

Thank you, Mr. President.
Honorable President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Colleague African Major Groups and Stakeholders,
All protocols observed.

I am David Munene with the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA). As a Regional Facilitator for Africa, I have the honor of reading this summary statement on behalf of the African Major Groups and Stakeholders. The full statement has been submitted to the Secretariat and shall be availed online.

COVID-19 showed us that governments all around the world can take urgent action when they commit. We demand that Member States, including African Member States, commit similar urgency and action to combat desertification, land degradation, drought, poor soil health and the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

We call for substantive and transparent progress in defining an ambitious goal for climate finance, acknowledging Africa's special needs and circumstances, recognize the reality of loss and damage for the continent and prioritize locally-led adaptation in contributing to the formulation and implementation of the Global Goal on Adaptation.

Given the importance of rich biodiversity in Africa, we reiterate the need to maintain and enhance ecological integrity to enable Africa achieve her conservation and development goals. We call upon African Member States to work collectively with others towards the adoption of an ambitious Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

We call upon the AMCEN to establish an African negotiation group, inclusive of Major Groups and Stakeholders, to participate in the Global Plastic Treaty negotiations to advocate for the inclusion of women, youth, indigenous people, vulnerable groups and the informal sector in decision-making to address the full lifecycle of plastics.

We welcome the outcomes of UNEA 5, commend African member states for putting up resolutions and call for meaningful inclusion of African Major Groups and Stakeholders in the implementation of the resolutions.

Finally, we commend Côte d'Ivoire for hosting a successful UNCCD COP 15, thank Senegal for hosting the AMCEN, applaud Egypt for the UNFCCC COP27 Presidency, and congratulate the Kingdom of Morocco for becoming the first African Presidency of a United Nations Environment Assembly.

I thank you.