



**Interventions from youth at the
Preparatory Meeting for the
Stockholm+50 International Meeting,
United Nations General Assembly,
28th March 2022**

Compiled as of 30th March 2022

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

Intervention 1: Leadership Dialogue 1

Yasmine Djelloul (National Youth Council of Sweden) - delivered in the Leadership Dialogue 2

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.

Intervention 2: Leadership Dialogue 1

Kek Hian Leng (World Organization 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!

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

Intervention 3: Leadership Dialogue 2

Intisar Rouabhia (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

Intervention 4: Leadership Dialogue 2

Elvis Leyian (Heads and Hands Initiative Kenya and Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa)

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.

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

Intervention 5: 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.