



Statement from the Children and Youth Major Group Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting on 23rd March 2023

Agenda Item 3 : Secretariat briefing on the International Methane Emissions Observatory.

Thank you chair, for giving us the floor. I am Alphonse Muia from Kenya, representing the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP.

At the outset our delegation wishes to join the other distinguished colleagues in expressing our deepest sympathies to the people and government of Malawi who have been affected by Cyclone Freddy. We are deeply saddened by the loss of lives, homes, and livelihoods, and we stand in solidarity with the affected communities and call the international community to continue showing perfect union in the wake of this catastrophe.

In relation to agenda number 3, regarding the secretariat briefing on the International Methane Emissions Observatory, our input is as follows:

There is no doubt that methane's potency is exceptional which has made it to be a greenhouse gas that is responsible for about 16% of global warming. As a result, we reiterate that reducing methane emissions from various sources, including but not limited to agriculture, energy production, and waste management is an important strategy for addressing climate change.

We acknowledge the efforts of UNEP in bringing about the methane mitigation system, MARS, that is helpful in collecting the data which is useful in implementing any preventive measures necessary for addressing methane emission. This system, if used prudently, will help us achieve the targets set through the Global Methane Pledge. In addition to the components of the functioning of MARS, we strongly suggest the need for a stronger accountability system. The role of UNEP engaging with the stakeholders, especially private companies that are responsible for huge amounts of methane emission needs to be addressed in detail to include accountable



action incases where the companies fail to mitigate their methane emissions within a specific period of time. Additionally, the system also needs to address loss and damage finances and the dispersal system of such finances in the event the stakeholders fail to mitigate the methane emissions. It will also be imperative that there are innovative and inclusive youth approaches to methane reduction such as training and capacity building regarding clean energy and its benefits.

To conclude, we also encourage UNEP to facilitate other solutions for methane mitigations, including proper waste management in member countries and the installation of vapor recovery units. We insist that multiple systems should be used simultaneously for mitigation targets to be achieved in time, and we believe that all member states will extend their cooperation in doing so.

Once again I would like to thank you chair for giving us the floor to deliver our inputs.

Delivered by:

Alphonse Muia (Kenya)
Partnerships for Change

Agenda Item 4 : Secretariat briefing on the UNEP report “Bracing for Superbugs: Strengthening environmental action in the ‘One Health’ response to antimicrobial resistance”.

Dear excellencies,

I'm Ahmed Ouda speaking on behalf of the Children & Youth Major Group to UNEP. We welcome the UNEP's report on AMR and view this as a continuing progress on public health & in regards to Resolution no. 6 on Biodiversity & Health from UNEA 5.2. We have four points to bring to your attention.

One, As young people coming from all over the world, we want to highlight that in times of natural disasters, the distribution of medicine is not monitored and regulated. This is a cause of concern for children and youth growing up in this world with climate change exacerbating effects of weather events leading to forceful



movement of people. Such times increase risk for children, migrants, refugees, differently abled people & other vulnerable groups.

Two, In terms of raising awareness, capacity building traditionally has been focused on educating the government and regulating bodies. Young people as they graduate are expected to learn and find solutions to world problems and this process cannot be facilitated and hastened without educating them at an earlier age. Therefore, we propose that basic education on AMR for children and youth is necessary for a healthier world by making it part of school & university curriculum.

Third, Enforcing the laws pertaining to the use and distribution of antibiotics is one of the points we would like to stress on to safeguard the environment and human lives. Encourage healthcare providers to follow guidelines for appropriate antibiotics usage such as prescribing antibiotics only when necessary and using narrowest-spectrum antibiotics that are effective for the infection.

Four, Continuing on point two & three, We should focus on educating the common people, especially in rural and vulnerable areas, because no amount of regulation and monitoring will be effective without the good will and uptake of the general public. We therefore stress that awareness campaigns be targeted on the general public on this important public health issue.

Thank you chair for the floor.

Delivered by:

Ahmed Ouda
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