



*Thank you for the floor, Chair!*

*Excellencies and Distinguished colleagues, I am Sharon Mutende from Kenya, representing the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP. We welcome the ED's report on agenda item 3 and our inputs are as follows:*

*We appreciate the efforts that UNEP has taken in the last quarter towards various processes, including UNEA-6. With respect to the data of the accredited organisations for the period, we understand that only one organisation has been accredited under the aegis of Children and Youth. We understand that while organisations are accredited to UNEP, not many are aware about the Children and Youth Major Group and the work we do. Therefore, we request UNEP to give comprehensive information to potential accredited organisations about the major groups and categories that they may fit into. Additionally, the constituency would also like to emphasize our concern in relation to the accreditation of organisations within business and industries. We would like to request UNEP to establish rules on admitting business organisations to ensure that only the business organisations that prioritise environmental conservation are accredited. This would ensure that there is no conflict of interest when UNEP works towards its goals.*

*On youth participation, we acknowledge that many youth face challenges in attending international conferences due to visa issues. We urge UNEP to facilitate the issuance of visa-related letters for qualified participants, which will minimise barriers and ensure easy participation. Additionally, we urge UNEP to allocate resources for youth-led initiatives, ensuring that young people are active contributors to global decision-making.*

*We welcome UNEP's launch of the Digital Transformation Strategy 2023-2025, which aims to improve UNEP's efficiency, effectiveness, and impact by leveraging digital solutions, which shows UNEP's commitment to digital partnerships and education. We request a transformation towards an open platform that allows sharing of activities as educational resources. This will empower youth, citizens, and businesses to showcase their environmental efforts, creating a collaborative environment for environmental awareness and action. We encourage UNEP to explore more opportunities for digital transformation and innovation, and to involve young people as co-creators and users of digital technologies.*

*While commendable progress has been made in achieving gender and regional parity, it is essential to uphold inter-generational equity. UNEP should continue its outreach efforts to involve children and youth from various backgrounds, cultures, and faiths. The involvement of children, youth, and all stakeholders is essential for a sustainable and equitable future. Together, we can create a healthier planet for all.*

*Thank you chair for the floor.*