

Statements from stakeholders in the preparatory meeting for Stockholm+50 28. March 2022

Leadership dialogue 1

Kek Hian Leng (World Organisation of the Scout Movement)

Thank you for the floor, Chair, Co-chairs, member states and distinguished delegates. I'm Kek from Singapore, speaking on behalf of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

At over 1.8 billion strong with unparalleled energy and passion, youths are the greatest untapped resource that we have to combat climate change.

Unfortunately, however, most traditional educational systems are woefully inadequate in showing youths the harsh climate realities in the world. Through Non-Formal Education frameworks, youths are able to gain awareness about the importance and urgency of the environmental crisis that our planet is facing.

Armed with this knowledge, youth are able to go out to make a difference in their communities. We know that this works from the 2 billion hours of service that the Scouts have contributed towards fighting plastic pollution as part of UNEP's Clean Seas Campaign, as well as partnerships projects with greenpeace, solafrica, wwf and many more agencies through the betterworld non formal education framework.

Youths also have a right to intergenerational equity. We need to ensure that the voices of youth are heard at all levels of decision making, not just put in tokenistic positions as an afterthought, or worse, youth washing. All bureaucratic barriers that hinder youth participation must be removed. We have a huge role to play in fixing what generations before us have failed us on: reversing the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation before it's too late. This is our planet - the one that we are inheriting, and as youths, it is crucial that we have a say in protecting its future.

As former Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-Moon said in 2015, "We are the first generation that can end poverty. We are also the last generation that can slow global warming before it is too late."

Do what's right, and together, we can create a better world.

Thank you for the floor!

Ingrid Rostad (ForUM Norway, and NGO major group/MGFC in UNEP)

Thank you for giving me the floor. Dear excellencies and colleagues. My name is Ingrid Rostad and I am from the Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment, and co-facilitator of the NGO major group and co-chair of the major groups facilitating committee in UNEP.

This year we celebrate 50 years since the Stockholm conference and 50 years of the UN Environment Programme and what better way to honour that legacy than to put the environment at the center stage

This requires a shift in what we consider prosperity into the understanding of human well-being, within the planetary boundaries. However, since that seems to be a more time-consuming project, we have some concrete recommendations to follow up on in the meantime:

We ask that you support, including funding, civil society organizations and other non-state actors to participate actively in implementing international goals and agreements at the national levels. Making use of our experience in working on the ground and unique ability to reach those furthest left behind.

We ask that you Contribute to strengthening capacities especially in the Global South to gather and use environmental data, and to effectively develop and implement environmental policies and laws, including relevant criminal laws. Reducing the gap in practical ability and facilitating the realisation of political will. We ask that you Establish monitoring and accountability schemes to measure progress in enforcing environmental law and governance at all levels, to enforce environmental law.

We ask that you recognise the key role played by Indigenous Peoples in the day-to-day protection and sustainable management of ecosystems.

We ask that you implement the policy on greater Protection for Environmental Defenders especially for Indigenous Peoples who are risking their lives everyday to protect the nature and environment we all depend on.

After doing all of this, I hope you all will be ready to join us in changing the definition of prosperity and ensure that development happens within the planetary boundaries.

Ann Molin (Hack for Earth Foundation)

Thank you for giving me the floor. I am Ann Molin, Secretary General of Hack for Earth Foundation. At the end of these two minutes I will change your mind of what a UN Conference can be, and what it can accomplish.

Imagine it is June 4th and Stockholm+50 is over. What made it a success? How did it become the gamechanger we all are waiting for, the gamechanger we need to save our planet?

There is a lot of dialogue on the environment and our global challenges. Many great things said here today and more will be said at the Stockholm+50 Conference in June.

But I think we all know we need to do more than talking, we need to ACT. And we need to act now.

And we need every single person on this planet to act, not just the leaders and the CEOs. Everyone needs to take tangible action and understand that this is not a challenge that someone else will fix for us – this is something we all need to do together, as a united force.

This is our mission at Hack for Earth Foundation and we call it citizendriven innovation. We organize hackathons - innovation competitions to solve the global challenges - and what makes us unique is we don't let the solutions stay on paper, we make them come to life.

People from 121 countries joined Hack for Earth hackathon in 2021. They all put their minds together and created solutions to the SDG's. These seven winners are as we speak in Build for Earth acceleration program, becoming real tools for the good of our planet in merely 6 months time.

If we want a different result we have to do something different.

This is why we need a more actionoriented setup at Stockholm+50, if we want it to be the gamechanger we need. I propose a hackathon or hackathon workshop setup, something I have organized for the Swedish Government's Innovation Council among others.

