

Thank you, honorable Chair, for giving us the floor.

Good morning Excellencies, Madam Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director, distinguished delegates, and all stakeholders.

My name is Aishwarya. I am from India, and I am speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP.

This past weekend, the Children and Youth Major Group, as the mandated youth constituency to UNEP, successfully organized the second edition of the Global Youth Environment Assembly, which was for the first time held here at the United Nations Office in Nairobi. Thank you, Madam Executive Director, for taking the time to join us at the closing discussion to inspire us with your energy and commitment to young people.

More than 600 young people from all over the world engaged virtually and physically in discussions relating to the theme of UNEA-6. We believe that this is a strong marker of our commitment and dedication to centering young people in environmental decision-making, and ensuring that children and youth's perspectives are heard, discussed, and included.

The outcome document, which is the Global Youth Declaration on the Environment, calls for three key principles: First, Intergenerational equity. Second, systemic, science-based solutions to the interlinked environmental crises. Third, a good-faith commitment to environmental multilateralism.

We have copies of the Declaration and the Executive Summary available for all Member States and Major Groups looking for reasons to support long-term sustainable policy solutions that succeeding generations can be proud of. We commit to collaborating with all member states and stakeholders to safeguard the long-term health of our planet.

The Children and Youth stand here today with ambition, hope, and vision, ready to support you in ensuring that these draft resolutions stand the tests of time. The tests of time of equity, of sustainability, and not repeating the errors of the past.

We look forward to actively engaging in the deliberations this week and invite all Member States to work with us on each and every one of the draft resolutions to ensure that long-term perspectives can transcend myopic concerns and today's politics.

Thank you for the floor, chair.