WELCOME

Capacity Building WEBINAR

Sunday, 22 March 2020 | 15.00 UTC

Link to join
https://zoom.us/j/684246294
AGENDA

1. Youth Constituencies in the UN system
2. The UNEP MGCY and its structure and topics
3. Roles and responsibilities
4. Our main intergovernmental platform: UNEA and its history
5. UNEA-5
6. Youth Engagement during UNEA
7. Other thematic engagement opportunities in UNEP MGCY
8. AOB
Let us introduce: the Youth Constituency to UNEP
Youth Engagement in the UN

- By type of engagement- *Intergovernmental Processes, Secretariat (UN entities), Member States, and Project Implementation.*

- By Pillars of the UN- Human Rights, Peace and Security, Development, [Rule of Law]

- By organs of the UN- General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, [Trusteeship Council], International Court of Justice, Secretariat
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<tr>
<th>Indigenous Issues</th>
<th>Health</th>
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<td>Disaster Risk Reduction</td>
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<td>Migration</td>
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<td>Humanitarian Affairs</td>
<td>Water and Sanitation</td>
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<td>Sustainable Urban Development</td>
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<td>Climate Change</td>
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<td>Biodiversity</td>
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<td>Environmental Governance and Issues</td>
<td>Science Policy Interface</td>
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<td>Sustainable Consumption and Production</td>
<td>Regional Commissions Deliberations</td>
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<td>Small Island Developing States (SIDS)</td>
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<td>Food and Nutrition</td>
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<td><strong>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)</strong></td>
<td><strong>YOUNGO / International Youth Climate Movement</strong></td>
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<td>• Informally existent since 2005</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)</strong></th>
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<td>• Formalised since 2012</td>
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<td>• Existent since 2010</td>
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<th><strong>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</strong></th>
<th><strong>UNEP Major Group for Children and Youth</strong></th>
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<td>• Formalised through UNEA Rules and Procedures, and UNEP Stakeholder Engagement Handbook</td>
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<td>• Existent since 2012, formalised in 2014</td>
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<th><strong>United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)</strong></th>
<th><strong>The formal Youth Constituency to UNCCD - the Global Youth Caucus on Desertification and Land</strong></th>
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Structure and Roles of UNEP MGCY

The membership

○ Representatives of member organisations/ Individual members
○ The "general assembly" of the Youth Constituency
○ Official mailing list: unep-tunza-mgcy@googlegroups.com
○ The mailing list is moderated, and serves as the primary avenues for discussion
○ 200+ youth-led NGOs and more individuals in the list
○ Everyone engages on the same footing, to contribute to decision-making processes, initiatives, etc.
○ To join: sign-up at: www.youthenvironment.org
Principles and barriers of meaningful youth engagement

- **Principles**
  - Self-Organised
  - Legally Mandated Rights-Based
  - Designated
  - Well Resourced
  - Accountable

- **Barriers**
  - Individualisation
  - No Resources
  - Regressive Normative Framing
  - Changing Engagement Landscape for Non-State Actors
The first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the "Stockholm Conference" held in 1972 brought delegates from 113 nations together in Sweden.

1972 Stockholm Conference

The "Earth Summit" recognised that achieving sustainable development would require the participation of all sectors of society. As such its outcome formalised nine groups as the main channels through which broad participation would be facilitated related to sustainable development.

1992 Earth Summit Rio

1992 Earth Summit Rio

2003 - TUNZA is born

Governing Council of UNEP adopted a long-term strategy for engaging young people in environmental activities and in the work of UNEP. The strategy was entitled the Tunza Youth Strategy.

2003 - 2013 TUNZA operates

TUNZA program operated through various International Children and Youth Conferences convened by UNEP, notably International Daejeon, South Korea (2009), Children’s Conference in lead-up to UNCBD COP10 in Nagoya, Japan (2010), Bandung, Indonesia (2011), etc.
Timeline of youth engagement in UNEP

In the lead-up to Rio+20, Major Groups started to restructure within the UNEP processes as well and UNEP Children and Youth Major Group came into existence in mid-2012.

2012: Children and Youth MG in context of UNEP

The UNEP Governing Council incarnated as a UN Environment Program with universal membership, (193) The new structure obviated the need for any formal role of the General Assembly to elect members of UNEP’s plenary body— UN Environment Assembly.

2013-2014: UNEP Governing Councils -> birth of UNEA

In the same period as establishment of UNEA, the 9 Major Groups were formalized as space for formal engagement within the process of UNEP.

2013-2014: Major Groups formalised within the process of UNEP, Stakeholder Engagement processes adopted
Any questions until now?
What is UNEA?

- Highest decision-making body for the environment
- UNEA, with its universal membership, provides the world’s environment ministers, for the first time, with an assembly at which they can define international action on the environment.
- UNEA can invite the UN General Assembly to draft resolutions for adoption by the General Assembly for UN-wide action.
- UNEA reports annually to the UN General Assembly through the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
Functions of UNEA

- Promote international cooperation and, where appropriate, policies in the field of the environment;
- Provide policy guidance for the direction and coordination of the UN’s work on the environment;
- Review the world’s environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging global environmental problems are given appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments;
- Promote the exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, the environmental work of the United Nations;
- Continuously review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries, and ensure that environmental projects are compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries; and
- Annually review and approve the utilization of the financial resources of the Environment Fund.
Context

- UNEA 1: 2014
- UNEA 2: 2016
- UNEA 3: 2017
- UNEA 4: 2019
- UNEA 5: 2021 (Norway Presidency)
- Preceded by Global Major Group and Stakeholders Forum
- Technical meetings such as OECPR
- Other events such as Sustainable Innovation Expo, Business Forum, etc.
... however there is a long-road to it

- Bi-monthly negotiations, convened under the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

- The negotiations are now virtual given COVID 19 concerns, but they are going on.

- LOT of issues being discussed, included but not limited to discussions on Nature Based Solutions, budget, …

- You can participate in these meetings virtually as well

- Let us visit the CPR portal now!
Overview // priorities looking into 2020

General work:
- Preparation of UNEA-5
- Representation of children and youth in the Committee of Permanent Representatives
- Youth Environment Assembly
  - National
  - Regional
  - Fundraising for the Environment Assembly
- Coordination with UNEP regional offices

Thematic work:
- Marine Litter & Microplastics
- Chemicals & Waster
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Environmental Law
- MEAs
  - CMS, Ramsar, BRS… others

Special initiatives
- World Environment Day
- GEO
- Emission Gap
- Awards
Thank you