

[Meeting with UNEA and CPR Bureaux_6 July_Tangier](#)

Excellencies

Assalam Alaikum

I am Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik from Bangladesh, co-facilitator of the Children and Youth Major Group.

We appreciate your effort in incorporating the urge to undertake intergenerational actions in the zero draft of the ministerial declaration. Perhaps it has been forgotten to address the most relevant stakeholder group, 'Children and Youth', while addressing several others. Moreover, it would be beneficial to acknowledge the importance of children and youth when mentioning vulnerable groups like Indigenous Peoples. Children and youth, who bear the brunt of the planetary crisis, must adapt to a world that is not clean or healthy. Including them in the paragraph would provide a comprehensive perspective on the intergenerational impacts of environmental challenges.

In addition, we should also highlight the need to define intergenerational responsibility, coinciding with the actions of civil society, children, youth, and future generations and bring the advocacy of united actions in addressing the triple planetary crisis and the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

As UNEA6 will focus broadly on the triple planetary crisis with an emphasis on multilateral solutions, we need to determine and specify the role of youths in environmental multilateralism. We hope that UNEA6 will come out with substantive decisions for harnessing the power of youth in combating climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. We also demand special mechanisms to be adopted to support youth in developing knowledge and skills, possessing green jobs, and formalising their role in decision-making processes.

Young people from around the world are leading by example and are proving that change is possible. They champion every aspect of life except policymaking, as they are not allowed to do so. Now it is up to you how you want to utilise your most valuable resource to fight the triple planetary crisis - the power of youth. Please don't forget we live on your successes and failures.

How does climate advocacy look after CoP 26 about green energy?

Energy transition is generally taken to refer to the global energy sector's shift to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources such as wind, solar and hydrogen, while maintaining a parallel focus on "greening" existing energy sources such as hydrocarbons, including through the use of decarbonisation technology such as carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS).

SE4ALL reinforce the fact that achieving global energy, climate and development goals / USD 347 million of new funding was announced / A space for youth voices/ launch of new SEforALL research and initiatives

At UNOC2022 in Portugal, Deep sea mining

It includes no new coal power plans after 2021 and \$35bn annual investment in access to electricity by 2025.

The transition to clean energy is expected to generate 10.3 million net new jobs globally by 2030. That will offset the 2.7 million jobs expected to be lost in fossil fuel sectors

fossil fuel consumption subsidies to be re-directed towards renewable energy and energy efficiency

no new coal power plans to be in the pipeline after 2021.

Intervention to the Roundtable: Assessment of progress in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 15 (Life on Land) - 3 min
29 March 2022 @15:00 -17:00 BKK (UTC+7)

Honorable Moderator and distinguished delegates, I am Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik from Bangladesh, representing Earth Day Network and speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP. SDG 15 is an accelerator as it helps in the implementation of other SDGs. Although it's primarily environmental, it's closely related to food production, animal welfare, human health, and much more.

First, Rapid urbanization, changing food consumption and lifestyle patterns, and overall economic growth trends are increasing the demand for resources and services and exerting pressure on ecosystems all over the Asia-Pacific Region.

Second, The total forest area has increased in Asia since 1990, but this same data shows continuing loss of natural forests and habitats behind the expansion of planted forests. Rural livelihoods are intimately connected with and negatively affected by the deteriorating health of terrestrial ecosystems and with increasing possibilities of human-wildlife conflicts. Areas of high biodiversity often stretch beyond national boundaries, and we have seen a lack of clarity regarding responsibilities for managing transboundary resources as an impediment to ecosystem conservation.

Third, a key challenge identified in the ESCAP multi-stakeholder survey was the need to ensure community and indigenous people's engagement in addressing biodiversity conservation and protection, respecting their right to self-determination.

Fourth, We stress the importance of meaningful engagement of children and youth as the current and future generations of this world in the discussions to address the triple planetary crises that threaten all lives. An inclusive process will contain a combination of approaches, such as partnerships, collaboration, capacity-building exercises, and, most importantly, technology and the arts.

