

Regional Multi-stakeholder consultations for Europe in preparation for the 2019 UN Environment Assembly September 3 – 4, 2018, Tallinn, Estonia

Background

The fourth session of the [UN Environment Assembly \(UNEA4\)](#) will be held in Nairobi from 11 - 15 March 2019. The Assembly is expected to deliberate on [“Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”](#). The Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF), a meeting of civil society organizations to prepare for the Assembly, will take place prior to the Assembly (date tbc).

The multi-stakeholder preparations and engagement in the Assembly is based on:

- (1) The need to reinforce the visibility and impact of the UN Environment Assembly in the context of the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global and regional levels (including the High Level Political Forum and the Regional Forums on Sustainable Development convened by the UN Regional Commissions);
- (2) The mandate set out in the [Rio + 20 Conference in 2012](#), where governments highlighted that the engagement of civil society in the UN Environment Assembly and its decision-making process is an important factor that will ensure relevance and success of the new global assembly. [1]
- (3) The need to give a space to stakeholders, in particular from civil society, to build early consensus on strategic and structural issues in view of the fourth session of the Assembly, so that regional inputs can be fed into the preparatory process of the Assembly;

In order to make the fourth session of the Assembly a success, a proper preparation at the regional, sub-regional and national level, as well as participation of stakeholders in the Assembly itself is of key importance.

1. Participants and target audience

The regional consultation will bring together [Major Groups and Stakeholders \(MGS\) accredited to UN Environment, non-accredited regional MGS partners](#), UN Environment staff, and resource people on Environment Assembly's theme.

2. Purpose and Objectives of the Meeting

The scope of the 2-day consultation is to exchange and discuss latest development in UN Environment, including UN Environment's efforts on delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 agenda and preparation for the 2019 Environment Assembly.

2.1. Getting and understanding about the latest developments at UN Environment, including:

- Stakeholder Engagement at UN Environment
- Implementation of the outcomes of the 2017 Assembly/[Action Plan to “Beat Pollution”](#)
- Criteria on engaging with the private sector
- Updates on other areas of UNEP’s work (e.g. [SDGs](#) and indicators work, [GEO-6 regional reports](#) towards Global report, [Environment Live](#), [Global Pact for the Environment](#) and other tools available to all stakeholders, trainings and other education materials, [environmental right defenders](#)).

2.2. On the road to the 2019 UN Environment Assembly

- Generating stakeholder inputs on the theme of the 2019 Assembly including the Executive Director’s thematic report on the theme of the Assembly and possible resolutions
- Encourage stakeholders to discuss policy proposals and ideas to upgrade good practices of successful multi stakeholder partnerships. To identify innovative solutions that address sustainable consumption and production, and other environmental challenges

3. Expected Outcome

The meeting will result into:

- A regional Civil Society Statement for the 2019 Assembly which should be finalized by the time of the Assembly latest to be included in the INF doc for the Assembly. If it is not possible to reach a consensus among various groups, also several statements are possible. The Civil Society Unit in UN Environment will ensure that the information is shared with member states, i.e. by the preparation of an Information Document that contains all regional statements.
- Assignment of lead coordinators from Major Groups, besides the outgoing and incoming Regional Representatives that take responsibility for different aspects of Major Groups and Stakeholders engagement in the 2017 assembly.
- Input to the Executive Director’s report on “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”
- New partnerships that address the theme of the 2019 Assembly
- Update stakeholders on sub-regional activities connected to the implementation of SDGs, as well as, discussion on potential joint initiatives.

Agenda

Day 1

9.00-10.00 Registration and coffee

Opening and Introductions

10.00 – 10.30 Introductory Remarks:

- Estonian Minister of Environment Siim Kiisler, UNEA Presidency
- Patrizia Heidegger (EEB) and Kai Klein (BEF), Co-organisers of this meeting -
- Introduction to the meeting, agenda, rules, roles (facilitator/ moderator), who is in the room? Icebreaker: In groups of 4: introduce yourself and main outcome of this meeting. (Leida Rijnhout, consultant/Stakeholder Forum)

Session 1: The follow up to the 2017 UN Environment Assembly (UNEA3)

10.30 – 12.30

- The 2019 UN Environment Assembly: Agenda and setting, Presentation by Alexander Juras, UN Environment
 - *Round of questions and comments*
- Stakeholder Engagement at UN Environment: An Update, Presentation Alexander Juras, UN Environment
 - *Round of questions and comments*
- Implementation of the outcomes of the 2017 Assembly and other updates of UN Environment work, Wondwosen Asnake, UN Environment
 - *Round of questions and comments*
- UN Environment's work to support Environmental Rights Defenders, Presentation, Alexander Juras UN Environment
 - *Round of questions and comments*

12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch Break**

Session 2: The fourth UN Environment Assembly

13.30-14.00 Summary of the thematic report on “Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production”, Patrizia Heidegger (EEB)

14.00-17.00 Introduction of working method / Working Groups on different aspects of the thematic report developing concrete input from the pan-European Region, including policy proposals and best practices.

Expected outcome per working group: - which should serve as input into planning of UNEA4 (e.g. best practices which can be presented in plenaries, side events and feed into resolutions)

1. Main stumbling blocks that prevent innovative solutions and SCP
2. Best practices and innovative solutions from the region
3. Main expectations from the UN Environment Assembly and definition of sub-themes.
Split up in sub groups:
 - Introduction/overarching on Innovative solutions and SCP - connection with [HLPE](#) & [10YFP](#), [Human Rights \(defenders\)](#) - *Framing and principles of the topics, connections*

with other UN processes, leverages for systemic change, .. (facilitator: Patrizia Heidegger)

- Sustainable production (regulation, internalising costs, environmental rights, ...); *Role of governments to achieve the transition to Sustainable production, rule of law, regulating the market, .. (facilitator: Leida Rijnhout)*
- Social- innovation - *How to upscale bottom up initiatives by policy measures, green procurement, urban planning, changing narrative (from efficiency to sufficiency), .. (Facilitator: Heidrun Fammner)*
- Partnerships (criteria, funding, [10YFP SCP](#), ..); *Public Private Partnerships are important, but under which criteria, and how to secure funding ? (Facilitator: Sascha Gabizon)*
- Specific issues for EECCA countries; *a space for the CSO coming from EECCA countries to discuss specific issues for that region. (Facilitator: Olga Pozinova - tbc)*

Day 2

9:00 - 9.15 (welcome back, icebreaker, quick round...)

9.15 – 09.30 The Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum, Presentation by Sascha Gabizon, (WECF) -Regional representative / Women Major Group

09.30 – 10.30 Discussion on format and ideas for coming GMGSF, in smaller groups

Session 3: Continuing: Working Groups, Preparation of the regional statement

10.30 – 12:30

Debriefing in plenary and finalising Working Groups on different aspects of the UNEA theme SCP the Regional Statement and specific sub-regional views. These will become part of the regional statement. The working group on the Regional Statement will work on the general text that accompanies these outcomes of the working group. (putting red/green dots on bigger slides)

12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch**

Session 4: Others

13.30 – 16.00

- Information on Election of Regional Reps (Alexander Juras) (30 min)
 - *Round of questions and comments*
- Global pact for the Environment (Ulf Bjornholm) (60 min)
 - *Round of questions and comments*
- UN Env Rights Defenders (how to use the tool) (Alexander Juras)
 - *Round of questions and comments*
- Connection with 2030 Agenda (-Regional HLPF Geneva, review process, VNR)
 - *Round of questions and comments*

16.00-17.00 small group: finalising outcome document.

[1] See Paragraph 88 of the Rio + 20 Outcome Document “The Future We Want”.