

Children and Youth Major Group

[Views on Arrangements for UNEA Special Session & UNEP@50 - the UNEP We Want](#)

This working submission is prepared by the constituents of the Children and Youth Major Group regarding the arrangements for the UNEA Special Session in March 2022 to commemorate the UNEP@50. The submission draws inputs, included in the Annex, from the regional youth forums and dialogues hosted by youth organisations, and aspects of the work underway in the UNEP@50 Task Force convened jointly by the Science & Technology and Children & Youth Major Groups.

Agenda of the Special Session

- Given the importance of UNEP@50, we suggest that the agenda should include further components, in addition to leadership dialogues; such as inclusion of Plenaries, and interactive and inclusive models of dialogue
- Youth constituency calls for a plenary session dedicated on the topic: **role of young and future generations in environmental action** as part of the agenda. It is important that youth engagement is viewed at the heart of UNEP@50. Such plenaries also have precedents in processes such as of CFS49, and UNCCD COP15. We stand ready to support the development of this session
- Finally, we suggest that dedicated time be provided to receive the recommendations from the *UNEP We Want* report being prepared by the UNEP@50 Task Force

Theme(s) of the Special Session

- The theme of the UNEA Special Session should reflect the importance of the 50-years journey of UNEP and should be futuristic in its essence.
- We call for the phrase **The UNEP We Want** to be included in the overall theme of the Special Session
- We also suggest that the focus of the special session should reflect the environmental dimension of all aspects of the work of the UN, including sustainable development, resilience, humanitarian action, among others

Possible Outcomes from the Special Session

- Building on from the UN75 process, we call upon member states to consider how the outcomes of the Special Session can be long-term and impactful in nature. The UNEA Special Session is the only mandated space for an intergovernmental outcome on 50 years of commemoration of the UN. We suggest for **following outcome documents** from the Special Session:
 - The UNGA resolution in September 2021 on the modalities for Stockholm+50 called for UNEA and CPR to provide inputs to the Stockholm+50 International Meeting. We believe the special session could provide such inputs.
 - Since this is first-ever Special Session of UNEA, we suggest that the Secretariat should be asked to prepare a compendium outlining the arrangements and key messages from the Special Session that could inform organisation of the future Special Sessions of UNEA
 - Regarding the Nature, Climate and Pollution fund proposed by the Executive Director, the youth constituency highlights the need to include youth-specific indicators in dissemination and implementation of these funds. We will be submitting further details on this at the Annual Sub Committee meeting
 - Finally, we support the recommendations made by the *International Environmental Law* Cluster of the Major Groups & Stakeholders at the 155th CPR to have progress on 73/333 as one of outcomes of the Special Session

Participation

- We continue to highlight the need for inclusive and universal participation in the UNEA Special Session, where groups especially from the grassroots, those at the frontlines of the environmental crises are able to meaningfully contribute and participate at the Special Session, as Major Groups and Stakeholders community alongside member states. Inclusive forms of engagement and participation are essential in the period of the post-COVID-19 recovery and beyond

Future Special Sessions

- As this is the first ever Special Session of UNEA, we request the member states and secretariat to produce informal guidance on how future special sessions may be hosted, especially to take stock of outcomes of this Special Session. CPR could also consider this upon the request of this Special Session.