



Statement from the Children and Youth Major Group 10th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives from 20 - 24 November 2023

Opening Statement

Honourable Chair, Madam Executive Director, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Major Groups and Stakeholders,

I am Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik from Bangladesh, representing the Children and Youth Major Group. To advance youth engagement in UNEP processes, our constituency has been actively participating in the preparations for UNEA-6, engaging in all meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and its sub-committees in 2023.

In doing so, we can state that we have become the youngest advisors to the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the best friend of UNEP in fostering meaningful youth engagement in its endeavors.

Our efforts encompass the preparation for the Global Youth Environment Assembly, scheduled for the 17th and 18th of February 2024, at this very UNEP campus in Nairobi. We extend our gratitude to the Government of France for their primary contribution. However, to meet the ambitious budgetary requirements, we seek support from member states, encouraging contributions to the UNEP's Governance Affairs Office for the Youth Assembly. We also appeal to member states to bring youth delegations to UNEA-6 and formally recognize the Global Youth Environment Assembly.

Beyond UNEA-6, our constituency actively engages in initiatives such as comparative analysis and research on youth involvement in various environmental processes, including multilateral environmental agreements, science-policy interfaces and multilateral financial mechanisms. We are committed to identifying best practices, areas for improvement, and promoting meaningful stakeholder engagement, particularly in youth involvement.

We passionately urge member states to champion a resolution focused on the meaningful engagement of children and youth in environmental actions and processes. A meticulously prepared concept note awaits your thoughtful consideration, underscoring our commitment to fostering a sustainable future. In gratitude for the valuable inputs received from delegates on this matter, we earnestly



seek your sustained support in the crucial phase of finalizing and formalizing this pivotal resolution in the lead up to UNEA-6.

In summary, our constituency is diligently preparing for UNEA-6, aiming to formalize and expand youth involvement as a crucial stakeholder. We humbly request the secretariat and member states to extend their solidarity and cooperation. Together, we can create a future that safeguards the interests of current and future generations.

Thank you!

Delivered by:

Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik

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