



Special Issue Newsletter: Political Process on Reforming Governance

The [GEG Project](#) newsletter is normally produced quarterly, but important recent events in global environmental governance motivate this special issue. Official input is currently solicited for the intergovernmental [process for reform of International Environmental Governance \(IEG\)](#), which will also feed in to the 2012 [UN Conference on Sustainable Development \(UNCSD or Rio+20\)](#). There are unique opportunities for civil society and academia in particular to get involved and contribute.

High-Level Process on Int'l Environmental Governance Reform



Environment ministers from around the world acknowledge that the status quo in international environmental governance is no longer an option. In February 2009, at the [25th UNEP Regular Session of the Governing Council](#), ministers launched a formal political process (the so-called [Belgrade Process](#)) to consider all possible options for reforming international environmental governance (IEG). A Consultative Group of Ministers and High-level Representatives met in Belgrade and Rome to outline reform alternatives for the environmental architecture of the UN system.

In February 2010, the Consultative Group presented a Set of options to the [11th UNEP Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum](#) in Bali, Indonesia. The Governing Council adopted [Decision SSXI/1](#) on IEG, establishing a new Consultative Group of Ministers or High-level representatives that will advance the work of the previous group by building on the set of options. This will be done both by facilitating the implementation of identified incremental changes through UNEP in consultation with governments, and by continuing to consider broader reform of IEG.

On 7-9 July 2010, the Consultative Group met in Nairobi. The outcomes of the consultations are presented in the [Co-chair's Summary and Roadmap](#) available from the [UNEP website](#), including a new matrix with 9 of the 24 options from the [UNEP Ideas Paper](#) indicating which options received most support from governments so far. The GEG Project was instrumental in opening the ministerial process to civil society and spearheaded the collection and compilation of civil society contributions for the Nairobi meeting. We prepared an analytical summary of [Major Groups and Stakeholders Input](#), which UNEP circulated to the governments as one of the official background documents. Other background papers for the meeting gave an overview of [Environment in the UN System](#), a comparison of [UN Specialized Agencies versus UN Programmes](#), a [Typology of Multilateral Environmental Agreements](#), and a compendium of [Views on IEG reform from the Environmental Management Group](#).

The UNEP agenda for IEG reform would also be addressed in the broader context of sustainability. After a second meeting on IEG in Helsinki in November 2010, the Consultative Group will present its recommendations to the 26th UNEP Regular Session of the Governing Council in February 2011 and to the 65th Session of the UN General

Assembly. The outcomes of the IEG consultations will also be included in the debate on the institutional framework for sustainable development, which is one of the themes for the [UN Conference on Sustainable Development \(UNCSD or Rio+20\)](#) to be held in 2012.

United Nations Conference on
Sustainable Development
UNCSD 2012



APPLY NOW (by August 1): Civil Society Advisory Group on IEG

In the 2010 [Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum](#), held in Bali right before the UNEP Governing Council, GEG Project Director [Dr. Maria Ivanova](#) delivered a plenary presentation *on International Environmental Governance: Where can civil society add value and how?* One of the recommendations outlined in the presentation which meeting participants unanimously agreed to act upon, was to call for the establishment of an advisory body on IEG consisting of civil society representatives. Thanks to the successful collaboration by Maria Ivanova and major groups and regional civil society representatives, the [UNEP Governing Council decision SSXI/1](#) now includes paragraph 9, which requests UNEP *"to seek relevant inputs from civil society groups from each region in the process of further strengthening international environmental governance"*. Following on the recommendation from civil society, UNEP has created a Civil Society Advisory Group on IEG, which will be spearheading and guiding a dynamic and multidimensional process over the coming 2-3 years. The advisory group will communicate key messages to the governmental negotiations and foster constructive engagement of civil society from all regions in the efforts to improve the global environmental architecture.

If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else as a candidate for the Civil Society Advisory Group on IEG, you need to submit materials to civil.society@unep.org by **1 August 2010**. Include your contact details, gender, major group (if applicable) and organization, along with a description of how you meet all the qualifications listed below, your motivation to become a member of the advisory group, and your previous experience with international governance.

The members of the advisory group should ideally have the following qualifications:

- Relevant experience, expertise and interest in the IEG process
- Broad knowledge of international organizations, UN bodies and procedures
- Proven interest and availability to invest time in reviewing thoroughly the relevant documents
- Preparedness to present regional interests
- Preparedness to present interests of other major groups and stakeholders
- Readiness to consolidate received inputs and comments and make them available in an easy-to-read format
- Ability to work towards strict deadlines
- Availability to travel, if elected, to represent the Advisory Group at relevant meetings
- Ability to be effective in inter-governmental negotiations.



Financial resources will be sought, but there is no guarantee that UNEP can cover the costs of participation in the advisory group. Candidates must be aware that their contribution might be entirely on non-payment basis. Regional balance will be sought in the composition of the group.

Opportunities to Contribute to the IEG Process

Applying to be part of the Civil Society Advisory Group on IEG is one opportunity among many to contribute to the process for reform. If you encounter difficulties in communicating your ideas directly to government diplomats and UN officials, you can still share views and thoughts and educate yourself and others. Get in touch with the Civil Society Advisory Group or the [UNEP Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch](#) and channel your input through them. The [GEG Project](#) is always happy to help as well.

