

UNEP@50 Task Force Intervention
for the [155th Meeting of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives \(CPR\)](#)

By Science & Technology and Children & Youth Major Groups

Thank you very much Madam Chair for the floor. Excellencies & Distinguished delegates,

My name is Daragh and I am a Ph.D student from Dublin, Ireland and co-author of the upcoming **“UNEP We Want Report”**.

Today I am representing the Science and Technology Major Group and delivering this intervention together with my colleague Fabio from the Children and Youth Major Group on behalf of the UNEP@50 Task Force. The Task Force is led by the two referenced Major Groups through the focal points Stephen, Yugratna, Teresa and Anda, on behalf of the broader Major Groups and Stakeholders community.

The work of the Task Force is financially supported by the UNEP secretariat, and the mandate is also elaborated in the Strategic Plan for UNEP@50 approved by the first session of UNEA-5. The Task Force consists of a communication team and co-authors selected through a competitive process, with the majority coming from the global south.

As part of its activities, the Task Force has conducted *two* detailed surveys - **with One Hundred and Thirty** responses received from stakeholders across the world. We have also held 3 global consultation sessions in 2021 and will hold 3 more consultations in the coming months, including one global, to reflect perspectives of grassroot and region-specific opinions.

In addition, we are conducting ongoing interviews with relevant actors. This will all eventually feed into **“The UNEP We Want”** report, which will be made available early next year; Our data analysis is ongoing, but one takeaway **so far is that respondents have noted the need for stakeholder engagement processes to further evolve if we are to successfully act on future environmental challenges**

Overall, our work will build upon the findings of previous expert reports and Para.88 of Rio+20. Specifically, we are exploring “best practices” and potential “new mechanisms” to ensure the **active and ongoing participation of all relevant stakeholders**.

We will continue to engage with civil society, Major Groups and Stakeholders and relevant actors over the coming period, and **we also welcome dialogue with member states**. In closing, the UNEP’s 50th anniversary provides us with a *rare* opportunity to reflect upon our founding mission. In the wake of the recent IPCC report, **this is an opportunity we can ill afford to miss, to create the UNEP We Want!**

Thank you for your attention, I will now pass the floor to my colleague Fabio.

Thank you for the floor.

Madam Chair, Executive director and member states,

I am Fabio, a student from the National Autonomous University of Mexico, from the Children and Youth Major group which is co-leading the UNEP@50 Task Force. We welcome the presentation by the secretariat on the questions for the UNEA special session that will take place after UNEA 5.2 under the presidency of the African Group.

On behalf of the UNEP@50 Task Force, we have the following consulted recommendations:

- Firstly, regarding the theme of the special session, we suggest for it to be themed around - **The UNEP We Want**. This would be in line with the title of the Rio+20 meeting - the Future We Want. And will also complement the work of the constituencies of UNEA.
- Second, as the **agenda of the special session** is open for inputs, we suggest a plenary session or leadership dialogue dedicated to the role of the Major Groups and Stakeholders in the UNEP community. This plenary could include a discussion on the MGS UNEP@50 outcome; and we hope this request can be facilitated. The Children and Youth Major Group will also send a written submission on the suggestions for the modalities for the special session for your kind consideration.
- Third, the outcome document of the UN GA Resolution 73/333 on Strengthening Environmental Governance and Law is crucial for future actions of UNEP. UNEP and UNEA are the only mandated UN bodies to guide and coordinate the implementation of environmental governance and law. We suggest that this outcome document be considered for the Ministerial Outcome of UNEP@50.
- Fourth, regarding the upcoming Sub-Committee meeting, we are planning to host a roundtable on the UNEP We Want, and we invite member states to join and engage with us.

Finally, we believe coherence between Stockholm+50 and UNEP@50 should be mutually reinforcing. The Committee should take proactive lead to contribute to the Stockholm+50 process.

To conclude, we have witnessed an increasing participation of Children & Youth at the UNEP@50 process. It's politicization is an opportunity to work for global environmental governance and stronger legal frameworks, intergenerational justice and to ensure we create the bases for upcoming generations to keep pursuing the future we want.

In closing, we hope this process will not be just another one. The findings must be heeded. And we must act strongly enough upon them if we are to further strengthen global civil society engagement to improve environmental outcomes.