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Major Groups and Stakeholders and UNEP: Opportunities for Engagement

Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum
June 21 – 22, 2014

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Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch
Secretariat of Governing Bodies and Stakeholders, UNEP

Towards A Life of Dignity for All

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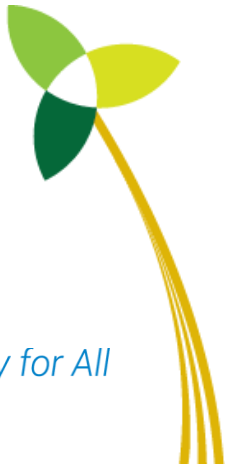

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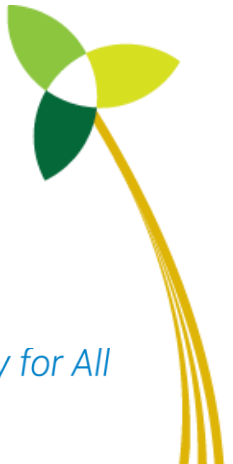
Part 1: Opportunities for Engagement during UNEA



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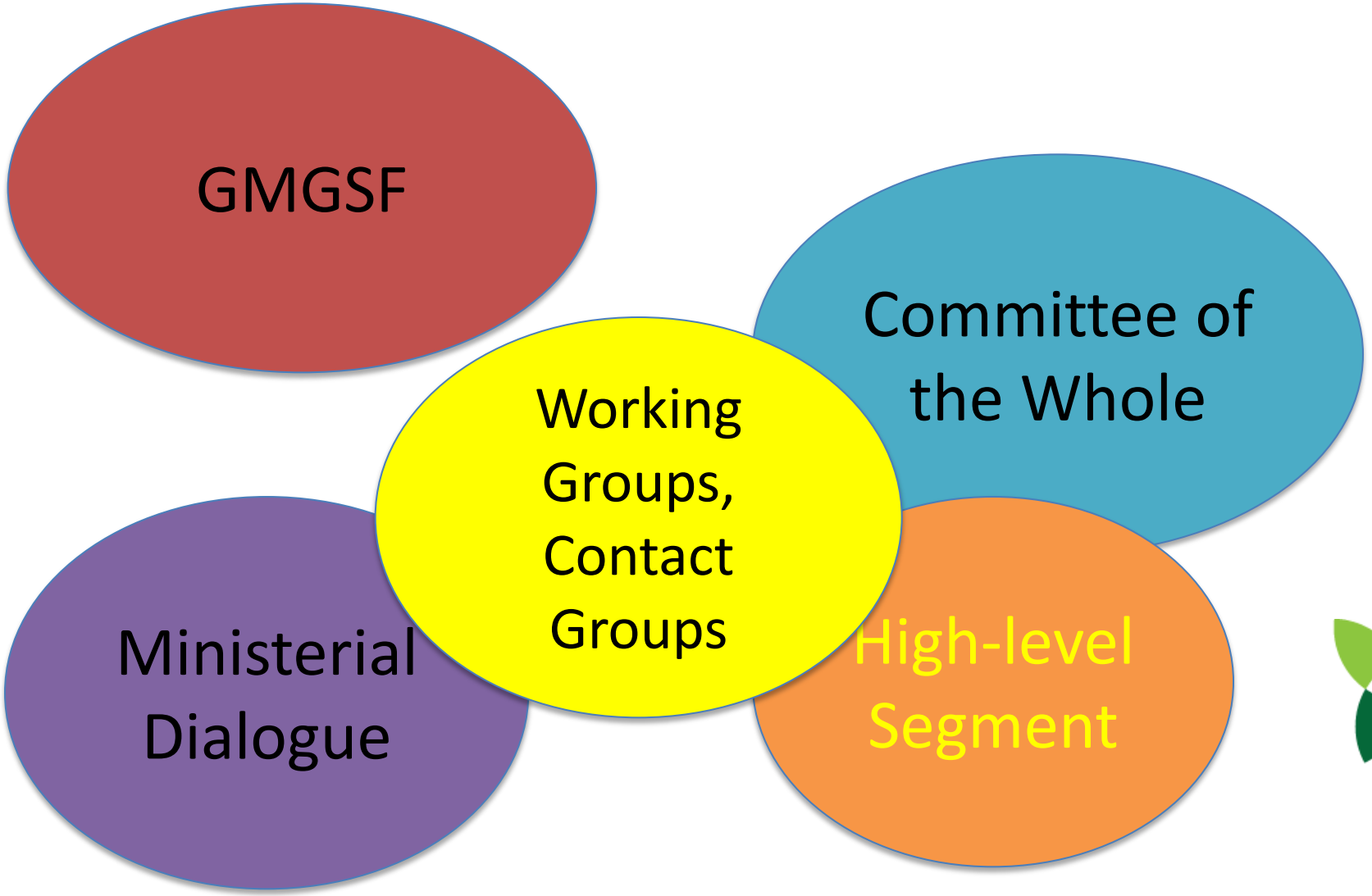
Opportunities for Engagement



