

**STATEMENT MADE BY THE INSTITUTE FOR PLANETARY SYNTHESIS, THE ALL WIN NETWORK,
THE ASSOCIATION OF WORLD CITIZENS AND THE COMMONS CLUSTER OF THE UN NGO MAJOR
GROUP.**

8TH ANNUAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING, Oct 29th, 2021, item 9, Closing of the Meeting.

Thank you, Chair,

The organizations I speak for are dedicated to the objectives of the UN including to “Save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. And that includes the War on Nature—one that humankind **cannot but** lose.

This war on Nature threatens every part of our lives, including our own personal life, the lives of our parents, children grandchildren and all those we love most. No one is safe from pollution, pandemics, droughts, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions. Extinction of species is no myth. Some say 150 species are lost each day. Human extinction, our own death and that of those we cannot bear to lose is a possibility that we must reckon with.

When at UN Meetings, we have been able to meet in person and speak heart to heart, colleagues and delegates of Member States have taught me the deep commitment each one personally has to the well-being of those we represent. Thank you all for this. I have learned:

We all have at least two reasons for being here:

1. To serve those we represent by finding solutions that will serve the interest of **all**; and
2. To work within our own deeply held values for our own well-being and those we love.

Here, we each have personal room for manoeuvre and initiative, conflict arises between those we represent and the direction taken by the international community. We do have considerable influence

We can

1. either share at the UNEP meetings the **specific** reasons why it is not in our interest to take a particular course of action so that together within the conference, we can find a better way forward; or
2. We can take the problems to our capitals and those we represent, explain the predicament we face and the consequences to our own constituency if we do not reach an effective global accord.

I started with the UN in March 1969—53 years ago. Since then there have been huge changes globally and within the UN. For instance the number of ECOSOC accredited NGOs rose within a couple of years from just 350 to 2500 within a year. Now there are almost 6000. We, CSOs and Member States together can use our collective and individual power and inspiration to ensure that UNEA 5.2, UNEP @50 and Stockholm +50 help us to transform the war on Nature into a synergistic cooperation leading the whole of humankind to peace and prosperity.

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