

SIXTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA-6)
26 FEBRUARY TO 1 MARCH 2024
NAIROBI, KENYA

JOINT CLOSING STATEMENT:
MAJOR GROUPS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF ALL THE MAJOR GROUPS AND STAKEHOLDERS BY:
SAROJENI RENGAM, ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONAL FACILITATOR

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates.

We thank her Excellency, the President of UNEA-6, Minister Leila Benali, for her leadership and engagement with the Major Groups and Stakeholders over the past 2 years. We also acknowledge the hard work of delegates and the UNEP team.

Three observations greatly concern us during this UNEA:

The first is the reopening of language already agreed upon in various international fora, without comprehensive justification, including around the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Questioning the fundamental validity of such language undermines good governance.

Secondly, the constant weakening or outright deletion of references to vulnerable, marginalised, and affected groups serves only to negate the essential link between human rights and a healthy environment.

On the third point, we note with concern, the complete lack of commitment to take into account labour-oriented just transition policies and observe that Member States missed an opportunity to deliver a strong statement on climate justice.

Regarding HHPs, we call on Member States and stakeholders to take effective measures to phase out, transition to safer and affordable alternatives, in line with the Global Framework on Chemicals, including through integrated pest management, agroecology and other innovations, based on science, and taking into account food security and livelihoods.

It is certain that technologies used for SRM will have transboundary impacts, and will negatively affect those communities already most impacted by climate change. These technologies have been widely studied by international experts from the IPCC and the CBD, and have led to a de-facto moratorium under the London Protocol because of their uncontrollable risk and costs; a position that we support. Furthermore, they do not address the root causes of climate change.

We welcome the clear focus in many resolutions on the importance of transitioning to circular economies. Dismantling throw-away cultures and focusing efforts on resource efficiency are important to decreasing our footprint. The energy transition cannot be just if the materials

needed are not mined responsibly. We call on Member States to redouble efforts to ensure strong, participatory, and equitable governance of natural resources and to protect environmental defenders. This is crucial to minimize the negative impacts that mining and metals can have.

We are reminded daily of the terrible consequences of armed conflicts for all people, and the planet, specifically highlighting the needs of women and youth. All UNEP Major Groups and Regional Stakeholders call for an end to all conflicts. Without sustainable development, and food security, there can be no peace, and without peace, there is no sustainable development.

We see a lack of urgency in collectively moving from resolutions to action, and a whole of government approach. We must work quickly to step up multilateralism, implementation, financing, enforcement of environmental legislation, enhancement of multilevel governance, and to meaningfully integrate the consideration of human and labour rights and the rights of nature across our interactions and activities. This can be accelerated through citizen science.

Lastly, emphasizing the importance of stakeholder engagement, we wish Oman the best for their upcoming Presidency of UNEA-7, and we offer our full support as the Major Groups and Stakeholders as key actors of these processes.