



# Major Groups engagement in the current and future IAF

Achievements – Challenges – Recommendations

# Roadmap

- Why MGs at the UN?
- Achievements & Contributions by Major Groups
- Weaknesses
- Recommendations

# Why MGS at the UN?

- Increase legitimacy of UN political processes
  - Transparency
  - Participation
  - Empowerment
- Bridge the gap between political negotiations and stakeholder groups
- Achieve broader societal awareness of UN political discourse

# Achievements & Contributions of MGs

- Extended platform for stakeholder consultations
- Participated in all UNFF Sessions & many country-led initiatives
- Organized Major Group-led Initiatives
- Established public speech time at MSD
- Contributed background papers & joint position papers, uniting diverse groups
- Founding of MGPoF

# Weaknesses

Limitations in civil society participation in the IAF

# Low Institutional Priority

- Little institutionalized MG engagement
  - Insufficient staff at UNFF to
    - Facilitate/Leverage MG inputs in UNFF processes
    - Monitor MG activities on the ground
- No mechanisms to foster and monitor implementation of civil society recommendations
- No mechanisms to engage broad MG networks in contributing to monitoring of country commitments

# Little Political Relevance

- During UNFF Sessions plenary presentation only at 3hr MSD
  - Little opportunity for feedback from negotiators
- Little direct interactions with policy makers
- Joint policy papers & recommendations not reflected in political agenda
- Fragmentation: little cross-sectoral exchange

# Low Financial Resources

- Erratic support for MG intersessional activities & biennial sessions
  - Intersessional activities rely on ad hoc funding
  - Session participation only financed for the first week

# Recommendations

Suggestions that may help overcome the mentioned shortfalls

# Structural Recommendations

- Strengthen the UNFF Secretariat
  - Regional liaison positions to facilitate & monitor implementation
  - Establish an MRV platform for implementation
- Institutionalize cross-sectoral alliances
  - Exchange with UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNCSD
- Engage MGs at all political levels
  - Establish MG consultation in national & regional processes

# Recommendations to Finance MGs

- Allocate targeted resources to enable & leverage MG activities
  - Fund for MG outreach & advocacy initiatives
  - Institutional funding to MGPoF
- Build partnerships to “outsource” costs while increasing scope and competence
- Build a strategic funding network

# Recommendations during UNFF Sessions

- Reinststitute practice of MG meetings with Bureau each morning
- Include/Invite MGs to briefings of UN bodies
- Urge Member States to invite MGs for consultations
- Facilitate MG meetings with IGOs and other relevant actors

# Recommendations for Intersessional Activities

- Support MGPoF
  - Help establish & promote website
  - Promote MGPoF across UN bodies and beyond
- Promote & support MGs for awareness raising activities
  - E.g. for the International Day of Forests
- Require MG reporting of the status of their constituencies

# Recommendations for MG focal points

- Establish transparent means of communication with constituencies
  - Appraise and increase awareness
  - Report back feedback to UN & relevant entities
  - Incorporate range of opinions in MG statements
- Acquire new organizational partners
  - Access to information & knowledge sharing
  - Channels/networks to foster policy distribution
  - Technical, financial, political support
- Reactivate and encourage MG focal point contributions

# Recommendations for MG focal points cont'd

- Develop strategy for forests' representation in SDGs & post-2015 development agenda
  - Strategic networks with other natural resource organizations

# Main Sources

- Major Group Documents
  - Five Year Strategic Plan for MGPoF, Lambert Okrah, 2013
  - MG Evaluation Report, MGPoF, 2013
  - MG Participation in UNFF10, Lambert Okrah, 2013
  - MGI Final Project Completion Report, Lambert Okrah, 2013
  - MGI Rio Final Workshop Report, Lambert Okrah, 2013
  - Minutes of MG Meeting, January 9-10, 2014
- UNFF Documents
  - Letter-Outcome of Vienna Workshop- SDG Feb 2014-NFP
  - MG Discussion Paper for UNFF10 E/CN.18/2013/7/Add.1
  - IAF Questionnaire – Views of MGs
  - IAF Compilation of Views and Proposals
  - Review of the Effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests
  - Resolutions: E/2013/42, E/2007/42, E/2006/49, E/2000/35

# Thank you for your Attention!

Further questions are always welcome and can  
be directed to the

Major Groups Partnership on Forests

Prepared by

Urs Dieterich

Focal Point Major Group Children and Youth

[Urs.ifsa@gmail.com](mailto:Urs.ifsa@gmail.com)