

MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS



Word cloud of stakeholders and topics:

- Harmful Substances
- Indigenous Peoples & their Communities
- Coastal Zone
- Disasters & Conflicts
- Business & Industry
- Ecosystem Management
- Wetland Conservation
- Food Environment
- Children & Youth
- Environmental Governance
- Local Authorities
- Science & Technology Community
- Wetland Conservation
- Sustainable Development
- Wetland Conservation
- Wetland Conservation



Major Groups and Stakeholders: Who are they?

Agenda 21 - Chapter 23

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS PREAMBLE

- 23.2. “One of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision-making. Furthermore, in the more specific context of environment and development, the need for new forms of participation has emerged”.



Major Groups and Stakeholders: Who are they?

- Agenda 21 – Section III (Chapters 24-32):
 1. **Children and youth**
 2. **Women**
 3. **Farmers**
 4. **Workers and trade unions**
 5. **Indigenous peoples and their communities**
 6. **Scientific and technological community**
 7. **Local authorities**
 8. **Non governmental organizations (NGOs)**
 9. **Business and industry (private sector)**



Rules Governing UNEP's engagement with MGS: the historical and institutional background

- *Rule 69. Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council*
- *Malmö Ministerial Declaration of May 2000*
- *Partnership Policy*
- *Guidelines for Major groups and Stakeholder Participation in Policy Design at UNEP*
- *Governing Council Decision SSVII.5 Adopted in February 2002*



UNEP's work with MGS

- Participation in UNEP's work at **Policy Level**
 - GC/GMEF
 - Multi-stakeholders thematic Consultations
 - Regional Consultation Meetings
 - Input into policy documents / guidance notes – via **accredited organizations**
 - Direct input through the **Major Groups and Stakeholders Facilitating Committee**
- Participation in UNEP's work at **Programmatic Level**
 - Involvement in POW implementation
 - Implementing partnerships with UNEP
 - Contractual Relationship
 - Input into UNEP activities and policy guidance notes through thematic consultations, written input, expert opinions, etc.
 - Participation in Projects
 - Expert Advise
 - Access to Information
 - Communicate UNEP's work results, including at the country level





MAJOR GROUP AND STAKEHOLDER FACILITATING COMMITTEE: SUPPORT TO THE REGIONS

- The MGFC shall also be responsible for coordinating their activities with the regional level in cooperation with their regional networks and with UNEP's Secretariat and Regional Offices. In particular, each of the Major Groups' representatives will help the UNEP Secretariat to:
 - a) Foster the participation of organizations of their Major Group at the six regional meetings;
 - b) In regions where their Major Groups are under-represented, help to identify and involve emerging or newly-established Major Groups in the regional meetings;
 - c) Promote inter-regional exchange and coordination of inputs within their Major Group;
 - d) Facilitate the integration of regional concerns into the Major Groups policy statements; and
 - e) Actively participate in identification of skilled or specialized presenters or facilitators at meetings.



ENGAGEMENT OF ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GC/GMEF

Subject to approval of the President of the Governing Council, the accredited organizations are allowed, under the coordination of the MGFC:

- a) To participate in the Ministerial Round Tables of the GMEF;
- b) To have 9 seats in each of the plenary sessions of the meeting (opening, closing, GMEF, Committee of the Whole);
- c) To have the opportunity to submit their written input to the President;
- d) To participate in the open-ended subsidiary organs and bodies of the meeting.



REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETINGS

- They should serve as capacity building and networking exercises for the Major Groups in the regions, and constitute platforms for Regional Offices to engage with major groups and stakeholders on an annual basis.
- All the organizations that are accredited to UNEP's Governing Council will be invited to the RCM of their region.
- The participants in each of the six Regional Consultative Meetings, the RCMs, are asked to nominate and elect two candidates to attend the GMGSF, paying attention to gender balance, who both have expert knowledge of the thematic issues to be dealt with at the upcoming C/GMEF. These candidates shall serve for one year, until the next Regional Meeting, and also serve as observers on the MGFC.

Accreditation

- **Conditions:**

- **Constitution, charter, statutes and/or by-laws**
- **Official registration**
- **Interest in the environment**
- **International scope**
- **Commitment to invest time and give substantial input into UNEP's work**



