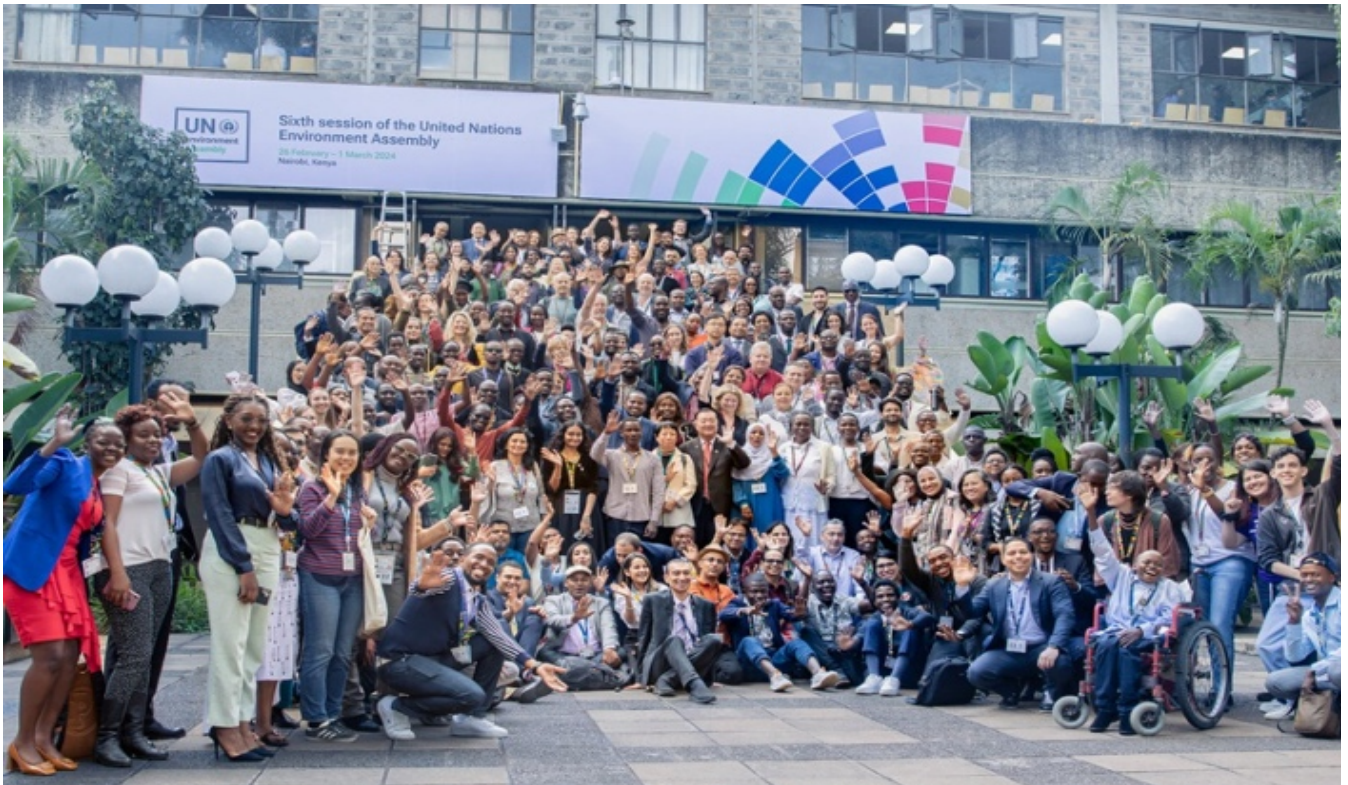


# UNEA Monitor

UNEA Monitor is a daily newsletter powered by Major Groups during the UN Environment Assembly. The newsletter tracks the most important negotiations and events and delivers the daily news through the lens of civil society.



## Welcome to UNEA 6

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 6) and its associated meetings.

Major Groups and other stakeholders, in the last week during the meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR), have been actively following the negotiation, delivering statements from various Major Groups and organizing a number of meetings and events in the Green Room. In addition, organized the 20<sup>th</sup> Global Major Groups Stakeholder Forum (GMGSF) 24-25 February 2024. All the nine

MGos delivered a statement at the opening plenary of UNEA 6 and Reginal facilitators as well delivered a joint global regional statement.







UNEA President and UNEP ED dialogue session with MGos during GMGSF



### Peaceful Solidarity Stand

There is no sustainable development without peace and without peace, there is no sustainable development.



Major Groups and Stakeholders from CYMG, farmers, women, NGOs, IPs, trade Unions stood in solidarity with countries affected by war and conflict.

Together we acknowledge the detrimental impacts of war and conflict not only on the great loss of human lives, but also the environment, including complete decimation of ecosystems & species and pollution of critical natural resources and common goods such as air, water and soil.

In the current realities of war and conflict and resulting impacts, our collective efforts on human rights including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and our global endeavors to find solutions to the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change have been greatly undermined.

