

**Statement of the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa to the Ninth
Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the UN
Environment Programme (UNEP)**

Nairobi, Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Thank you Chair.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

My name is David Munene with the Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (CYNESA), which is accredited under the UNEP major group for children and youth and I am also serving as one of the two regional facilitators for the Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders to the UNEP. I am making this statement on behalf of my organization, CYNESA.

We want to congratulate the UNEP Regional Office for Africa for their consistent efforts in improving the livelihoods of the peoples of Africa and the environment in the continent. We register our appreciation for the support given to introduce the 17 young men and women to the negotiating processes through the biodiversity discourse. Altogether, we figure that the 17 should only be seen as a pilot and not an absolute number or even a consistent one to be retained. We would be grateful to understand the process that goes into their selection in terms of regional balance and language variation. This initiative needs scaling up to ensure at least the representation of all countries supported in consultation with the Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders. Needless to say, sustainability, accountability and performance monitoring evaluation and learning mechanism should be developed and shared explicitly. Further, it is vital that these young people are included as delegations in their respective government delegations to ensure that experiential learning and knowledge transfer happens organically and seamlessly.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, Africa has special needs and circumstances without whose consideration any efforts may not achieve the intended results. These same special needs and circumstances are felt the most at the grassroots level where the Major Groups and stakeholders are engaged the most and in touch with the reality on the ground. At CYNESA, we would be grateful to get information about the extent to which UNEP ROA is engaging with the major groups and stakeholders of Africa even in solutions-oriented interventions to the challenges that we face today.

We align ourselves with Tanzania in emphasizing the need for the strengthening of the UNEP office here in Nairobi and underscore the importance of increasing the support to the Africa Major Groups and Stakeholders to carry the implementation of the UNEP projects in appreciation of the intentional prioritization of the special needs and circumstances of African countries and communities at the grassroots.

I thank you.