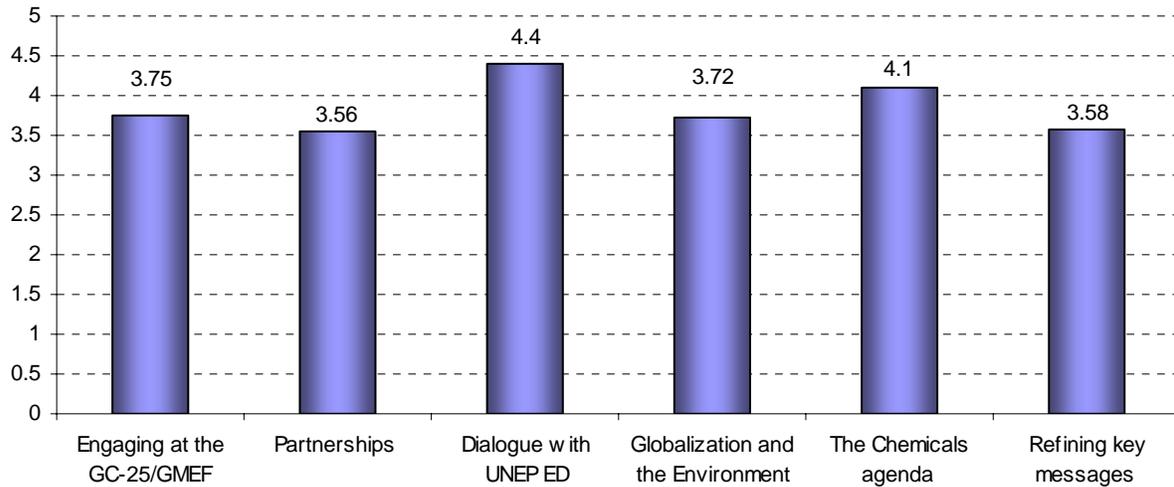
Type of Major group



1. Meeting sessions

As in the past, the session most appreciated was the dialogue with the Executive Director at 4.4 (the maximum possible rate being 5). This is an indication that participants value very much the interaction with the Chief Executive of the organization. The session on the *Chemicals agenda - A global framework for Mercury* came in second with 4.1, followed by *Globalization and the Environment* at 3.7. Several respondents of the evaluation preferred the substantive sessions – those related to the thematic issues of the GC/GMEF - and suggested that future meetings should steer away from discussing too much process and procedural issues. Respondents rated their involvement/engagement in the GC/GMEF at 3.7, in particular because of the fact that they attended sessions and space was given to them to contribute to the discussions. The session on refining the key messages was at 3.58. This rated relatively low as one participant said that it was the most chaotic session of them all because it was not well structured and the objectives of the session were not clearly spelt out. Partnerships with Major Groups and Stakeholders for the Implementation of the POW 2010-11 followed closely at 3.56. As reflected by the evaluation, sessions on process and procedural issues were not rated highly.

Scores of meeting sessions



2. Communication

Respondents rated the overall communication with UNEP highly at 3.8 and the CSO Website at 3.9 indicating that they were satisfied with the information exchange and flow with UNEP, one respondent however called for increased communication between UNEP and the CSOs.

3. Agenda

Respondents were satisfied with the agenda and rated it at 3.7 although several respondents felt that too much time was spent on process and procedural issues rather than on substance - (GC/GMEF themes). This is reflected in the graph above (paragraph 1) which rates the session on Chemicals-Mercury as having the second highest rating of all the sessions. While the session with the ED was ranked highest, one respondent felt that he spoke for an extended time not leaving enough time for real dialogues. Two respondents felt that time should have been allocated for thematic group work by major groups and/or regions. Another respondent felt that part of day two - discussing key messages - could have been better managed if the objectives of the session had been more clearly defined and major groups had been better prepared to present their key messages. This year a session on informal caucuses was introduced for groups – whether regional, CSO type, gender – to caucus on any issue of interest. Participants appreciated this and rated it at 3.7. Concern was raised over regional distribution of presenters and panellists and suggestions made that the regions should be contacted in order to propose people for these tasks. Some respondents noted that there should be a better process of selection of major groups' representatives in order to ensure diversity. A limit of 2 years of service is sufficient. There is tremendous capacity out there from where to select representatives. This is an issue that has to be seriously addressed because it also was raised by a member of the MGFC during its annual meeting (13 February 2009).

4. Participation

In terms of balance of participation, respondents rated the gender balance at 3.9, higher than what it was the previous year. Similarly both regional and major groups balance at 3.4 was higher than the previous year. On the question of which other major groups could have been invited, the majority of participants (46% of all the respondents), felt that Business and Industry was very much underrepresented (10) followed by Farmers (8) and followed by Indigenous Peoples and their Communities which tied with Workers and Trade Unions at (6) and Local Authorities followed at (4). Other major groups followed with 3 points or below. This year we received suggestions which had not appeared before such as animal activists, pastoralists and the disabled. Some respondents felt that Africa as a region was not very well represented other than Kenya which has an advantage as the host country. Only 9 African countries were represented. Respondents rated expertise of the participants highly at 3.9.

