

69th Working Group Meeting of the MEA IKM Initiative

Tuesday, June 28, 2022, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM GMT+3

Audio Conference – Bonn, Geneva, Nairobi, Montreal, Santiago, Rome

Draft Report

Meeting Participants

BRS – Osmany PEREIRA, Julien HORTONEDA, Santiago RIERA

CITES – Shashika SEDARA-HETTIGE

CMS – Aydin BAHRAMLOUIAN

IWC – Moussa Ki SOW

Minamata Convention – Anna GARCIA SANS

Ozone Secretariat – Gerald MUTISYA

Ramsar –Manuel KERN

UNCCD – Jeroen Van DALEN

KM Team

UNEP – Eva DUER, Kelly KABIRU, Iddah KAMAU, Peter SPEELMAN, Lillian ONYANGO, Stephen TENGO

A. Update by the InforMEA Team

The meeting opened with a series of updates from Ms. Duer. The 13th InforMEA Steering Committee Meeting is set to happen in a hybrid manner in the last quarter of 2022 (11-13 October 2022), in Montreux, Switzerland. Procurement of the meeting venue is ongoing. The MEA focal points to ensure that the dates for the SCM are blocked in the calendars of their Executive Secretaries. There is an ongoing plan to schedule the main workstreams towards the meeting.

A Mid-Term Review (MTR) of InforMEA Project phase III is currently ongoing, and with the draft report already out, a relatively good review was given for the project's performance, with the draft report citing room for improvement in some areas, most notably in the context of outreach to MEA focal points. The final MTR report will also support future fund-raising efforts including with the main donor, the European Commission.

Furthermore, InforMEA is in the process of seeking to benefit from the redistribution of available "Environment Fund" for the remainder of this and early next year mindful of the request of higher matching co-funding from UNEP's side by the European Commission. The strengths and partnership with related governance processes such as the Montevideo V process will allow the Initiative to remain on sustainable ground for years to come. Against this backdrop, the InforMEA SC in October 2022 will be the opportunity to formulate/refine the ambition for the coming 2-3 years. MEAs are invited to share their preferences for the work of the Initiative and indicate what to do more and what to do less of.

Lastly, Mr. Steven Tengo was introduced to the meeting by Ms. Duer as a Law Division colleague who has helped the InforMEA team on promoting the online courses. As he is actively involved with

communication for the Law Division, he has greatly assisted the InforMEA team by promoting the new courses while ensuring that we get as much coverage as possible in terms of outreach.

B. Conversation with MEAs on the main discussion items:

I. Technical Workstream

I. Akoma Ntoso (AKN): Update and use cases

Mr. Kabiru confirmed that documents include COP Decisions, Resolutions received from the MEAs but also laws and cases have been identified and slotted for conversion into the Akoma Ntoso (AKN) format by Laws.Africa, the implementing partner. He invited MEAs to identify/prioritize key use cases beyond the currently available WTO matrix and the compelling case of presenting the International Whaling Commission' schedules.

Two MEAs who so far identified use of their cases were (i) the Ozone Secretariat for their Kigali amendment and the evolution of the Treaty, and (ii) CMS for their work on refurbishing their website. The AKN group is looking for new opportunities to present AKN beyond its utility. A follow up meeting to discuss those specific use cases is to be scheduled soon. The suggested meeting date for the next Sub-Working Group is September 2022.

Action point:

- *A meeting to be scheduled for those interested in joining the AKN sub-working group.*
- *MEAs to share additional use cases*

II. API Management

Mr. Kabiru informed that since the presentation on API Management during the 12th InforMEA Steering Committee in November 2021 a few more APIs have been introduced to InforMEA, which would render a good look at the entire life cycle management of the group of APIs beneficial. The goal will be to make subscription to an API as easy as possible and to have a system of alerts when APIs are interrupted. Hence, the workstream discussion could consider the necessary gateways by improving API management and consumption. This should include the process of creating, publishing, and managing subscribers to an API as well as accurately tracking API usage. In the context of the latter, Mr. Kabiru informed that in some areas, the way the API tracking was set up between different interoperable tools lead to potential duplicate counting of users, something currently investigated with the IT service provider.

Coordination and mutual updates with the Digital Transformations API group of UNEP is currently ensured by the participation of BRS and Mr. Kabiru. An assignment for the meeting participants was to collect information that could be used to develop a small catalog of API that will be available in-house, and then to move forward together in the discussions on where to go next.

It is further suggested that the API discussion be linked to the ongoing efforts of quality assurance of data, also a point that was mentioned in the medium-term review of the InforMEA project.

Action point:

- *Technical working Group Meeting August/September 2022*
- *Pilot ready for consideration at SCM in October*

Mr. Hortonedá (BRS) at this occasion shared BRS initial and evolving attempts on API Management echoing the suggestion to move InforMEA to something more robust or more granular. He referred to initial successes with similar efforts with data from regional centers that allowed for dashboards views of the documents received, including numbers deleted and updated, as well as the relevant metadata and keywords.

Follow up *Considering registration for API consumption*

- *Update OData version of InforMEA API*
- *Link API management to exposing indexed and mapped documents*

III. PoolParty and Indexing

Mr. Santiago Riera was welcomed and re-introduced by the InforMEA and BRS team as the consultant who will support further work on taxonomies and the poolparty servers of the InforMEA Initiative. He already started updating the server to the most current Poolparty version.

