

**COMMENTS OF GENDER AND WATER ALLIANCE ON  
GUIDELINES FOR ENHANCING MAJOR GROUPS PARTICIPATION  
AT UNEP'S GOVERNANCE LEVEL.**

**1. Regional Division/Selection of the 6 regions**

- Although a regional divide will always have arbitrary elements, it seems that with the present selection of regions Europe and North America are over-represented compared to the other regions. E.g. Africa consists of more countries with more inhabitants than Europe or North America, however they all have the same number of representatives.
- With this present division certain viewpoint can easily be misrepresented or watered down, e.g. the gender viewpoint within Africa differs greatly (e.g. compare North Africa with Sub-sahara Africa), while these views have to be voiced by just one representative.
- With the present regional divide it is not clear where global organisations like the GWA (840 members in 102 countries) would fit in.
- Taking the former three factors into account, GWA wonders why the regional representation gets so much emphasis in the proposal. Therefore GWA would suggest a stronger representation through major groups.

**Paragraph 30:**

- The selection process of the one representing the Major Group could be done in a democratic way through elections through e-mail. GWA has experience in organizing elections through e-mail and is willing to share its experiences with this type of activity.

**Paragraph 31:**

- GWA suggests that two representatives per Major Group are elected to strike a better balance between the regional and major groups perspective (see also paragraph 35 and 40)

**Paragraph 33:**

- If the home organisation of the representative is expected to facilitate engagement of organizations within that Major Group in the GMGEF this will reduce the number of possible candidate representatives of the Major Group considerably. The reason being that the amount of work required, can not be done by relatively small organizations. GWA would like to suggest to transfer this task to the MGFU.

**Paragraph 35:**

- The balance between major group representation and regional representation is dominated by regional representation

**Paragraph 36:**

- The selection of the nine major group representatives can be made democratic by providing guidelines for this. The regional elections are only democratic in as far as people are present at the meeting where elections are held.

**Paragraph 40:**

- GWA would like to recommend a "Nine + Nine + 12 + 12" representation to be adopted.

### **Major Groups Facilitation Unit**

- The amount of work the MGFU will have to do is quite a lot; tasks mentioned in paragraph 31 to 33 as well as 44, require a lot of logistics, coordination and building of relationships. Besides this, the MGFUs have to find the funding and personnel to do this work. A time-span of two years for these activities, is too short in GWA's experience.
- Looking at the amount of work that is expected of a MGFU and the resources needed GWA feels that this can only be done by big organizations which have the time and means to add this to their existing activities. A small civil society organization will not be able to embark on this.
- Seen the amount of work for the MGFU it would be more realistic to have a 9 +9+12+12 model as suggested by GWA in paragraph 40.
- The impression is gained that UNEP expects a lot of work to be done and funds and facilities to be generated by third parties, without any UNEP contribution in this field. The Gender and Water Alliance feels that if UNEP is committed to receiving input of Major Groups they should also facilitate these MGFUs, at least by providing funding for them.

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CS/EJ