

Briefing on the report “the UNEP We Want”

UNEP@50 TASK FORCE

**Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting, 7 December 2021**



UNEP@50 Task Force - Team Overview



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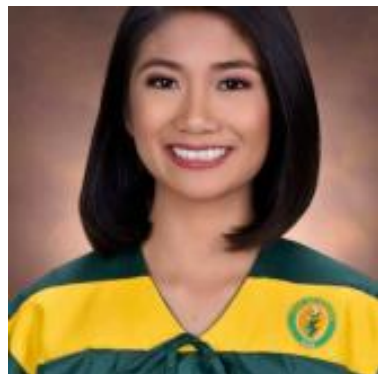
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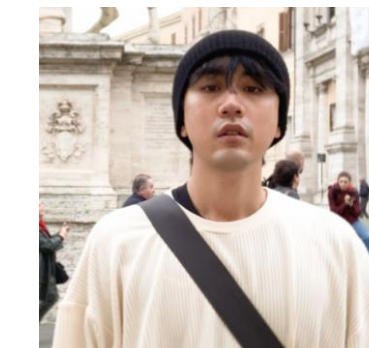
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Overview of Activities

Mandate

- Commenced work in October 2020 upon the guidance of the MGFC, led by the Children & Youth and Science & Technology Major Groups
- Further recognized / mandated in the Strategic Plan of UNEP@50 prepared by the Secretariat in January 2021 and welcomed by the Bureaus in June 2021

Key activities:

- A survey in two parts - snapshot survey and detailed survey
- Research and Several Consultations (summary on the right)
- Interviews with key experts in UNEP fora
- MGS Statement on UNEP@50 - also a part of the report
- Communication activities

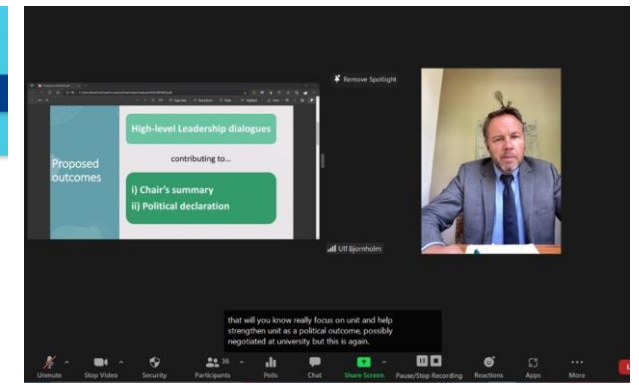
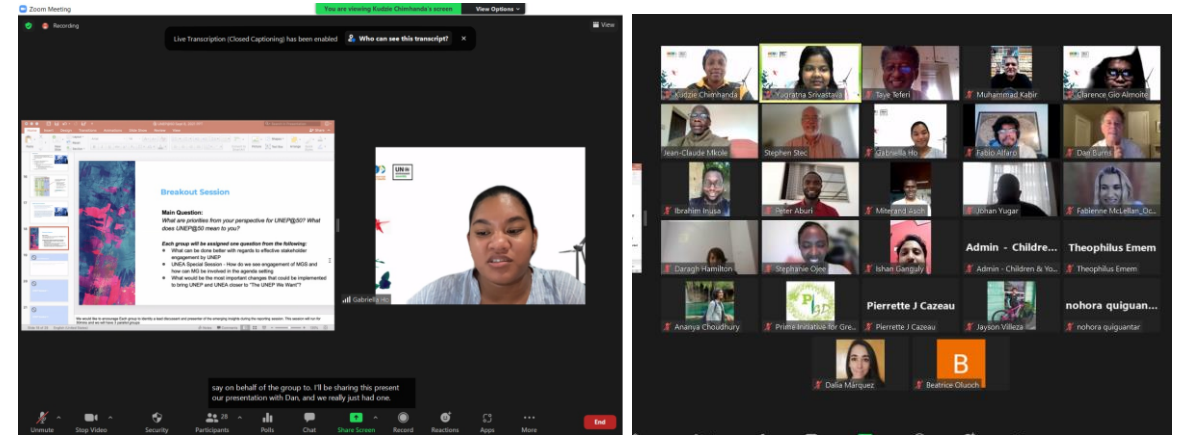