Gratitude was expressed to BRS for its ongoing commitment and support on the hosting of the poolparty servers. MEAs were invited to request access to manage their taxonomies. A dedicated sub-group will identify the main points to be brought and endorsed by the 13th SC Meeting.

IV. Conclusion of current Eau de Web (EdW) systems contract and way forward

The 5-year Systems Contract that the Law Division has with EdW will conclude on 3 July 2022. In 2021, the attempt to procure a follow-on contract was taken over by the Communications Division. This process having its own longer timelines, the Law Division received approval to pursue a dedicated systems contract for InforMEA and its related tools. Mindful of the extensiveness of this process, the team is investigating bridge arrangements for the second half of the year and early next year.

C. E-Learning updates and priorities

Mr. Speelman gave an overview of the recent course developments. In the context of accommodating dedicated MEA course portfolios and the associated adjustments the 1st sub-working group meeting on eLearning already took place and a report will be circulated shortly. On the agenda for discussion was (i) Standards for new courses, (ii) Tools to be developed for external users, e.g., templates, (iii) Roadmaps for future hosting, and (iv) Improvement of existing platforms.

Course developments were summarized:

- The [SDG 14 course](#) covers everything marine and the international environmental, legal and MEA frameworks around the different targets of SDGs and incorporates existing InforMEA marine course content on marine pollution, marine biodiversity. The team worked with

Strathclyde University and the One Ocean hub to collate the material, update it, and create additional material.

- A course specifically on [Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution](#) was launched earlier in June 2022.
- A [Climate Rights Litigation course](#) was developed from an existing report with the Sabin Center at Columbia University.
- A further course for [judges on climate law for the Pacific](#) has been developed in partnership with the Asian Development Bank and IUCN.
- Lastly a new course on [environmental human rights specifically for children](#) is hosted on the LEAP platform and accessible from the InforMEA eLearning platform.

InforMEA also has in the pipeline a new course for SAICM; and CMS and Ozone are in the advanced stages of course development. The InforMEA team further works on a *Minamata and Gender* course based on training materials from the Convention. Also in the pipeline is an overall gender course, and a broader human rights and climate course is also under consideration.

D. Round of updates from the MEAs

Ms. Garcia Sans (Minamata) updated the meeting on the recent COP (21-25 March 2022 in Bali, Indonesia) and emphasized the importance of the systems contract for InforMEA and participating MEAs having had to use the contract managed by the Economy Division as a bridge arrangement.

Mr. Bahramlouian (CMS) informed of the ongoing website update from Drupal 8 to Drupal 9 and the integration of the InforMEA APIs scheduled to be completed before the end of 2022.

Mr. Mutisya (Ozone Secretariat) confirmed that they are volunteering their Secretariat for use of their Kigali amendment and the evolution of the Treaty to test for Akoma Ntoso. The forty-fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the parties to the Montreal Protocol (OEWG44), the Fifth Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (ExMOP5) and the sixty-eighth meeting of the Implementation Committee (ImpCom68) will be convened in-person in Bangkok, Thailand as follows: ImpCom68 – 9 July 2022; OEWG44 – 11 to 16 July 2022; ExMOP5 - 16 July 2022 after the closing of OEWG44.

Mr. Sow (IWC) updated on the upcoming IWC Commission Meeting, scheduled to take place on 14-21 October 2022 in Portorož, Slovenia. They are in the process of setting up a National Reporting system and reported an increase in terms of volume of the visits to their website via InforMEA.

Mr. van Dalen (UNCCD) updated on the UNCCD 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (9-20 May 2022 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire). They also integrated all the other knowledge production through the new website and will confirm that the API with InforMEA is now active. UNCCD has a new unit head aware of InforMEA. Finally, UNCCD is working on an important project associated to the Green Wall initiative.

Mr. Kern (Ramsar) mentioned the ongoing update from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9 and referred to the Secretariats interest in e-learning, Akoma Ntoso and Indexing.

Mr. Sedara-Hettige (CITES) informed the preparations for COP 19 (15-19 November 2022 in Panama City, Panama). He updated on the pilot program for PoolParty and its results which are soon ready to be integrated the InforMEA PoolParty server. He looked forward to working with Mr. Santiago Riera and the InforMEA in line with the InforMEA guidelines.

Mr. Osmany Pereira Gonzalez (BRS) and **Mr. Hortonedá (BRS)** informed of the outcome of the BRS COPs (6-17 June 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland). They referred to challenges associated to the meeting registration system and the challenges associated to the now popular hybrid meeting format. Overcoming these challenges will be important ahead of the next COP scheduled for May 2023. It was suggested that InforMEA be more visibly represented again during the next COP. They both thanked the Minamata Convention via Anna Garcia-Sans, and the Ozone Secretariat, for their support during their recently concluded COP. UNON was complemented for the great team that provided the meeting support.

E. Conclusion

Ms. Duer informed of more information to be circulated on the upcoming Steering Committee meeting and the sharing of the draft report on the Mid-term review of the InforMEA Phase III evaluation. There will be a series of sub-group meetings in September as well as at least one global working group meeting ahead of the SC (11-13 October 2022 in Montreux, Switzerland).