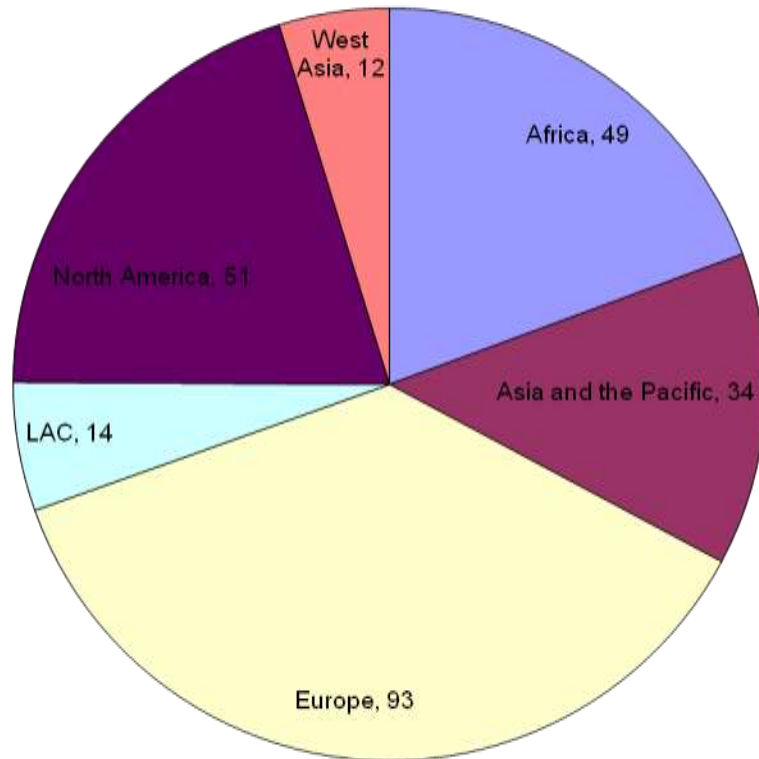
Application



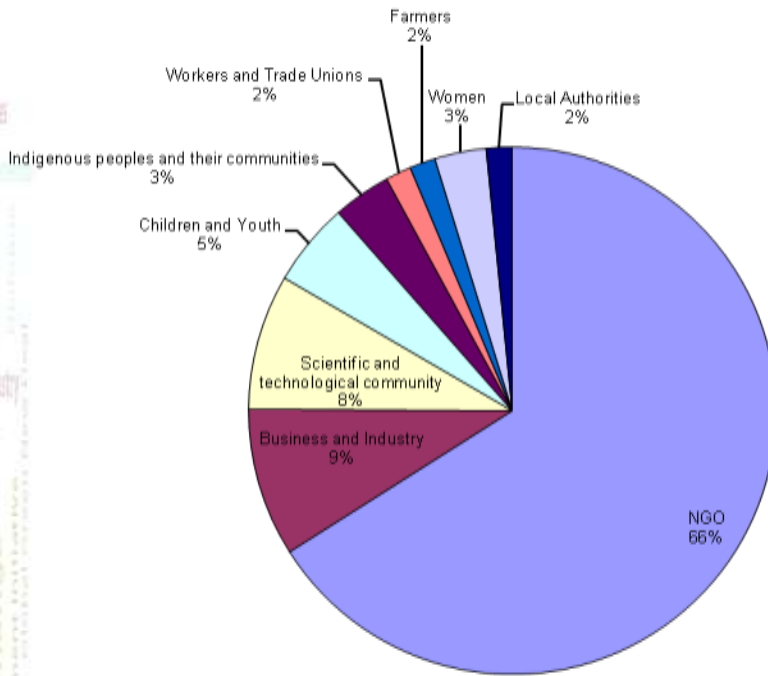
- A letter requesting accreditation
- A completed application form
- Copy of constitution, charter, statutes or by-laws and amendments to those documents, and list of affiliates
- Copy of certificate of registration
- Proof of interest in the environment e.g. annual reports; conference and seminar reports; The organization should submit an account of at least two years of activities in the field of environment.
- Detailed account of the international scope of the organization's activities



Accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders: Regional distribution



Accredited Major Groups and Stakeholders: Types of MGS





REGISTRATION

- Registration process conducted by the Major Group and Stakeholder Branch.
- 2,020 Registered organizations worldwide.
- 177 Registered organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- It is crucial that organizations update their information.
- It is important that organizations specify their major group.





The MGSB Role and Responsibilities:

- Facilitate UNEP's Cooperation with MGS
- Accreditation Process
- Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum prior to the GC/GMEF
- Yearly Regional Consultation Meetings
- Assisting UNEP Divisions in involving MGS in their work (e.g. IEG, GE, GEO, Access to Information Guidelines)
- Regular communication with UNEP's Major Group Facilitating Committee on UNEP and Major Group Priority Topics
- Overseeing the implementation of UNEP's Partnership Policy in close cooperation with QAS
- Keeping the overview of UNEP's Partnerships with MGS
- Capacity Building for MGS for selected regions
- Special Projects (e.g. Trade Union Project, Green Jobs Initiative, Indigenous People)
- (National Committees)



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING

- Open call for participation to accredited and registered organizations.
- A small percentage of accredited or registered organizations apply to take part in the meeting.
- Due to budget limitations, UNEP can only cover the expenses to a number of organizations.
- The selection process of sponsored organizations seeks to:
 - Include representatives from all major groups.
 - Achieve a sub-regional geographical balance and a gender balance.



How could major groups and stakeholder participation in UNEP be improved?

