

Final Statement

Major Groups and Stakeholders and Regional Representatives

OECPR 2016

Thank you, Chair.

I am Brian Aberi, MG Children and Youth, and I am delivering this intervention on behalf of all Major Groups and Stakeholders and Regional Representatives except Business and Industry.

We are a visible reminder to delegates of all the people who will be affected by the decisions made by member states at UNEA. We are not here for ourselves, but for those who otherwise might not be heard. We are here because we believe UNEP is crucial for the wellbeing of peoples and planet.

A critical issue for UNEA-2 is the Stakeholder Engagement Policy. While we recognize progress has been made, we are disappointed that Member States have yet to deliver on their Rio+20 commitment. We are opposed to proposals that curtail accreditation on the basis of a no objection, silent veto, that threatens to exclude a just representation of major groups. Any formulation of this policy should progress and not regress from existing practices at UNEP, in the spirit of Rio+20. It is time to overcome the political deadlock. Furthermore, in whatever process takes place between now and UNEA, the Member States should ensure the meaningful involvement of the Major Groups.

We offer eight comments on the proposed UNEA-2 Resolutions under the UNEA theme of "*The environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda*" and we will upload a longer statement to the UNEA portal.

First, we strongly insist that these resolutions include language on gender equality and women's rights.

Second, a crucial element of the 2030 Agenda is practical concern for the rights, livelihoods and well-being of indigenous people, especially those who practice traditional occupations that conserve and sustain habitat and biological diversity. This concern is not adequately represented in the proposed resolutions.

Third, the implementation of these resolutions requires a huge increase in human capacity for sustainable development at local, national and regional levels. The only way this will happen is through improvement of education.

Fourth, Small Island Developing States have special and differential environmental needs. We call for specific efforts to ensure these needs are reflected in the resolutions.

Fifth, UNEA-2 should provide substantial inputs to the development and implementation of the New Urban Agenda that will be agreed at Habitat III in October 2016.

Sixth, in line with the Montevideo IV Program on Environmental Law, we call upon the member states to effectively enforce and implement international law concerning the use of natural resources, particularly freshwater.

Seventh, we are very concerned about the social and environmental implications of war and conflicts and we request member states to address their negative environmental impacts.

Finally, and crucially, in order to implement the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, we must change the development paradigm that is focused on unlimited economic growth, which is incompatible with planetary boundaries and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The current economic and financial system is one of the root causes of increasing inequalities of wealth, power and resources. We insist on consumption and production patterns that uphold global environmental justice and corporate accountability.

As we depart from Nairobi today, we take with us the memory and example of Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Maurice Strong for their service to our world.

We encourage you to open UNEA-2 with a gesture of respect to Mother Earth and all of her children, acknowledging our need to live differently and reminding everyone present of the larger responsibilities we all share toward a sustainable future.

Thank you.