

MAHMOOD'S COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS - 2

Draft Guidelines for Enhancing Major Groups Participation

In continuation of my earlier paper (Mahmood's thoughts/suggestions - 1) and follow up comments, on the subject, from time to time via e-mails, given below are my initial comments/suggestions for consideration, after reviewing the draft document by the drafting committee:

Page 4, Para 10, First 3 lines

Civil Society also plays an important and most effective role in "Disseminating Information to Communities at Grass Root Levels", which is an added level (to the 3 levels already mentioned) of asset to the UNEP process. The first 3 lines of Para 10 may be revised to reflect/include the same.

Page 5, Para 14, line 4

May be revised to replace "a particular theme" to "specific themes."

Follow up to Para 16, page 5

Since "Information Dissemination" by civil society is also an important asset to UNEP process, enhanced UNEP facilitation for the same is duly expected from UNEP and may be included here as a separate Para after Para 16.

Page 5, Para 18, 2nd Last line

May be revised to also include "Wider Participation."

Page 7, Section 2.1, Para 21 & 22

We should consider very thoroughly and be most careful in changing the title "Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF)" to "Global Major Groups Environment Forum (GMGEF)". My reasons, not to support the change the title GCSF are:

- GC clearly understands that GCSF represents 9 major groups as defined by Chapter 23 in agenda 21. This needs to be also well understood and accepted by the 9 major groups and other relevant civil society stakeholders that they are part of the civil society.
- GMGEF does not reflect other relevant civil society stakeholders which have been referred to more than once in this draft document (including Para 22)
- GMEF reflects Government forum and very clearly GCSF that of Civil Society.
- GMGEF may reflect a new group other than that of civil society.
- GCSF reflects a unified body, whereas GMGEF does not.
- GCSF title is already established and familiar to civil society and other stakeholders
- Enhanced major groups participation/representation (the core issue) and projection could still be worked out without changing the title.

Page 7, Para 23

Recommendation may be reconsidered in view of the above and withdrawn.

Page 7, Section 2.2

If we agree to the new role of the committee to be a facilitator between UNEP and Civil Society (and not a decision making body as recommended in Para 12) and also agree not to change the title GCSF, the committee may be designated as global civil society forum facilitating committee (GCSF – FC)

Page 7, Para 24, Last line

Text may be revised to add “ in addition to an agreed GCSF statement.” (if any).

Page 8, Para 24 continued, Line 3

Text may be revised to add “not contrary to any consensus approach”(as agreed).

Page 8, Para 27, line 7

May be revised and add “Steering”

Page 8, Para 24, line 8

May be revised to read GCSF SC

Page 8, Para 28, line 2

May be revised to read “Ensures regional and gender balance.”

Page 9, Para 32, line 4

May be revised to read “an individual along with the person’s home organization”
This would ensure obligatory back up support from his/her organization towards individual’s facilitating role outlined in Para 33.

Page 9, Para 33, line one

May be revised to read “The individual with the support of that person’s home

Page 9, Para 34, line 2

May be revised to read “ and two (preferably present in the meeting) who are substantively expert”

The above also accommodate those reputed experts who for some genuine reason(s) may be unable to participate in the regional meeting.

Page 9, Para 36

May be revised to add “Gender balance not possible for the 9 major group representatives (being only one individual from each major groups).

Page 10, Para 44

The proposed responsibilities of the major group representative may be reconsidered and revised as these may not be realistic for those major group with a very large number of participating organizations as members, such as NGOs, Women and Trade Unions.

Pages 11 & 12, Section 2.2.5

The present scenario for the development of GCSF statement may also be included.

Page 12, Para 53

May be revised to add “Enhanced translation/publication cost” and “ Time constraint of delegates, GEMF to read all the nine global papers.

Page 13, Para 59, Line 3

May be deleted, as nine papers are no advantage to one paper.

Page 13, Para 60

May be revised to add “Enhanced translation/publication cost” and “ Time constraint of delegates, GEMF to read all the nine global papers.

All recommendations, at the end of sub-sections 2.1, 2.2.1 – 2.2.2 and 2.2.3 – 2.2.5 of the draft document, be reconsidered in the light of all the comments/suggestions received and withdrawn/revised, accordingly.

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