



Information for Major Groups participants at Rio+20

Dear registered participants to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio+20,

Rio+20 will be, in the words of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon himself *"one of the most important conferences in the history of the United Nations" and a once-in-a-generation opportunity to gear the world on sustainable development path.* More than 18,000 of you have grasped the importance of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development and registered for the Conference.

More than 100 heads of state or government have already confirmed their attendance and the Brazilian host government is expecting fifty thousand people.

This note from the Major Groups programme of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) is to help non-stake actors effectively participate into the conference and the hundreds of activities that will be ongoing around Rio. Agenda 21, the outcome of the the first Rio conference in 1992 (also known as UNCED) established the concept of nine Major Groups to represent the voices of non-stake actors. Agenda 21 defines these Major Groups as: Women, Children and Youth, Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs, Trade Unions, Local Authorities, Science and Technology, Business and Industry. Familiarizing yourself with the concept of Major Groups is important because the General Assembly decision to organize the Rio+20 Conference states participation of civil society in the conference will be guided by the major groups participation process of the Commission on Sustainable Development also established in Rio, 20 years ago. Also see Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) online here.

We are finalizing preparations to welcome you in Rio starting 7 June, when we open official registration. Below are the information you will need until we all meet at our first major groups and other stakeholder briefing on 13 June in Pavilion 3, 8:30-9:30.

The information below on logistics, engaging, and learning will, we hope help you take full advantage of your presence in Rio and/or remote participation.

A. Logistics

Registrations

Registration for Major groups will open on 7 June. The registration desk will be located in Pavilion 1 where the Shuttle will drop you. Visit opening registration hours here. You MUST be pre-registered and have a copy of your confirmation letter (which shows the unique reference number assigned to your registration online) as well as a valid photo ID (such as your national passport) to register and receive your grounds pass. Your grounds pass will grant you access to all activities taking place inside Riocentro from 13 to 22 June. See more information at the Rio+20 website at: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/logistics.html>

NOTE: Due to limited room capacity, access to some meetings will be restricted, especially during the high-level segments of the Conference. The Major Groups Organizing Partners are responsible for facilitating your access during these times, and will use a secondary pass system as instructed by UN Safety and Security. Please remain in contact with the Organizing Partners for your Major Groups sector.

Transportation

Shuttles will be available from Galeão–Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport to the main hotel areas starting 10 June until 23 June. [See detailed schedule here.](#)

You MUST have a copy of your confirmation letter as well as a valid photo ID to board the shuttle. Once registered, your grounds pass will allow you to board the shuttle.

Access to the Rio Centro Convention Center

Riocentro will be open to Major Groups from 8h00 AM to 9h30 PM when the last side events finish each day. The Major Groups pavilion is the T Pavilion, this is where Major Groups have their daily briefing meetings, and where side events and SD Learning courses take place. Access to Pavilion 5 is restricted to Member States and those holding secondary passes for events in the Plenary hall (see details below on how these secondary passes are allocated).

Preparatory Committee meeting (13-15 June)
Government of Brazil-organized Dialogue Days (16-18 June)
Opening and closing sessions of the Conference (20 and 22 June)

Access to Pavilion 3 is open to Major groups during the PrepCom. Secondary passes are needed to participate in roundtables.

Access to Pavilion 4 is restricted to Member States and UN System.

Details on all the venues related to the conference can be found [here](#)

Food

Food courts are available in Pavilion 2. Several coffee shops will be available as well as Blogging areas.

Security

The Brazilian security forces will provide security throughout town and support the UN security within Rio Centro. Security in Rio has improved tremendously over the last 20 years. Yet, like any big city, it is best not to bring anything that you would be sad not to go back home with and to be aware of your environment. Please see security information for Major Groups [here](#).

B. Engaging

Morning briefings

Stay informed by attending daily morning briefing of Major groups and other stakeholders. Briefing will be held in Pavilion 3 everyday from 8:30-9:30 every morning.

Major groups opportunities to speak at the conference

Major Groups are given unprecedented opportunities to speak at the Conference. Yet, speaking slots are very limited given that 170 nations are expected and the meeting lasts 3 days.

There are two opportunities

1. Each Major Groups sector will give a 2 minute introductory remark on the outcome document on 20 June.
2. Each Major Groups sector will select 3 high-level representatives to attend the 4 round table sessions.

