



## International Consultation 7-9 September 2021

# Full Report

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## Key outcome documents

- Annex 3**     [Summary Statement](#) delivered to 155<sup>th</sup> CPR on 28/9/2021
- Annex 4**     **Draft joint statement on The UNEP We Want**  
(working document [accessible here](#))
- Annex 5**     [UNEP@50 task force intervention](#) delivered to 155th CPR on 28/9/2021
- Annex 6**     [UNEP@50 task force update](#)
- Annex 7**     [Joint Statement on Res 73/333](#) and environmental defenders
- Annex 8**     [Joint Statement of support for global treaty on plastics](#)
- Annex 9**     **Draft joint position on food system** (working document [accessible here](#))
- Annex 10**    [Recommendations chemical and waste](#)
- Annex 11**    [Joint Statement on Nature for Health](#)

## Participation

A total of 558 people registered for the international consultation. Concerning the representation of Major Groups, we had registrations from all 9 groups. Most registrations came from members of the NGO Major Group (50%), the Children & Youth Major Group (22%) and the Women Major Group (13%) and the Science and Technology Major Group (5%). The other MGs accounted for 1-3% of registrations each. The consultation attracted registration from all world regions. Around 36% of registrations came from the African region, 23% each from Asia Pacific and from the European region with smaller percentages from Latin America, North America and West Asia. The participation of men and women was close to parity with just above 50% of participants identifying as female. Participants covered all age groups from 15 to 60+ with around one third of participants being between 30 and 45 years of age. The participation of young people between 15 and 30 was particularly strong with close to 28% of participants. The participation of older people was weaker with around 10% of participants being 60+. Please see Annex 1 for a breakdown of participant's categories.

There were 359 active users on the meeting platform HowSpace, i.e., these participants have actively logged on to the online conference platform. 138 users have used HowSpace to comment on documents, polls or other interactions. 271 participants followed the Plenary Opening, 138 the Closing Plenary with each plenary session having more than 100 participants. Please see Annex 2 for more information on participation on HowSpace.

## Summary Day 1 - Tuesday 7 September 2021

### Objectives:

- Welcomes from UNEP and UNEA Presidency with initial update regarding UNEA 5.2.
- Thematic clusters and task forces clarify objectives for the consultation and explain working sessions.
- Strategic discussion on political opportunities around UNEA 5.2 with UNEP and invited governments.

<p>13:00 - 13:30 Plenary opening</p> <p>Moderation: Ingrid Rostad, Co-Chair Major Groups Facilitating Committee, NGO Major Group</p>	<p><b>Online conference instructions</b> Sanne Van de Voort for the Consultation Planning Team</p> <p><b>Welcome and objectives of the meeting</b> Co-chairs of the Major Groups Facilitation Committee, Ingrid Rostad (NGO MG)</p> <p><b>Welcoming remarks</b> Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary, Secretariat of Governing Bodies and Stakeholders, UN Environment Programme</p> <p><b>Welcoming remarks</b> Guri Sandborg, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Climate and Environment (for the UNEA Presidency)</p>
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**Welcome and objectives of the meeting**, by co-chairs of the Major Groups Facilitation Committee, Ingrid Rostad (NGO MG):

- Reminder to the participants of the objectives of the consultation.
- The consultation strives to result in four joint statements on The UNEP We Want, on Res. 73/333, on the draft resolution on the plastics treaty and on Nature for Health as well as core messages to present to the CPR.

**Welcoming remarks** by Jorge Laguna-Celis, Secretary, Secretariat of Governing Bodies and Stakeholders, UN Environment Programme:

- Welcome in the name of UN Environment.
- Importance of the consultation regarding UNEA 5.2, the super year for nature and the other key events these years, COP26 and the CBD COB.
- UN Environment is pleased to see the engagement.
- UNEA 5.2 is hopefully going to be a hybrid meeting open to governments and stakeholders; hoping to create space for formal interaction as well as concrete discussions; spaces for consultation will unfortunately be limited following health and safety protocols at the Nairobi UN campus.
- UNEA 5.2 will feed into Stockholm+50 and create input to other key processes mentioned before.
- Preparations on UNEA@50 are underway including consultations; the objective is to reinforce UNEP and multilateralism in general.
- Reaffirms commitment to strong stakeholder engagement.

**Welcoming remarks** by Guri Sandborg, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Climate and Environment (for the UNEA Presidency):

- Situation under the pandemic: we have become aware of the challenges of online meetings, in particular in least developed countries; at the same time, it is clear that we

need to move forward; we hear the voice of the youth; positions that were not possible before are being heard now.

- UNEA President foresees a physical meeting with limited numbers of participants with the sincerely hope that it will be possible.
- UNEA 5.1 prepared the ground well for UNEA 5.2 including the Medium-Term Strategy for UNEP.
- The right number of people for the physical UNEA will have to be decided; we are looking into innovations; assurance that Presidency will ensure presence of civil society, even if not in the same number in person as before; the principle is important; priority to experts from the capitals to ensure substantial results in the negotiations.
- Goal of the UNEA President: strong ministerial declaration with concise messages based on consultation.
- Only a 3-day UNEA, 2 days for the Special Session UNEP@50
- Prepare and lead the way for the next UNEA President from Africa.
- Resolution 73/333 requires a political declaration in response to the resolution, it may be covered at the Special Session, which member states still have to decide.
- Since the UNEA1, Norway has supported a stronger global commitment to curb plastic pollution, there is a growing number of countries in support; a new global agreement will provide the framework and the path to a more sustainable way of dealing with plastic pollution; Norwegian Gov is looking forward to input.

<p>13:30 - 13:45 (Nairobi time) <b>Introductions</b></p>	<p><b>Interactive introductions of participants</b> Sanne Van de Voort &amp; Sascha Gabizon, Women Major Group</p>
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- More than 500 participants have signed up.
- We have participants from all world regions.
- All participants were asked to answer three questions.
- Welcome words from Carmen Capriles, Co-Chair MGFC reminding us why we are here and the challenges we are up against.

**What are the biggest challenges for environmental and climate action?**





- Surveys have been done for input from civil society, consultation during GMGSF and during last international consultation, more during upcoming RCMs, currently interviews and research ongoing for the UNEP We Want report.

## **2. Environmental governance / Resolution 73/333** including Escazu Agreement, environmental defenders, Stockholm+49

(Leida Rijnhout, Carmen Capriles and Dalia Marquez)

- Working groups have been organised recently, and civil society has followed these and contributed.
- Not all governments are equally supportive to strengthen environmental law and governance, this also comes with the need for more financial means which not all governments have.
- CSO following the process have worked out a joint statement regarding the development of a global framework to strengthen environmental law and governance to create a level playing field globally for government and business.
- Legal framework to ensure implementation of Principle 10 globally.
- Escazu Agreement is a regional agreement also set up to better protect environmental defenders which we need to promote at global level.
- Question on UNEP capacity: UNEP already has the mandate to coordinate MEAs; monitoring schemes behind MEAs: this needs leadership by Member States and UNEP; idea: a global monitoring of progress similar to the UPR process in the Human Rights Council.

## **3. A New Treaty to Combat Plastic Pollution**

(Jane Patton, Christopher Chin and Giulia Carlini)

- Plastic pollution is harmful to human health and vulnerable groups are more harmed.
- Clear that we need a global and encompassing approach.
- Rwanda and Peru have presented a draft resolution to start negotiating a global treaty.
- Breakout will discuss this resolution as well as the potential content of such a treaty.

## **4. Stockholm+50**

(Jan-Gustav Strandenaes)

- Discussion on Stockholm+50 somewhat premature, modalities resolution has not yet been passed by the GA.
- Stockholm+50 is a General Assembly not a UNEP event, an enabling resolution has been passed by the GA in May, format: international meeting.
- Themes: commemorate 50 years of Stockholm, environmental agenda of 2030 Agenda and recovery after COVID pandemic.
- Stockholm legacy: first time civil society was allowed to address the plenary at an international high-level meeting.
- Timeline: on-going Bureau meetings also discuss Stockholm+50.
- Stockholm+49 civil society conference planned for September.
- UNEA 5.2 and GA meeting will also address the meeting.
- We need to discuss: what kind of a meeting do we want?
- opportunity: halfway between 2015 and 2030, between UNEA 5 and 6.
- Let's make it a festival of solutions on what stakeholders can do!
- 1972: countries reported on environmental performance so there is a historical reason to ask for an environmental report.

## **5. Nature for Climate** (Diatougbe Aziaka)

- Working session will discuss the latest IPCC report and its political implications, the link from COP 26 to UNEA 5.2.
- SDG 13 and Paris Agreement are not enough, at UNEA 5.2 we want to push for more action.
- UNEA 5.2 is going to be the space where we can push for climate action and higher ambition.
- Google doc for this cluster is created gathering key messages, people is invited to comment and to contribute.

## **6. Nature for Poverty Eradication, Jobs and Economic Prosperity**

(Bert De Wel and Caroline Usikpedo)

- Strong link between social challenges and environmental protection, cluster is elaborating positions on the interlinkages.
- COVID has been at the centre of these considerations including economic recovery programmes that do not focus enough on nature recovery.
- Legally binding instrument to curb plastic pollution with integral life cycle approach where workers and families are involved all the way to the waste stage, socio-economic impact needs to be considered for support for the instrument.
- Need for just transition: how can workers and families be put more centre stage in environmental and climate policies?

