



Contributions from youth to the first Informal Working Groups on Leadership Dialogues in March 2022

Leadership Dialogue 1

Dialogue 1: “Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all.”

Intervention - Topic 1

Dear Chair, Member States and Distinguished colleagues, my name is Joshua Prentice from Trinidad and Tobago speaking on behalf of the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force.

To begin, we recognize the interconnected nature of reducing biodiversity loss and restoring ecosystems. Most importantly there is an ever present need to both stop current destructive practices that destroy crucial ecosystems such as illegal mining, bottom trawling and overfishing.

Firstly, we call upon strengthening the work under the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and countries to mainstream restoration efforts and to step up financing on restoration. The

Then restore them to optimum functionality. Mangroves, seagrasses, wetlands and rainforests are being destroyed at an exponential rate due to human encroachment and processes, these ecosystems provide nature based solutions for multiple issues caused by climate change. It is imperative to align with the 30x30 Conservation Agenda to ensure 30% of land and ocean protection and restoration by 2050.

The realization that the 1.5 degree target set forth in the Paris Agreement is an illusion, there is an imminent need from the international community to fund climate change adaptation measures for SIDS due to their low GHG emissions but high vulnerability. We further call upon governments mainly in the G20 countries to create effective and cross-cutting carbon tax and carbon pricing systems to ensure a fair and equitable system of punishment for carbon polluters.

Lastly, we urge governments to incentivize sustainable development via the implementation of gradually increasing green taxes. The impacts of climate change creating droughts can be further mitigated in developing countries far from the equator via green infrastructure such as permeable pavements, swaddles and green roofs providing a means of drinkable water for all year-round.

Intervention - Topic 2

Dear Chair, Member States and Distinguished colleagues, I am Dalia Márquez from Venezuela and Colombia. I am the focal point for SDG12 for the Major Group for Children and Youth and speaking on behalf of the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force.

First, we highlight that SCP is a cross cutting priority and currently there is no framework to govern SCP. The youth constituency strongly calls upon Stockholm+50 to recommend creation of a governance framework for the SCP through the One-Planet Network. We highlight that a functioning SCP governance is essential to achieving societal transformation.

Secondly, nutritious, safe and sustainable food should be affordable and accessible to all, and this can be achieved through a transformation of our agri-food systems—in line with the recommendations from the World Food Forum Youth Action Compendium. The new Food

Systems Coordination Hub created in Rome must include all civil society, especially the grassroots and farmers community meaningfully.

Third, To ensure the healthy and clean land, air, and water, we must work to minimize plastic and chemical waste. We welcome the mandate by UNEA 5.2 to establish the Science Policy Platform on Chemicals and we call upon full and meaningful inclusion of all major groups in the next steps to establish the platform.

Finally, we celebrate the agreement achieved at the UNEA 5.2 to negotiate an internationally legal binding instrument by 2024 to end plastic pollution. We highlight the necessity to declare a global crisis on plastics to call for urgent action which impacts and prioritize innovation in technology for plastics cleanups.

Intervention - Topic 3

Dear Chair, Member States and Distinguished colleagues, my name is Ismail Sidi Ali from Nigeria, from Youth for Planet, and I am speaking on behalf of the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force.

First, we call upon Stockholm+50 recommendations and the UN General Assembly to recognize the UN Human Rights declaration on the right to a healthy environment as a universal human right.

Second, the member states need to mainstream the work being done under the Montevideo Program on Environmental Law. Global environmental frameworks are incomplete without the provision of environmental law. And provisions of environmental law are recognized in more than 170 constitutions globally. Stockholm+50 should recognize this and the outcomes of the 73/333 process.

Third, we highlight that nature conservation is not efficient without ensuring intergenerational equity. We welcome the recommendations in the Secretary General's Our Common Agenda report to establish a Special Envoy for Future Generations. A consultative process must be undertaken with children and youth organizations globally about the role of such an office, and Stockholm+50 should also provide recommendations on the same. The Future Generations Summit to be held in 2023 must build upon the inclusive model of youth engagement in Stockholm+50 and environmental process.

Finally, we remind you that each generation has the right to inherit the same diversity in cultural and natural resources enjoyed by the previous generation, the present generation are the custodian of the planet for the future generations, obliged to conserve this legacy so that future generations may also enjoy these same rights. Intergenerational and social equity in essence become the two elements that must be incorporated in evaluations of changes in well being to make the changes sustainable.

Thank you for the floor.

Leadership Dialogue 2

Dialogue 2: "Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery".

Topic 1: N/A

Intervention - Topic 2:

Thank you for the floor Madam Chair,

Dear Chair, Co-chairs & designation delegates, I'm Ahmed Ouda from Palestine speaking on behalf of Youth Task Force of Stockholm+50.

- We highlight that currently 37 per cent of young people globally have never connected to the internet. So while these discussions happen on digital goods, we cannot ignore the digital divide and realities we live in.
- Secondly, we highlight that number of online platforms and tools exist when it comes to environmental data and analysis. Stockholm+50 should call upon UNEP and UN Statistical Institute to jointly come up with a strategy on consolidating these.
- Thirdly, the World Environment Situation Room that launched last week at UNEP@50. We call upon the Stockholm+50 International Meeting to mainstream the Situation Room as a tool for environmental data and analysis by all member states and stakeholders. The recommendations on how to make data analysis more transparent, can be used as further input to develop the Situation room.
- Finally, we highlight that all online platforms and tools should ensure that data collected on civil society should not compromise protection of the human rights defenders globally.

Thank you co chairs for the floor.

