

NGO Major Group opening statement for 10th ASCPR

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Thank you Chair, distinguished delegates. My name is Djatougbe Aziaka from Welfare Togo, co-facilitator of NGO Major group at UNEP.

While i am giving this statement, the entire world is facing new challenges related to climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, economic recession, wars and other conflicts that are increasing the threats to our environment and wellbeing. We need to increase joint efforts for addressing these challenges . As we are heading towards UNEA 6, together we would like to stress on the following issues:

- 1.** We call for stronger Participation of Major groups and stakeholders; for example through funding of more representatives, timely access to documents, increased budgetary allocation to the Civil Society Unit (CSU), etc.
- 2.** We call for establishment of a body that will be responsible for the protection of environmental rights defenders
- 3.** We call for more focus on the impacts of wars and conflicts on the environment and ecosystems.
- 4.** We call for an increase in the amount of funding given to UNEP consummate with the ever increasing role that UNEP is expected to play in order to prevent total collapse of the earth that we so deeply depend on for our survival.
- 5.** The NGO MG welcomes the adoption of the Resolution on the Nexus between Animal Welfare, the Environment and Sustainable Development at UNEA-5. We look forward to hearing an update on its progress at UNEA-6. One Health should be recommended as the approach to tackling the crises, unifying animal health, human health and the environment.
- 6.** Food systems need to be on the agenda. Sustainable food systems should be explicitly addressed in the Ministerial Declaration and in resolutions.

Thank you Mr Chair.