## **7. Food systems** (Ajay K Jha and Wali Haider)

- Food systems are broken, the second-best time to act and mobilise people is now.
- Nature for food is a great idea, but we need to have clear definitions, localization of the process involving community participation and actions.
- 6-7 planning meetings have been organised for the preparation of our position paper which has been prepared and will be fine-tuned.
- Hunger is not an accident but a failure from governments and increased corporate power in food systems is correlated with hunger and marginalisation of farmers and indigenous people.
- Need for an accountability mechanism to transform the food systems.
- Increasing concerns over UN Food System Summit: focusing on market-based approach rather than improving access to food.
- Pandemic showed problem of accessing food: people lost jobs, but the Summit does not look beyond market-based solutions; human rights, participation, agroecology is not given enough attention.
- No systematic representation of local thought leadership, e.g., Indigenous Peoples; new advantages to corporate actors, it was hailed as a people summit but it is not.
- Why was there a need for another parallel system if there are institutions in charge of food safety? Not much clarity on the process and objectives.

## **8. Chemicals, Waste, Mercury** (Sascha Gabizon, Yuyun Ismawati and Carmen Capriles)

- We will look at what UNEA 5.2 can add to global chemicals management, how it can help to improve implementation and raise the ambition.
- For example, Mercury is a problem despite the Minamata Convention, certain countries do not respect the conventions rules of a global ban.
- Each of the chemical conventions have an independent Conference of Parties, and the member states at UNEA cannot impose changes. But we will discuss if it would be good if UNEA 5.2 can provide a message to strengthen the implementation of the conventions

and to address similar challenges, such as the illegal trade of mercury and banned pesticides.

- Some Parties to the Basel/Stockholm/Rotterdam Conventions (e.g., Germany) apply double standards for pesticides that are banned in the Global North but continue trading them to the Global South causing 100.000s of deaths each year.
- Similarly, electronic waste trade between global North and South continues despite the Basel Ban Amendment. Important to keep in mind also for a Plastics Treaty: plastic waste is also traded as a so-called 'resource' but in reality, it is dumping.
- PAN will share their initiative to globally phase out highly hazardous pesticides.
- We will also address the gendered health impacts that need to be considered more.
- We will also hear from the Swiss environment ministry on their initiative for a UNEA 5.2 resolution on an intergovernmental science policy platform on harmful chemicals and waste, similar to the IPCC on Climate Change.

### 9. Nature for Health (Clara Gobbe)

- Healthy ecosystems are key for human health; nature and animals are assets to ensure human health.
- Objective: UNEA 5 resolution to address the issue.
- Working session to agree on core topics to then be the basis for a longer background paper to develop after the consultation.

<p>17:00 - 18:30 (Nairobi time)  <b>UNEA 5.2 - Political opportunities</b></p> <p><b>Moderation:</b>          Patrizia Heidegger,          Regional Facilitator          Europe, NGO Major          Group</p>	<p><b>The road to UNEA 5.2 - setting the agenda and conference modalities</b>          Ulf Bjornholm, Secretariat of Governing Bodies and Stakeholders,          UN Environment</p> <p><b>Short opening statements from invited governments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● European Commission: Sebastian Gil, UNEP Focal Point</li> <li>● Switzerland: Patrick Egloff, Deputy Permanent Representative</li> <li>● Malawi: Mapopa C. Kaunda, Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP</li> </ul> <p><b>Guiding questions for discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What are the different governments' ambitions for UNEA 5.2? Which initiatives (resolutions, declarations, ...) are being tabled? How are previous resolutions being follow-up during UNEA5.2?</li> <li>● How do the governments relate to the draft resolution on a global plastic treaty?</li> <li>● Do the governments support a Political Declaration with a clear commitment to kick off the development of a global framework to strengthen international environmental governance and law?</li> <li>● Which are the key initiatives followed by civil society? Where do we see the biggest potential for change? Where are the biggest risks?</li> </ul>
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### **Ulf Bjornholm, Secretariat of Governing Bodies and Stakeholders, UN Environment**

- The agenda is still the same and we will resume where we left after UNEA 5.1 where only the MTS and Programme of Work were covered.
- Adoption of resolutions and political declaration.
- The question is on how we will fill the known agenda. Minimal list where we need to take a decision during UNEA 5.2 and deliver (to be reviewed at next CPR and specially ACS):
- Agenda for UNEA6.
- Election of new UNEA Bureau and President
- Strong expectation to finalise the preparation of the political declaration on Res 73/333
- Provide input for Stockholm+50 International Meeting
- Other parallel processes:
- Internal governance system to be adopted to enter into force, almost agreed.
- Future of the Global Environmental Outlook process: steering committee will come with a proposal.
- Marine litter and plastic pollution: decide on the next step. This is one of the big expectations where we need to join forces, one of the big tickets for UNEA 5.2.
- Political declaration: presidency will launch a new draft soon, link to green recovery.
- On the format of the meeting:
- Not the usual UNEA with thousands of delegates, we cannot have 5-6 working groups as in other times.
- Res 73/333: needs in-person preparation.
- MS might launch other initiatives.
- Cooperation with UN offices and host country; for a month we will continue online meetings, then eventually start hybrid meetings hopefully with the next ASC, without capital representatives in person.
- From next year on hopefully more open with more in person meetings – still to be decided.
- We strive for universal participation at CPR and UNEA 5 with some restrictions and requirements.

### **European Commission: Sebastian Gil, UNEP Focal Point**

- EU priority: nature-based solutions, global agreement on plastics.
- Limitations because of the pandemic.
- Perspective anniversary Stockholm 1972: inspiring. UNEA is a great opportunity to look at the improvement of the governments.
- Interested in the proposals of the youth group. Intergenerational aspect is important.

### **Switzerland: Patrick Egloff, Deputy Permanent Representative**

- Need for agreement on plastics.
- Follow up on chemical and waste resolution.
- Sustainable infrastructures.
- Put focus on following the UNEA 4 outcomes.
- Importance of having political outcomes even in a few days.
- Outcome of the UNEA 5.2 can increase the ambitions regarding Res. 73/333.
- Very important that the US is engaged in such a process. Launching a process of intergovernmental discussions is very important.
- Several ways to reduce plastic: example of initiatives in Kenya with a total ban on plastic bags. Put a price on plastic bags in supermarkets for example. Ideas that can be further developed.
- Link between humans and animals and pandemic, appreciates the quick reaction of UNEP and the recommendations.

- Remember that animals need space and protected areas, link to the theme of biodiversity. Need to commit to ambitious outcomes.
- Equal participation theme essential to ensure multilateralism: very much agrees with Mapopa that we need to avoid formats that limit participation. But not entirely in agreement with Mapopa's conclusions: for him, hybrid meetings allow for equal participation. People who cannot travel for some reasons (health, organization or other) can still have access to hybrid meetings.

**Malawi: Mapopa C. Kaunda, Deputy Permanent Representative to UNEP**

- Hopefully face-to-face UNEA5.2. Online meetings come with certain restrictions, limitations due to time zone; technical challenges for developing countries without stable connections; how to ensure equality when there are problems with electricity, internet.
- We have to make decisions, reinforce our commitments and responsibilities towards the environment. There are things that cannot be done if we do not meet in person. Online negotiations are sometimes not approved for our commitments.
- Conditions to listen to everyone: no discrimination (access to vaccines). All voices must be heard, if some people cannot travel, we must find ways to transmit their message.
- Covid19 reveals our relationship to nature. The international community must engage to transform our relationship with nature.
- Hopes for ambitious targets for UNEA5, equitable sharing of benefits, targets that engage everyone, financial means for implementation accessible.
- Biodiversity conservation: calls for the integration of traditional knowledge. Benefit sharing is a critical issue.
- New perspectives for Africa with UNEA5, hopes it will have an important role in these meetings.
- Meetings next week for Conservation Alliance for Africa with possibilities for resolutions from the Africa group.
- Appreciates the work of the co-facilitators on plastics. Malawi does not have a strong position on this, what is important now is to implement the resolutions that already exist.
- Plastic pollution is an important issue for Malawi, single-use plastic regulation (banned in 2015) difficult to implement, problem of lack of known alternatives. Committed to reducing volumes of plastics produced and able to consider a complete ban on plastics.
- Important to see which initiatives/instruments already exist, identify gaps in current regulations before considering new resolutions/binding instruments.
- Importance of other actors (not just the States).
- UNEP+50 must bring together past/present/future issues.

<p>18:30 - 18:45 (Nairobi time)  <b>Closing Plenary</b>   <b>Moderation:</b>  Sascha Gabizon,  Women's Major Group</p>	<p><b>Summary of Day 1 and outlook for Day 2</b>  Sascha Gabizon, Women's Major Group   <b>Closing the day with a smile</b>  Women's Major Group   Short summary of the day and brief explanation of Day 2.</p>
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## Summary Day 2 - Wednesday 8 September 2021

### Objectives:

- In-depth discussions in parallel working sessions around specific topics.
- Better understanding of initiatives (in particular: resolutions) tabled for UNEA 5.2 and political opportunities and risks, understanding of interconnection between different initiatives.
- Specific outcomes for each topic, e.g., draft joint statement on The UNEP We Want, call to action on global plastics treaty or position on Res. 73/333.

