

9th ASC of CPR UNEP
26th oct 2022
Item 7 of the agenda by the NGO Major Group

Statement on Financial Outlook

Dear chair, Excellencies,

Thank you for giving me the floor on this important agenda point on behalf of the NGO major group in UNEP. My name is Djatougbe Aziaka, from Welfare Togo, co-facilitator of NGO major group.

We are in challenging times, and have been for a while. As NGOs we are living these challenging times on the ground in our communities, and know that the pressure is increasing.

The main challenges are:

- 1.** Lack of sufficient data which make it difficult to have a good estimate of money needed to address the 3 global challenges of loss of biodiversity, pollution and climate change. There is a need for such a comprehensive study.
- 2.** Failure to fulfill financial commitments
- 3.** Access to finance particularly by NGOs.

We are very concerned to see that these challenging times are causing cuts in the contributions to UNEP, and the implementation of the decisions of UNEA5.

Environmental policy and the efforts made to implement them should be seen as an insurance policy. Financing ambitious and inclusive environmental work, including negotiations on new multilateral environmental agreements and the following implementation, is investing in the future.

In the 50 years of UNEP, we have seen the value of inclusive processes. As major groups and stakeholders we hold essential perspectives and practical knowledge of how to implement decisions. Still, we are seeing that the access of civil society to the important negotiations are being reduced, partly due to lack of financing. We are missing many colleagues here this week, and know our contributions could have been stronger with more of them in the room. As often as member states meet in person, so should stakeholders. It is the only way to ensure truly meaningful participation and inclusiveness.

The triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is a driving force for insecurity and conflict, leading to reduced quality of life across the world. Making the environment a balancing item in the budget is a short term solution that will end up increasing our problems. We call for long term meaningful solutions that address underlying causes and is backed by adequate financing that enables sustainability.

We ask that you take this message with you back to your respective governments, the environment needs a responsibly funded UNEP.

Thank you.