

# Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC)

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Formerly known as the “Global Civil Society Steering Committee”, the **Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC)** “facilitates Major Groups and Stakeholders engagement with UNEP”. The Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC) is not a decision-making body, but **provides guidance and coordinates the engagement of Major Groups** in the [Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum \(GMGSF\)](#) cycle.

The Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC) is composed of Major Groups’ representatives and representatives from the six UNEP regions:

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**Major Groups’ representatives** are appointed every two years after an email consultation and online bidding process. This means that each of the nine [Major Groups](#) has two representatives from among: [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](#), and [Local Authorities](#).

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**Regional representatives** are selected for a one year term during the [Regional Consultative Meetings \(RCMs\)](#) taking place once a year in each of the regions. These regional representatives represent the six UNEP regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and West Asia. The regional representatives also participate in the [Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum \(GMGSF\)](#).

## MGS Representatives

<b>MG</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Children & Youth	Nhat-Tan Nguyen	World Organization of the Scout Movement
Children & Youth	Kehkashan Basu	TakingITGlobal
Indigenous Peoples	Lucy Muleinkei	IIN
Indigenous Peoples	Diego Escobar Guzman	COICA
Business and Industry	Birgit Englhardt	VCI
Business and Industry	Norine Kennedy	USCIB
Farmers	James Cole	The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)*
Farmers	Calvin James	Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development*
Local Governments	Maruxa Cardama	nrg4sd
Local Governments	Yunus Arikan	ICLEI
Trade Unions	Anabella Rosemberg	ITUC
Trade Unions	Yahya Msangi	ITUC Africa
Women	Caroline Usikpedo-Omoniye	Niger Delta Movement
Women	Isis Alvarez	Global Forest Coalition
NGOs	Marcos Orellana	Centre of International Environmental Law (CIEL)
NGOs	Habiba Al Marashi	Emirates Environmental Group (EEG)
Scientific Community	Peter Bates	International Council for Science (ICSU)
Scientific Community	Mohamed Abdel Raouf	Environment Research, Gulf Research Center (GRC)

## Regional Representatives

Region	Representatives	Country	Organizations
RONA	Diallo Shabaz	USA	Radical Ideas LLC
	Maggie Comstock	USA	LEED AP
ROE	Jeremy Wates	Belgium	The European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
	Sebastien Duyck	Belgium/ Finland	
ROLAC	Flavia Cherry	St. Lucia	Carribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) and Carribbean Regional Network with regional Secretariat in St. Lucia
	Luis Flores Mimica	Chile	Consumers International, Chile
ROA	Enala Chipungu	Zambia	Green Earth Zambia
	Mithika Mwenda	Kenya	Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
ROWA	Yousef Meselmani	Syria	Syrian Environment Association
	Amna Bihery	Kingdom of Bahrain	Environment Friends Society
ROAP	Paul Lagoy Quintos	Philippines	IBON International
	Imogen P. Ingram	Cook Islands	Island Sustainability Alliance CI Inc. ("ISACI")

## Major Groups Facilitating Committee – Terms of References

1. Pending the available human and financial resources the work of the MGFC will fall under the following main categories:
  1. Provide and develop logistics and process understanding so the Major Groups will be able to maximise their presence under the aegis of the rules of engagement and procedure that the UN and UNEP have set up.
  2. Provide guidance and find expertise to develop policy positions representing the best from the Major Group constituencies relevant to the agenda points of the UNEP GC/GMEF.
  3. As the UNEP GC and GMEF are policy meetings, and the work of the Major Groups in this context is of that nature, the agendas of all the meetings, regional and central, will be that of the UNEP GC or GMEF.
  4. The agenda of the GMGSF including the choice of the keynote speakers, and the names of the sponsored participants to the GMGSF will be decided by consensus between UNEP Secretariat and the MGFC.
2. More specifically, and while this might be a challenge for the Major Groups with a very large number of participating organizations, each of the Major Groups representatives must work to:
  1. Maximise participation of representatives of its Major Group worldwide in the UNEP GC/GMEF and its related meetings;
  2. Promote a good representation of the Major Group at the regional meeting, and ensure that the participants have received the necessary information relating to the agenda beforehand;
  3. Facilitate the involvement of Major Groups members with specific issue knowledge in UNEP related work, both in the local, national and regional contexts as well as at UNEP GC and the UNEP GMEF;
  4. Foster balanced representation on the basis of gender, focus and region;
  5. Mobilise knowledgeable representatives of the Major Groups to participate in the UNEP GC and/or UNEP GMEF;
  6. Assist participating Major Group members in having access to information related to the agenda for the UNEP meetings and in participating fully in the GC/GMEF and its related meetings, and in having free and unfettered access to delegates;
  7. Provide general information, training and capacity building on UNEP process in line with the expressed visions, goals and targets as found in the Bali Plan of Action;
  8. Generate broad media-interest, as well as on-going educational programmes around the world;
  9. Maintain a web-based information hub, issue based list-serves, as well as general informational sites;
  10. Disseminate issue-based information from the Major Groups and Stakeholders focussing on these issues, to others not directly involved in those issue-networks; and
  11. Coordinate the work of the Major Groups policy papers.

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:

1. Foster the participation of organisations of their Major Group at the six regional meetings;
2. In regions where their Major Groups are under-represented, help to identify and involve emerging or newly-established Major Groups in the regional meetings;
3. Promote inter-regional exchange and coordination of inputs within their Major Group;
4. Facilitate the integration of regional concerns into the Major Groups policy statements; and
5. Actively participate in identification of skilled or specialised presenters or facilitators at meetings.