<p>13:00 - 13:15 (Nairobi time) <b>Plenary opening</b></p> <p><b>Moderation:</b> Ayman Cherkaoui, Regional Facilitator, Africa</p>	<p><b>Brief instructions on interpretation and HowSpace</b> Sanne Van de Voort</p> <p><b>Short welcome, summary of Day 1, introduction of Day 2</b> Carmen Capriles, Co-Chair Major Groups Facilitating Committee</p> <p><b>Instructions on breakout working sessions</b> Sanne Van de Voort</p>
<p><b>Session 1: 13:15 - 14:30</b></p> <p><b>Session 2: 15:00-16:30</b></p> <p>(some clusters only used on session rather than two, see programme)</p>	<p><b>Parallel working sessions</b></p> <p><b>1.The UNEP We Want / UNEP @50</b> (Stephen Stec and Yugratna Srivastava) A Special Session in March 2022 will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the UN Environment Programme. The UNEP@50 task force is actively working to provide input from civil society regarding our ideas and demands of how to further strengthen UNEP. The working session will provide an update of this work and engage participants in the formulation of a draft joint statement of Major Groups on The UNEP We Want.</p> <p><b>Expected outcome:</b> draft joint statement of the Major Groups on The UNEP We Want to be endorsed by the MGS during the Consultation</p> <p><b>2. Environmental governance / Resolution 73/333</b> including Escazu Agreement, environmental defenders, Stockholm+49 (Leida Rijnhout and Carmen Capriles) The working session will provide an update on recent work around Res. 73/333 as well as the planned event around Stockholm+49, latest developments around the Escazu Agreement and environmental defenders. Based on a position developed within the environmental governance cluster regarding res. 73/333, the working session aims at developing a position to be adopted by all present Major Groups and Stakeholders.</p>

**Expected outcome:** a joint position of the MGS regarding Res. 73/333 and political declaration with a clear commitment to kick off a process to strengthen international environmental law and governance.

#### **A New Treaty to Combat Plastic Pollution**

(Jane Patton, Center for International Environmental Law together with the Environmental Investigation Agency and The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education)

The Governments of Peru and Rwanda have shared their draft resolution to be tabled at UNEA 5.2. It calls for the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to prepare an internationally legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution. The objectives of the working sessions are to 1) familiarise participants to the treaty process, where we are, and what we want to achieve, and 2) build consensus with MG around our ambition on essential elements of treaty design. This includes:

- Outcomes from Ad Hoc Open Ended Expert Working Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics (AHEG).
- Potential and existing UNEA resolutions and what they cover - deep dive into the new plastic resolution from Rwanda and Peru, key elements and objectives.
- Key elements of a successful plastics treaty (CIEL/EIA/GAIA thought starter).
- Treaty vs Convention or Agreement. Discussion on other global legal frameworks and outcomes from Intergovernmental Negotiating Committees for Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- NGO Manifesto.

**Expected outcome:** capacity building and information around the evolution of a global plastic treaty at UNEA5.2 and a joint MGS position in support of the draft resolution on plastic presented by Rwanda and Peru.

#### **4. Stockholm+50**

Facilitation: Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, supported by Ingrid Rostad and Teresa Oberhauser)

In June 2022, the Swedish Government will host a high-level meeting in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the first UN conference on the human environment – the 1972 Stockholm Conference. The anniversary and the high-level meeting are an opportunity for the international community to strengthen cooperation and show leadership in the transformation towards a sustainable future. The workshop aims at providing participants an update on the progress in organising the Stockholm + 50 process, an update on the enabling resolution and some of the topics that will be relevant to discuss.

	<p><b>5. Nature for Climate</b> (Djatougbe Aziaka)  The session is for capacity building and information. The working session will allow participants to discuss the latest IPCC reports, its political implications and the link from COP26 to UNEA5.2 This session will discuss challenges related to climate change and will invite an expert to report from the latest IPCC report.</p> <p><b>6. Nature for Poverty Eradication, Jobs and Economic Prosperity</b> (Bert De Wel and Caroline Usikpedo):  Poverty reduction, job creation and economic prosperity are central to the demands of most Major Groups. Ending inequality, delivering environmental justice, a Just Transition for workers, their families and communities are important issues to make nature and environmental policies effective. In the working session, participants are invited to provide input on how we can put the social dimension of environmental policies higher up on the agenda of UNEA 5.2. Topics that can be discussed are, amongst others, the impact of COVID-19, the need for a Just Transition and UNEP’s partnership strategy.</p> <p><b>Expected outcome:</b> recommendations for the work of the MGs in preparation of UNEA 5.2.</p> <p><b>7. Food systems</b> (Ajay K Jha and Wali Haider):  The working session will focus on a discussion on how to bring the Global South and the perspectives of small farmers to the Food Systems Transformation, the overarching dialogue on the transformation (SDGs) and UNEA 5.2. The first part of the working session will give space to participants to share their input, the second part will be used to strategise MGs engagement in UNEP/UNEA on the topic.</p> <p><b>8. Chemicals, Waste, Mercury</b> (Sascha Gabizon, Carmen Capriles and Yuyun Ismawati):  This session will discuss progress related to the conventions on harmful chemicals, waste and mercury and what initiatives might be important for UNEA 5.2 as the chemical conventions are linked to UNEP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yuyun Ismawati and Carmen Capriles will give an introduction on problems around gold mining, mercury use and the Minamata Convention.</li> <li>• PAN is invited to share initiatives around highly hazardous pesticides.</li> <li>• We will also hear about the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and human rights and the two reports which are upcoming.</li> <li>• Felix Wertli, Head of Section Global Affairs at the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment will share some</li> </ul>
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	<p>insights on Swiss initiative to establish a science-policy platform for chemicals and waste.</p> <p><b>9. Nature for Health</b> (Clara Gobbe and Jessica Bridgers): The cluster has assembled earlier input from its members into an outline which is circulated to the cluster members the week before the MGS consultation. During this working session, we will develop this outline into a summary of key problems and solutions. The goal is to have a succinct and easy to read (primarily bullet points) position paper. Subsequent to the consultation, the cluster can further develop this summary into a background paper with more information on each issue, or even several papers on specific issues.</p> <p><b>Expected outcome:</b> short MGS position paper (bullet points)</p>
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<p>16:30 - 17:00 (Nairobi time) <b>Closing Plenary</b></p> <p>Moderator: Rhoda Boateng Workers and Trade Unions MG</p>	<p><b>Short update from each breakout session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What has been achieved or agreed upon during the working sessions? Which working sessions have produced draft statements or positions which the participants can review before their conclusion and adoption on Day 3?</li> <li>• 1 min update from each working session</li> <li>• 3 min update from those who are working on a joint statement</li> </ul> <p>Draft versions of joint statements, calls to actions etc. are uploaded to the platform for review.</p> <p><b>Outlook Day 3</b> Patrizia Heidegger, NGO Major Group</p>
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**Short briefing from each Working Session:**

- UNEP@50/ UNEP We Want: breakout has led to a joint draft statement; other groups are invited to review the joint statement before Day 3.
- Environmental governance/ Resolution 73/333, Escazú Agreement: general agreement for follow up process after the political declaration. 2nd session focused on environmental defenders, we need more implementation and enforcement, both topics were integrated in the draft joint position .
- Marine litter / plastics treaty: general support for draft resolution tabled by Rwanda and Peru.
- Stockholm +50: GA resolutions were discussed; stakeholder engagement should be strengthened with capacity building for young people.
- Nature for Climate: special guest from Saudi Arabian gov, IPCC report presented, key points highlighted, importance of training.
- Nature Poverty Eradication, Jobs and Economic Prosperity: focus of the discussion on need for a new economic model, need to have an equal access to vaccines, social justice and transition are crucial.

- Food systems: breakout resulted in draft paper, need to transform the food system, address land grabbing, need for support for small farmers, limit industrial animal agriculture, put these issues on agenda for UNEA 5.
- Chemicals, Waste and Mercury: focus of the discussion on mercury found in hair test around the world, need to implement a ban on global trade of mercury, phase out products with mercury such as amalgam, strengthening the conventions, need to address double standards in the global north, report by UNEP on highly hazardous pesticides, Swiss proposal about creating a panel on chemicals and waste.
- Nature for Health: short position paper is online.

**Outlook Day 3, Patrizia Heidegger, NGO Major Group**

- The breakout sessions went very well.
- Draft versions of joint statements, calls to actions were uploaded to the online meeting platform HowSpace for review.
- For tomorrow everyone is invited to have a look at the available reports and draft statements and positions and start leaving comments.

## Summary Day 3: Thursday, 9 September 2021

**Objectives:**

- Sharing of outcomes of parallel working sessions.
- Agreements on specific outcomes for each topic including draft joint statement on The UNEP We Want and Call to Action regarding plastics treaty.

<p>13:00 - 14:30 (Nairobi time) <b>Plenary opening</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ingrid Rostad, Co-Chair Major Groups Facilitating Committee, NGO Major Group</p>	<p><b>Short welcome, summary of Day 2, presentation of Day 3</b> Ingrid Rostad, Co-Chair Major Group Facilitating Committee</p> <p><b>Presentation of outcomes of working sessions by cluster / task force facilitators</b> including key message for input to MG statement for 155th meeting of the CRP and of the 8th ASC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.The UNEP We Want / UNEP @50</b></li> <li><b>2. Environmental governance / Resolution 73/333</b></li> <li><b>3. A New Treaty to Combat Plastic Pollution</b></li> <li><b>4. Stockholm+50</b></li> <li><b>5. Nature for Climate</b> with expert to report from latest IPCC report</li> <li><b>6. Nature for Poverty Eradication, Jobs and Economic Prosperity</b></li> <li><b>7. Food systems</b></li> <li><b>8. Chemicals, Waste, Mercury</b></li> <li><b>9. Nature for Health</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Instructions for Major Groups' meetings</b> Sanne van de Voort</p>
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**1.The UNEP We Want / UNEP @50** Stephen Stec/ Yugratna Srivastava:

- brief introduction and request for expression of interest in the drafting group on the Joint MGS Statement on UNEP@50
- Drafting the joint statement has proceeded quite well.

