



## Statement from the Children and Youth Major Group For the 8th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, 25th-29th October 2021

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### ***Intervention on Agenda Item 4c) Briefing on the consultations on a draft ministerial declaration for UNEA-5; 26th October 2021***

Madam Chair, Thank you for the floor.

Dear Delegates, I am Linda Hadebe, International Relations graduate from South Africa. I am part of the Policy Coordination Group of the Children and Youth Major Group. We thank the UNEA 5 Presidency and welcome the Zero draft of the Ministerial Declaration.

The contents of PP 4 and 6 are commendable to significantly expedite the achievement of the SDGs. We also appreciate the draft's recognition of various international processes and the role of multiple stakeholders like youth and indigenous groups mentioned. Youth entrepreneurship and the need for providing environmental education is also vital.

We highlight that the Declaration's language can be strengthened. Language that emboldens the imperative for action by stakeholders will be more effective as terms like "we commit," and "we maintain" may give a sense of passivity. We would also like to see the inclusion of focus on developing countries that are severely negatively impacted by environmental crises.

In 2020, global food insecurity increased by 44% affecting over 30% of the world's population. This is likely to rise due to COVID-19. Therefore, references to Migrants and displaced refugees affected by food and environmental insecurity should also be reflected in the text.

We agree that sustainable consumption and production patterns should form part of national assessments - serving to provide transparent material supply and accountability on states' performance.

**For specific language suggestions:**



- For OP9: Next to the language on “pursue partnerships with different types of stakeholders”, we suggest the addition of the language "giving them a voice in the political system and involving them as stakeholders.
- For OP11: Youth constituencies in various processes have continued reservations on the term “Nature based solution” in intergovernmental spaces. We therefore ask for an open and transparent dialogue to happen with all stakeholders and member states for what this term entails before adopting this in UNEA documents.
- For OP12: we suggest the addition of "food sovereignty, nutrition" to the description of sustainable food systems, and language recognizing the role of **both UNEP and civil society** in the follow-up process of the Summit.
- For OP13: we suggest Addition Of concretising value chains as "transparent" value chains in order to assure that the sustainability requested can be monitored.
- OP 19: For OP19 we suggest the addition of "meaningful engagement of major groups and stakeholders" as one of the conducive aspects to effective implementation of the actions.

Member states, **Engagement of youth and future generations is central toward a healthier planet** - as also reaffirmed by the Our Common Agenda Report. The youth constituency therefore calls for a new operative paragraph to be added after OP17, built using agreed language from various intergovernmental processes. It would read the following, I quote:

***We recognize that children and youth are agents of change, as well as the need to empower constituencies of young people in the multilateral fora for the environment, while emphasizing the role of environmental education in strengthening actions for nature to achieve the SDGs.***

We thank you once again for the opportunity to table our contributions.

***Delivered by:***

Linda Hadebe ( South Africa)

Policy Coordination Group (PCG) member of the Children and Youth Major Group

***Submitted on behalf of the constituency by:***

Teresa Oberhauser & Yugratna Srivastava

**Children and Youth Major Group Focal Points**

[teresa.oberhauser@aegee.eu](mailto:teresa.oberhauser@aegee.eu), [yugratna.srivastava@plant-for-the-planet.org](mailto:yugratna.srivastava@plant-for-the-planet.org)