
Intervention by the Children and Youth Major Group on Agenda Item 3(E): Coordination within the UN system on the environment, including the Environment Management Group

10th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives from 20 - 24 November 2023

Thank you for the floor, Chair. My name is Tabitha Mbutia speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth constituency.

In 2021, we began collaborating with EMG to integrate a Youth Segment as part of each of the EMG Technical Meetings, as well as build youth engagement across a range of Issue Management Groups and Task Teams. In these avenues, we (across over 27 different youth constituencies/engagement mechanisms) continue to provide concrete recommendations through interventions and written submissions to the EMG. We believe that continued inclusive engagement of young people in the deliberations of the EMG is a crucial step towards intergenerational co-leadership, and delivering on the UN's mandate of *Working With and For Young People*. Young people in the deliberations of the EMG is a crucial step towards intergenerational co-leadership, and delivering on both the UN's mandate of Working With and For Young People. We thank the Secretariat and the whole team of the EMG for the cooperation we have had.

As youth representatives, we wish to emphasize that the EMG is the heartbeat of the essential system-wide change on the Environment within the United Nations that has been discussed extensively at this Annual Subcommittee. We support a reinforced role of the EMG, through the following avenues:

- First, that “**coordination in the UN system**” be retained as a permanent thematic area to be reviewed by the United Nations Environment Assembly. This will ensure continuous focused attention and resources are directed towards enhancing system-wide coherence and effectiveness in environmental governance;
- Second, that the **Secretariat of the EMG is strengthened** across financial resources, human resources and strategic positioning within UNEP. This strengthening should extend not only to the global activities of the EMG, but to enhancing EMG's capacity to build awareness, increase coordination, and ensure consistency in addressing pressing environmental issues within UN country teams;



- Third, that the UN Common Approaches to Biodiversity and Pollution are extremely important tools to ensure real, coordinated action within the UN rises up to meet ambition and we call for their full implementation in partnership with civil society, particularly rights-holder groups like children and youth. We further stress that this model should be **expanded to the development of a UN Common Approach to Climate Change, UN Common Approach to Sustainable Consumption and Production** and opened up to a series of other critical topic areas.

We look forward to the continued collaboration between the children and youth constituency and EMG in 2024. Thank you for the Floor.

Delivered By:

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