5. Organization

Respondents rated the organization of the meeting very highly at 4.2 noting that it was better planned and well structured than previous meetings. The effort to keep such meetings “green” by using recycled bags and conserving on water was noted, although paper use was still on the high side. One respondent noted that UNEP should be supported and honoured for its efforts to establish a regular organized and efficient dialogue process with CSO. While the overall organization of the meeting was very satisfactory, one respondent proposed that all procedures in the conference must be clear and agreed to by all. The travel arrangements were highly rated at 4.0 although one respondent suggested that UNEP could save money and get cheaper travel itineraries and better flight options, if tickets were purchased locally by UNEP or UNDP offices in the respective countries. Another respondent felt that registration could have been smoother if the participants list was kept at the gate all the time so as to avoid the unnecessary security problems.

A participant urged UNEP to provide Arabic translation in future GCSF meetings to cater for the participants from the West Asia region. Several Kenyan CSOs complained that there should have been financial support for their participation to the meeting

6. Some additional comments from participants

- There needs to be a better integration between regional meetings/major groups focus. The major groups and POW areas need to be incorporated into regional meeting structures. This would facilitate input to these meetings and feedback into UNEP on POW.
- UNEP may have had greater success attracting these organizations to smaller, shorter, and more issue-specific meetings, roundtables, and consultation.
- UNEP to clarify the question of how business and industry relates to civil society in the UNEP context.

- UNEP should track, document and share best practices in partnerships with civil society at the local, regional and international levels.
- It is essential for UNEP to actively engage with civil society in the design, implementation and evaluation of its Program of Work.
- Continued CSO Participation at the Ministerial roundtables, plenaries subcommittees, COW etc., and streamline selection process of participants attending the various meetings -.

D. Recommendations:

Based on the Regional Consultative Meetings and the Global Civil Society Forum, a number of lessons learnt and recommendations can be identified for further consideration:

Agenda setting and selections of thematic issues:

- Future meetings should start from the analysis of feed back from GCSF and GC/GMEF to the qualitative impact of the statement produced during the two sessions.
- Agenda should include more substantive topics rather than on process/procedural issues.
- The session on formulating major groups key statements to the GC/GMEF could have been better managed if the objectives of the session had been more clearly defined and major groups had been better prepared to present their key messages. The session should be more participatory.
- Allocate more time for question/answer/discussion period to allow enough time for interaction, dialogue and debate.
- An introduction of GC/GMEF processes at the MGFC would help new comers come up to the same level of understanding.
- Input to the GC from major groups may need to be organized differently, like based on issues or by major groups and not regionally. Some regional concerns need to be addressed; however, it could come under/within each issue.
- Enhanced cooperation of MGFC, MGSB and Regional Offices in setting agenda.

Background material:

- Need to provide background material well in advance in order to allow time for processing complex information, translating in other languages, disseminating to constituencies and getting their feedback.
- An arena for discussion on the issues (possibility of sub-regional consultations/workshops) prior to the event is necessary also making use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), workshops and other tools.

Identification of participants & major groups / issues of representation:

- The process of identifying sponsored participants could be improved on by increased brainstorming between the MGSB and the regional offices and the MGFC.
- UNEP needs to conceive of a way to inspire more invitees (particularly the major environmental civil society organisations) to accept the invitation would greatly increase the effectiveness and group diversity of the consultation.
- UNEP should explore ways (without having to provide sponsorship) to ensure all major groups attendance of these meetings – particularly Indigenous people, local authorities, farmers, business and industry etc.
- Balanced representation on the Major Groups Facilitation Committee (MGFC)

Continuous engagement:

- UNEP should consider the use or set up of social networking sites or platforms such as the google discussion fora for regular communication among major groups in combination with an online register of accredited CSO's and mailing lists.
- Ensure process of tracking implementation of RCM and GCSF decisions
- Guidelines for improving GCSF cycle is subject to review after one year. Information/time frame regarding this review should be communicated to all as soon as possible

On-line registration:

- Further work on the system so as to avoid fraudulent registrations.

UNEP presence during the RCM and GCSF:

- Maintain sufficient UNEP staff members attend the meetings.

E. List of Annexes

Annex I	Evaluation Report Form – RCMs 2009
Annex II	Evaluation Report Form - GCSF 2009

Annex I



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
 Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



EVALUATION FORM REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING

Please take a few minutes to give us your views on the **Regional Consultation Meeting**.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Which regional meeting did you attend?

Africa	
Asia and the Pacific	
Europe	
Latin America and the Caribbean	
North America	
West Asia	

2. In which country is your organization based? Please indicate only one country:

.....

