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CYMG Inputs to the UNEA-7 Ministerial Declaration

Background

The Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP welcomes the opportunity to provide inputs to aid the Zero Draft of the Ministerial Declaration. As the declaration represents the political outcome of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), we urge the member states to recognise the ongoing climate emergency, and ratify a strengthened political commitment to address the pressing global challenges of our time. This includes urgent actions to tackle the ongoing environmental crises while fostering resilience in the face of accelerating planetary threats. The declaration should embody a resolute call for ambitious, science-driven solutions and a collective resolve to implement coherent policies that address critical gaps, ensuring the fulfillment of environmental mandates and commitments aligned with the Assembly's objectives.

The Ministerial Declaration should reflect the theme of UNEA-7 with clarity and purpose, offering a transformative vision for advancing environmental governance. It must prioritize leveraging the best available science, fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration, and ensuring effective implementation frameworks to guide impactful actions. By bridging divides and advancing integrated approaches, the declaration should reflect on the intergenerational approach and serve as a beacon for innovative solutions that uphold the Assembly's political mandate, galvanize global momentum, and inspire robust actions to deliver tangible outcomes for people and the planet.

In order to ensure that the inputs of the constituency reflected the perspectives of children and youth globally, the Children and Youth Major Group had opened up the document for inputs amongst all constituency members, followed by a round of online consultations for ascertaining the priorities of the constituency.

SECTION I: KEY ELEMENTS

1. Recognition of the three planetary crisis as an immediate and ongoing crisis

The Children and Youth Major Group urges the member states to recognise that the three planetary crises are ongoing, and have gravely affected our lives. It is important to recognise this climate crisis as ongoing as opposed to working towards the same as a future threat. This explicit recognition and the urgency to prevent irreversible damage to the planet needs to be the driving

force behind all policies and actions taken by member states in addressing the three planetary crises.

2. *Synergy of MEAs*

In furtherance to UNEA 6 Res. 4, the Children and Youth Major Group urges the member states to have strengthened and binding commitments for synergy between MEAs, with obligations on member states as a part of UNEP to address the gaps that may exist between such MEAs, comprehensively recognise environmental principles in all MEAs, and involve stakeholders in the furtherance of this synergy.

3. *Strengthening Foresight, Science-Policy and Laws*

In addressing the ongoing climate crises with limited resources, it is important to prioritise actions. Therefore, the Children and Youth Major Group emphasises the need for member states to consider the outcomes of the periodic foresight reports published by UNEP to understand such priorities. We further urge the member states to align their actions based on outcomes presented by independent peer-reviewed scientific papers, and ratify laws and policies strictly based on the recommendations of such science-policy panels.

4. *Strengthening stakeholder engagement*

The Children and Youth Major Group implores the member states to recognise the importance of effective stakeholder engagement in all stages of policy-making, including negotiations and implementation, and forums like the Global Youth Environment Assembly that work towards stakeholder engagement in UNEA. In doing so, the Children and Youth Major Group also requests the member states to include stakeholders in all follow up processes to resolutions at international, regional and local levels.

SECTION II: ACTIONS & SOLUTIONS

1. *Pledging finances and identifying new sources of finance*

The Children and Youth Major Group calls upon the member states to pledge more non-debt finances towards addressing the triple planetary crisis, and identifying more avenues for raising finances that shall focus equally on loss and damage, adaptation and resilience caused due to the consequences of the three planetary crisis.

2. *Environmental integration and Integration of social justice and human rights principles into such environmental laws and policies*

The Children and Youth Major Group calls upon the member states to design all resolutions ratified and implemented by UNEP with the guidance of human right principles. In doing so, we

urge the member states to recognise the disproportionate effects of the three planetary crises on certain communities, and work towards addressing the same.

For more information or clarifications, please reach out to our global coordinators:

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