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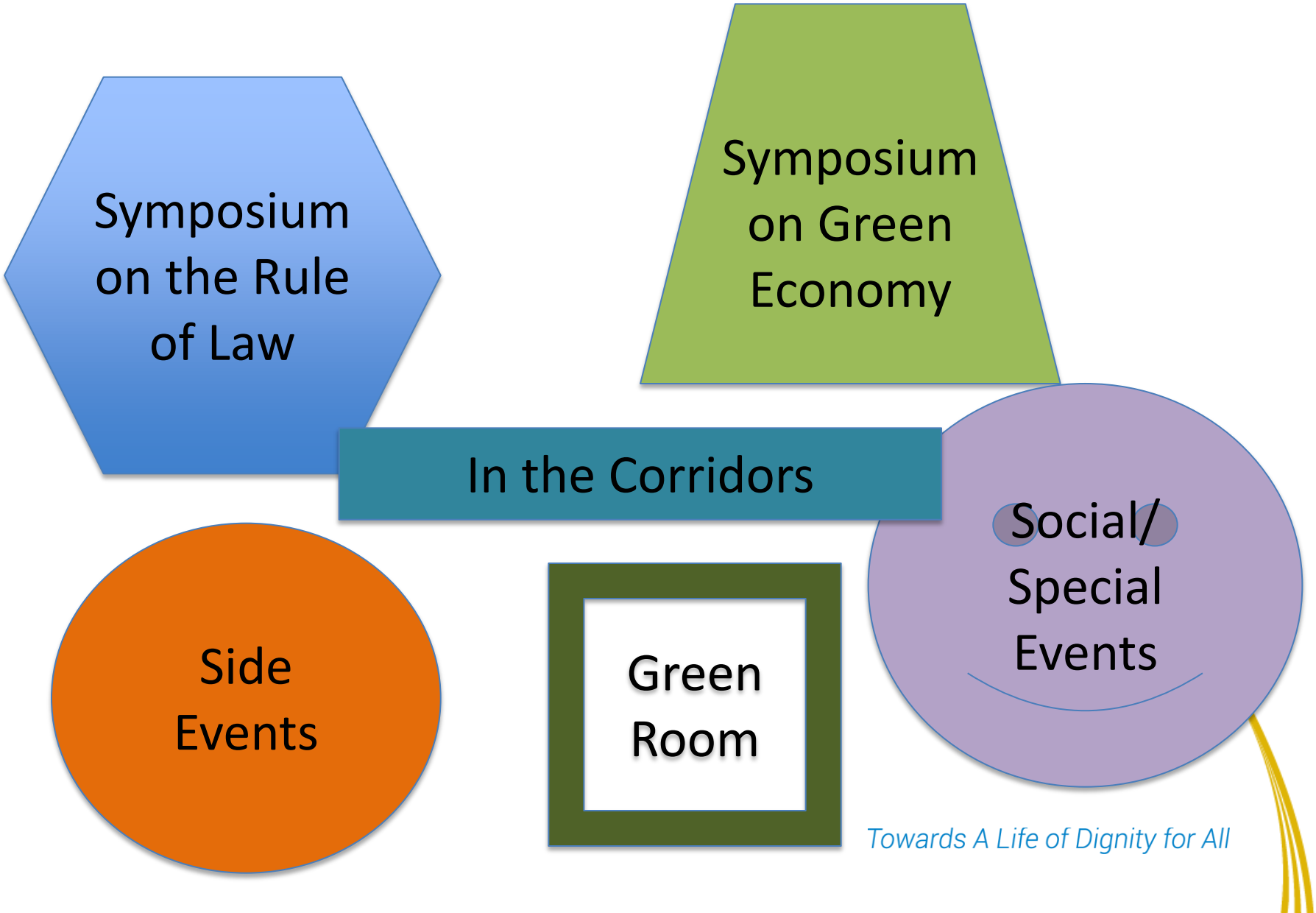
Opportunities for Engagement (2)



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Modalities for engagement (1)

- Access to all meetings

- Designated seats for 9 Major Groups (1+1):
  - ❑Opening and closing ceremonies
  - ❑Committee of the whole plenaries
  - ❑Opening plenary of the high-level segment
  - ❑Ministerial plenaries and dialogues

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Modalities for engagement (2)

- Access to all in-session documents, decisions, meeting online portal (**UNEA paper smart system)**
- Oral statements and written inputs through the Secretariat
- Limited time for interventions, prepare consolidated, short and joint statements if possible
- Access to other sessions at discretion of the President of the GC/GMEF or the organizing party or the Chair, e.g. special lunches, working groups, contact groups, etc.