In addition, each Major Groups sector, as well as delegates from Brazilian civil society, will receive 15 secondary passes to sit in the public gallery of the Plenary hall (Pavilion 5) during the period 20-22 June (these include the secondary passes for speakers from each sector). Overflow rooms will be provided for all others to observe.

How to engage with your Major Groups sector to contribute to these speaking opportunities

Each Major Groups sector has established a similar transparent and inclusive process to allocate these secondary passes. Please contact the Organizing Partners for your Major Groups sector now to get involved. Their info is [online here](#). Several, such as the NGOs have put the process to allocate secondary passes [online](#).

Remote participation

Meetings held in the Plenary hall as well as the high-level round table sessions will be broadcast online for stakeholders not able to attend the meeting.

Also visit the information on the Sustainable Development Dialogues, led by the Government of Brazil, and [online interaction here](#).

C. Learning

SD Learning courses: Hands on learning about several sustainable development topics, [more information and registrations here](#)

The Rio+20 Secretariat in partnership with Stakeholder Forum will hold 4 capacity building workshops on:

- 12 June, 9-12AM, venue to be confirmed
- 16 June, 9-12AM Arena Socio ambiental
- 18 June, 9-12:30 Barra Arena
- 19 June, 9h30-12h30 PM, Rio Centro

D. Side events

More than 500 on-site side events organized by Governments, Major Groups, Organizations from the UN system and other International Organizations will take place in RioCentro during Prepcom III (13-15 June), the Sustainable Development Dialogue Days (16-19 June) and the Summit (20-22 June).

Please see the preliminary programme of on-site side events in RioCentro at http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/meetings_sideevents.html

In order to maximize promoting of activities, the Rio+20 Secretariat have launched a Rio+20 Side Events Reporting System, where organizers are able to, through their Rio+20 website account, share pictures, documents, statements, presentations and videos originating from their Side events and SD-Learning courses. Detailed instructions on the use of the Rio+20 Side Event reporting system will be communicated separately to all Side Event organizers.

For questions, please contact us at side_events@uncsd2012.org.

E. Other events during Rio+20, in Rio de Janeiro, Parallel events

There are several activities happening in Rio de Janeiro during 13-22 June. Visit the Rio+20 website for more information: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/rio20events.html>.

Don't see your event listed? Make sure to upload it through your Rio+20 web account today!

Please make sure to also visit the Stakeholder Forum [Draft Diary of events in Rio](#) and get the IISD app for your Droid or iPhone to stay informed.

F. Major Groups registry

Furthermore, the level of interactivity for all Stakeholders, including Major Groups, through the Rio+20 website, has increased. Besides reporting back from Side Events, you are now able to upload publications, distribute news items, add additional meetings and events to the main Calendar of the Rio+20 website, and more. All Major Groups that have contributed to the Rio+20 process and/or website, is granted its own dedicated page on the Rio+20 website. Please see the link to the Major Groups registry below - among other important links.

G. Voluntary Commitments

Rio+20 is a conference about implementation, and an important part of that is making and delivering commitments. All Stakeholders working for the Future We Want and Rio+20 are therefore encouraged to make voluntary commitments that will deliver concrete results for sustainable development. Organizers of side events at Rio+20 are strongly encouraged to register commitments that result from outcomes of their side events. Voluntary Commitments can be added through your Rio+20 website account.

G. Links:

- Rio+20 Side Events: http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/meetings_sidevents.html
- Voluntary Commitments: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/voluntarycommitments.html>
- Major Groups registry: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/majorgroupsregistry.html>
- Login page for Major Groups: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=83>
- Need username/password to Rio+20 website? Send an email to uncsd2012@un.org - clearly indicate the name of your organization.
- You don't see answers to your questions, visit the [FAQs](#)

H. Other info

The city of Rio de Janeiro is located just north of the Tropic of Capricorn, giving it a very humid tropical climate. In June, the local temperature usually lies between 18 and 25 degrees Celsius, but there may be peak temperatures above 30 degrees. The rainfall level in Rio de Janeiro, in June, is 53 mm.

NOTE: Very important. Keep that paper you had to fill on the plane and that customs returns to you. You will NEED it to leave the country!