

## **Joint statement MGS Closing 11th Annual Subcommittee Meeting**

Thank you for the floor Mr Chair,

My name is A.G from Farmers MG and this is a joint statement by: Farmers, NGO, Women, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Science and technology, Indigenous People, and Children and Youth Major Groups.

We welcome the reports presented and applaud the achievements during the previous period by member states and UNEP.

UNEA 7 is an invaluable opportunity to strengthen global environmental governance and address the overarching planetary crisis. It is imperative that we approach environmental challenges holistically, addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and desertification as interconnected issues, in that we would like to highlight:

1. Preparing for UNEA-7 requires full integration and effective participation of Major Groups and Stakeholders, supported by adequate funding. The Group of Friends serves as a crucial platform for dialogue between Major Groups, Stakeholders, and member states to foster cooperation on implementing existing resolutions to advance global environmental goals and meaningful engagement in the UNEA-7 process.
2. Furthermore, there is a critical need for a mechanism that enables true multilevel governance for implementation matters while enabling collaboration among environmental ministers on urbanization and governance at various levels. Local and subnational governments have untapped potential to bolster the efforts of UNEA, UNEP, and affiliated bodies.
3. We support the nexus of human rights in advancing the increasingly inseparable linkage between human rights and the environment and we hereby welcome the need to support and protect environmental defenders and Indigenous People who face significant risks and challenges, in line with the UNEP's Defenders policy.
4. The consequences of success or failure for agriculture under any Triple Threat scenario can be described succinctly: No Water No Farms, No Farms No Food, No Food No Peace, No Peace No Future. And while there are other significant challenges for Farmers such as accelerating invasive species events; addressing serious issues with plastics; circularity with crops or waste to energy transitions, the outcome of our collaborative work here at UNEP will define that precarious future.
5. Promoting Gender-Based Actions: Addressing gender-based violence resulting from environmental harm and empowering women and girls are essential for sustainability.
6. Enacting Regulatory Reforms for Green and Decent Jobs: To ensure a just transition to a sustainable future, it is imperative that we enact robust regulatory reforms that promote green, circular, and decent jobs.
7. We also reiterate the critical importance of the Youth environmental assembly that will be organized alongside UNEA 7. We call for formal recognition of YEA as this is a pivotal landmark to strengthen youth engagement in multilateral environmental governance.

8. Additionally, it is crucial to consider the role of technology in addressing the planetary crisis. Innovations can provide powerful tools to mitigate environmental impacts and promote sustainable practices.

Finally Regarding implementation of previous resolutions adopted, we propose establishing an Ad Hoc Working Group including major groups tasked with evaluating the progress of adopted decisions and enhancing coordination among existing and future Secretariats. This group will develop strategies to streamline the implementation of environmental agreements and improve overall coordination efforts.

A successful UNEA-7 needs the effective engagement of Major Groups and Stakeholders.