

71st Working Group Meeting of the MEA IKM Initiative

Tuesday, November 29, 2022, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM GMT+3

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

Draft Report

Meeting Participants

BRS – Osmany PEREIRA, Julien HORTONEDA
CBD – Frederick VOGEL
CITES – Shashika SEDARA-HETTIGE
IPBES – Benedict OMARE
Minamata Convention – Anna GARCIA SANS
Ramsar – Manuel KERN
UNCCD – Jeroen Van DALEN
UNECE – Maryna YANUSH
UNFCCC – Jingwen YANG

KM Team

UNEP – Eva DUER, Kelly KABIRU, Iddah KAMAU, Peter SPEELMAN, Lillian ONYANGO, Abdul RAJPUT, Andrew COCCOLI, Katy AYRES

1. UN Reform and InforMEA - Update by the InforMEA Team

The team informed of the UN reform process and associated enquiries on whether InforMEA can be a place for UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to find all the information on MEAs; something considered to support UNCTs and the Regional Coordinators (RCs). The InforMEA team was invited to an ongoing discussion in the context of regular communication with the RCs and the UNCTs. The kind of information required for exchange with the regional coordinators is currently under consideration as well as information that could enrich the InforMEA repositories especially from country level.

A meeting coordinated by Law Division and Corporate Services Division colleagues from the regional offices was scheduled to take place on Thursday 1 December 2022 to identify the missing elements in the current country assessments. Kelly Kabiru supported this process by guiding on what is available through InforMEA via dashboards. This information could come in combination with data sets from WESR and potentially even project information from the Corporate Services Division to feed into a search process.

Action points:

- MEAs interested in this process and are not yet in attendance to get in touch with Kelly for inclusion in the meeting invitations.

2. Integrating GRID Geneva Datasets with InforMEA – Critical Investments Digital Transformation EF Budget opportunity

The digital transformation process has now culminated in the budget for 2022 and the budget assigned to the Law division is assigned to the integration between InforMEA and GRID data. There were some

elements to be delivered under this preference. In terms of indicators, we could expose InforMEA datasets to WESR (already happening on ratification data). It will be important to ensure that this is shared in a traceable manner.

MEAs were invited to identify with InforMEA any relevant data sets that GRID holds which has the advantage of being government vetted. Ontologies in the InforMEA PoolParty could be matched with filters for statistical data which often only meta data attached.

Action points:

- MEAs were invited to be involved in the process of identifying interesting data sets.
- A presentation by GRID-Geneva on this agenda item to be scheduled for the next working group meeting.
- Consideration to be given to tracing API use at the next WG Meeting.

3. Services to NFPs on InforMEA

The Negotiation section on InforMEA continues to progress and the concept of the compliance section available ([link](#)). The section is scheduled to be launched alongside the revised 2007 version handbook for negotiators with the final version expected in January 2023. A thorough survey of negotiators was carried out before the development of the concept for the negotiators section with useful feedback received from 190 responses.

A [Negotiations section update](#) was presented (invision-mock). The AK4UN use case on Rules of Procedure was presented at the meeting via this [presentation](#).

4. E-Learning Portfolios

Since the 13th InforMEA Steering Committee meeting in October 2022, the World Trade Organization (WTO) had a follow-up meeting with the InforMEA team reiterating their interest in publishing courses developed with the MEAs. An introduction of the WTO on the environment and a second course on circular economy are currently linked as external courses on InforMEA. An InforMEA produced course on environment and trade developed based on the 2006 training manual with updates from MEAs and input from the WTO is about to be launched. The idea is to supplement this course over time with more in-depth MEA specific courses, for instance on how CITES and BRS interact with the WTO trade regime.

Further a Gender and Environment course providing an overview is due to be launched in 2022. Similarly, this course is to be complemented by more MEAs specific courses such as the recently launched course on Mercury and Gender.

Outreach

Communication to the MEAs with a link to the [5th edition of the of the InforMEA newsletter](#) was sent out, updating them on the recently launched courses and advancements on the MEA joint calendar, the global judicial portal, and the 13th InforMEA Steering Committee Meeting Scheduled for December 2022, MEAs who have not shared their focal point emails were requested to distribute the newsletter in line with the recommendations by SCM13.

Action points: MEAs who have not shared the list of their focal points to share the newsletter separately (UNFCCC, Ozone, Ramsar)

5. Updates/ Feedback by MEAs

- **Minamata Convention** (Anna Garcia-Sans) updated on the Projects Schema stating that UNEP Communications Division requested for more information. The Project Schema as agreed to by 13th InforMEA Steering Committee Meeting presented an opportunity to start collecting project information in real time. This being a journey, colleagues were taking incremental steps engaging with the GEF.
- **BRS** (Osmany Gonzalez) invited a presentation on potential datasets from GRID to the next Working Group Meeting (see above follow up action), to better gauge the opportunities from this effort.
- **CBD** (Frederick Vogel): Reported already having registered a record 16,000 accredited visitors to the upcoming CBD COP expected to be opened by the UN Secretary General and the Canadian Prime Minister.
- **CITES** (Shashika Sedara): Updated on the [CITES COP 19](#) which took place on 14-25 November in Panama. The proceedings went well involving 2500 delegates in addition to the 2300 conference staff and visitors. Over 300 decisions emerged from the COP, including some important ones on gender-based solutions, and one stipulating that future COPs will be accessible also in Russian, Spanish and Arabic. The CITES website will be upgraded to support all those different languages.
- **UNFCCC** (Jingwen Yang): They recently concluded a record hybrid [COP 27 on 6-20 November 2022 in Egypt](#), with 68,000 registered participants of which 48,000 participated in person. The Knowledge Management team delivered 2 streams of work: (I) An exhibition booth focusing on web archiving, and (II) on meeting recording production and services which supported the actual negotiations during the COP, hybrid participants and the media as well.
- **IPBES** (Benedict Omare): In collaboration with the InforMEA project and team, IPBES had rolled out a Glossary mindful of the feedback shared by the semantic expert on the BRS glossary. Feedback on how PoolParty and the administration of the glossary works with Drupal 9 will be shared with the PoolParty sub-committee before the next Steering Committee Meeting. IBPES will also share more information on the development of a web archiving plan.

6. SCM13 – Report and Draft Recommendations

MEAs were requested to go through the circulated draft 13th InforMEA SCM report for their review and input to ensure that the reflections from their MEAs are well reflected, and to do so within the next two weeks. The report will then be circulated to all the meeting participants with the season's greetings message from InforMEA.

7. Any other business

Reminder on the suggested survey on Archiving needs. The survey would be addressed to the MEAs to indicate the number of pages and frequency of the anticipated web archiving of their websites.