



Statements from the Children and Youth Major Group Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting on 19th January 2023

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Agenda Item 2. Overview briefing on preparations for the resumed first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution (OEWG-1.2).

Thank you chair for the floor.

I am Alphonse Muia from Catholic Youth Network for ENvironmental Sustainability in Africa and I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group of UNEP. We associate with the several member states in congratulating Inger Andersen in her re-election to spearhead the vision of the anchor institution for the global environment.

On this substantive agenda item, first, we express gratitude to the secretariat of the Science Policy Platform for providing funding support to 2 youth for in-person participation at the upcoming meeting. Chemicals, waste and pollution are global issues that are affecting children and youth now and posing continued threats and dangers to our future, and therefore our inputs are pertinent to this intervention.

Second, we want to highlight that the members of the Children and Youth Major Group have convened Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention Working Group to engage in the OEWG process. In the first part of the first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group (OEWG), 11 youth participated in person along with several more that followed the meeting online. We look forward to continuing this momentum.

Recognizing the previous creation and operating framework of advisory boards for climate change (IPCC) and biodiversity (IPBES) the best step would be an inclusive approach in being conscious of diversity across disciplines, regions, and having representation from women, youth, indigenous people and local communities. For the achievement of scientifically robust reports, it would be essential to work closely with other science-policy bodies such as the aforementioned in order to tackle the triple planetary crisis. It is necessary that scientists and bodies from the Global South are at the forefront of this panel because we need to acknowledge that the countries primarily affected need to be included and heard.



Fourth, we would like to highlight the need for both nature-based and technology-based solutions to be given an ambitious roadmap of interconnectedness and a workable narrative that can advance activities that facilitate the involvement of sectors such as business.

At this point we are calling on all governments, authorities agencies and stakeholders to prioritize our health and wellbeing over profits. Interventions that will be proposed throughout the process should be transparent and based on scientific evidence. And moving forward, we would kindly like to request for more youth representations in the OEWG Interventions, as young people are the most vulnerable to chemical and waste pollution. It is therefore necessary to have more youth involvement in drafting Interventions and making decisions towards shaping our future for children and youth health and well-being in the global communities.

Thank you chair for the floor.

Delivered by:

Alphonse Munyao Muia,
Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa

Agenda Item 3 : Update on the outcomes of the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-1).

Thank you chair for the floor,

Excellences, distinguished delegates. I'm Karim Kindole from Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network-United Republic of Tanzania Chapter talking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP.

We thank the secretariat for extending the deadline to submit the inputs and happy to share that we have sent in our inputs.



Firstly, We believe that the resolution adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022 to End Plastic Pollution will bring fruitful Outcome.

Secondly, we call for continuous updating and adaptation to future innovations by setting clear and sufficiently broad definitions to advance the consideration of potentially polluting materials that are not bound by legal constraints, such as plastic additives and semi-synthetic polymers.

Thirdly, we emphasize the need for an ambitious set of global rules, to eradicate plastic pollution and to ensure the proper operation of international legally binding instruments, and demand the need to promote appropriate science-based transitions.

Fourth, We strongly welcome the inclusion of the INC-1 theme focusing on marine pollution and plastic pollution with cross-bordering governments and cross-sectoring any observers to improve the negotiation for the handling of pollution management.

Thank you chair for the floor.

Delivered by:

Karim Kindole (Tanzania)

Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network-United Republic of Tanzania

Agenda Item 4 : Update on the outcomes of the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP-19).

Thank you Chair for the floor,

Excellences, distinguished delegates. I'm Yoko Lu from Canada speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group. Happy new year to everyone and we are happy to be here with you all. I would like to thank the CITES for the detailed presentation.



Firstly, We, the Youth, urge loophole-free regulation of international trade in endangered species of wild animals and plants, and strongly condemn decision-makers who cause unnecessary conflict and division from religious and economic perspectives. Today, it is clear that a wide range of animals and plants, from economic animals to pets, support our daily lives and need to be properly managed to ensure their genetic diversity from a biodiversity conservation perspective.

Secondly, we call for an expanded international legally binding regime for imported pet species, and demand that proper management and irresponsible releases are eradicated. Newts and frogs, which are not subject to international trade restrictions, are still actively traded on the global pet market, raising the risk of biodiversity destruction as non-native species.

Thirdly, we emphasize the need to combat poaching and smuggling, not only by regulating trade, but also by reducing problematic demand for wildlife and wildlife products in importing countries. We believe that the conservation of species diversity by reducing deliberate demand by closing markets where target species are consumed by certain states or regions is necessary.

Thank you chair for the floor.

Delivered by:

Yoko Lu (Canada)

Agenda Item 5 : Consultations on the theme for the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6).

Thank you, chair !

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, I'm Gloria Beshu Otieno from Youthgreenspace Action and Network talking on behalf of the children and youth major group.



We strongly welcome the broad scope of the UNEA's theme as its elements transcend UNEA sixth's confines to the environmental dimension of the international processes currently underway in an attempt to improve the practice of multilateralism.

Firstly we want to appreciate the progress on narrowing down from the themes to the current theme. The theme is showcasing the triple planetary crisis the world is in and we support this important concern being mainstreamed.

Secondly, we would like to highlight that resolutions being tabled for UNEA 6 being reflective of the theme, would lead to a productive/fruitful assembly.

Thirdly, as we go ahead into preparing for the 6th UNEA and working on implementation of the previous UNEA resolutions and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, environmental multilateralism should be taking center stage and should guide the progress of our work in the spheres highlighted by the theme.

Thank you chair for the floor.

Delivered by:

Gloria Beshu Otieno,
Youthgreenspace Action and Network

Agenda Item 6 : Update on the outcomes of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-15) and Meetings of its Protocols.

Thank you for the floor Chair,

I'm Hurdson Thomas from Kenya speaking on behalf of the children and youth major group of UNEP. As we continue to congratulate you on your appointment to the position of Deputy Executive Director of UNEP ,we thank you madam Executive Secretary for the presentation and your support for stakeholder engagement in CBD processes. We are very much looking forward to working with her excellency in UNEP's processes. We recognize the role that we must continue to play in UNEP related processes and championing UNEA resolution outcomes. The CY Major Group actively participated and provided inputs to the Resolution focused on Biodiversity and Health tabled in the 5th UNEA, which was successfully adopted.



Firstly, For COP15, the mandated youth constituency “Global Youth Biodiversity Network” mobilized the participation of young people and engaged in the conference and its preparatory meetings.

Secondly, We would like to highlight a challenge that young people and children especially from global south countries face in joining such conferences : Visa. Young people including grassroots leaders and changemakers could not join the meetings as their visas were either denied or got their visas too late to travel. We ask member states to lessen the burden on young people by trying to remove this hurdle to support meaningful youth engagement in multilateral processes focused on addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.

Thirdly, we believe that it would be productive and progressive to maintain consistency between multiple environmental processes. An instance would have been to build on the UNEA 5 resolution on Biodiversity and health in CBD COP15. It is crucial that we work by also building momentum from other processes as working in silos would backtrack our progress to addressing the triple planetary crisis.

Delivered by:

Hurdson Thomas (Kenya)

Submitted on behalf of the constituency by:

Gyubin Hwang & Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik

Children and Youth Major Group Focal Points

zakowshik@gmail.com, gyubin.hwang@youthenvironment.org