- People have put in comments, still in the brainstorming phase.
- overview on consultation process in the breakout session
- A very fruitful discussion, and all comments will be included in the statement.

**Comments:**

- suggestion to add something on equal representation, as in international environmental negotiations some groups are underrepresented, e.g., women, Indigenous People
- reference to UNEA is missing, development of UNEA and how to strengthen it.

**2. Environmental governance / Resolution 73/333** including Escazu Agreement, environmental defenders, Stockholm+49 (Leida Rijnhout, Carmen Capriles and Dalia Marquez)

- lack of effective monitoring and weak implementation, MS need to take a leading role.
- There should be a global framework for environmental governance and law, we do need instruments that are universal.
- We need clear goals and targets based on existing agreements.
- This will be a process for the coming three to four years.
- Environmental defenders: applaud the policy that came out from UNEP, but we need better implementation.

**Comments:**

- Important to stop the killing of environmental defenders.
- full implementation of the Escazu agreement, we need to work with UNEA on how to follow up in Latin America, how are the countries held accountable for what they have signed up to?
- One of the most important agreements to make, a global framework for the environment. Major Groups should develop a proposal where each major group can point out the advantages of having the agreement in a specific manner, show the disadvantages of not having it.
- So far, there is little ambition and outcome, we need to be as concrete as possible to explain the outcomes. It seems to be a no go at the moment in relation to appetite.
- Statement is fine. If we want to create a global framework we need much more support from all Major Groups, not all governments are that excited to help.
- Regarding UNEA 5.1 and the political declaration as outcome of the special session: what is the willingness of member states for such a declaration?
- With the Stockholm+50 topic, it would be structurally relevant to link the statements on Res. 73/333 and Stockholm+50 to strengthen each other in our statements.
- Leida: directly asking for a binding global framework would result in many countries not participating, but some things can be and will remain binding with our envisioned framework.

**3. A New Treaty to Combat Plastic Pollution** (Jane Patton, Christopher Chin, Tom Gammage and Giulia Carlini)

- It was a good, robust discussion.
- Very simple joint statement calling for a new legally binding framework.
- Policy discussion on plastic pollution, how the framing has changed over the last 3-4 years. We discussed how much has changed since UNEA 3 and 4, the political will has improved, there is a broader and clearer mandate to negotiate a binding global agreement.
- How does a global instrument on plastics relate to other areas e.g., on marine protection and the chemicals conventions?
- What about the plastic which is already there?



- Christopher: much of the work that is ongoing with toxics will be supported in this proposal. Existing conventions do not cover the life cycle of plastic. Aim is to curb the production of new plastic to make sure we slow down the flow of plastic.

#### **4. Stockholm+50** (Jan-Gustav Strandenaes)

- Member states have been reluctant to speak and discuss the environment at heads of state level.
- We need all to help create a strong outcome from the Stockholm +50.

#### **5. Nature for Climate** (Djatougbe Aziaka)

- The need to understand the IPCC report, no major solution come from it, but we must base policies on it; we need to understand the global impact.
- The need for strong political will, we need our governments to commit to change the problems and regulate the industries that damage our climate and ecosystems.
- The need of education in regard to nature for climate.

#### **6. Nature for Poverty Eradication, Jobs and Economic Prosperity** (Bert De Wel and Caroline Usikpedo)

- Poverty eradication, jobs and economic prosperity is the demand of most major groups. It needs to be higher on the agenda for UNEA5.2.
- We need a new economic model that is sustainable, based on unity with a new mindset, so we can deal better with emergencies such as storms and droughts.
- We need social justice to eradicate poverty, and to create jobs and economic prosperity.

#### **7. Food systems** (Ajay K Jha and Wali Haider)

There are five major calls:

- Enhancing agroecological approaches to agriculture & food, enshrining the right to food & food sovereignty in food systems and protecting rights of small farmers and food producers should be central in the pathway to sustainable and just food systems.
- Corporate actors have a lot of influence on the food systems without any accountability, leading to undermining of rights of farmers, promoting unhealthy food and dietary practices, adversely affecting sustainability of food systems and causing massive environmental harm, as well as abusing animal welfare and rights therefore, urgent need to resist corporate consolidation in agriculture and food and make corporations accountable.
- UNEP should play a key role in policy coherence on food across all UN agencies and processes. UNEP can also document cases of lack of corporate accountability and include guidelines on how to improve it. Policy coherence is also required with regard to STI, which currently promotes a particular understanding of STI, leaving a number of knowledge systems including that of IPs, small farmers and women.
- End production, usage, and export and production of highly hazardous pesticides by 2030.
- We do not yet have a clear definition of what constitutes nature action, we must ensure a clear definition and fundamental principles of "Nature Action".

#### **8. Chemicals, Waste, Mercury** (Sascha Gabizon, Yuyun Ismawati and Carmen Capriles)

- A wonderful, exciting session with many people. There are three planetary crises: climate crisis, chemical crisis, biodiversity crisis: these are all interlinked. UNEP should look at the need for support for countries to address the shortcomings of implementations in relation to these crises. We focussed on the chemical pollution crisis and drafted a statement.

- Three issues were discussed: 1)mercury, 2)highly hazardous pesticides and 3)science
- Mercury pollution impacts the health of indigenous peoples living downstream the polluted rivers, mercury enters into the food chain (through fish) affecting communities, we need to encourage Member States to actively implement the Minamata Convention, and to address illicit trade and put pressure on countries like Bolivia, Japan, even Italy, that import and export large amounts of mercury. This should be treated as a violation to human rights, including mercury poisoning. The Minamata COP takes place before UNEA.5.2 so it also depends on what is decided there.
- 385 million people are poisoned every year by highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs). We advocate for a ban on these pesticides, and to end their production. We would like to get UNEA to adopt a global agreement to phase out highly hazardous pesticides,
- We need an intergovernmental scientific panel on chemical pollution, to strengthen independent science on chemical and waste pollution. There will be resolution on this proposed by Switzerland and we can call to support it.

### 9. Nature for Health (Clara Gobbe)

- Drafted a short position paper that outlines the urgent need to restore the relationship between nature and health.
- Recommendations: unstable economic model of constant growth and consumption is one of the primary drivers of nature destruction, but there is a constant lack of political will to address these drivers. We believe we need system thinking, humanity must adopt a system approach. In practice this means that all these sectors need to work together to decrease the impact, we need stronger environmental impact assessments.
- UNEA needs to call for the elimination of sectors which drive destructors of the climate and human health. And it should take a lead in using a system approach.
- We need a strong ecosystem approach.

<p>15:00 - 16:00 (Nairobi time)  <b>Parallel Breakout Groups for MGs</b>   <b>Moderated by MG Facilitators</b></p>	<p><b>Parallel Breakout Groups for MGs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflection about the consultation outcomes, decide to sign-up/support (draft) statements on The UNEP We Want, the statement in support of the Draft Resolution regarding a global plastics treaty, the joint position on Res. 73/333 and the joint position of Nature for Health.</li> <li>• Initial discussion of each MGs' 1 min statement for the 8th Annual Sub Committee Meeting (optional)</li> </ul>
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Most Major Groups used the space to discuss their endorsement and position concerning the different texts proposed by the parallel working sessions. See next agenda point.

<p>16:00 - 17:30 (Nairobi time)  <b>Final plenary session</b>   Moderator:  Leida Rijnhout,  NGO Major Group</p>	<p><b>Adoption of joint statements / call to action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which MGs can endorse the draft joint statement on The UNEP We Want?</li> <li>• Which MG can support the joint statement in support of the draft resolution by Rwanda and Peru?</li> <li>• Which MG can support the joint position on Res. 73/333?</li> <li>• Which MG can support the joint position on Nature for Health?</li> </ul>
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	<p><b>Main points to be shared with the 155th meeting of the CPR and 8th Annual Subcommittee Meeting</b> Review and endorsement of the key points added by the different working sessions to the shared document.</p> <p><b>Closing remarks: next steps, upcoming 155th CPR and 8th ASC, Regional Consultation Meeting and capacity building</b></p> <p>Laetitia Zobel, Programme Management Officer, Civil Society Unit, UN Environment</p>
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### **Adoption of joint statements / call to action**

- The moderator asked each of the MG about their position regarding the proposed (draft) statements/positions.
- The group leading the Statement on UNEP@50/ UNEP We Want made some clarifications to understand their process:
- Draft text must be understood as a general framework and structure which will then be worked out by the task force.
- MGs can nominate more people as focal points in the UNEP@50 task force. A form will be circulated for those interested to join the group.
- They plan a series of consultations in the coming 2 months so opportunities for further engagement will come.
- The report will happen after UNEA 5.2 during the Special Session, no endorsement is needed from MG.

**No MG opposed any of the draft statements. Some MGs need time to consider and comment on the draft statement. No final decision today, but also no opposition.**

### **Feedback NGOs MG (Patrizia):**

- supports all the drafted documents.
- Draft statement UNEP@50/UNEP We Want: NGOs MG endorses the draft joint statement and makes two suggestions:
  - More “NGO language” to stimulate higher ambition and less UN language.
  - Include a summary of the main points at the top especially with all the references in the preambular section to resolution.
- New Treaty on plastics and marine litter: NGOs MG endorses the draft.
- Draft statement Resolution 73/333 and Environmental Governance Cluster: NGOs MG support the development of a global framework to strengthen environmental law and governance.
- Draft position Nature for Health: NGOs MG endorses the draft position.
- Recommendations for the chemicals, waste and mercury group: recommendation:
  - SDG 12 implementation: also consider non-hazardous types of waste such as construction, textile, food waste.
- Food system cluster: has worked outside the shared space, clarify with the MGFC which cluster will share the documents when.

