

Joint Statement of the Major Groups & Stakeholders to the Ninth ASC of the CPR to the UNEP

Thank you Mr. chair for giving me the floor
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear colleagues,

My Name is Teresia Gitau with the Major Group for Children and Youth and from the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA) speaking on behalf of the nine major groups and stakeholders.

We would like to extend our profound appreciation and congratulate the secretariat for organizing a successful Ninth Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UNEP. We are especially grateful for the inclusivity afforded to the Major Groups and Stakeholders by the Chair of the CPR and urge that this should be instituted as the way of engagement going forward.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, with regards to INC - Plastic Treaty and Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) of UNEP Science policy panel on chemicals, waste and prevention of pollution, we encourage member states to maintain the spirit of cooperation in the proposed Intergovernmental Negotiating and allocate enough funds to allow effective participation of the Major Groups and Stakeholders in these two processes.

We would like to call on all member states to recognize the need for designing gender-just and inclusive mechanisms in addressing environmental and climate change issues. We also would like to remind and request member states of the need to apply the principle of just transition as a tool to ensure that justice is extended to all including to workers, women, children, farmers and indigenous people. We call on the Secretariat and the member states to commit to supporting the engagement of regional major groups and stakeholders within the respective regions as a matter of urgency and in the spirit of inclusiveness, collaboration and meaningful engagement.

The triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is a driving force for insecurity and conflict, leading to reduced quality of life across the world. Making the environment a balancing item in the budget is a short-term solution that will end up increasing our problems. We call for long-term, meaningful solutions that address underlying causes and are backed by adequate financing that enables sustainability.

In preparing UNEA 6, we, the Major Groups and Stakeholders, are ready to engage with you through an open, transparent and participatory process.

I thank you for your kind attention