UNDP Statement |HRC54 | Tuesday 26 September 2023

Biennial panel discussion on youth and human rights

Young people's engagement with climate change and global environmental decision-making processes

Excellencies,

UNDP supports global efforts to meet the Paris Agreement goals and the Sustainable Development Goals and recognizes the crucial role that young people play in advocating for human rights, including the right to a healthy environment and solutions to the climate crisis.

UNDP calls for more dedicated actions to ensure effective, active, and meaningful youth participation in environmental forums and decision-making processes.

Through its Climate Promise, the largest support package for enhancing countries' nationally determined contributions, UNDP has assisted over 120 countries and territories. 94% of supported countries now prioritize youth within their national climate commitments, with around 60% actively engaging youth groups, prompting specific policy measures and actions, such as in Liberia, Zimbabwe, Sudan and Bhutan. This is a major achievement.

Yet, a lot remains to be done to ensure that no young person is left behind.

Therefore, UNDP will continue to strengthen partnerships with youth-led organizations and constituencies and promote meaningful youth engagement in various platforms such as regional climate weeks, local, regional and global conferences of youth and COP negotiations.

UNDP remains committed to listening to young voices and strengthening youth leadership through initiatives and programmes like Youth4Climate, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships like the NDC Partnership.

Excellencies,

In line with the UN Youth Strategy, the Call to Action for Human Rights, and Our Common Agenda, ensuring that no young person is left behind in building peaceful, just and inclusive societies and in delivering climate action remains critical to UNDP's work.

Thank you.