3. Which major group is your organization part of? Please indicate only one choice:

1. Farmers	
2. Women	
3. Scientific and Technological Community	
4. Children and Youth	
5. Indigenous Peoples and their Communities	
6. Workers and Trade Unions	
7. Business and Industry	
8. Local Authorities	
9. NGOs	

4. Are you a female or a male?

Male	
Female	

5. How would you rate the agenda in regard to: Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate)

Items	1	2	3	4	5
Subjects covered					
Length of the sessions					

6. How would you rate the participation in regard to: Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate)

Items	1	2	3	4	5
Regional balance					
Expertise of the participants					
Gender balance					
Major groups balance					

7. Do you think the relevant major groups in your region have been invited? Please indicate which other major group organizations could have been invited:

.....

II. MEETING SESSIONS

8. How would you rate the presentations and dialogue sessions on key issues for UNEP Twenty-fifth (25) Session of the Governing Council? Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate)

Session titles	1	2	3	4	5
Introduction to the UNEP GCSF cycle and the achievements during the last cycle					
Introduction to the 25 th . GC/GMEF themes: Globalization and the Environment: International Environmental Governance and the UN Reform: The Programme of Work (POW) 2010-11					
The POW 2010-11 and Major groups engagement in the implementation of POW					
Climate Change					
Mercury and Chemical Management					
Poverty and Environment					
Gender Mainstreaming					
Selection of the two sponsored regional representatives to the GCSF and the GC/GMEF					
Discussion of meeting outcomes/recommendations/key messages					

9. How would you rate the working group sessions on key issues for UNEP Twenty-fifth (25) Special Session of the GC/GMEF? Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate)

In which working group did you participate?	1.	2.	3.
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Sessions	1	2	3	4	5
How would you rate your working group?					
How would you rate the report from the working groups?					

III. COMMUNICATION

10. How would you rate the overall communication with UNEP in preparation for the RCM? Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate)

Items	1	2	3	4	5
How would you rate the overall communication with UNEP?					
UNEP Civil society website					
UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting website					
UNEP Regional Office for (fill in your respective regional office) website					

IV. ORGANIZATION AND LOGISTICS

11. How did you finance your participation? Please indicate one only:

UNEP sponsored	
Self-sponsored	
External support through network	
Other external support	

12. If you have been sponsored by UNEP, How would you rate the air travel arrangements? Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate):

.....

13. How would you rate the organization of the meeting in general? Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate):

.....

IV. COMMENTS

(Max 200 words)

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Annex II



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



10th Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) 14-15 February 2009, Nairobi, Kenya

Please take a few minutes to give us your views of the 10th Global Civil Society Forum.

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

14. Which regional meeting did you attend?

Africa	
Asia and the Pacific	
Europe	
Latin America and the Caribbean	
North America	
West Asia	
Did not attend any of the above meetings	

15. In which country is your organization based? *Please indicate only one country:*

.....

16. Which major group is your organization part of? *Please indicate only one choice – if you select other, indicate which group:*

10. Farmers	
11. Women	
12. Scientific and technological community	
13. Children and youth	
14. Indigenous peoples and their communities	
15. Workers and trade unions	
16. Business and industry	
17. Local authorities	
18. NGOs	
19. Other:	

17. Are you a female or a male?

Male	
Female	

18. How would you rate the agenda in regard to: *Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate)*

Items	1	2	3	4	5
Subjects covered					
Length of the sessions					
Inclusion of a Caucus meeting (informal session)					

19. How would you rate the participation in regard to: *Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate)*

Items	1	2	3	4	5
Regional balance					
Expertise of the participants					
Gender balance					
Major groups balance					

20. Do you think the relevant major groups in your region have been invited? Please indicate which other major group organizations could have been invited:

.....

I. MEETING SESSIONS

21. How would you rate the presentations and dialogue sessions on key issues for UNEP 25th Session of the GC/GMEF? *Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate)*

Session titles	1	2	3	4	5
Session 1: Engaging at the GC25/GMEF					
Session 2: Partnerships with major groups and stakeholders for the implementation of the UNEP Programme of Work 2010-2011					
Session 3: Dialogue with Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP					
Session 4: Globalisation and the environment					
Session 5: Session 5: The Chemicals Agenda – A global framework for mercury?					
Session 6: Refining the key messages to the					

GC25/GMEF					
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II. COMMUNICATION

22. How would you rate the overall communication with UNEP in preparation for the GCSF? Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate)

Items	1	2	3	4	5
Overall communication with UNEP					
UNEP Civil society website					

III. ORGANIZATION AND LOGISTICS

23. How did you finance your participation? Please indicate one only:

UNEP sponsored	
Self-sponsored	
External support through network	
Other external support	

24. If you have been sponsored by UNEP, How would you rate the air travel arrangements? Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate):

.....

25. How would you rate the organization of the meeting in general? Please rate from 1 (lowest rate) to 5 (highest rate):

.....

IV. COMMENTS

(Max 200 words)

.....