**Trade Unions:** No person present in the session. We will contact the representatives to know their position concerning the endorsement of the different statements / positions. They have included a comment for the work on UNEP@50.

### **Women MG**

- supports all the drafted statements and positions. Some comments:
- UNEP@50/ UNEP We Want: supports the drafted statement and will help as more work is needed.
- New Plastics Treaty: fully supporting this work.
- Resolution 73/333 and Env. Gov: supporting this work and ready to help strengthen the messages.
- Chemicals, waste, mercury text: will consider the comments given by NGOs MG and other comments will be considered.
- Nature for Health: have some questions and will keep on working in shaping the position to see what is aiming.

**Science and Technology MG:** they support all the ongoing work. Their specially interest in UNEP@50 and plastics but they will work and support other processes as well.

**Business and Industry MG** briefing from Ross Compton: only one representative and he joined the NGO MG space. Collecting feedback from colleagues and preparing a document for submitting positive comments/feedback soon on the suggested texts. Leida asked if business would support the Res 73/333 and he answered that that one should be an easy one to support but he is going to check with other delegates and write Leida per email.

**Children and Youth MG:** overall endorsement of proposed statements and positions. Recommendations to further develop the text are given through the shared document. By example, for UNEP@50 statement: suggestion to include the lessons learnt from Covid-19 (need to engage in a decentralised way).

**Local Authorities MG:** Ingrid Coetzee could not make it, she is excused, and there was no one else in the room to represent this MG. We will contact them after the meeting to know if they endorse the statements/positions.

**Indigenous Peoples MG** by Alejandra: they will look at the common statements/positions after the meeting as they had not discussed the proposed statements/positions. They made some general recommendations on how indigenous interests could be better integrated:

- Access and creation of platform to protects native seeds.
- Respect knowledge from Indigenous People.
- Empowerment of indigenous girls on climate issues (at global level).
- Defending territories against illegal mining and displacements of Indigenous Peoples.

**Farmers MG** by Ajay: no real discussion as there was only one person in the meeting. General support of the drafted position which will later be shared for endorsement.

### **Main points to be shared with the 155th meeting of the CPR and 8th Annual Subcommittee Meeting**

- Review and endorsement of the key points added by the different working sessions to the shared document.
- See the [shared document](#) with the key messages from each MG.
- A written statement will be drafted under supervision of the MGFC.

## **Closing remarks: next steps, upcoming 155th CPR and 8th ASC, Regional Consultation Meeting and capacity building**

Laetitia Zobel, Programme Management Officer, Civil Society Unit, UN Environment

- Thanks to all organisers on behalf of UNEP specially to GMGFC and EEB, WECF & all facilitators for this consultation & participants.
- This has been one of the best meetings the MG put together.
- Supportive of the Multi Stakeholder approach, we all learn through dialogue.
- Great to see that more than 500 registered for the meeting.
- We showed clear collaborating efforts towards UNEA 5.2, UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50.
- Consultation will help us to speak in a consolidated manner during the upcoming UNEP meetings: 155th meeting of the CPR and 8th Subcommittee meeting.
- All MG will be able to speak, she will share with us the set up so we can be prepared.
- Regional Consultative Meeting for Africa Region, 10 September.
- Regional Consultative Meeting for the LAC region, 1 October
- Regional Consultative Meeting: Asia Pacific 2021, 5 October
- Regional Consultative Meeting: Europe and North America, TBC

### **Final words from Carmen/MGFC on upcoming important meetings:**

- 28 September: 155th meeting of the CPR.
- 25- 29 October: 8th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
- 15-17 November: Second informal substantive consultation meeting on United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/333.

### **Next steps on drafted positions/statements:**

- Until mid-next week, participants can comment and continue working on the different drafts.
- By 20 Sept we should have clean text ready.
- By 28 September final versions are ready for the 155th CPR Meeting.

## Annex 1: Breakdown of participants by category

By MG			
Business & Industry MG	16	2,87	%
Children & Youth MG	125	22,40	%
Farmers MG	12	2,15	%
Indigenous People MG	8	1,43	%
Local Authorities MG	7	1,25	%
NGOs MG	280	50,18	%
Science & Technology MG	30	5,38	%
Women MG	74	13,26	%
Workers & Trade Unions	6	1,08	%

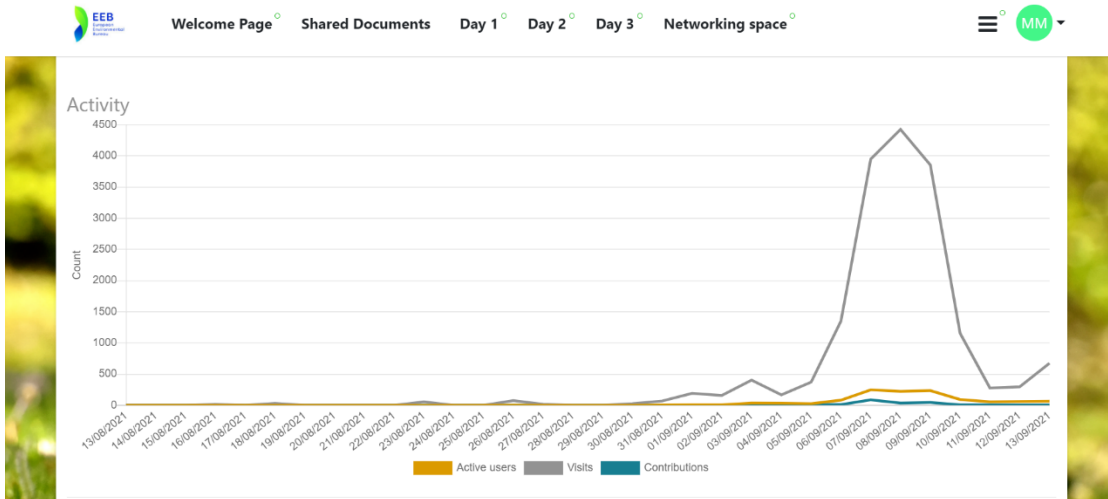
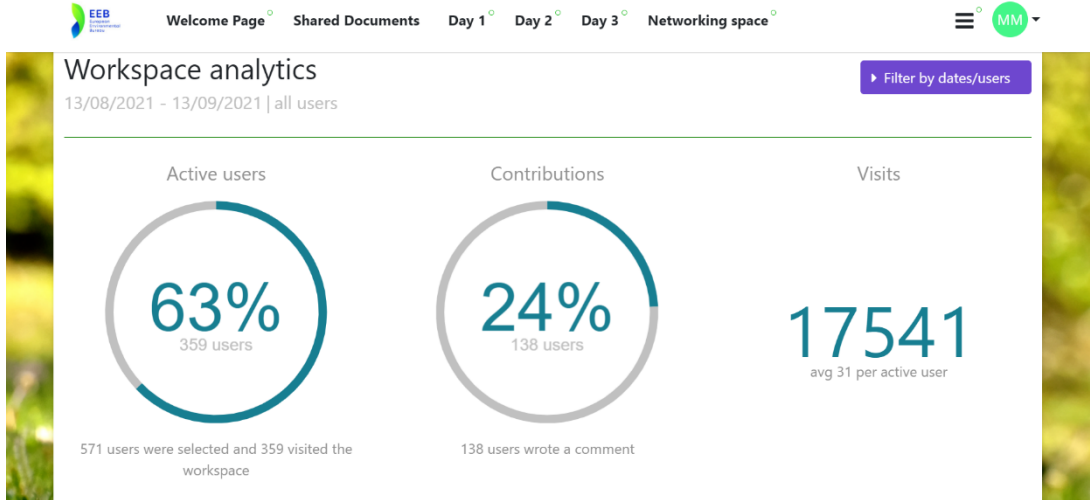
By Region			
Africa	200	35,84	%
Asia Pacific	127	22,76	%
Europe	128	22,94	%
Latin America	46	8,24	%
North America	32	5,73	%
West Asia	25	4,48	%

By gender			
Female	280	50,18	%
I don't want to share	6	1,08	%
Male	271	48,57	%
Other	1	0,18	%

By age			
15-30	156	27,96	%
30-45	194	34,77	%
45-60	149	26,70	%
60+	58	10,39	%
Under 15	1	0,18	%

Participants in zoom	
Day 1	
Opening session	271
Closing session	143
Day 2	
Opening session	94
Closing session	111
Day 3	
Opening session	157
Closing session	138

## Annex 2: Engagement on meeting platform





## Summary statement

# International Consultation for Major Groups and Stakeholders in preparation of UNEA 5.2

### held online 7-9 September 2021

to be delivered during the 155<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CPR, 28 September 2021

Thank you chair for giving us the floor to share a brief summary from the recent international consultation for Major Groups and Stakeholders. For our online meeting on 7-9 September, we had more than 550 registrations from all nine Major Groups and world regions, including nearly one third of under 30-year-olds, which shows the immense interest of stakeholders in ensuring that UNEA 5.2 will deliver tangible outcomes.

Let me share some of our key points.

