

RoP / stakeholder engagement

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Policy on stakeholder engagement in the UN Environment Programme

Thematic cluster: Process, modalities, access, etc.

We have two documents to pay attention to:

- One on Policy on Stakeholder Engagement
- One on Rule 69 of Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme - Chapter XIII. Observers of international non-governmental organizations

Our concerns in the policy document, following paras:

- Accreditation criteria and process: Paragraphs 11 – 16
- Privileges of accredited stakeholders: Paragraphs 17 – 18
- E - Responsibilities and obligations of accredited stakeholders: Paragraph 19
- Other matters: Paragraphs 20 – 28

Concerns

- Paragraph 12: Accreditation will be granted to stakeholders meeting the following criteria as set out in the Rules of procedure (SEE Rule 69!!)
- Paragraph: 12-3 Having a proven interest in environmental issues and/or sustainable development
- Paragraph 13: Accreditation with ECOSOC (and/or MEAs)
- Paragraph 15: The UNEP secretariat will review the requests and notify applicants of their accreditation. The entire review process will take no longer than three months. The list of accredited organizations will be submitted to the regular session of the Assembly (for review) (for information)

The problem is:

- The Assembly meets every 2 years –
- Worst case waiting – 2 – 4 years
- No disclosure of process
- No appeal position for the NGOs that are rejected
- Does the Assembly have final say? What kind of objection? Is the burden of proof somewhere?
- Why not OECPR to see the list for information?

What does the UN state as minimum standard? ECOSOC 1996/31

- 46. The secretariat shall publish and disseminate to Member States on a periodic basis the updated list of applications received. Member States may submit comments on any of the applications on the list 14 days from receipt of the above-mentioned list by Member States. The comments of Member States shall be communicated to the non-governmental organization concerned, which shall have the opportunity to respond.
- Current paragraph 15: The UNEP secretariat will review the requests and notify applicants of their accreditation. The entire review process will take no longer than three months. The list of accredited organizations will be submitted to the regular session of the Assembly [for review].

Suggested revision:

15. The UNEP secretariat will review the requests and notify applicants of their accreditation [, and if denied accreditation, outline the formal appeals process]. The entire review process will take no longer than three months. The list of accredited organizations [and those organizations appealing a denial of accreditation] will be submitted to the regular session of the OECPR Assembly [for review information].

Concerns:

- Paragraph 18 d: Accredited stakeholders will have access to documents publicly available on the UNEP website and portals; official documents and reports of UNEP, and documentation related to the work of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs (including pre-session and in-session documents.)
- The UNEP secretariat will make every effort to provide access to such document in a timely manner, using electronic and other modern information systems to facilitate delivery. Accredited stakeholders will be granted access to relevant information portals (according to the UNEP policy on

access to information). The UNEP secretariat will ensure that input received from major groups and stakeholders will be made available on the relevant web portals

- E – Consultation with the bureaux of the UN Environment Assembly and its subsidiary organs: The bureaux of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs may hold informal consultations with representatives of accredited stakeholders on specific items of mutual interest relating to Assembly processes
- Rule 69: Paragraph 1 Talks about deciding a Stakeholders Engagement Policy with the UNEA and its subsidiary organs; ECOSOC accreditation is accepted but MEA accreditation problematic.

NGOs must be:

A – legally constituted and not for profit

Issue with legally constituted

B - Must be active more than 2 years

C - Proven track record on environment/sustainable development

2 - The term is 6 years (now unregulated)

3 – The secretariat shall prepare a list of new NGOs and other stakeholders seeking accreditation; a consultation process, upon request, between the concerned member states and the secretariat regarding the fulfilment of the accreditation criteria shall take place for one month after the OECP (March?) concludes its meeting and before the next session of the Assembly

4 access and attendance: Paragraph reflects the language in paragraph 15 of resolution 67/290 establishing the HLPF. But these words are bracketed: And its subsidiary organs