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Website available on: <https://www.youthenvironment.org/the-unep-we-want>

Consultations Conducted

February 2021	At the Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum for UNEA 5.1
June 2021	Consultation in the lead-up to the Joint Bureau Retreat of the CPR and UNEA Bureau
September 2021	UNEP@50 track at the International MGS consultation from 7-9th September
October 2021	MGS Meeting on UNEP@50 (including MGFC representatives)
14th December 2021 (upcoming)	Session at the Regional Coordination Meeting (RCM) of the Civil Society for the European Region
December 2021 / January 2022 (dates TBC)	A two day long global MGS consultation on UNEP@50
February 2022 (date TBC)	Consultation / Forum in the lead-up to the UNEA Special Session

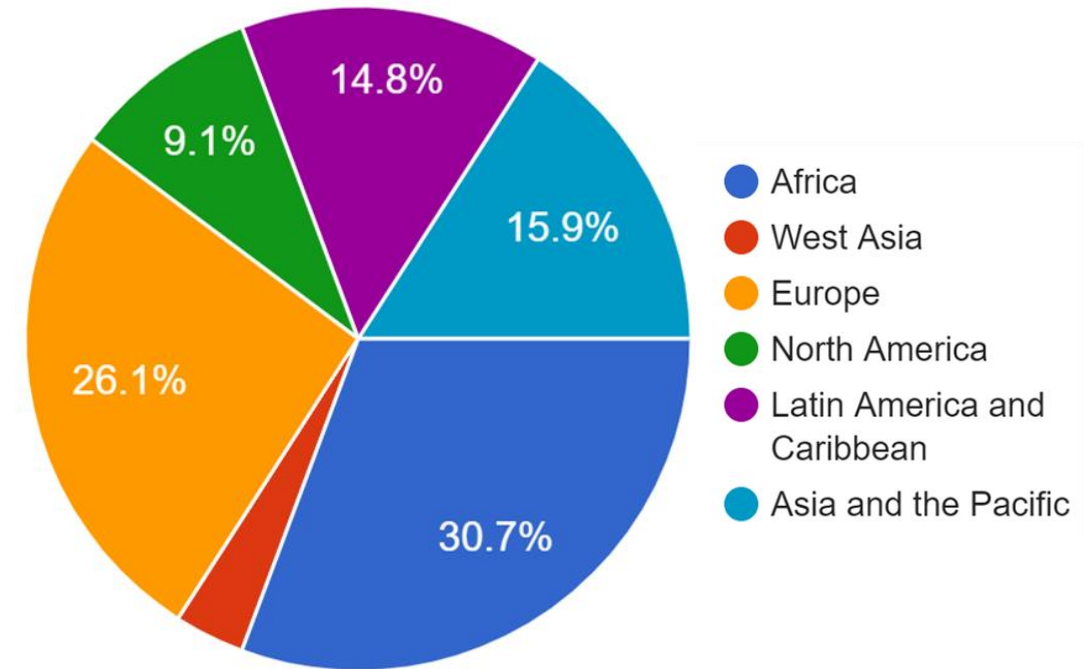


Survey

Fabio Arturo López Alfaro (Mexico), Youth Co-Author

UNEP@50 survey – process, aim and background information

- **Process:**
 - **Two surveys** circulated between December 2020 and August 2021.
- **Aim:**
 - **Gather non-state actors' perspectives** on UNEP's past **achievements** and **failures**, as well as **expectations for the future** with regard to its mandate within the UN system and on the international arena.
 - **Focus on UNEP's stakeholder engagement policy** to **identify good practices** and **areas for improvement**.
- **General information**
 - **130** responses | **65%** from accredited organisations.
 - Responses are geographically balanced.
 - The results reflect the views of all UNEP Major Groups.



