

Elvis Mashua (Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA))

Thank you for the floor, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates. My name is Elvis Leyian Mashua from Kenya representing CYNESA and Heads and Hands Initiative from the Children and Youth Major Group.

Youth globally have convened the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force, alongside the universal Stockholm+50 Youth Focus Group, having engaged in countless voluntary hours for the last several months. Young people from the co-host country Kenya hosted the Stockholm Youth Assembly in February 2022; and we bring to you consulted youth voices.

First, Stockholm+50 should mainstream the World Environment Situation Room, launched at UNEP@50, as a tool for environmental data and analysis by all member states and stakeholders. At the same time, all online environmental data tools should ensure that information collected does not compromise the protection of the human rights defenders.

Second, building the capacity of young people to engage with financial institutions is key. A notable example is the Bank of England Youth Forum. Stockholm+50 should call upon the Development Banks to engage meaningfully with young people, create fundings and programmes.

Third, we highlight that nature conservation is incomplete without intergenerational equity. We welcome the recommendations in the Common Agenda report to establish a Special Envoy for Future Generations. A consultative process must be undertaken with children and youth organizations globally about functions of such an office. The Future Generations Summit in 2023 must build upon the inclusive model of youth engagement in Stockholm+50 and environmental processes.

Let Stockholm+50 leave an impact which our children and youth can take pride in and build on. **It is Our Responsibility. Our Opportunity. Our Future.**