

*Intisar Rouabhia (Association des Etats Generaux des Etudiants de l'Europe (AEGEE)- MENA Youth Environment Working Group)*

Thank you chair for the floor,

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, I'm Intisar Rouabhia from Tunisia, speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major group of UNEP. Stockholm+50 serves as a measure of the progress on the global discourse on human and environmental health since 1972.

For young people, and especially for vulnerable youth, the COVID-19 crisis has posed considerable risks in the fields of education, employment, mental health and disposable income.

In a post pandemic Era we need a peaceful and conflict free world where young people can steadily walk towards a sustainable future and reach their full potential. This issue is a high priority especially in conflict areas. Conflict weakens the economic systems and disables any type of progress or development. The Children and Youth major group has a wide network of young potentials working with passion and determination to reach their goals and if I got the chance to be here today I would like to defend their rights to be recognized, supported and well represented.

A safe and inclusive covid19 recovery can be achieved by mobilizing the youth to advocate for their rights to live in a peaceful and secure world. There are many young people in the MENA region and the world who live in conflict areas and whom we see everyday during the pandemics challenging their difficult conditions to innovate and create opportunities for their communities in order to have a better chance in life.

In UNEP@50, the major groups and stakeholders launched the UNEP We Want report. We call upon Stockholm+50 to heed to the recommendations of the report on a more impactful UNEP.

Finally, we highlight that in the Stockholm+50 process, member states have supported the youth constituency financially directly. This is a model which should be built on for future multilateral processes. The Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force will also be producing recommendations on the same. Thank you