



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

Agenda Item 2. Briefing on the preparations for the second session of the INC on plastic pollution.

The intervention on this agenda item was not delivered in the meeting and below is the written input.

The United Nations Environment Assembly presented us with the opportunity to end plastic pollution through resolution 5/14. We've made significant progress, and given recent developments, we're wondering if this process is inclusive enough for everyone involved.

Firstly, the constituency co-convened the Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution along with several other youth constituencies from different categories of participation in the INC process and beyond. We are hereby informing this meeting that we will be using this avenue to support and facilitate broader and effective youth engagement in the INC process.

Secondly, we wholeheartedly thank the secretariat for selecting two young people nominated by Global Youth Coalition on Plastic Pollution for travel support to participate in the meeting in-person. This goes a long way to enabling youth participation and engagement in this important process.

Third, We are concerned about the INC secretariat's decision to limit each registered NGO to only one secondary badge/floating pass. This decision hampers broader stakeholder participation, particularly for youths, indigenous people, and women who faced challenges securing funding, nominations, and visas for the meeting. We urge the secretariat to allow more observers from accredited NGOs by allocating an equal number of secondary passes to each major group/constituency/coalition/stakeholder group. This would align with the secretariat's commitment to engaging civil society groups.

Fourth, We hope that the future hosts of INC meetings and other intergovernmental processes derived from UNEA decisions give an atmosphere that's welcoming to stakeholders. We ask that Visa processes be taken into consideration and resources be



allocated to the youth constituency so that we can bring youth to the decision making table from different parts of the world.

Lastly, The Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP would like to emphasise our willingness to actively engage in various matters. We sincerely hope for your support as we navigate the UNEA resolutions' processes and the forthcoming UNEA 6, despite our limited resources. It is worth noting that many are already acquainted with our active participation in CPR, and CPR Sub Committee meetings. Consequently, we kindly request your continued support to ensure our meaningful involvement as children and youth in UNEP meetings and events.

Thank You Chair for the floor.

Agenda Item 3. Briefing on UNEP's work on strategic foresight and horizon scanning.

Good afternoon distinguished delegates, I'm Samuel from Indonesia speaking on behalf of the Children & Youth Major Group to UNEP.

As the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP, we express our support for the plan on horizon scanning proposed by UNEP. We further welcome foresight planning on environmental issues as we become more aware of the inability of the traditional predictive models of being able to effectively deal with the increasing complexity of our society. We understand and appreciate the decision to use the delphi method but also recognise that it may preclude non-experts within the field from fully participating. We, therefore, emphasise the importance of holistic participation from both experts and non-experts within the field to encourage balanced and true deliberations.

One, we acknowledge the second phase of this process involves stakeholders through the UNEP Major Groups. With a large network of young people and children, we would be able to effectively contribute to source gathering.

Two, we take the floor to recommend UNEP to make the stakeholder and decisionmaker strategic dialogue under the foresight core issues (uncertainty, complexity, and change) to be more specific on its mechanism to allow more meaningful future-oriented engagement of stakeholders. This step is crucial as part of UNEP's institutional development for future environmental multilateralism. We would like to refer back to the Stockholm+50 regional consultations which the secretariat facilitated had positive inclusion of youth meaningfully and replication of the same model would be highly welcomed.



Three, The third phase has regional wise consultations and in these consultations we request consideration of intergenerational representation & perspectives.

Thank you chair for the floor.

Delivered by:

Hino Samuel Jose (Indonesia)

Agenda Item 4. Briefing on the Montevideo Programme.

Good afternoon distinguished delegates, I'm Christianne Z from Trinidad & Tobago speaking on behalf of the Children & Youth Major Group to UNEP. First and foremost, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Montevideo Programme's Secretariat and the UNEP Law Division for their invaluable support in facilitating youth engagement during the in-person meeting of the focal points last year. Their assistance has played a crucial role in fostering youth participation.

Second, we are pleased to share that our environmental law working group within the major group has made significant progress in its endeavours. Over the past two months, we have been running a capacity building series, focusing on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and emerging topics in environmental law. This initiative has successfully reached and empowered more than 300 children and youth worldwide. Additionally, we actively encourage participants to use the UNEP-LEAP and InforMEA platforms to continue learning. Through this series, our working group aims to align its efforts with the objectives and strategic activities of the Montevideo Programme V. Specifically, we seek to contribute to facilitating education, capacity building & promoting awareness on environmental law.

Secondly, we commend the efforts being made in developing the Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. We appreciate the upcoming online consultations that are being planned, and we express our willingness to actively participate and provide support throughout this process. As representatives of the Children & Youth Major Group, we understand the significance of collaborative efforts and stakeholder involvement.

Thank you chair for the floor.

Delivered by:

Christianne Zakour (Trinidad & Tobago)



Agenda Item 5: Briefing on the UNEP spotlight publication on plastics

Excellencies, Distinguished colleagues, I'm Marina Fenka from Cameroon talking on the behalf of the Children & Youth Major Group to UNEP. One, We firmly endorse the establishment of a comprehensive global monitoring and reporting system on plastics, to be effectively implemented through robust national reporting mechanisms.

Second, we would like to emphasize the report's mention of ghost gear—an issue we have consistently brought to the forefront in our previous interventions. While plastic pollution is often associated with fast-moving consumer goods such as bottles and bags, we must not overlook the broader spectrum of plastic waste. It is imperative that we recognize the pervasive impact of plastics across various sectors, including medical, construction, agriculture, fishing, and consumer goods. We must view plastics not merely as convenient products but as materials derived from fossil fuels and chemicals. In this regard, we commend the ongoing efforts of the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia in addressing the issue of fishing gear.

Three, we wish to underscore the significance of the section addressing actions to tackle the legacy of plastic pollution. The transboundary movement of plastic waste to countries with inadequate enforcement and management capacities remains a pressing concern, disproportionately affecting countries in the Global South. We must confront this issue head-on, seeking effective solutions that address both the source and the consequences of this harmful practice. This calls for a perfect union in holistically handling the plastic pollution crisis.

As we make bold steps towards turning off the tap, we must deal with the the plastic waste that has already converted the planet into a 'big pile of filth'. In this regard we are happy to report that many youth-led organisations and startups have emerged with innovative solutions to combat plastic pollution. These initiatives focus on recycling and upcycling plastic waste, creating sustainable alternatives to single use plastics and promoting circular economy practices while providing jobs to many young people. Just last year we saw the gavel that was used in passing 14 resolutions in UNEA coming from the aforementioned youth initiatives meant to pull plastics from the environment.

Finally In the lead up to World Environment Day, we recommend that member states may use the available opportunities to domesticate this report.

We will submit our statement in written format on agenda 2.



Thank you chair for the floor.

Delivered by:

Marina Fenka (Cameroon)

Submitted on behalf of the constituency by:

Gyubin Hwang & Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik

Children and Youth Major Group Focal Points

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