

## Background

The UN General Assembly (UN GA) decided through resolution A/RES/64/236 to organize a conference on sustainable development in 2012 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit. The GA “Encourages the active participation of all major groups, as identified in Agenda 21 and further elaborated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and decisions taken at the eleventh session of the Commission, at all stages of the preparatory process, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission as well as its established practices related to the participation and engagement of major groups (Para 21)”. In response to the Resolution, the Rio+20 Secretariat in partnership with the Stakeholder Forum and the UN Regional Commissions and with the support of the European Commission Directorate General for the Environment is offering a series of capacity building workshops in the margins of the five planned Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs). The RPMs are mandated regionally based consultations that will feed into the preparation for the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development (or Rio+20). More information on the RPMs can be found at <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=26>.

The aim of these training sessions is to increase the awareness of the themes of Rio+20 Conference and build the capacity of major groups and other stakeholders to engage with the UN preparatory process and the conference itself. The EU grant is helping fund regional major groups representatives who are less familiar with UN-led sustainable development processes to attend the training and the official RPMs as far as possible. Other capacity building sessions will also be held alongside national preparatory and other meetings such as the UN Department of Information/NGO conference to be held in Bonn, Germany at the Maritime Hotel, Saturday 3 and 4 from 6 -7h30 PM.

The capacity building sessions are open to all major groups representatives. The selection of participants who will be funded is being coordinated through major groups organising partners in consultation with the Rio+20 secretariat. The selection of those who will stay on to attend the RPM will also be coordinated with the Regional Commissions.

## Registering for the regional capacity building sessions and regional preparatory meetings

The regional training workshops are open to all major groups and other stakeholders. However, registration with the Regional Commissions is necessary to access the UN conferences sites. Participation in the RPMs is open to accredited organizations (ECOSOC, CSD Roster, UNEP and others as deemed appropriate by each regional commission). Those interested in attending must submit nominations to the relevant UN Regional Economic Commission, as follows:

- The Latin America and the Caribbean RPM is held in Santiago Chile from 7-9 September. Nominations to participate in the RPM are open until 20 August and should be addressed to [ong.rio20@cepal.org](mailto:ong.rio20@cepal.org). For further information contact Heather Page ([Heather.Page@CEPAL.org](mailto:Heather.Page@CEPAL.org)).
  - Training 6 September 2011
- The Africa RPM is held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 20-25 October. Registration and accreditation questions for the RPM can be directed to Mr. Charles Akol ([cakol@uneca.org](mailto:cakol@uneca.org)) and Ms Alessandra Sgobbi ([asgobbi@uneca.org](mailto:asgobbi@uneca.org)).
  - Training 19 October 2011

- The West Asian and Arab region RPM is held in Cairo, Egypt from 16-17 October. Registration and accreditation questions for the RPM can be directed to Ms. Roula Majdalani, Director for Sustainable Development ([majdalani@un.org](mailto:majdalani@un.org)).
  - Training 15 October 2011
- The Asia and the Pacific RPM is held in Seoul, Korea from 19-20 October. A call for nominations has been circulated and details for preparatory events involving major groups and other stakeholders are posted at <http://www.unescap.org/esd/environment/rio20/home.html>. Enquiries may be directed to the office of Rae Kwon Chung, Director of the Environment and Development Division, at [escap-esdd-evs@un.org](mailto:escap-esdd-evs@un.org).
  - Training, TBC
- The ECE RPM is held in Geneva, Switzerland from 1-2 December. Registration details are not yet available. Preliminary inquiries can be directed to Monika Linn ([Monika.linn@unece.org](mailto:Monika.linn@unece.org)). NOTE: No funding has been allocated for travel to this workshop.
  - Training, November 30

Space limitation of the meeting rooms could determine the number of major groups' participants. Each Regional Commissions will inform those submitting nominations accordingly.

### **Major groups preparation during the RPMs**

Based on the practices of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, a major groups' strategy meeting will be held every morning during the RPMs to facilitate major groups and other stakeholders coordination. Modalities for participation in the RPMs will be provided by each Regional Commission.

### **Overview of the training day**

After registration, the morning will be devoted to the Rio and Rio+20 history, progress made and gaps, review the two themes of the conference:

- green economy in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development –
- Institutional framework for Sustainable Development, and

how to effectively take part in UN conferences and affect their outcomes.

Representatives of UN agencies and the Commission will then be offered an opportunity to debrief the audience on major issues they are putting forward for the conference.

The afternoon will start with a Q&A session, followed by break out groups for major groups to share their concerns and exchange on how best to prepare for the Rio+20 conference and major messages that should be reported to the RPMs.

The day finishes with a plenary session.

### **More on the regional capacity building workshops**

The training material has 4 modules developed and adapted by Stakeholder Forum (SF) that reflects the issues being pursued by major groups and other stakeholders as depicted below. Anyone wishing to submit material and reading for the training is welcome to contact Jan Gustav Strandenaes at [jg\\_str946@hotmail.com](mailto:jg_str946@hotmail.com) or reach him at 474-701-8337 and cc Beppe Lovoi at [Lovoi@un.org](mailto:Lovoi@un.org).

Module 1: *From Stockholm to Rio – a history of global environmental policy*

- Outcomes from all major summits on sustainable development since 1992
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements: how they work, how they are negotiated, who is responsible for implementation
- The Rio Conventions: Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention to Combat Desertification
- Sustainable Development Governance
- Global civil society and the major groups
- Status of ratification and implementation

Module 2: *The UN Conference on Sustainable Development or 'Rio+20'*

- Background and milestones to the GA resolution calling for the Conference
- Outcomes from preparatory meetings
- The roadmap to Rio+20: preparatory meetings, regional process and entry points
- Additional resources and information
- Global movements and campaigns
- Assessing potential outcomes of Rio+20

Module 3: *Lobbying and Advocacy at the Global Level*

- Influencing the global policy process: national, regional and international strategies
- Building relationships with decision-makers and engaging with impact
- Making sense of complex negotiations – lobbying for specific outcomes
- Advocacy case studies that made an impact and lessons learned

Module 4: *Themes of Rio+20 – the Green Economy and Sustainable Development Governance*

- Briefing and presentations on the Green Economy – various elements including Green Growth, Beyond GDP, Ecological Economics, De-growth, Payment for Ecosystem Services
- Briefing and presentations on global Sustainable Development Governance – building on the introduction, outlining the various proposals for global reform, stakeholder processes and consultations on IEG.



## Timeline of regional preparatory events and capacity building workshops

