

Statement on Stockholm +50

Dear excellencies,

My name is Djatougbe Aziaka and I am co-facilitator of the NGO major group and will be delivering this statement on behalf of the major groups facilitating committee in UNEP. Thank you for this opportunity to share some of our perspectives on Stockholm +50.

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.

As major groups and stakeholders we have been preparing for Stockholm +50 for almost two years, discussing the process and planning our engagement. We have set up a Stockholm +50 Task Force with representatives from different major groups and regions who are involving stakeholders in digital meetings on the various themes of the meeting in the lead up to Stockholm +50. We are also planning a hybrid People's Environment Festival directly before the events in Stockholm.

All of these events will be accessible to accredited UNEP organizations, but also to other stakeholders. This is inspired by the original meeting in 1972. As Stockholm in 1972 was the first ever UN conference to have a large global gathering of civil society, and that there were two stakeholder conferences running parallel to the official one, one of accredited NGOs and one large people's conference, we cannot have a conference in 2022 which is less ambitious.

Thank you