In solidarity we stood for peace; in our silent stance our voices echo yet very loudly at this world stage. In unity we call for peace for humanity and for the planet.

## Informal Youth Session with GoodWill Ambassadors



In a recent informal session with global goodwill ambassadors Dia Mirza, Antoinette Taus, and Layla Fathallah, attended by members of the children and youth major group, the discussion delved deep into the profound concept that "there is light even in the darkness." Amongst the various topics explored, one prevailing theme emerged: our interconnectedness with nature and the urgency to embrace our roles as Earth citizens.

During the session, Layla Fathallah passionately advocated for spreading awareness and action against food waste. She emphasized the importance of simple yet impactful measures, such as purchasing imperfect produce, which often goes to waste due to aesthetic standards. By reducing food waste, we not only contribute to environmental preservation but also address issues of food scarcity and inequality.

Dia Mirza echoed these sentiments, highlighting the need for a paradigm shift in our relationship with nature. She emphasized that we are not separate entities but integral parts of the intricate web of life. Dia emphasized the power of civil society conservation efforts and community engagement, which bring forth invaluable wisdom and sustainable solutions.

Antoinette Taus shared insights into refusing greenwashing practices, underscoring the importance of integrity and authenticity in environmental advocacy. She urged us to reject



complacency and actively strive towards a more sustainable future.

However, despite these enlightening discussions, Dia Mirza pointed out a glaring reality: our collective failure to identify ourselves as Earth citizens. This ignorance perpetuates unsustainable practices and exacerbates environmental degradation. Dia urged us to introspect and reevaluate our roles in fostering a harmonious relationship with the planet.

## Stories from the Green Room

The Green Room is the Civil Society Platform at UNEA-6. The UNEA Monitor is covering some of the Green Room events throughout the week of the Assembly.

For the agenda of the Green Room during the UNEA 6 week, kindly visit this link:

<https://www.unep.org/events/green-room/unea-6-green-room-events>

### **1- Just Transition as a driver for Inclusive Action**

Organized by the ‘Trade Unions and Workers’ major group on Monday 26 February.

Bert De Wel (ITUC), Rebecca Okello (COTU Kenya) and Rebecca Awinja (Shipping Union Kenya) shared the perspective of the trade unions on the concept of ‘Just Transition’. The multilateral negotiations, especially at the UNFCCC were covered and the Kenyan colleagues illustrated how they work on the shop floor with workers delegates on environmental issues. The trade unions propose the following definition that flags the crucial points and which applies to all environmental issues, not only climate:

- A just transition secures the future and livelihoods of workers and their communities during the transition to a low-carbon economy effectively limiting global temperature rises to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.
- Just Transition plans should be co-created with workers and their trade unions to provide and guarantee decent work, social protection, training opportunities and job

security for all workers affected by global warming and climate change policies.

- Plans must be underpinned by the fundamental labour rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining and facilitated through social dialogue between workers and their unions, employers and governments as established by the ILO.
- A just transition requires guarantees for intra-, intergenerational and gender equity, racial justice, respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, impacted communities and migrants and promotes and protects human rights and ILO fundamental labour rights.

Prof. Fadhel Kaboub (Global Institute for Sustainable Prosperity) presented the urgency of ‘A Pan-African Vision for Climate, Energy and Development’. Structural solutions involve strategic investments in:

- Food Sovereignty and agroecology (not “food security”)
- Renewable Energy Sovereignty (not renewable energy exports)
- High value-added industrial policies (not just high-tech assembly):
- Renewables infrastructure
- Clean cooking infrastructure
- Green transportation

It involves also a structural transformation of the Global Financial Architecture, as well as the International Trade, Investment, and Taxation Architecture.



Caroline Njuki, Chief Technical Advisor for the ILO in Kenya, explained the role of the International Labour Organization working with governments, employers and trade unions on the implementation of just transition policies. She stressed the importance of the ILO Guidelines that were confirmed by all governments last year.

Patrizia Heidegger, Deputy Secretary General and Director for European Governance, Sustainability and Global Policies of the European Environmental Bureau, commented on the global impact, especially in Africa, of the Europe's renewable energy plans. For example there is the gigantic Inga dam that is planned to produce 'green' hydrogen with hydropower which, once constructed, would be the biggest dam on the planet and which will have devastating environmental impacts while the contribution to local development is very unclear.

By: Bert De Wel

Global Climate Policy Coordinator  
International Trade Union Confederation

## 2- Daily Morning Briefing meeting for Major groups in the Green Room.

A daily Morning Briefing Meeting of MGOs was held to get updates on negotiations, different meetings and activities of Major Groups, discuss issues, organize the daily engagement and activities of Major Groups.



MGOs Daily Morning Coordination Meeting

## 3- Resource Governance in the Mining and raw Materials Sector

Stakeholders gathered on Monday 26 February at "Resource Governance: Navigating Challenges for the Mining and Raw Materials Sector" hosted by The European Environmental Bureau, Heinrich Boll Foundation, and Earthworks.

The event, held at The Green Room, shed light on the intertwined nature of mining, the green transition, and economic development policies, particularly in the EU.

