



CYMG Interventions at the CPR Subcommittee Meeting on 13th June 2024

> On agenda Item 5. Report of the Executive Director on the 166th meeting of the CPR

Delivered In-person by Clive Donnley (Kenya)

Thank you Chair for the Floor

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

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Executive Director and her team for their diligent work in preparing and presenting this quarterly report. We appreciate the comprehensive coverage of various environmental issues highlighting critical steps on our shared responsibility in tackling the planetary crisis.

We commend UNEP for convening the first GEO-7 Indigenous Knowledge and Local Knowledge dialogues. The incorporation of Indigenous perspectives, including youth voices, into the GEO-7 report will undoubtedly enrich the assessment process offering valuable aspects to policymakers valuable guidance for practical policy development, implementation, and the realisation of socio-economic benefits.

UNEP's existence and its work over the past fifty two years have significantly raised global awareness of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development and international peace and security; and we welcome UNEP's efforts to promote living in harmony with nature and commend the continuous support provided to countries affected by natural disasters and conflicts. In this context, **we highlight the greater need to tackle urban environmental degradation in Haiti and other conflict and disaster affected region**. The involvement of

children and youth in gang led groups is detrimental to the progress made towards conservation ; yet, children and youth are great pillars of environmental protection all over the world..Furthermore, **we applaud** UNEP for initiating the second cohort of the Young Talent Pipeline, demonstrating a strong commitment to nurturing and recruiting diverse talent from underrepresented regions and countries. **Could UNEP provide insights on how the success of this initiative will be evaluated to ensure it meets its long term objectives including regional representation?**

We are also delighted to welcome the UNEP co-organized China National Level Dialogue on Green Jobs for Youth for Circularity and similar co-organized green jobs initiatives . These workshops are essential in skilling different stakeholder groups and equipping youth for green jobs. **We call for greater intergenerational dialogues on responsibilities in promoting green jobs and green skills for a circular economy and we recommend greater collaboration in advancing these efforts to a higher level.**

We applaud efforts towards the accreditation of more NGOs, including more children and youth groups. **We further request UNEP to provide comprehensive information to potential accredited organisations about the major groups and categories they may fit into.** Additionally, **we emphasise** our concern regarding the accreditation of business and industry organisations that present a conflict of interest to UNEP's work on environmental governance. **We urge** UNEP to establish clear rules to ensure that only business organisations prioritising environmental conservation are accredited.

Finally, Madame Executive Director, we commend your tireless efforts to promote gender parity and geographical diversity within UNEP. The statistics in the quarterly report reflect significant progress. We appreciate the detailed information provided and encourage you and UNEP's management to continue on this commendable path.

Thank you for the floor

> On Agenda Item 7. Briefing on COP16 UNCCD

Submitted in person by Diljot Kaur Dhindsa (Kenya)

Thank you chair for the floor

As we prepare for COP16, our constituency emphasises the critical role of youth in driving sustainable land management and restoration efforts. Young people bring innovative solutions and fresh perspectives that are vital for the long-term health of our planet for future generations. As such, we must ensure their active participation in decision-making processes. We propose the inclusion of dedicated capacity-building sessions for youth ahead of COP 16. These sessions will empower us with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute meaningfully to discussions and negotiations.

We welcome the creation of green jobs for youth in land restoration and sustainable management. This corresponds with UNEP's effort in the Green Jobs for Youth Pact under the Youth and Education Programme.

The integration of cutting-edge science, technology, and innovation into the COP agenda is crucial because we need to harness data and research to inform our policies and actions. We therefore call for the strengthening of the science-policy interface that ensures decisions are grounded in the latest scientific evidence. This will help us better understand the links between land degradation, drought, and broader issues such as migration, health, and global security.

Finally, we welcome Thematic Days and High-Level Sessions as they are opportunities to highlight and address specific challenges and solutions. The incorporation of various stakeholders into the programme goes a long way to show that COP16 values perspectives from different major groups, which encourages inclusivity in the solutions that are provided.

Thank you for the floor

Submitted on behalf of the youth constituency by:

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