

*Rob Wheeler (Global Ecovillage Network)*

I am speaking on behalf of many civil society representatives and organizations that participated in the UNEP+50 process,

Given the increasing severity and urgency facing humanity due to multiple environmental crises & challenges identified in recent UN reports, it is essential that the international community step up our responses and do so in a fully integrated manner - across all levels of government and sectors of the economy and society.

Geo 6 reported that the world is not on track to achieve either the full dimension nor any of the agreed environmental SDGs

Making Peace with Nature reported that an 8th of the world's species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction. The costs of inaction on limiting environmental damage far outweigh the costs of action. And only a system-wide transformation will achieve well-being for all within the Earth's capacity to support life on our planet home.

Civil society thus calls on the UNEP Secretariat, supported by a leading group of engaged countries, to make recommendations and introduce a resolution to follow up on and to begin to implement the primary recommendations included in the UNEP+50 Outcome Document;

And for these same countries to begin to develop and draft a Global Framework for Strengthening Environmental Legislation and Law including goals, targets, indicators, a follow up and review process and monitoring schemes which they then begin to implement themselves while welcoming additional countries to join when ready. Stockholm +50 would be an excellent time to announce you're doing this.

We also call on the Executive Director of UNEP to work with all parties to identify and recommend options for improving the implementation of the environmental objectives that we've been discussing for the past 5 years; and to launch such an effort at Stockholm+50

Then to develop the process through which the governing bodies of the MEAs can collaborate with the UNEA to strengthen coordination and implement system-wide strategies on the environment,

To develop recommendations for how Member States can best address relevant principles of international environmental law; raise public awareness on critical and persistent environmental issues; and improve monitoring and law enforcement.

Finally, we call on all governments to recognize that our one earth system is a Common Heritage that must be protected; and to support the recommendations

included in the Secretary-General's Common Agenda Report to revitalize the trusteeship council to focus on governance of the global commons and to give voice to the interests of future generations.

I am submitting a more detailed statement Thank you