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February 22, 2021

Dear Minister of Environment attending the UN Environment Assembly,

We are writing today to respectfully request that priority outcomes for this important assembly includes stepped-up ambition on Climate and Environmental Literacy. EARTHDAY.ORG believes that climate and environmental education is a critical, underutilized, component in addressing the global climate crisis and the necessary societal change.

In order to address the urgent need to adapt education systems worldwide, EARTHDAY.ORG has initiated the Global Climate Literacy Campaign to work with grassroots organizations and global leaders to commit to and start to assemble the infrastructure needed to support education systems in universally embedding climate and environmental education across disciplines and grade levels.

Our ask is simple and clear, we want compulsory and assessed climate and environmental education with a strong civic engagement component in every school in the world to achieve a climate and environmentally literate citizenry ready to tackle the global climate crisis.

To that end we have created a sign on letter addressed to Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC. This sign on letter now has over 400 global signatories including association, unions, organization representing hundreds of millions of members worldwide. These diverse groups represent the sectors of environment, education, faith, justice, economy, and the intersection of these realms. We also have acquired commitments from Ministries of Environment and Education from countries such as Afghanistan, the Maldives, Colombia, Peru, Italy, Mexico, and more commitments are coming in daily. These commitments will be solidified at the COP26 meeting in Glasgow this coming November.

We believe that a positive, supportive, outcome at the UNEA 5.1 meeting could further catalyze political and practical raised ambition at other multilateral fora including COP26.

It would also directly address the calls by millions of youth around the globe; better prepare them to take part in the growing green economy and higher education, and become more active citizens in their communities and countries—all prerequisites for addressing the challenges but also opportunities of a global sustainability transition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen Rogers'.

Kathleen Rogers, President
EARTHDAY.ORG
(formerly Earth Day Network, official UN observer organization)