

## CYMG Interventions at the 11th annual CPR Subcommittee Meeting on 8th to 12th July 2024

### > On Agenda Item 5b. Consultations on the theme for the seventh session of United Nations Environment Assembly

*Delivered In-person by Clive Donnley (Kenya)*

Thank you for the floor

My name is Clive Donnley, speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group.

As a Children and Youth Major Group., we welcome elaborate consultations in line with UNEA 7 themes and we are eager to discuss the potential theme for the next UNEA in ensuring it aligns with UNEP's mandates, SDGs, and the implementation of MEAs .

After careful review of various themes in relation to key processes. Our constituency agrees that theme no 2 supports a fair and equitable shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative one, prioritizing the well-being of our planet, communities, and the environment.

This theme resonates with various key resolutions and strengthens their implementation by aligning with the framework for a fair transition, as it reflects UNEP's aspirations for environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient development. Moreover, it provides an opportunity to ensure the region's priorities, including sustainable development and environmental justice, are adequately represented and addressed in UNEP's future strategies and actions.

While **Forging Tomorrow: Pathways to a Liveable and Resilient Planet** and **New Frontiers and Solutions for a Greener Tomorrow** are valuable themes in line with international agenda, **Accelerating Just Transitions for People and Planet**, provides a comprehensive, justice-oriented framework that is crucial for tackling the triple planetary crisis as it provides a comprehensive approach that integrates social equity with environmental sustainability, ensuring that the transition to a greener future is fair and inclusive for all.

In support of this theme, its interconnected framework fosters a holistic approach and we hold a view that a justice-centered approach to nature protection and solidarity, collectively links climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution by emphasizing fairness, inclusion, and accountability.

In the context of **climate change**, a just transition framework ensures that marginalized communities, who are disproportionately affected by climate impacts, are protected and empowered, with their voices central to decision-making processes. Regarding **biodiversity loss**, equitable land use and conservation practices are promoted,

respecting the rights and traditions of indigenous peoples and local communities, thus supporting sustainable livelihoods that harmonize with conservation goals.

Addressing **pollution**, a justice-oriented approach focuses on reducing environmental hazards in the most affected communities, advocating for access to clean air, water, and soil, and implementing policies that hold polluters accountable while supporting those impacted.

This option does not incur additional costs beyond those allocated for UNEA-7 preparation and aligns UNEP's planning cycle with other UN Secretariat entities. The theme addresses the root causes of environmental challenges and highlights emerging issues requiring international attention and policy guidance., to promote science-based, actionable outcomes aligned with multiple Sustainable Development Goals, in ensuring a comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability.

**Through the theme ,**

1. We see an enhanced participatory mechanism for environmental decision-making to better deliver on MEAs
2. Centered on justice ,we see a long-term solution to strengthen pre-existing policies and an opportunity to accelerate Implementation of UNEA resolutions,while addressing environmental challenges in promoting science-based, actionable outcomes

Thank you chair for the floor,

Submitted on behalf of the youth constituency by:

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