Key take away: We need to do things differently if we want more action. A hackathon or hackathon workshop could be arranged at the Stockholm+50, a proven concept for action by us at the Hack for Earth Foundation.

Thank you!

Leadership dialogue 2

Yasmine Djelloul (Swedish Youth Council LSU)

Thank you for the floor, Chair, Co-chairs, member states and distinguished delegates. My name is Yasmine Djelloul and I am the Swedish Youth delegate to the United Nations, and I am here speaking on behalf of the National Youth Council of Sweden, LSU, and our 86 member organizations.

We know that one of the groups that are disproportionately affected by the consequences of climate and environmental change is youth. In our consultations with young people in Sweden one of the, by far, most important questions for them is climate and climate change but climate change is of course not a national issue it's a global one. And it is therefore critical that we work to enable a representative and heterogeneous youth presence with an intersectional perspective, where young people's participation is guaranteed, no matter their geographic or socio-economic conditions. Regardless if you're from the global north or South you should be a part of the transition that we all need, to fix our relationship with nature and to restore our ecosystems through evidence based environmental practices in line with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

To be able to promote ecosystem based approaches we first need to make sure that our environmental human rights defenders are heard and protected. We also need to divert agency to indigenous people's knowledge and their practices AND allow for the recognition of historical injustice such as colonialism.

New measures must also be taken. We also need to recognize ecocide as a crime against peace, and include it in the Rome statute.

It has been 50 years since the first global conference on climate and time is running up. We can not wait another 50 years if we actually want a healthy planet. Arranging meetings and discussing is good, but in this case doing is better.

Thank you for the floor.

Leida Rijnhout (Stakeholder Forum)

Thank you, chair, for giving me the floor. I'm Leida Rijnhout, Stakeholder Forum, one of the supporting organisations for civil society engagement in this Stockholm+50 process.

To start with, I would like to emphasize that the COVID pandemic was human made, it is the result of our broken relationship with nature. Most of our production patterns are destructive for our eco-systems. We need to re-establish a healthy link between humankind and our environment. Two points are crucial here:

1. Building new economic systems
2. Stop environmental degradation by enforcing env law

On the first point: We need to build forward better. We must get rid of the current unsustainable, extractive economies and build new economic systems with alternative business models that are green and fair.

Instead of rebuilding the existing shareholders' capitalistic system, that only gives profit to the rich and destroys the environment, governments should facilitate and invest in SMEs, cooperatives and mission led entrepreneurs.

There are many instruments that can be used: green and fair investment policies, targeted public procurement, stop unfair trade deals, but also focusing on sustainable food systems, excluding industrial farming, and many more.

I hear a lot of good ideas here too, but don't see them always implemented at the national levels. There is often no coherence in what MS say and what they do. Lack of implementation is a sad truth.

That brings me to the second point: "Stop environmental degradation" by making it a crime: strengthening and implementing environmental policies and enforcing env law is absolute priority.

The UNEP@50 outcome document is helpful on this. UNEP should be the authority, a strong and political one, to deliver on those goals. It was in '72 when environmental governance started to exist. Still now: having strong ministries for the environment is a requisite for implementation of env policies and law. Unfortunately, less and less environment ministers exist worldwide. This is of great concern! Protecting the environment needs strong institutions on the national levels to cover all agreements related to the environment. That is in the spirit of the Stockholm legacy and should be the driving force for UNEP.

Elvis Mashua (Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA))

Thank you for the floor, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates. My name is Elvis Leyian Mashua from Kenya representing CYNESA and Heads and Hands Initiative from the Children and Youth Major Group.

Youth globally have convened the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force, alongside the universal Stockholm+50 Youth Focus Group, having engaged in countless voluntary hours for the last several months. Young people from the co-host country Kenya hosted the Stockholm Youth Assembly in February 2022; and we bring to you consulted youth voices.

First, Stockholm+50 should mainstream the World Environment Situation Room, launched at UNEP@50, as a tool for environmental data and analysis by all member states and stakeholders. At the same time, all online environmental data tools should ensure that information collected does not compromise the protection of the human rights defenders.

Second, building the capacity of young people to engage with financial institutions is key. A notable example is the Bank of England Youth Forum. Stockholm+50 should call upon the Development Banks to engage meaningfully with young people, create fundings and programmes.

Third, we highlight that nature conservation is incomplete without intergenerational equity. We welcome the recommendations in the Common Agenda report to establish a Special Envoy for Future Generations. A consultative process must be undertaken with children and youth organizations globally about functions of such an office. The Future Generations Summit in 2023 must build upon the inclusive model of youth engagement in Stockholm+50 and environmental processes.

