

UNEA Monitor

UNEA Monitor is a daily newsletter powered by Major Groups during the UN Environment Assembly. The newsletter tracks the most important negotiations and events and delivers the daily news through the lens of civil society.



UN- Science Policy Business Forum

Major Groups from Various Major Groups (S&T, CYMG, Farmers, Women ...) participated in various sessions of the UN Science Policy Business Forum 27th of Feb. 2024.

Tackling financial flows to nature-based solutions

Nature-based solutions were emphasized throughout the meeting as they would propel climate efficiency by 2030. In the same respect, public strategies were developed and there was more emphasis on supporting nature positive initiatives, creating educational support and technology, providing sufficient financing to farmer

groups and offering guidelines to them. The involvement of indigenous people and local communities in these initiatives was emphasized as it would largely contribute to harmonious living.

It was discussed that there is imbalance in financial flows to support the climate budget they did not solve the current needs. The role of the youth in designing, monitoring and implementing projects was suggested, highlighting a progressive step towards public reforms. Understanding equity to foster this imbalance through developing innovation and mobilizing funds for environmental restoration would help alleviate the imbalance and bureaucracy.

What would our future really look like when industry, science and policy intersect and work together?

Speaking at the UN-Science Policy Business Forum, **H.E The first lady, Rachel Ruto**, highlighted that this intersection between science policy and the business space would be a great way to create green jobs and that it presented an opportunity to pool resources and share knowledge. In the same breath **H.E. Leila Benal** stated that scientific research and innovation provided a substantial role for policy makers while UNEA-6 provided leadership, on decision making body. She highlighted that action has to be done as soon as possible.



We cannot wait until the problem arrives.

This session further set the stage to highlight the importance of partnership as the new leadership and way of business. The private sector has a critical role to play in the just transition and being part of the solution to our collective reorientation towards sustainability through leveraging their access to innovation, investment, human capital and global value chains. Some key opportunities in the nexus of science, policy and business include innovative technologies such as nature inspired and nature collaborative technology, private financing, new business models embracing circularity and the bioeconomy.

The science community was called upon to engage further in research and provide key knowledge to businesses, policy makers and society as a whole, in pursuit to remaining within safe operating space of the planetary boundaries, including provision of concrete data, common and comparable indicators and metrics as well as science-based targets.

UNEP ED Ms. Inger Anderson, applauded the efforts being taken in the Karura forest project to have 20% tree cover by 2030 and congratulated Kenya's efforts to restore nature. She highlighted the need for science based policies that would support the nature-based endeavours.

The fact is, we are indebting future generations with our current business models, consumption patterns and inadequate implementation of policies for sound environmental management. So therein begs the question of intergenerational equity in environmental resources. The Children and Youth Major Group emphasized the role of young people and the need for inclusion in the platforms and decisions in policy and science. By including young people in a meaningful way, the youth are empowered to take responsibility and be agents of change for sustainability.



It is therefore a time for partnership and a time for action, with synergistic efforts of

science, business and policy mutually reinforcing each other in the global effort to attain sustainability for current and future generations.

Thread Lightly: Unravelling the Fabric of Sustainable Fashion

Fashion and the textile industry as a whole are in the spotlight and unfortunately not in good light. The negative impacts of this industry continue to plague various regions of the world including toxic dyeing processes causing water pollution in production countries such as Asia's fast fashion and culture of overconsumption in the Global North causing waste dumping of low-quality used clothes in developing countries in the guise of secondary markets.

Today, however, it was about solutions. The panelists focused on which avenues could contribute to a sustainable fashion industry. The role of policy and legislation in this respect cannot be overstated as it is critical to setting concrete frameworks for environmental management guidelines and standards as well as enforcing regulation such as extended producer responsibility and polluter pays principle.



International policy and Multilateral Environmental Agreements are also a key

facet of tackling this challenge, as they support in creating a shared understanding of environmental management across borders given the complexity of the global value chains of production, distribution and end-of-life phases of textiles and fashion commodities. Local solutions are also needed to empower local production of raw materials and fabrics and integration of local knowledge and innovation, in order to spur local economies and scaling of access to high-quality, long-lasting apparel.

Articles

Air Pollution:

Pollution versus pre-polluted the impact on women and vulnerable groups

Air pollution negatively affects the production, availability, and accessibility of food. The gender gap in food and agriculture is extensive – with women being more food-insecure than men in every region of the world.

In addition to food insecurity, women have less access to fertile land due to the male-dominated structures that often govern land ownership. Today, less than 15% of landholders worldwide are women, resulting in poverty, exclusion, and limited economic development. Air pollution from agricultural sources also impacts women in different ways, causing complications during pregnancy and other health risks.

The importance of a common understanding in addressing the present conditions of air pollution can only be achieved through comprehensive programs with complemented policies to include strategic measures and control for both outdoor and indoor air quality.

One of the outcomes we would like to reap fruition from the discussed resolution is language that ensures stringent controls to limit or prevent further pollution by nitrogen, the protection of most vulnerable women within industries that expose them to the toxic effects of nitrogen dioxide inhalation.

It is imperative that Member States recognize the benefits they will gain in limiting associated morbidity, which will burden their health systems and the financial constrain this will cause on their population. We therefore encourage mindful considerations for actions to create ambitious text on the control of nitrogen dioxide exposure and the protection of vulnerable populations, specifically women and children.

By: Fatou Ndiaye

Carbone Guinee

Women Major group

Chemicals exposure the crippling impact on society and the vulnerable

The problems we face as a global community are varied and numerous, spanning from 13,000 chemicals associated with plastic and its production to 3,200 of these having hazardous properties. The gender gap continues to be constant within the labour market, where women are at the lower level and are sparsely engaged in research and development.

In reiterating the Beijing Platform for Action, adequate sex-disaggregated data for policy and program formulation is key. The collection, analysis and dissemination of such information are vital in providing core functions for governments, international institutions and others. This will help us set priorities, design programs, and guide policy in mainstreaming gender perspectives.

As we discuss and negotiate issues for the numerous resolutions for UNEA6, we call upon member states and all stakeholders to recognize and act in order to handle the catastrophic situation the world is presently in: the triple planetary crisis and the focus that must be placed on women and their rights to be holistically included in all strata of society at the highest level.

We reiterate an acknowledgement of the seriousness of the issues of chemicals and waste, to be seen as a real threat to humans and the environment.

By: Sherika Whitelocke-Ballingsingh

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Women Major group

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