



Inputs from the Children and Youth Major Group

For the Committee of Permanent Representative Sub-Committee Meeting, 23rd September 2021

<https://www.unep.org/events/subcommittee-meetings/committee-permanent-representatives-subcommittee-meeting-52>

Intervention on Agenda Item 4. Update on regional preparations for the resumed session of the UNEA-5 and UNEP@50

Her Excellency Madam Chair Ms. Luísa Fragoso, ambassadors, and all member-states and stakeholders present and engage in the subcommittee meeting, a pleasant day to all of you. Thank You for this opportunity.

I am Rubina Adhikari, I am 20 years old, from Nepal, from the Children and Youth Major Group, and I am one of the lead organizers of the first-ever Asia-Pacific Regional Youth Environment Forum or AP-RYEF.

I will briefly provide updates on the regional work of the Children and Youth Major Group organisations in the regions of Africa, LAC and finally the Asia Pacific region. Updates from the West Asia youth focal point will be submitted in writing to the Committee later this week.

In the African region, in partnership with the UNEP Africa office, the youth constituency voluntarily hosted a Regional Youth dialogue on 7th of September this year which was fundamental to capture and provide African youth an opportunity to reflect on the 50 years of UNEP's existence while providing a futuristic outlook for the next 10 years which coincide with the Agenda 2030 and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration as well as the key transformational outcomes of Agenda 2063. The results from the dialogue and snapshot survey were presented during the RCM in the lead up to AMCEN. In addition, the African region held a regional consultation on Environment and Peacebuilding in order to contribute to the White Paper of the Geneva Peacebuilding process. We are looking forward to hosting a regional Youth Environment Assembly for the African region in early 2022.

In the region of Latin America, there have been several voluntary youth consultations, building upon the results of the Regional Consultation held during the Youth Environmental Assembly in Feb 2021. Together these results will shape a series of capacity building and communication pieces to help youth in the region understand UNEP processes better and how to have a say in them. We are looking forward to facilitating UNEP's involvement with youth for country offices activities in commemoration of UNEP@50 and the Special session of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean later this year.



Finally, on the Asia Pacific region,

We are very pleased to share that the first ever inaugural Asia Pacific Youth Environment Forum will take place from the 1st to the 3rd of October 2021. The forum will lead up to the 4th Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities in Asia-Pacific as well as representing the voices of Asia-Pacific children and youth in the Global Youth Environment Assembly that will place in the lead-up to UNEA 5.2, to the commemoration of UNEP@50, and Stockholm+50.

We offer our sincerest gratitude to the UNEP Regional Office for Asia & Pacific and the Republic of Korea for financially supporting us in this process. Thank you so much for inviting youth from Asia-Pacific to the Ministerial Forum and for providing delegation and intervention opportunities. In the forum, we will also bring children and youth together in high-level Leadership Dialogues.

We are also grateful for the ongoing cooperation with Sweden and Norway in the process of Stockholm+50 and UNEA 5.2 respectively.

To all the member-states here, especially in the Asia-Pacific Region, we would like to officially invite you to join us in the Member-states & youth roundtable. We choose 2-3rd October For children and youth since it is the weekend. We are hoping you can support and sit with us, engage with Asia-Pacific youth, and let us discuss significant topics on how we can strengthen meaningful youth engagement in the region. Our team will send you invitation letters and other relevant documents in the forum, directly after this subcommittee meeting.

Your presence and guidance for children and young people in these pressing times are important in highlighting the critical role of children and youth in high-level environmental processes from grassroots to regional to global stages.

Finally, we request UNEP regional offices to also support regional Youth Forums in the lead-up to UNEA 5.2.

Thank you.

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