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Modalities for engagement (3)

- Nine major groups approach
- Coordination through the Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC) and Regional Representatives
- Daily morning briefings in the Greenroom
- Major groups and stakeholders badges for all non-governmental observers

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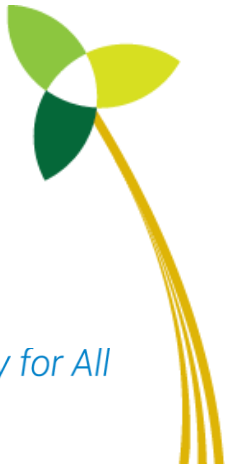
Part 2: Stakeholder Engagement Policy



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Stakeholder Engagement Policy

Decides that the governing body will ensure the **active participation** of **all relevant stakeholders**, particularly those from **developing countries**, drawing on **best practices and models** from relevant **multilateral institutions** and will explore new **mechanisms** to promote **transparency** and the **effective engagement** of **civil society** in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, *inter alia* by:

- Developing by 2014 a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation that builds on the existing rules of procedure and takes into account inclusive modalities of the Commission of Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations bodies;
- Establishing by 2014 mechanisms and rules for stakeholders expert input and advice;
- Enhancing by 2014 working methods and processes for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision making process;

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Levels of Engagement

Agenda-setting

- Policy shaping
- Global political agenda setting
- UNEA agenda setting

Decision-making

- Policy deliberations leading to decision-making
- Transparency and access-to-information

Implementation

- Strategic partnerships for implementation of UNEP's policies
- Strategic partnerships for achieving sustainable development

Expert input and advice

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Status of the Policy

- In-depth Discussion of the Stakeholder Engagement Policy and Rule 69 of Rules of Procedures by member states since the 2013 Governing Council
- Input from Major Groups and Stakeholders and Experts was considered
- No final agreement among member states, discussion will be continued at the UNEA, **in the Working Group on Rules of Procedures**.

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Accomplishments

- Participation of MGS in **all meetings of UNEA and Subsidiary Organs** (including CPR) (18 a)
- The right for **oral and written interventions** during such meetings and the opportunity to propose through the secretariat agenda items for UNEA (18f)
- Recognition of the **important role of environmental NGOs** within the nine Major Groups (11)
- A **call for more inclusiveness** with respect to the nine Major Groups, by promoting the participation of other stakeholders such as local communities, volunteer groups and foundations, migrants and families, older persons, persons with disabilities etc. (11)

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Accomplishments (2)

- **Accreditation** for organisations working at **national level** those with ECOSOC accreditation (12)
- **Major Groups and Stakeholder Fora** in conjunction with OECPR and UNEA (20)
- The right of MGS to **self-organise** their representation towards UNEP (8.5, 22)
- Acknowledgement of the importance of the use of **modern information and communication technology**, including to substitute physical presence at meetings (23)

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Open Issues

Accreditation:

- Criteria and process (Para 11 – 16, rule 69)
- Who approves list of accredited organisations and when does such an approval take place? (Para 15, rule 69)

Access-to-documents:

- Which information is accessible for accredited stakeholders (beyond what is spelled out in UNEP's access-to-information policy (Para 18 d, rule 69)

Meetings with the Bureaux:

- Informal meetings of the UNEA/OECPR bureaus with MGS representatives (Para 26)

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Possible outcome

1. UNEA adopts the policy based on consensus by member states

2. UNEA adopts the policy, except for the text in brackets. Parts in brackets may be reopened at a future session of the UNEA. UNEP will apply agreed regulations and continue to apply current rules and practices for topics not agreed.

3. UNEA does not adopt the policy. UNEA may request the Executive Director, in consultation with CPR, to further prepare the draft policy for submission to the second session of the UNEA. Current rules and practices continue to be applied by UNEP.

Need assistance?

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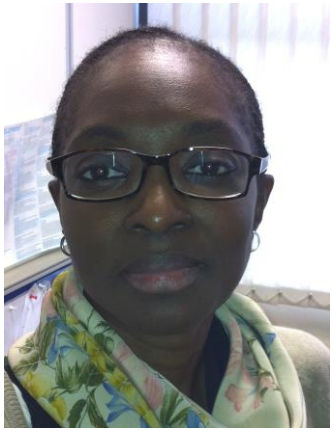
Radhika

Laetitia



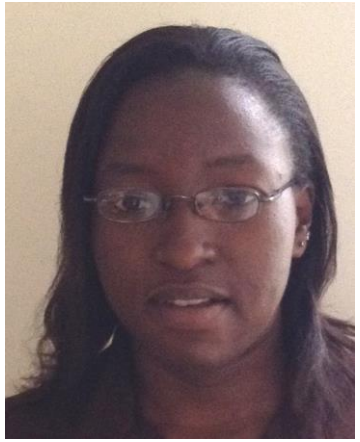
Fatou

Nida

Alexander

Lucy

Jose



Stephanie

Christine

Monica

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Thank you!

Link to UNEA: http://www.unep.org/unea/en/

Link to UNEA Working documents: http://www.unep.org/unea/working_documents.asp

Link to UNEA Information documents: http://www.unep.org/unea/information_documents.asp

Link to UNEA paper smart system: http://papersmart.unon.org/UNEA/

Link to UNEP civil society webpage: http://www.unep.org/civil-society/GlobalFora/2014OECPRandUNEA/tabid/132030/Default.aspx

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