



## CYMG Interventions at the CPR Subcommittee Meeting on 8th July 2024

### > On Agenda Item 3. Implementation of the Programme of work and budget 2022-2023 of the United Nations Environment Programme

*Delivered In-person by Clive Donnley (Kenya)*

#### **INTERVENTIONS**

#### **Item 3a) Review of UNEP Programme of Work implementation.**

Thank you, Chair, for the floor.

My name is Clive Donnley from Kenya, speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group.

We would like to express our gratitude to the secretariat for the comprehensive preparation and presentations on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023 of UNEP. We recommend enhanced collaboration between UNEP and UN-Habitat, particularly in advancing urban planning and expanding green urban spaces. It is increasingly apparent that the bulk of the triple planetary environmental crises is concentrated in the rural but also urban areas, and we believe this inter-agency collaboration seeks to address the challenges from their radix. Such cooperation will also strengthen engagement with local authorities, leading to more impactful outcomes.

We commend the 67th session of the World Health Assembly for addressing the significant health impacts of chemicals, waste, and pollution, and for establishing the Working Group on Youth Engagement for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). As a constituency, we look forward to more engagement. Following the One Health Alliance hybrid technical event during the Global Youth Environment Assembly in February, we initiated capacity-building sessions on AMR and now request a mechanism for direct involvement in the Working Group and the High-Level Meeting on AMR by the Quadripartite secretariat. We support public health initiatives and we are committed to ensuring a sustainable, healthy future through our Environmental Health, and Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Working Groups. We recognize the health impacts of chemicals, waste, and pollution and welcome UNEA Resolutions 6/9: Sound management of chemicals and waste and 6/10: Promoting regional cooperation on air pollution to improve air quality globally.

The Children and Youth Major Group looks forward to contributing to the Global Framework on Chemicals and commends collaboration efforts with UNEP and the Caribbean Sub Regional Office. The startling statistics of temperature rise captured in the

Emissions gap report 2023, clearly show that we must depart from the traditional pathways to development and lifestyles to combat the climate crisis that has had devastating impacts to the already suffering populations and disproportionately affecting among others, children and youth. To effectively tackle the triple planetary environmental crises ,we urge sustained youth engagement in future programs, advocate for robust policies and their implementation, and support inclusive science-policy panels focused on intergenerational equity and human rights.

Our constituency engaged constructively in the recently concluded Meeting of National Focal Points on the Montevideo Programme and we commend UNEP for emerging as an anchor institution for environmental governance. Through our Environmental Law Working Group, we would be glad to support the development of publications and help disseminate complex legal materials to a broader audience.

Faith-based engagement is important in addressing environmental challenges, as exemplified by UNEP's Faith for Earth Coalition. Our Eco-Faith Working Group, actively supports initiatives that incorporate multi-faith perspectives in environmental governance and we anticipate further collaboration UNEP's Faith for Earth Coalition initiatives

Youth involvement is crucial for creating innovative, effective and sustainable policy solutions. We therefore encourage member states to include youth as experts in the development of national policies, recognizing the valuable fresh perspectives, expertise, and lived experiences we bring. This will strengthen intergenerational collaborations and enhance the effectiveness of green economic transformations including the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plans.

Finally, we commend the progress made in advancing green job creation for youth through the Green Jobs for Youth Pact which is an important initiative for a just transition. We also welcome the launch of UNEP's Young Talent Pipeline and the selection of its first cohort that began in January. As we anticipate the second cohort, we would appreciate a breakdown of the geographic representation of the first cohort to help us effectively promote the call for the second cohort to our networks.

Thank you for the floor.

Submitted on behalf of the youth constituency by:

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