#### **Our call for a new international treaty to combat plastic pollution**

Plastic pollution is harmful to the planet and human health, and it is vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected. It is obvious that we need a global approach. During our consultation, the major groups present voiced their support for the draft resolution tabled by the governments of Rwanda and Peru. We call on all member states to agree at UNEA 5.2 to pave the way for negotiations for a global treaty. The new instrument must effectively address the whole life cycle of plastic. It must ensure the rights and needs of workers in the sector and their families as well as those communities affected by extraction, production and waste.

#### **Our call to strengthen environmental governance and law**

The outcome document of Res73/333 is crucial for future actions of UNEP. The outcome document could certainly serve as the negotiated ministerial outcome of UNEP@50. This would avoid duplication and confusion as UNEP@50 deals with the future priorities of the organisation, mainly related to environmental governance and law. The process following Res73/333 cannot end with UNEP@50, but the outcome document should entail a clear political commitment from member states to develop a global framework to strengthen and coordinate environmental law and governance over the coming years. The global framework should set clear goals and targets based on existing agreements and put in place an effective monitoring process for international environmental law (which could be similar to the Universal Periodical Review (UPR) in the Human Rights Council). Moreover, building on previous work as well as on regional instruments, the Aarhus Convention and the Escazu Agreement, we need stronger tools to protect human rights defenders.

#### **Our call to UNEA 5.2 to guide stronger global chemical management**

UNEA 5.2 needs to send a clear message to address the global chemical pollution crisis. Several MEAs regulate chemicals at global level; however, the existing conventions have significant loopholes. Highly hazardous pesticides are a severe example. Some parties to the Basel/Stockholm/Rotterdam Conventions apply double standards for pesticides that are banned in the Global North but continue trading them to the Global South. It is estimated that 385 million



people every year suffer from acute pesticide poisoning (UAPP). We call on Member States to agree at UNEA 5.2 to phase out highly hazardous pesticides and end their production by 2030.

We support the idea of an intergovernmental scientific panel on chemical pollution to strengthen independent science on chemical and waste pollution and we call on you to support the resolution in support of the panel.

### **Our call to fix our broken food systems**

UNEA must promote agroecological approaches to food production in full support of the right to food and food sovereignty, protecting rights of small farmers at the core of healthy food systems. Corporate actors have too much influence on food systems, regularly undermine the rights of the farmers and animals, promote unhealthy dietary practices and adversely affect climate change and planetary health. This is also seen in the corporate influence on last week's Food Summit, which many CSOs criticised. We need corporate responsibility and accountability in food systems. UNEP should play a key role in ensuring policy coherence on food across all UN agencies and processes and in giving space to diverse knowledge systems including from Indigenous Peoples, small farmers and women.

### **Our call to restore the relationship between nature and health**

Healthy ecosystems are key for human health; there is an urgent need to restore the relationship between nature and health. The unsustainable economic model of constant growth and consumption is one of the primary drivers of nature destruction, and there is a lack of political will to address these drivers. We need system thinking and UNEA should advance the ecosystem approach, including the One Health approach, and focus phasing out subsidies for those sectors that drive the destruction of the climate, the environment and human health.

### **Our call to live up to the legacy of Stockholm 1972**

With the modalities resolution passed for the international meeting to commemorate Stockholm+50, we call on member states to build on the Stockholm legacy. The 1972 Conference was the first time when civil society was allowed to address the plenary at an international high-level meeting. It is this legacy that governments around the world should uphold. Stockholm+50 is a key opportunity – halfway between 2015 and 2030 – for a robust review of progress made towards the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs with a focus on the environmental dimension and the interlinkages between the dimensions. We call on member states to understand the meeting as a key moment to present their ambitious commitments.

In the previous agenda item on the preparation of **UNEP@50**, our colleagues have already shared our main points regarding the Special Session and Major Groups and Stakeholders' contributions to the commemoration.

We thank you for your attention and hope you will take the time to review the full report from our international consultation with our more detailed positions (which we are also sharing now via the chat box).

## Joint Statement from the Science & Technology and Children & Youth Major Groups UNEP@50 Task Force

*For Agenda Item 5 - Preparations for the commemoration of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP@50) at the 155th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives*

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Thank you very much Madam Chair for the floor. Excellencies & Distinguished delegates,

My name is Daragh and I am a Ph.D student from Dublin, Ireland and co-author of the upcoming “*UNEP We Want Report*”.

Today I am representing the Science and Technology Major Group and delivering this intervention together with my colleague Fabio from the Children and Youth Major Group on behalf of the UNEP@50 Task Force.

The Task Force is led by the two referenced Major Groups through the focal points Stephen, Yugratna, Teresa and Anda, on behalf of the broader Major Groups and Stakeholders community.

The work of the Task Force is financially supported by the UNEP secretariat, and the mandate is also elaborated in the Strategic Plan for UNEP@50 approved by the first session of the UNEA-5.

The Task Force consists of a communication team and co-authors selected through a competitive process, with the majority coming from the global south.

As part of its activities, the Task Force has conducted *two* detailed surveys - *with One Hundred and Thirty* responses received from stakeholders across the world.

We have also held 3 global consultation sessions in 2021 and will hold 3 more consultations in the coming months, including one global, to reflect perspectives of grassroot and region-specific opinions.

In addition, we are conducting ongoing interviews with relevant actors. This will all eventually feed into “The UNEP We Want” report, which will be made available early next year;

Our data analysis is ongoing, but one takeaway so far is that respondents have noted the need for stakeholder engagement processes *to further evolve* if we are to successfully act on future environmental challenges

Overall, our work will build upon the findings of previous expert reports and Para.88 of Rio+20.

Specifically, we are exploring “best practices” and potential “new mechanisms” to ensure the *active and ongoing* participation of *all relevant stakeholders*.

We will continue to engage with civil society, Major Groups and Stakeholders and relevant actors over the coming period, and we also welcome dialogue with member states.

In closing, the UNEP’s 50th anniversary provides us with a *rare* opportunity to reflect upon our founding mission. In the wake of the recent IPCC report, this is an opportunity we can ill afford to miss, to create the UNEP We Want!

Thank you for your attention, I will now pass the floor to my colleague Fabio.  
Thank you for the floor.

Madam Chair, Executive director and member states,

I am Fabio, a student from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, from the Children and Youth Major group which is co-leading the UNEP@50 Task Force.

We welcome the presentation by the secretariat on the questions for the UNEA special session that will take place after UNEA 5.2 under the presidency of the African Group.

On behalf of the UNEP@50 Task Force, we have the following consulted recommendations:

Firstly, regarding the theme of the special session, we suggest for it to be themed around - *The UNEP We Want*. This would be in line with the title of the Rio+20 meeting - the Future We Want. And will also complement work of the constituencies of UNEA.

Second, as the agenda of the special session is open for inputs, we suggest a plenary session or leadership dialogue dedicated to the role of the Major Groups and Stakeholders in the UNEP community. This plenary could include a discussion on the MGS UNEP@50 outcome; and we hope this request can be facilitated.

The Children and Youth Major Group will also send a written submission on the suggestions for the modalities for the special session for your kind consideration.

Third, the outcome document of the UN GA Resolution 73/333 on Strengthening Environmental Governance and Law is crucial for future actions of UNEP. UNEP and UNEA are the only mandated UN bodies to guide and coordinate the implementation of environmental governance and law. We suggest that this outcome document be considered for the Ministerial Outcome of UNEP@50.

Fourth, regarding the upcoming Sub-Committee meeting, we are planning to host a roundtable on the UNEP We Want, and we invite member states to join and engage with us.

Finally, we believe coherence between Stockholm+50 and UNEP@50 should be mutually reinforcing. The Committee should take proactive lead to contribute to the Stockholm+50 process.

To conclude, we have witnessed an increasing participation of Children & Youth at the UNEP@50 process. It's politicization is an opportunity to work for global environmental governance and stronger legal frameworks, intergenerational justice and to ensure we create the bases for upcoming generations to keep pursuing the future we want.

In closing, we hope this process will not be just another one. The findings must be heeded. And we must act strongly enough upon them if we are to further strengthen global civil society engagement to improve environmental outcomes.

## Background and context - UNEP@50 Task Force

The UNEP@50 Task Force is led by the Children & Youth and Science & Technology Major Groups through the focal points Stephen Stec, Yugratna Srivastava, Teresa Oberhauser and Anda Popovici, on the behalf of the broader Major Groups and Stakeholders community.

The work of the Task Force is financially supported by the UNEP secretariat, and the mandate is also elaborated in the Strategic Plan for UNEP@50 approved by the first session of UNEA-5. The Task Force consists of co-authors and a communication team selected through a competitive process, and further volunteers supporting the engagement. The majority of the Task Force comes from the global south.

As part of its activities, the Task Force has conducted two surveys - with 130 responses received from stakeholders across the world - and 3 global consultation sessions in 2021. Plans are underway to hold 3 more consultations in the coming months, including one more global consultation. In addition, The Task Force is conducting ongoing interviews with high-level actors. This will all eventually feed into the UNEP We Want Report being developed by the Task Force, which will be made available early next year.

