

Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of UN Environment Assembly and
Committee of Permanent Representatives
Thursday 14 September 2017
5:30 pm to 6:45 pm,
Executive Office Boardroom
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Agenda item 6.b

**Note by the Secretariat on Major Groups and Stakeholders
Engagement in the UN Environment Assembly**

The Secretariat submits a note on engagement of Major Groups and Stakeholders in the UN Environment Assembly. The Secretariat, suggests that the joint bureaux meeting consider the items under Agenda item 6.b: Effective engagement of Major Groups and Stakeholders at the Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of UN Environment Assembly and Committee of Permanent Representatives to be held on 14 September 2017.

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Major Groups and Stakeholders Engagement in the UN

The participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Environment Assembly is governed by rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure¹ and further specified through UN Environment's Stakeholder Engagement Handbook.²

Access to Information by non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders is regulated through UN Environment's Access-to-Information Policy.³

Attempts to put in place a new UN Environment Stakeholder Policy have been postponed by member states to the 2019 Assembly earliest.

For participation in the meetings of the United Nations Environment Assembly, civil society organizations need to be formally accredited to UN Environment. Accreditation is granted to non-governmental organization who are not-for-profit and legally registered, have an international scope in their work and that work in the fields of environment and/or sustainable development. Currently there are around 400 organizations accredited with UN Environment.⁴

In preparation to the 2017 Assembly, UN Environment is organizing Regional Multi-Stakeholder Meetings in all regions. The outcome of these consultations will be made available to member states at the Assembly as a compilation of regional perspectives into an INF Document. Furthermore, civil society organizations have given input to the Ministerial Outcome Document, the Pollution Report, Resolutions and other documents and are invited to contribute to the Commitment/Pledges Process. Several editions of the UN Environment publication "Perspectives" will present stakeholder views on the issue of pollution.

For the 2017 session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, the participation of around 200 representatives of accredited organizations from all over the world is expected. Civil Society engagement at the Assembly is overseen and led by the Major Groups Facilitating Committee, supported by the Civil Society Unit in the Governance Affairs Office. Major Groups and Stakeholders will have their preparatory meeting, the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum on November 27 – 28, 2017 in UN Gigiri and member states are welcome to participate as observers. This year, the organization of the forum is led by the Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Organizations Engagement Mechanisms (RCEM). Most organizations will participate in the Open Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Assembly itself. During these meetings they will have specially dedicated seats and are allowed to make written and oral interventions, keeping in mind the inter-governmental nature of the process. All accredited organizations have access to the full Assembly documentation.

The Assembly will feature on December 5 at 19.00h, as part of the official agenda, the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue under the theme "People and Pollution". This dialogue will give an opportunity for high level decision makers to engage through an inter-active dialogue with people who are affected by pollution and with people who represent grass-root initiatives to beat pollution.

¹ <http://www.unep.org/about/cpr/documents/rules-procedure>

² <http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/7449>

³ <https://oio.unep.org/Cm4aKm>

Different from previous year, there will be no Green Room made available, featuring side events from Major Groups and Stakeholders. Instead, civil society organizations will have their own dedicated space (tent), for morning briefings, meetings, presentations, performances and other self-organized events.

Up to today, the funding for the participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders to the Assembly and its associated meetings has only partly been ensured. There is still a funding gap of around 50,000 USD. Available funding will be used to fund the participation of the elected members of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee and Regional Representatives, the members of the organization committee of the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, experts, speakers and facilitators. Any additional available funding will primarily utilized to finance the participation of organizations from developing countries.⁵