Let Stockholm+50 leave an impact which our children and youth can take pride in and build on. **It is Our Responsibility. Our Opportunity. Our Future.**

Leadership dialogue 3

Felipe Gómez Gallo (Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force - Student Platform for Engineering Education Development (SPEED))

Distinguished delegates, my name is Felipe Gómez Gallo from Colombia; I am the Student Platform for Engineering Education Development president, speaking from the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force.

First, We urge the Member States to commit to expanding education on the triple planetary crisis in all school curricula while ensuring free education for all children and marginalized groups and providing access to green jobs for youth.

Second, Stockholm+50 must recognize progress made on meaningful youth engagement. Youth have a seat in the UN youth strategy in various inter-agency networks, and last year the UN Environment Management Group welcomed us.

However, while today's youth are the most connected, most knowledgeable, and largest generation ever, we still face significant marginalization. We call for immediate scaling up of financing, capacity building, partnerships, and youth inclusion as a standing item across all the MEAs.

Third, the Environmental rule of law is key to providing constitutional guarantees of the right to a healthy environment. We call for the criminalization of large-scale environmental destruction by including ecocide in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Fourth, We call upon Stockholm+50 to recommend creating a governance framework for the SCP through the One-Planet Network. We call for a shift to an environmentally sustainable lifestyle and future.

Let us remind you that more than 3 billion children and youth cannot be reduced to 2 minutes here. Listen to the voices demanding change. Today, history has been made, with more than five youth addressing the UN General Assembly in one day. A history we hope will continue with Stockholm+50 and beyond.

Thank you.

Rob Wheeler (Global Ecovillage Network)

I am speaking on behalf of many civil society representatives and organizations that participated in the UNEP+50 process,

Given the increasing severity and urgency facing humanity due to multiple environmental crises & challenges identified in recent UN reports, it is essential that the international community step up our responses and do so in a fully integrated manner - across all levels of government and sectors of the economy and society.

Geo 6 reported that the world is not on track to achieve either the full dimension nor any of the agreed environmental SDGs

Making Peace with Nature reported that an 8th of the world's species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction. The costs of inaction on limiting environmental damage far outweigh the costs of action. And only a system-wide transformation will achieve well-being for all within the Earth's capacity to support life on our planet home.

Civil society thus calls on the UNEP Secretariat, supported by a leading group of engaged countries, to make recommendations and introduce a resolution to follow up on and to begin to implement the primary recommendations included in the UNEP+50 Outcome Document;

And for these same countries to begin to develop and draft a Global Framework for Strengthening Environmental Legislation and Law including goals, targets, indicators, a follow up and review process and monitoring schemes which they then begin to implement themselves while welcoming additional countries to join when ready. Stockholm +50 would be an excellent time to announce you're doing this.

We also call on the Executive Director of UNEP to work with all parties to identify and recommend options for improving the implementation of the environmental objectives that we've been discussing for the past 5 years; and to launch such an effort at Stockholm+50

Then to develop the process through which the governing bodies of the MEAs can collaborate with the UNEA to strengthen coordination and implement system-wide strategies on the environment,

To develop recommendations for how Member States can best address relevant principles of international environmental law; raise public awareness on critical and persistent environmental issues; and improve monitoring and law enforcement.

Finally, we call on all governments to recognize that our one earth system is a Common Heritage that must be protected; and to support the recommendations

included in the Secretary-General's Common Agenda Report to revitalize the trusteeship council to focus on governance of the global commons and to give voice to the interests of future generations.

I am submitting a more detailed statement Thank you

Carmen Capriles (Women Major Group)

My name is Carmen Capriles, I come from Bolivia and I am part of the WMG. In 1962 a woman a scientist an ecologist challenged, at the time a 300 thousand million dollars pesticide industry, with a book called Silent Spring, already speaking about chemical pollution, Rachel Carson mother of the environmental movement, was one of many concerned citizens that after a decade of mobilization, research and outreach helped the world realize that it was time to start considering environment problems, and that is how in June 1972 the world gathered in Stockholm to make a change, to take the first step to care for the planet from multilateralism by giving birth to the United Nations Environment Program.

50 years have passed, 50 years where we have witnessed the environment get slashed, burned, wasted and destroyed and environmental problems increase little by little while becoming planetary crises without doing enough, prioritizing profit over the planet. And punishing those who oppose extractivism or challenging governments or companies, only in 2020, over 300 environmental and human rights defenders have been killed in a year were facing a pandemic. When did being an activist become a crime?