The nine major groups (Business & Industry, Children & Youth, Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, Local Authorities, NGOs, Scientific & Technological Community, Women, Workers & Trade Unions) from all regions of the world experience results on the ground and have unique perspectives to share. If you wish to learn more about how major groups and stakeholders may contribute to the work of UNEP, read [Natural Allies: Engaging Civil Society in UNEP's Work](#) (second edition, 2009). If you want inspiration to think about new solutions for IEG by learning about the functions and dysfunctions of the current system, the [GEG Project](#) has a lot of useful [publications](#) and [multimedia](#) resources on its website.



The academic community is uniquely positioned to contribute to the current negotiations regarding reform of the institutional architecture for the environment. Many scholars possess extensive expertise in the UN system and could offer targeted analysis and proposals infusing new and innovative ideas into the negotiations. In order to facilitate the channeling of academic input into the IEG process, the GEG Project is working in partnership with [Arizona State University's Center for Law and Global Affairs](#) and with the [Academic Council on the United Nations System](#) (ACUNS) to set up a formal structure for solicitation, collection, compilation and communication of findings and recommendations from the academic community. As a first step, a [LinkedIn group on Global Environmental Governance](#) has been set up for discussions about possible options for the future environmental architecture. Join the LinkedIn group and add to the discussions [here](#).



IEG Reform Timeline

The events are listed below with the details known currently. Changes may occur and relevant meetings may be added. Welcome to stay updated through the [GEG Project](#).

September 2010 (UN, New York)

The 65th Session of the [UN General Assembly](#) (UNGA) will open on September 14th, followed by the [MDG Summit](#) on the 20-22nd and the [General Debate](#) 23-30th. In parallel to some of these meetings, UNEP is planning to host a civil society consultation on the IEG reform in New York. Global environmental governance will be one of the priority issues for the 65th session of the UNGA, [read more here](#).

November 2010 (Helsinki, Finland)

The next meeting of the UNEP Consultative Group of Ministers or High-level Representatives on IEG will be hosted by Finland in mid-November. More details and background documents will be available closer to the date [here](#).

Autumn 2010 (various locations)

UNEP regional offices will be hosting [regional consultative meetings](#) for civil society to provide input on IEG and other issues on the agenda for the upcoming UNEP Governing Council. A short intersessional meeting in preparation for [UNCSD](#) will be held in the autumn as well.

February 2011 (Nairobi, Kenya)

Announcements

Civil Society involvement in Rio+20

A broad range of civil society groups around the world have started to prepare and mobilize in the lead-up to UNCSD in 2012. A Global Civil Society Forum will be held in Rio in parallel to the UN conference. The [NGO branch at UN DESA](#) will open up a dialogue portal shortly with a listserve and blog possibilities for each major group, open also to the non-accredited public. [Stakeholder Forum is hosting a Rio+20 website](#) with news and updates from a civil society perspective.

Regional GEG events in August

Consultative events on Global Environmental Governance will take place in Argentina, China, Ethiopia, Nepal, and Uganda in August. The events are supported by the GEG Project (through contributions from the Norwegian government) but are hosted and organized locally by several of the emerging leaders who participated in the [GEG Forum](#) in Glion, Switzerland in 2009.

The GEG Project congratulates



Franz

Franz Perrez and Daniel Ziegerer, participants and supporters of the 2009 [GEG Forum](#) in Glion, have been promoted. [Franz Perrez](#) is now Swiss Ambassador for the



Daniel Ziegerer

The 26th Regular Session of the [UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum](#) (GC/GMEF) will take place in the UNEP Headquarters on 21-25th February. A [Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum](#) (GMGSF) will be held 19-20th. The Consultative Group on IEG Reform will present the result of their work for decision.

March 2011 (UN, New York)

The [UNCSD in 2012](#) will be planned in another 3-days meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), taking place back-to-back with the CSD-19 [Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting](#).

May 2011 (UN, New York)

The [19th UN Commission on Sustainable Development](#) (CSD-19) will be held 2-13 May. Governance reform is not the main topic on the agenda, but is likely to be discussed in side-events and related meetings since many of the relevant actors will be there.

Autumn 2011 (various locations)

The events that are usually serving as [Regional Implementation Meetings](#) for CSD will this year be turned into regional preparation sessions for [UNCSD in 2012](#).

February 2012 (location to be decided)

The 12th Special Session of the [UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum](#) (GC/GMEF) will be held. Both IEG and preparations for UNCSD are likely to be on the agenda.

May 2012 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

The [UN Conference on Sustainable Development \(UNCSD or Rio+20\)](#) finally takes place, with decisions on the institutional framework for sustainable development, highly relevant for global environmental governance.

Perrez Environment and Head of the International Affairs Division at the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, and [Daniel Ziegerer](#) is acting Head of Global Affairs at the Federal Environment Office in Switzerland.

GEG documentary available on DVD

The GEG Project will mail out a limited number of our latest documentary, *Quest for Leadership*. You can also [watch it online](#). *Quest for Leadership* recounts the story of environmental governance through the eyes of the individuals who created and led institutions for environment and development. It seeks to inspire bold, unflinching leadership in new generations of environmental activists around the world. Please write to the GEG Project at info@environmentalgovernance.org to request a copy.



Re-launch of the GEG Website

The GEG Project is restructuring its website, with the new user-friendly version scheduled to go live on 1 September 2010. This coincides with the start of a new phase where the GEG Project will be based in Boston. GEG Project Director [Maria Ivanova](#) has accepted a position on the faculty of the [John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies](#) at the [University of Massachusetts Boston](#) starting 1 September 2010.

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