**The draft MGS statement for *The UNEP We Want* that was initiated during the international MGS consultation in September 2021 is available for inputs on the [google doc here](#).**

**Furthermore, we invite those interested to support and/or contribute to *The UNEP We Want* Report to sign up on the [contact form here](#).**

## Key messages from the UNEP@50 Working Session during the International MGS Consultations

- It is significant to recognize how the pandemic hampered major engagements and negotiations in several UNEP processes. As we commemorate the 50 years of UNEP, it has been relevant to discuss particular issues our environment is facing
- The interface of science-policy should also be focused as it provided strong pieces of recommendation even in the recent UNEAs
- We must understand that science-based decisions can help shape the future of UNEP. In addition, it creates more room for partnerships among experts, policymakers, local communities as well as minorities/marginalized groups
- The current strategies of UNEP must embrace inclusivity in its actions and bridge the gap between grassroots stakeholders and high-level governance of member states. Regarding finance matters, UNEP has supported various resource mobilizations to member states and accredited organizations.
- UNEP@50 shouldn't just be a celebratory process. It's a time to reflect on what can be better. We should act to attend the conclusions of IPCC to address challenges.

- The global situation requires the whole of society to address the issues and engage in the process
- Disconnection between high level events and regional levels must also be addressed, including through remote engagement
- Many discussions were held earlier on the use of the time. MGS should work on setting the agenda, identifying key decision makers and inserting the MG in advance of the UNEA sessions. From that, we will enhance the ability to make formal requests for MG which can be approved by member states.
- UNEP@50 is a celebration of a journey of the challenges, advocating for vulnerable communities and a time to reflect, pause and rewind and imagine the future, plus a symbol of hope.
- Spaces for youth, minority and displaced communities should be made available to engage in UNEA to combat the top-down approaches, for inclusivity.
- It is also important to narrow the time gap between science and policy actions. The work from IPCC is recognized, but the time between adoption and implementation should be bridged.

### **Excerpt from the intervention of the Task Force at the 155th CPR meeting**

As part of its activities, the Task Force has conducted two surveys - with 130 responses received from stakeholders across the world - and 3 global consultation sessions in 2021. We are working to hold 3 more consultations in the coming months, including one more global consultation.

In addition, we are conducting ongoing interviews with high-level actors. This will all eventually feed into the UNEP We Want Report being developed by the Task Force, which will be made available early next year;

Our data analysis is ongoing, but key takeaways so far include that:

- Two-thirds of respondents have called for a stronger mandate, more authority and greater resources for UNEP.
- Respondents have noted the need for stakeholder engagement processes to further evolve if we are to successfully act on future environmental challenges

Overall, our work will build upon the findings of previous expert reports and Para.88 of Rio+20. Specifically, we are examining “best practices” and potential “new mechanisms” to ensure the active and ongoing participation of all relevant stakeholders, beyond higher-level engagements.

We will continue to engage with civil society, MG&S and high-level actors over the coming period, and we welcome dialogue with member states.

In closing, the UNEP’s 50th anniversary provides us with a rare opportunity to reflect upon our founding mission in the wake of the recent IPCC report. This is an opportunity we can ill afford to miss.

We welcome the presentation by the secretariat on the questions for the **UNEA special session** that will take place after UNEA 5.2 under the presidency of the African Group.

On behalf of the UNEP@50 Task Force, we have the following consulted recommendations:

Firstly, regarding the theme of the special session, we suggest that it be themed around “UNEP@50 Special Session - The UNEP We Want”. This would be in line with the title of the Rio+20 meeting - the Future We Want, and the work being undertaken by the constituencies of UNEA. This can be either reflected in the title of the special session or one of the key sub-themes.

Second, as the agenda of the session is open for inputs, we would like to suggest a plenary session or leadership dialogue dedicated to the role of the Major Groups and Stakeholders in the UNEP community. This calendar could include a presentation & discussion on the MGS UNEP@50 outcome; and we hope this request can be facilitated. The Children and Youth Major Group will also send a written submission on the suggestions for the modalities for the special session for your kind consideration.

Third, the outcome document of the UN GA Resolution 73/333 on Strengthening Environmental Governance and Law is crucial for future actions of UNEP. UNEP and the UNEA are the only and mandated UN bodies to guide and coordinate the implementation of environmental governance and law. We suggest that this outcome document be considered for the Ministerial Outcome of UNEP@50. This would help avoid duplication.

Finally, in line with the UNGA resolution on the modalities of the Stockholm+50 International Meeting, we believe coherence between Stockholm+50 and UNEP@50 can be mutually beneficial. We appreciate the continued leadership of Sweden and Kenya on this.

Regarding the regional consultations - in order to broaden the assessment of perspectives on the future of UNEP beyond the survey, global sessions and interviews, we will conduct regional consultations. The consultations will aim to guarantee a broader outreach to also include grassroot or region-specific opinions.

To conclude from a children and youth perspective, we have witnessed an increasing participation of Children & Youth at the UNEP@50 process. It's politicization is an opportunity to work for global environmental governance and stronger legal frameworks, intergenerational justice and to ensure we create the bases for upcoming generations to keep pursuing the future we want.

In closing, we hope this process will not be just another process. The findings must be heard. And we must act strongly enough upon them if we are to further strengthen civil society engagement to improve environmental outcomes.

# Outcome document MG consultation

8 September 2021

## Resolution 73/333

### Rationale for our reaction:

**This joint position from the Major Groups focuses on just one message: the importance of raising the level of ambition initiated by the 73/333 process.** As currently worded, the Political Declaration reflects not too much more than the status quo. The Declaration must instead include a firm commitment to establishing an Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) to start an inclusive negotiation process towards a Framework that meaningfully improves and coordinates as well as strengthens International Environmental Law and Governance.

The ambition we all need to seek in the course of the 73/333 process is borne out of urgency. The climate crisis, the loss of biodiversity and pollution along with the depletion of the natural resource base, are already undermining sustainable development. A Framework for Environmental Law and Governance, underpinned by international instruments as well as clear and universal principles, goals, targets and means of implementation, is a vital part of the solution.

We agree that Environmental Law requires consistent implementation and enforcement and the filling of existing gaps. We moreover agree that Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) provide valuable support to protect the environment, however these MEAs are not coordinated, and many do not have effective monitoring or enforcement. Environmental Governance has to be improved to increase a global level playing field to achieve sustainability and equity.

Economic instruments and social and technological innovations are important, but more coordination of increased regulation and accountability mechanisms and transparency are crucial. UNEP, as the home of the UN Environmental Assembly, is equipped and mandated to lead coordination of international standards and rules. Member States should be supporting each other to coalesce national standards and international frameworks while individually and multilaterally supporting the local governance structures and Indigenous Peoples' continued development of their local, international, and multilateral frameworks and environmental agreements. UNEP should support OHCHR's role in reporting on the Human Right for a healthy and safe environment.

### The package (Framework) for strengthening International Environmental Law and Governance should consist of:

- Recognizing the rights, duties and principles that are to guide environmental protection. These should include the obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the Human right to a safe,

clean, sustainable and healthy environment based on the concepts of OneHealth, the principles of Agenda 21 and the 2030 Agenda.

- Clear goals and targets, based on existing agreement, in line with Agenda 21 and filling in the gaps. This should include initiatives that strengthen Human Rights Courts and introduce Environmental Courts.
- Means of Implementation - concrete proposals and actions for social, cultural, political, or economic support and capacity building for Member States and all relevant Stakeholders (lawyers, judges, public institutions, courts, policy makers and enforcement authorities, universities etc.)
- Monitoring schemes (like the UPR-review of the HRC) and implementation for mechanisms for conflict resolution.
- A clear and measurable timeline

This 2-step approach is possible: and here we would like to refer to the process and commitments that were made in the Rio+20 outcome (2012), “The Future We Want” where Member States committed to start a process to negotiate a framework for a set of sustainable development goals. And which was then achieved in 2015. Three full years to discuss and develop such an overall package (Framework) is necessary and fruitful to create ownership of all member States and Stakeholders. **UNEP should do the same!** We all know that Environmental Law needs much more enforcement, that gaps exist, that MEAs are great but still not effective enough and that Environmental Governance needs to be improved to achieve the ambition of protecting the environment. We also know that there is a need to stop overexploitation of natural resources and ecosystem participants, including animals, and to reduce waste and pollution.

Ecocide as a crime against humanity should be recognised in the framework for environmental governance and law, because it is essential to advance environmental justice and the recognition of the victims for environmental damage. The Ecocide as a crime against humanity also will reduce the impunity environmental damage, that unfortunately now is too much the daily practice.

[The recent initiative from UNEP and many other UN-institutions to demand the Human Rights Council to integrate better in their work the Right to a Safe and Healthy Environment](#) is great, and should be concretised, **also by UNEP itself.**

**When UNEP, UNEA and member states commit themselves in the Political Declaration to start such a process, it would also be a unique opportunity for UNEP@50 to underline their role in Environmental Law and Governance and facilitate this important and needed process.**

We would also like to bring to your attention our submission we sent last year, as all its points remain valid. For your convenience and your consideration this is the link to the document:

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33149/Submission%20from%20the%20NGOs%20involved%20in%20the%20Res.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>



## Environmental defenders and Escazú Agreement

We are happy with UNEP environmental defenders' policy but would like to see more dissemination about it and concrete instruments for implementation.

Escazu Agreement (principle 10): We applaud this result in Latin America! Also, because recognition and protection of environmental defenders is integrated. We are concerned that not all countries in the region have yet signed and/or ratified it. A weak point still is the compliance (but that also counts for the Aarhus Convention), and the need for stronger review mechanisms. We call international, transnational, and multilateral organizations to respect and uphold the principles of the Escazú Agreement.

We insist that other regions need to start similar processes as this was already asked for in the Rio+20 Outcome, "The Future We Want".

Related to both issues: protection of environmental defenders and implementation of Principle 10, should be integrated in our proposed Framework for Environmental Governance and Law.