Intervention - Topic 3:

Thank you for the floor, Dear Chairs, member states and distinguished delegates. I'm Yoko Lu representing Canada and Japan, speaking on behalf of the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force.

Covid-19 has demonstrated the existing threats to the global neocolonial paradigm. The youth stepped up as volunteers on the frontline from vaccine drives, marching in the streets for climate action. Youth covers 40% of the world's population and more than half of the youth have lost their jobs due to COVID-19.

Vaccine apartheid showed existing healthcare inequalities. Countries capable of such set up parallel systems for COVID-19 patients while others failed altogether. Global North countries are discussing the 4th booster dose while developing states are at less than 10% vaccinated population. Rural and Indigenous communities required special accommodations to be properly informed and vaccinated accordingly.

We recognize that the achievement of a comprehensive and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 is multisectoral. (1) The foundation of which is built upon is the implementation of technology powered by innovative, clean, and renewable energy as well as circular economic principles. This technology will have no purpose without access to adequate healthcare facilities and treatment for all global citizens. (2) Funding for sourcing vaccine access and healthcare to developing countries is paramount to addressing vaccine cost inequality. (3) Youth empowerment is essential for achieving the SDGs during the pandemic, where knowledge exchange is the key process to improve the relationship between the global and South-South cooperation, such as increasing access to data for virtual participation and activities in advocacy and capacity building.

Thank you for the floor Madam Chair.

Leadership Dialogue 3

Dialogue 3: “Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development”.

Intervention - Topic 1

Thank you for the floor, Chair, Co-chairs, member states and distinguished delegates. I'm Christianne Zakour from Trinidad and Tobago, speaking on behalf of the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force.

Harmful and polluting activities causing environmental and social costs can be internalised via the polluter pay principle. All countries and companies that have benefited from exploitation urgently need to utilise a fair percentage of profits towards the benefit of environmental protection beyond their borders

First, we want to recognise the success of initiatives like the UNEP Finance Initiative, in responsible banking, responsible investment, and sustainable insurance.

Second, the debt burden of nations is set to increase substantially in the context of the triple planetary threat, and not all nations will experience this equally. It is essential that the loss and damages funding is scaled up, and that capital and debt markets are utilised to ease debt burdens while supporting eco-conservation. COP27 should tackle the issue of loss and damage.

Third, we would like to highlight the very important need of building the capacity of young people to engage with financial institutions. A notable example is the Bank of England Youth Forum. Stockholm+50 recommendations should call upon the MDBs to engage meaningfully with young people and build their capacity through programmes, funding, and designated engagement spaces and forums.

Finally, we highlight that in the context of Stockholm+50, 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 for the floor.

Intervention - Topic 2

Thank you for the floor, Chair, Co-chairs, member states and distinguished delegates. I'm Rhiannon Mackie from New Zealand, speaking on behalf of the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force.

As drivers of change, young people are important partners in meeting all the targets of the SDGs in the future and today. The Youth Task Force calls for meaningful engagement with youth both at Stockholm+50, and in local, national and international policy development processes. This is vital to the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Comprehensive education - covering climate change, biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production - must be scaled up and made mandatory in all schools globally. All youth, including marginalised groups, must be able to freely and safely access this education everywhere.

Youth listen to and trust other youth, therefore there's a strong need for governments to support youth environmental advocates, with spaces to develop their ideas, funding, programmes, and skills. Sustainable and inclusive development must uphold democracy, freedom of speech, association, organisation and expression - so governments must protect peaceful protestors, organisers, and advocates.

We are experiencing a triple planetary crisis. We must immediately and justly transition from fossil fuels and their subsidies worldwide and scale up safe, clean and green energy for all, (to reach net-negative emissions by 2050). As youth, we are keenly aware of the devastating impacts of the climate crisis on current and future generations.

There is also an urgent need to strengthen independent agencies, departments specialising in environmental affairs, and environmental law, to uphold human and environmental rights. We, the youth, are ready to build a society focused on companionship with the living world rather than human centred development.

Intervention - Topic 3

Thank you very much, distinguished friends and colleagues, my name is Björn Fondén, and I am speaking on behalf of the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force.

First of all, I would like to thank the Secretariat, co-hosts and co-chairs for hosting this session in a way which truly speaks to the theme we're discussing here today on digital inclusion and sustainability.

However, whilst the youth of today are the most connected, most knowledgeable and largest generation of youth ever, we still face significant marginalisation and barriers for participation - including the lack of stable internet access at home for two thirds of the world's young people. More than 2 billion youth below 25 are without access to online communities and learning, which hinders sustainable development and especially has had a catastrophic impact during the last years of the covid-19 pandemic. As such, we call for the immediate scaling up of financing, capacity building, support and inclusion of youth. We urge governments and stakeholders to bring forward concrete plans and programs to Stockholm+50, noting that one dollar invested in young people today will generate a thousand times leverage on returns.

Finally, we also urge all governments to put strict corporate regulation in place to prohibit environmentally destructive products and practices, putting a price on all social and environmental externalities, and fostering sustainable consumption and production inside our planetary boundaries. Acknowledging that many wealthy nations and people must substantially and immediately reduce their consumption of unnecessary and unsustainable goods to allow for developing nations to fulfill their needs - which is key to ensure a just and fair transition.

Because if you, the current leaders, do not act on these problems and provide adequate support to young people today, how do you expect us to solve these issues tomorrow, when it is already too late? We don't have time to wait.

Stockholm+50 needs to be an inflection point in our relationship with nature. We in the Youth Task Force look forward to engaging with you and expect your full support in the months ahead. Thank you very much.