The discussion, influenced by the forthcoming Global Resources Outlook 2024, underscored the unsustainable trajectory of resource extraction amidst global development pursuits. Mining, crucial for renewable energy, sustainable mobility, and digital technologies, poses significant social and environmental challenges, including water pollution, land degradation, and human rights violations such as child labor and disregard for indigenous rights.



Key takeaways:

- **Inclusive Engagement:** Recognizing the necessity of involving all stakeholders, especially local communities most impacted by mining activities, for a genuine just transition.
- **Circularity Principles:** Advocating for the integration of circular economy principles within the mining and extraction industry to minimize waste and maximize resource efficiency.

- **Sustainable Consumption:** Emphasizing the shift towards sufficiency by mainstreaming sustainable consumption practices to reduce overall resource demand.

### MGFC organized a “Major Groups and Stakeholders Press Conference” at UNEA 6 on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2024

The press conference is a reaction to the ongoing negotiations at UNEA 6, so we can present opinions, positions, and concerns from the nine Major Groups regarding various UNEA 6 resolutions (SRM, Circular Economy, Water, lifestyle...etc).

The Major Groups and Stakeholders Press Conference held on February 26, 2024, at the Press Room was a dynamic forum where representatives from various sectors convened to address pressing global issues. Dr. Mohammed Abdelraouf, Ms. Dalia Marquez, Mr. Gyubin Hwang, and Dr. Magash Naidoo delivered insightful remarks, highlighting the crucial role of major groups in engaging with governments and stakeholders.

Mr. Gyubin Hwang emphasized the inclusivity of the youth major group, which spans across all sectors, with a significant representation at the conference. Dr. Magash Naidoo underscored the importance of cities in climate change response and mitigation efforts

Dr. Abdelraouf advocated for the adoption of resolutions on circular economy and stressed the need for civil society involvement, including consultations with local communities.

Ms. Dalia Marquez emphasized the importance of capacity building among women and their active participation in dialogues with member states.



MGFC Co-chairs, C&YMG Rep. and Local Authorities MG Rep. speaking at the Press Conference

Attendees raised pertinent concerns, including the promotion of solar energy, representation of underrepresented groups like art and culture, and strategies to address environmental challenges such as plastic production and carbon emissions. Additionally, inquiries were made regarding contributions amidst conflicts affecting the environment negatively.

### Article

#### Concept and concerns of Solar Radiation Management (SRM)

Solar Radiation Management (SRM) encompasses a set of proposed techniques aimed at mitigating the effects of global warming by manipulating Earth's climate system. These techniques typically involve either reflecting sunlight away from Earth or removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. SRM techniques aim to counteract the warming effect of greenhouse gases by either reducing the amount of sunlight reaching the Earth's surface or by enhancing the Earth's ability to reflect sunlight into space. The impact of SRM depends on the effectiveness of these techniques in restoring a balance in the



Earth's energy budget and mitigating the rise in global temperatures.

### **Potential risks and adverse effects**

The implementation of SRM techniques can have unintended consequences and potential risks. For example, altering the amount of sunlight reaching Earth can disrupt regional weather patterns, affect precipitation, and impact ecosystems. Additionally, SRM methods may not address other aspects of climate change, such as ocean acidification, and may mask the underlying problem of greenhouse gas emissions without addressing their root causes.

### **Ethical Considerations**

The SRM raises significant ethical concerns related to its potential impact on the global society and ecosystems. There are questions regarding who would have the authority to implement SRM techniques, who would bear the risks and potential negative consequences, and whether deploying such interventions would be justifiable without addressing the root causes of climate change. Ethical frameworks that emphasize transparency, inclusivity, and informed consent are crucial for evaluating the ethical implications of the SRM.

### **Geopolitical Implications**

The deployment of SRM techniques could have geopolitical implications as countries may have differing interests, priorities, and concerns regarding climate change and SRM deployment. Disagreements over SRM strategies and their potential impacts can lead to tensions or conflicts among nations. Moreover, questions of governance, liability, and international cooperation should be addressed to ensure the responsible and equitable deployment of SRM techniques on a global scale.

The impact of Solar Radiation Management on climate change mitigation involves a complex

interplay of its effectiveness in altering Earth's energy balance, potential risks and side effects, ethical considerations, and geopolitical implications. As such, thorough scientific research, international collaboration, and ethical deliberation are necessary to assess the feasibility and implications of SRM deployment in addressing the challenges of climate change. (this is based on online sources)

By: Prof. Bhandari

the Regional Facilitator of North America, senior vice president at the Akamai University, USA, and Director of Atlantic State Legal Foundation, USA.

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**Dalia Fernanda Márquez**, Juventud Unida en Acción, Co-chair of the MGFC at UN Environment representing Women MG.

**Marxine Mumbi Waite**, Environmental Coalition on Standards, NGO Major Group.

**Maurine Kemunto Orare**, CYMG.

**Levina Oyugah Akinyi**, NGO Major Group.