## **International Consultation**

**7-9 September 2021**

### **Joint Statement by Major Groups and Stakeholders present at the consultation**

#### **Support of the draft UNEA resolution on plastic presented by Rwanda and Peru**

Since its inaugural session in 2014, each meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly has seen progressively stronger calls to take action against the ever-increasing problem of plastic pollution.

Plastic pollution is a global crisis, and a common concern of humankind that requires global and urgent solutions. While we recognize the importance of continuing and developing work at national and regional levels without delay, we call on members to take decisive action by establishing an intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) at UNEA 5.2 with a mandate to negotiate a new legally binding global agreement to address plastic pollution in all environments. Such a treaty must be based on human rights principles and will need to include a framework or strategy for transitioning to fully circular lifecycle practices, capacity development, and funding and support for all countries to be able to make such a transition.

As such, we hereby support the Draft Resolution presented by the governments of Rwanda and Peru to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee with a broad and clear mandate, and we ask that member states join Rwanda and Peru through co-sponsorship to support and strengthen this resolution.



## International Consultation 7-9 September 2021

### Recommendations to UNEA5.2 to address the global chemical pollution and waste crisis

#### Background

UNEP's Mid-Term Strategy recognizes that **we face three planetary environmental crises**, the climate crisis, the biodiversity crisis and the **chemical pollution crisis**. The crises are all interlinked: chemical pollution devastates biodiversity through e.g. bee-killing pesticides and it greatly contributes to climate change through production and incineration of petrochemical based products. The chemical pollution crisis is addressed through the BRS and Minamata Conventions, but implementation is uneven and there are loopholes and exceptions.

For example, the Minamata convention aims to phase out the use of mercury, but most countries continue the use of dental amalgam - containing mercury - and **entire river basins in fragile ecosystems are polluted with mercury** from the exemption given to artisanal small scale gold mining. Mercury is toxic to the human body, and accumulates in the food/fish we eat. We find children are born already polluted with mercury, not because their parents mine gold, but because of eating fish living in polluted water ([IPEN](#), [WEFCF](#) reports). We count on the Minamata Convention COP taking measures to improve the data gaps and address the problems of ongoing **mercury imports and exports** in significant amounts, including by India, Bolivia, China, Japan but also Italy and Kenya.

Furthermore, despite the FAO and WHO call for action to detoxify agriculture and health from **highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs)**, and the concern expressed through SAICM/ICCM about highly hazardous pesticides we are extremely worried about the continued growth in pesticide production and use, and the estimated **385 million** farmers and farm workers unintentionally **poisoned by pesticides each year**. The UNEP report "Environmental and Health Impacts of Pesticides and Fertilizers and Ways of Minimizing Them" amongst others reports, shows the association between occupational and residential exposure to pesticides and adverse health outcomes, including cancers, and identifies pesticides as a key driver in the decline of biodiversity. Many countries have banned highly hazardous pesticides, but **companies in these countries still continue to export these banned substances** to countries in the global South, for example from Germany. It is also appalling that **one in five of the world's suicides** involve pesticides but the good news is that the banning of some highly hazardous pesticides has resulted in the significant reduction in suicides without fall in agricultural productivity ([see pan-international.org](#)).

#### Recommendation 1

Building on the UNEP report "Environmental and Health Impacts of Pesticides and Fertilizers and Ways of Minimizing Them" and in line with target 12.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on minimizing adverse health impacts of chemicals, we call for an overarching instrument that



comprehensively addresses the sound life-cycle management of pesticides at a global scale, aiming to **phase-out highly hazardous pesticides** from agriculture **by 2030** and by 2025 halt the export of pesticides that have already been banned for health or environmental reasons in one or more of the UN member states.

### **Recommendation 2**

UNEA5.2 can address these recurring challenges of implementation and lack of data which we encounter with most of the chemicals and waste convention, by supporting the initiative to create **an intergovernmental scientific panel on chemical pollution** to strengthen independent science on chemical and waste pollution, building on the UNEA4, the resolution to strengthen the science policy interface. The example for this panel can be the IPCC (Climate) and IPBES (Biodiversity) and then to address the 3<sup>rd</sup> global crisis of chemicals pollutions and waste, in support of the BRS and Minamata conventions and identifying omnibus policy options.

We also recommend that the **report from the UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and human rights** announced on September 21 at the Human Rights Council, and that speaks on the right to benefit equally from scientific progress and its applications, and contains recommendations on conflict of interests and effective science-policy interface platforms, is referred to in this proposed resolution for a the scientific panel.



## International Consultation

7-9 September 2021

### Draft Joint Position for adoption by Major Groups and Stakeholders

#### Nature for Health

The pandemic has shown how our destructive relationship with nature has reverberating effects for our health and wellbeing. Zoonotic diseases also show us how disrupting or destroying the environment can create other reverberating health and environmental threats that can undermine societies. In the recovery, most of the discussion has focused on resilience and preparedness. Yet little to nothing has been done to advance the most cost-effective solution to safeguard health: prevention. This requires that we address the underlying drivers of nature loss, and change how we conceptualise the relationship between nature and health.

Nature is essential to our health and wellbeing, from the air we breathe, to the water we drink, to the food we grow and eat. Its destruction puts our future at risk. UNEA-5 must provide the impetus needed to shift the conversation to preventing the destruction of nature, with a view to safeguarding our own health. This includes addressing the economic and societal drivers of environmental destruction; filling the gaps in environmental governance and mainstreaming One Health approaches which recognize the intrinsic relationship between humans, animals and the environment and reduce the risk of future pandemics. Ecological destruction is a threat to human health, and we will see future pandemics if we continue to view human health and nature in isolation.

#### **The economy is making nature poorer**

Our prevailing and unsustainable economic model of constant growth and consumption is the primary driver of ecosystem disruption. This is evident in the overexploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, and of wild and domestic animals. It can

be seen in the inequitable distribution of human development and access to health care. We see it in the proliferation of industrial agriculture, which drives deforestation, generates pollution, antibiotic resistance and drives zoonotic spillover. And it is apparent from the air, water and soil pollution that blights communities and ecosystems worldwide.

### **Weak governance facilitates destruction**

It is becoming increasingly clear that the weakness of environmental governance, from the domestic to the international level, is a threat to human health and to our ecosystem. We see poor implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, with an absence of political will, accountability measures, financing, and insufficient means of implementation.

The pandemic has done little to halt the downward spiral of overconsumption, environmental destruction and poor governance. Meanwhile, development banks are pouring billions in recovery funding into harmful forms of agriculture and extractive industries and governments are announcing climate pledges while retaining subsidies that support fossil fuels. Our actions speak louder than words, and we seem blind to the relationship between nature and health.

### **We need systems thinking**

It has never been clearer that humanity must adopt a systems approach to the relationship between human, animal and environmental health, and that protecting and restoring ecosystems is vital for our survival. Systems thinking - like the One Health model - helps us to understand how wildlife displaced or disturbed by human disruption or climate change facilitates the spillover of diseases into humans, and how intact ecosystems can prevent this by providing space for wild animals to avoid human or livestock contact. It allows us to understand how intensive animal agriculture pollutes water, land and air, and raises stressed animals with poor welfare, creating the perfect conditions for antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic disease evolution and transfer. And it helps us understand how good governance and stability can create the capacity needed to develop and implement environmental regulations, and identify and act on emerging health threats.

In practice, this means enabling the public health, environment and animal health sectors to collaborate effectively to prevent health impacts, and curbing activities that are exploitative of nature and animals and which simultaneously put human health at risk. It means environmental impact assessments that go far further in exploring and understanding the relationships between ecological and social factors. It means promoting the synergies between climate actions and biodiversity conservation.

### **To address the relationship between nature and health, during UNEA 5.2 UN Member States must address environmental degradation in the following ways:**

#### **Financing:**

- To begin global ecological restoration, eliminate harmful subsidies that support sectors and activities driving environmental destruction and thus harm human health and wellbeing, as well as;
- Develop economic and legislative incentives to encourage, promote and induce sustainable production and consumption patterns.

## **Governance**

- Commit to implement existing instruments and multilateral environmental agreements, and strengthen accountability processes.
- Public participation and transparency should be guaranteed.
- Gaps must be filled in the environmental rule of law, beginning with an ambitious Political Declaration, as outlined in the Major Groups Joint statement on resolution 73/333.

## **Holistic Approaches**

- Apply systems approaches such as the One Health model to drivers of pandemic risk and other health threats linked to environmental degradation, and which address human, animal and environmental health in a coherent and coordinated manner.
- Ensure that ecological and health protection policies also consider the underlying moral and spiritual values of Nature.

## **Biodiversity and Ecosystems:**

- Strengthen criteria for environmental impact assessments by ensuring that they account for species demography and are mandated in development planning at all levels.
- Emphasize the need to restore and reconnect natural systems to maximise human, environmental and animal health and minimise the interface between wildlife, livestock and humans, taking note of the Decade for Ecosystem Restoration.
- Facilitate transitions away from the consumption of wild meat where possible, and reduce consumption of farmed meat to both directly improve human health and reduce pressure on land from intensive agriculture.
- Restrict the mixing of wild species with captive animals, including in situations like fur farms and agricultural systems, through the use of landscape level planning that minimises the need for wildlife to use agricultural areas, and enables them to access the resources they need within their native habitat.
- Restricting the trade in wild animals, transforming food systems, and prioritizing nature protection are critical components to invest in nature for human and planetary health, will drastically reduce the risk and intensity of future zoonotic outbreaks.