I. Looking back at 50 years of UNEP

- **Main findings:**

- **UNEP has achieved the most** in the areas of *Climate change, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* and *Education and Environment*. *Transportation* appears as the area in which UNEP has achieved less.
- **UNEP has displayed a strong leadership role** in tackling and raising awareness of *climate change-related issues*. In contrast, its leadership in the areas of *Disasters & Conflicts, Extractives, and Energy* has been lesser.
- **Areas where UNEP could have done more to address global environmental challenges:** climate change, sustainable development, environmental governance and education, biodiversity, green economy, being more active at national and regional level, and cross-cutting coordination and integration of issues with other UN programmes.

II. Major Groups perspectives on the next 50 years

- **Main findings:**

- **67.5% of respondents consider that UNEP's mandate should be broadened**, while only **7.1%** think that it should be narrowed.
- In addition, **96.8%** of respondents consider that **UNEP should have a stronger voice in coordinating** the environmental programmes of other UN agencies, funds and programmes.
- **Key areas from the 2020-2021 Programme of Work of UNEP to shape the future of the organisation:** **climate change**, **environmental governance** and **healthy and productive ecosystems**.
- **96%** think that **UNEP has a special role to play in a post-pandemic Green Recovery**.
- **Means to ensure UNEP's future achievements:** **education and public awareness (77%)**; **stakeholder engagement (74.7%)**; **evidence-based assessments and outlooks (72.4%)**; **strengthening the environmental law (71.3%)**; and **strengthening the science-policy interface (67%)**.

III. Stakeholder engagement – what has worked and what needs to be improved

- **Main findings:**

- **47.6%** of participants found easy to engage with UNEP, while **25%** found it difficult.
- **Overall positive perception of UNEP's consideration of CSO inputs:** **38.4%** assessed that CSOs inputs were somewhat taken into account, **32%** often, and **19.2%** a great deal.
- **Division on the adequacy of the stakeholder engagement system:** **53.7%** of the surveyees believe it to be adequate, while the other **46.3%** believe the contrary.
- **Suggestions for improving UNEP's stakeholder engagement policy:** **increase stakeholder overall support for improved engagement, accessibility, diversity and geographical coverage (42.1%); Provide financial support for stakeholder engagement** (especially for the global south and to indigenous organisations) (**12.3%**); **simplify the accreditation procedure (8.8%); and capacity-building of stakeholders (8.8%).**

Joint Statement and Scope of Report

Stephen Stec (Austria, Hungary), Lead Author

“The UNEP We Want”

- A shared commitment between multilateralism and the people and their groups that pushed for the establishment of UNEP in the first place
- Anchored in:
 - Strengthening UNEP’s research and science base
 - Upgrading its efforts to contribute to a green and just transition
 - Strengthening environmental governance and diplomacy
 - Taking full advantage of the knowledge and abilities of people and their groups

The Major Groups are negotiating a Joint Statement on “The UNEP We Want”

- Transparent and open at the following link:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18avQ4ngZqhgoxafoxBwOK1wVu8UVpbCT/edit>
- Consultations on-going

The Report on “The UNEP We Want”

- Covers both UNEP and UNEA
- Aimed at:
 - A more dynamic UNEP
 - A more effective UNEP
 - A more responsive UNEP
 - A more accessible UNEP
 - A more visible UNEP
 - A UNEA that drives the international agenda on environment

Structure of the Report

- Observations from UNEP's first 50 years
- A scope of vision for the next 10-20 years
- The UNEA We Want
- Engagement of the Public in UNEP and UNEA
- Annex: Detailed Survey results
- Joint Statement of MGS on "The UNEA We Want"

The UNEP and UNEA We Want

- Is a reinvigorated system for environmental multilateralism
- Building upon mandates
- Addressing planetary crises of climate change, ecosystem degradation and pollution
- Which delivers on the promise of the first 50 years

Addressing our planetary crises is about People and the Planet

UNEP and UNEA must be the State of the Art when it comes to engagement between multilateral institutions and the People

Next Steps

- Proposed presentation of key findings of the report in January 2022 during one of the sub-committee meetings
- Launch of the report during the UNEA Special Session

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