Also today after 50 years, we need to recognize the contributions and legacy of the women that have taken action to care for the environment, to face climate change, to attend biodiversity and wildlife, to promote regeneration and offering solutions and actions and at the same time we have to recognize that environmental negative impacts have a gender dimension, for example we can talk about how mercury from ASGM is affecting indigenous women and probably a whole new generation, how pesticides are being found in breastfeeding milk, how hormone disrupting molecules are found on everyday women items, or glyphosate in women's sanitary napkins and tampons, the data is there so we should do something.

How is it possible that we still apply double standards? that highly hazardous pesticides that have proved to be cancerogenic which are banned in many countries are still dumped on global south countries? How is it possible that we continue to use mercury that pollutes the rivers of my country? How is it possible that we are not able to break free from fossil fuels? Why are we still subsidizing fossils in developing countries? Why haven't we stopped fossil fuel proliferation? Why do we still allow huge forests to be burned in the name of agroindustry? Why haven't we just started a transition to a cleaner way of living? We have to Stop the same!

Today we do not see environmental governance as an utopia, we see it as the next step to achieve a true global society that cares not only about thriving or profit but also about human rights and nature, where the right to develop does not undermine the right to a healthy environment and that understand that our planet has boundaries that should be respected in order to prevent global ecocide.

The time for action is NOW, we hope this June, in Stockholm again, we, a new generation of concern women, of concerned citizens, can make history, hoping to achieve strong political will from our governments in order to take the needed action toward a planet based agenda to face the three main planetary crises that we are facing; climate change, biodiversity loss and chemical pollution.

Let's make history again, let's put the environment first and let's generate inspiration to the next generations, let's create momentum to tackle inequalities, let's inspire people to act and to defend nature without fear, and above all let's commit as civil society, as governments, as private sector to take meaningful actions to guarantee a healthy planet, to care for our wildlife and value of biodiversity, to face out of hazardous substances, to care and guarantee health for ourselves, for the actual and for the next seven generations in order to maintain the balance that this planet needs to sustain life,

And to conclude our road forward should be based on memory, legacy and environmental justice!

Thank you!!

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

Theodor Swedjemark (ABB)

Dear Co-Hosts, excellencies, and all other co-stakeholders who are here today.

My name is Theodor Swedjemark, and I am the Chief Sustainability Officer of global industrial technology group – ABB.

The biggest contribution we in industry can provide - in the context of Stockholm+50 - is to show how collaboration with policy makers can help deploy existing technologies and develop new ones. The good news is that many of the key technologies that are needed to cut global emissions by half by 2030 already exist. But we need stronger collaboration to make solutions available to all and accelerate innovation.

In that context, let me outline a few points that we believe Stockholm 50+ could highlight:

- **Strongly underline the fact and message that energy, must be used more efficiently.** Today, around 2/3 of the total primary energy in the world goes to waste. This includes power generation, transportation, industry and buildings.
- On this note we like to say that “the best energy is the one we don’t waste, but save” In fact, energy efficiency improvement will drive more than 40% of the reduction in energy related GHG over the next 20 years.
- To give you an example: simply retrofitting an electric motor with a device called “a drive” that digitally controls the motors speed, its energy consumption can be reduced by 25 percent. When you consider that electric motors account for 45 percent of the world’s electricity consumption, that a huge potential energy saving.
- There is a strong **need for changing consumer choices and behavior.** The IEA estimates that 55% of emission reductions will be driven by consumer choices. To reach this, we need to work together to find the right incentives and regulatory frameworks need to be in place.
- The need for a **robust multilateral trading system** has never been stronger. It would be very helpful if Stockholm 50+ could inject energy into negotiations

on environmental goods and services, and support investment in renewable and carbon free energy sources. In the same line, we need stronger market forces **by creating an equitable market for carbon emissions.**

- We would like to see a clear signal on how **digitalization is key for sustainability.** We need regulation across borders that creates effective systems enabling trusted and secure data, respecting privacy, without compromising the need for continued innovation.
- We are informed that the Host Nation Egypt would like to give a **special focus on Africa.** We have a long history in Africa, and we hope the Stockholm 50+ can support the ambition to find solutions on a continent that will double its population by 2050.
- To us, Stockholm 50+ should serve as an **important steppingstone** towards both UNGA, but also for COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh, and COP28 in the United Arab Emirates.

In summary, innovation and technology is key to tackle climate change. Thanks for letting us be a part of a global dialogue with all of you on climate and other UN SDG's. We are looking forward to seeing you all in ABB's second home, Sweden, in June.

Thank you.