

UNEA Monitor

UNEA Monitor is a daily newsletter powered by Major Groups during the UN Environment Assembly. The newsletter tracks the most important negotiations and events and delivers the daily news through the lens of civil society.

Happy birthday UNEP@50

Today is the opening of the special session called UNEP@50 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

UNEP@50 is a time to reflect on the past and envision the future. It provides an opportunity to reinvigorate international cooperation and spur collective action to address the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

Major Groups will have a chance to present its joint global statement at the opening session as well as present the report “The UNEP We Want”.

Major Groups Closing Statement at UNEA 5.2

Ayman CHERKAOUI, said in the closing statement “it is a shame that it does not refer to the human right to a clean, sustainable and healthy environment which was recognised by the UN Human Rights Council only last year. The recognition was a victory for humankind and for nature, and it is very strange that UNEA is ignoring this fact. Ministers of the Environment meeting at UNEA should applaud this ! Fortunately, the UNHCR decision will influence the work of UNEP in any case and governments everywhere should be fully prepared for that.”



Ayman Cherkaoui delivering Major Groups joint global closing statement at UNEA 5.2

Stories from the Green Room

The Green Room is the designated Civil Society space at UNEA-5. The UNEA Monitor is covering some of the Green Room events throughout the week of the Assembly. The agenda of the Green Room during the UNEA 5 week is available at this link: <https://www.unep.org/events/green-room/unea-52-green-room-events>

Nature based solutions or corporate collusions?

“Nature Based Solutions to Support Sustainable Development” was discussed in UNEA 5.2 and is being increasingly included in the UN CBD, UNFCCC and Agenda 2030. It is being touted as a solution for climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity loss and to address social, economic and environmental challenges.



Speakers in the side event expressed the following major concerns:

1. There is no definition of nature-based solutions.
2. It is taking away the urgent need for fundamental systems change that is not about exploitation of nature or resource extraction but about development justice that is people-led development. As discussed here and elsewhere, it does not challenge the neo-liberal policies that further impoverish people and the environment and continues to aggressively promote corporate control of our resources and government policies, as well as exploit cheap labour.
3. The corporate control extends to every industry including the chemicals and waste agenda – where 70 percent of the markets for pesticides, 60 percent of

commercial seeds and 60 percent of fertilisers are controlled by a few corporations all with headquarters in Europe and the US and one in China.

4. The Dairy Sector is being corporatized in Pakistan and the small holder dairy farmers are organizing and calling for a halt to this policy that will destroy their dairy farms.
5. Indigenous peoples communities, small holder farmers, peasants, women, agricultural workers, fisherfolk and pastoralists have been calling for agroecology and sustainable use of our resources including access to resources CSOs and communities also have serious apprehension that the Nature based solution might become another tool for enhancing corporate control over nature and resources.



Pursuing Just Transition for an ecologically just society



Major Groups daily morning meeting in the Green Room

UNEA-5 puts nature at the heart of the global economic recovery and sustainable development discussions and the theme UNEA-5 is “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. The side event focused on why Just Transition is needed and how Just Transition pathways can be incorporated in the pivotal role that nature plays in our lives and in social, economic and environmental sustainable development.

Major Groups around the event



Major Groups at the closing Plenary of UNEA 5.2



Women Major Group with the USG for UNEP and Stockholm+50

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