

Statement for the 23rd November Sub-Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 2: Preparations for the special session on the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP@50).

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Madam Chair for the floor.

We are delivering this collective intervention for 3 minutes across for the items discussed under the first part of this sub committee meeting. Allow us to begin by congratulating you madam chair for leading the consultations on the arrangements for the special session. The UNEP@50 commemoration provides an opportunity for the multilateral system that cannot be missed.

We are delighted to share with you our comments on the different aspects of the agenda and the arrangements for the Special Session. The UNEP@50 task force is being led by the Children and Youth & Science and Technology Major Groups, with the work also outlined in the Strategic Plan for UNEP@50 approved by the first session of UNEA-5. The co-authors developing the UNEP We Want report come from all regions of the world, with the majority of the authors from the countries of the global south. We are grateful for the continued support from the Member States on the report, including the placeholder that has been reflected in the draft political declaration.

We will be delighted to present the initial findings of the Report to the CPR in January 2021, so it can inform the various deliberations of the member states with the full report presentation in the UNEP@50 commemoration.

We are glad to see that the draft structure circulated in advance of tomorrow's meeting has referenced the UNEP We Want report. The Draft Structure currently includes the presentation of "The UNEP We Want" in a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on the second day. We believe that the report can be better positioned in the Agenda of the special session on Day 1 rather than during the "Multistakeholder Dialogue", due to the following reasons:

- We believe that it would be important that the Multi-Stakeholder dialogue captures perspectives of all stakeholders and major groups in an inclusive manner as has generally been the practice. Special focus just on the report during the Dialogue will preempt the organic nature of the dialogue. We as UNEP@50 Task Force have also not requested for the report to be presented during the Dialogue. Furthermore, given the special and historic nature of the special session, we believe that the contributions from the civil society should be presented early on so as to inform the special session as a whole. The Report will have substance that is very relevant for the Member States to take into account during the Commemoration.

Therefore, we request that it is appropriate for "The UNEP We Want" report to be presented on the first day i.e. 4 March so that it can have maximum impact and meaningful contribution to the special session.

Please allow me to also make some points specifically from the youth constituency,

We kindly highlight that the call for side events, as per the official application portal, took place only for the resumed session of the UNEA from 28 Feb - 2 March. For the UNEA special session which is distant to the UNEA 5.2, we request that the side event portal be open soon, so that interested stakeholders and member states can apply. We are concerned that in the absence of an open application process, the appropriate balancing and equal opportunities may not be possible.

We are also pleased to share with you that the youth constituency will be hosting the UNEP@50 Youth Plenary either at the weekend between OECPR and UNEA, or in conjunction with the High-Level Segment, as a dedicated session of the Global Youth Environment Assembly. We would be delighted to have participation from the member states as respondents and discussants. The youth event is open to all interested youth participants, and so we invite all the youth delegates in the member states delegations to join us as well.

Finally, we want to specify to you that organisation of the conference including the communication aspects of the same takes significant time and effort. We thereby call upon you to reach a consensus soon on the theme of the session and possibly the outcomes, so we can all work together to ensure an inclusive special session.

Thank you, Madam Chair for the floor.

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