



Statement from the Children and Youth Major Group 162nd Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives meeting on June 16, 2023

Agenda Item 4 : Report of the Executive Director

My name is Judy Njenga from Kenya and I'm speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group.

First and foremost, we welcome the ED's report and we would like to highlight a few points.

Secondly, recent accreditation of 3 new organisations to the Children and Youth Major Group is appreciated. It stresses the importance of engaging children and youth and allows participation of more youths, however, it is crucial to acknowledge that young people still encounter various obstacles when it comes to registering organisations, particularly related to informational and financial constraints. To resolve this, we call countries to create enabling environments that support and empower children and youth organisations working on environmental issues.

Thirdly, we strongly appreciate the UNEP report titled 'Turning the Tide on Youth-Washing: 5 Ways to Effectively Engage Young Environmental Leaders'. This underrated issue raises an important wake up call about the green washing issue around us. Independence, ownership, and space must be granted to achieve the real essence of meaningful youth engagement. In this regard, we welcome UNEP's efforts in engaging young people during the 10th Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. This is laudable and moving forward we encourage collaborations with regional Issue-Based Coalitions that actively engage and support youth spaces, involvement, independence and ownership.

Fourth, we also welcome the UNEP launching the Young Talent Pipeline. With over 12 young professionals starting this September, we are looking forward to having more capable young people contributing to the UNEP.

Thank you chair for the floor.

Delivered by: Judy Njenga



Agenda Item 6. Financial outlook and funding challenges for UNEP – follow up from the 9th annual subcommittee of the CPR.

Thank you, Chair, for granting me the floor.

I am Ann Faith from Kenya speaking on behalf of the children and youth major group and would like to contribute to this agenda item with two important points:

Firstly, I want to stress the critical importance of continuous and adequate funding for an essential mechanism such as UNEP. In a world where extreme weather events are becoming increasingly frequent, it is crucial to equip the entity responsible for supporting our fight against the triple planetary crisis. Adequate funding will enable UNEP to fulfil its mission effectively, respond swiftly to emerging challenges, and implement sustainable solutions that protect our planet and future generations. We encourage member states to continue supporting this endeavour.

Secondly, during the 160th meeting of the CPR, we were informed by the secretariat that meetings of the CPR might revert to fully in-person in the future. We would like to highlight that hybrid meetings play a pivotal role in facilitating stakeholder participation. By allowing remote access, these meetings create inclusive and supportive conditions for engagement, ensuring that diverse voices are heard and considered. Therefore, we call upon member states to recognize the significance of hybrid meetings and commit to providing UNEP with the necessary funding to sustain this vital approach.

Thank you, Chair, for your attention and the opportunity to address this important issue.

Delivered by: Ann Faith

Submitted on behalf of the constituency by:

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Children and Youth Major Group Focal Points

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