

Meeting of Major Groups and Stakeholders, 21st March 2018, Nairobi, Kenya

Major Group Children and Youth STATEMENT

- The Major Group Children and Youth, represented by Ms. Luwedde Juliet Grace, appreciate the opportunity to provide input from UNEP-MGCY in the lead up to UNEA4.
- The UNEP Major Group of Children & Youth is a platform open for all young people around the world who want to engage in policy-design at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The UNEP Major Group of Children & Youth keeps young people informed throughout the year about opportunities to engage in policy-design at UNEP, and strives to ensure active and effective youth participation in UNEP conferences. The most important annual events are the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) in February, preceded by a Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF) and six Regional Consultation Meetings (RCMs).
- Appreciating the hard work and intelligent thoughts invested by member states and Excellency's in UNEA-2 on resolution 2/3 "Investing in human capacity for sustainable development through environmental education and training", we reiterate the significance of education in ensuring informed efforts towards saving our planet. The UNEA-2's resolution on Education and Training was limited to formal education, and also suffered the lack of financial capacity that was also highlighted in the report from ED. We would very much encourage this to be taken up at the next UNEA.
- We acknowledge and encourage the significant efforts by the developed world to support environment-led initiatives in the developing world and we also urge the developing countries to take initiative to contextualise and localise the solutions offered. This is crucial because environmental issues are context-based and so should the solutions. Many youth-led organizations work on education, capacity building and addressing the gaps in different education contexts. These efforts need to be supported by the national and local governments, especially in order to reach the groups that don't have access to formal education programs.
- **Why Education?** Seeing as we operate with in a space where education is a key requirement, Environmental education to be specific, we understand that adopting "**Education**" as the theme for UNEA 4, will marry the existing gap, we understand that once there is transitioning in society that is knowledgeable of the environment and its associated problems, with existing communities that are aware of the solutions to these problems, they are motivated to solve them. Then we would have involved everyone and forged new collaborations.
- Therefore, we reiterate the proposal for having "Education" as a part of the thematic for UNEA 4. Education is a long-term, indispensable pillar in ensuring effective, informed, and better solutions to the current environmental crisis. Taking this proposal would show that the next generation means something to UNEA enterprises who have a great deal to offer as well, and we heard several examples of actions taken by business communities in developing countries.

Thank you.