

## Outcomes from the “Consultation on UNEP@50 and UNEA Special Session” at the Asia Pacific Youth Environment Forum (October 1, 2021)

During the inaugural **Asia Pacific Youth Environment Forum** ([www.apyouthenvcaucus.org](http://www.apyouthenvcaucus.org)), young people from the countries of the Asia Pacific joined. For UNEP to relate to everyone, we call upon UNEP to partner with grassroots and Indigenous communities and work with all stakeholders and not a few. A consultation session on UNEP@50 & UNEA Special Session took place on the day one of the Forum. The consultation session saw participation also of the deputy Permanent Representative of Algeria (tasked in the CPR Bureau for UNEA Special Session preparation), acting director of governance affairs in UNEP, focal point of Farmers Major Group to UNEP, and a representative of UNEP@50 Youth Task force and co-author of the *UNEP We Want* report

### *On the agenda of special session:*

- Agenda should focus on **grassroots** and engagement of stakeholders, if possible in the form of a plenary. The role of youth and minorities in environmental development and justice should be highlighted in a leadership dialogue of the Special Session;
- Agenda should provided dedicated space for report “*The UNEP We Want*” and recommendations to be addressed from it; and,
- One agenda could also be the Implications, Plans, and Priorities for Climate Action in the Post-COVID-19 Era and beyond as well as the **next five decades of UNEP**.

New forms of engagement and participation are essential in the period of the post-COVID-19 recovery and beyond. Be it purely online or hybrid platforms and models, we must ensure that the barriers to access and participation (i.e. language barrier, barriers due to disability, Internet access, digital literacy, etc) in youth involvement and engagement are minimal to none ideally to ensure that what we do is by all and for all youth. Thus, more research and development on establishing a good platform for an inclusive virtual/hybrid environment is recommended.

Considering the reputation of the green financing concerns, fossil fuel financing and unsustainable projects financing or partnering with UNEP should be addressed. The green financial access should be more accessible

Children should have a voice too. Children and youth are not the future, they are the present. We need to see each situation/challenge in different perspectives when seeking solutions. Youth and children are inheriting an ill world, with many social and environmental issues. We need to find an integral approach. Environmental problems are affected by social issues and vice versa