Fifth, SDG 15 should ideally be implemented as soon and as effectively as possible, ensuring that no one is left behind and the most affected communities are engaged in protecting biodiversity. This is the moment to change it all — the business, the politics, and how we take action on climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

At last, Significantly, the Stockholm+50 process entails the importance of accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, where we highlighted meaningful youth participation. We carried forward this to the Stockholm+50 pre-meeting in New York UNGA hall yesterday, where member states applauded and supported the context.

In the lead-up to Earth Day 2022 on the 22nd of April, we call upon all the stakeholders to act boldly, innovate broadly, and implement equitably, forging a new relationship between people and the earth, with an understanding that we the humans are only a part of the world and that we alone do not make the Earth. It's going to take all of us. **All in.** Businesses, governments, and citizens — **everyone accounted for and accountable.** A bold partnership to invest in our planet.

UNEA Marine & Litter WG Cluster 1:

300 words intervention for the working group.

Mini draft:

Cluster 1 Intervention

Co Facilitators- text draft intervention

Distinguished co-chairs, Thank you for the floor. I am Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik from Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Children & Youth Major Group, the mandated youth constituency of UNEP.

We have been actively engaged in the negotiations on plastic pollution, including the Fourth Open-ended Working Expert group on marine litter and microplastics. It is time to take a unified stand on ending plastic pollution. We urge the need for setting up an intergovernmental negotiating committee that will lead to a legally binding instrument addressing the full life cycle of plastic in all ecosystems.

We stress the importance of meaningful engagement of stakeholders, especially children and youth as the current and future generations of this world, in the discussions to address the plastic crisis that is plaguing all lives on the planet. An inclusive process will contain a combination of approaches to engage the youth and children such as partnerships, collaboration and capacity building exercises, and most importantly to use technology and the arts.

We are also concerned that there is a growing acceptance of “biodegradable” plastics. Quoting one of the conclusions from the report named “Biodegradable Plastics and Marine Litter. Misconceptions, concerns and impacts on marine environments” prepared by UNEP in 2015 - “On the balance of the available evidence, biodegradable plastics will not play a significant role in reducing marine litter”¹. This is a clear example of greenwashing as they do not degrade in natural conditions and their disposal requires heavy consumption of resources under industrial conditions. They are problems to be addressed and not solutions to be considered.

We are gathered here to beat plastic pollution, through concrete steps such as: setting measurable targets to reduce the amount of plastics that are produced removing incentives from plastics/fossil fuel industry and encouraging plastic alternatives. and recycling mechanisms.

Learning from the past, we believe that an open and inclusive process will overcome many of the challenges faced in previous implementations. We’ve been here before - we now have the chance to beat plastic pollution **once and for all**.

¹https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/7468/-Biodegradable_Plastics_and_Marine_Litter_Misconceptions,_concerns_and_impacts_on_marine_environments-2015BiodegradablePlasticsAndMarineLitter.pdf.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=

Inputs from the Asia Pacific Regional Youth Environment Forum and Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP

For the Ministerial Segment of the
Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific 2021

Intervention on Agenda item 5: Opening of the Ministerial Segment of the Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific _ 4 mins

[Outcome doc here](#)

[Slides here](#)

Honorable Chair of this session, Honorable Ministers, Youth Delegates, Major Group and Stakeholders, I am Zuhair Ahmed Kowshik from Bangladesh, speaking on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group - the mandated youth constituency of UNEP. We congratulate the Republic of Korea and UNEP Regional Office for Asia & Pacific for hosting this Forum.

We are pleased to share with you that in the lead-up to this Forum, we have hosted the first-ever Asia Pacific Regional Youth Environment Forum from 1st to 3rd October 2021. The Youth Forum brought together youth groups across all subregions of Asia Pacific.

I will hereby share some recommendations from the Youth Manifesto and our outcome document, which highlights the expectations and demands of Asia-Pacific Youth.

On the preparation of UNEA 5.2 and Stockholm+50, we call upon the member states -

- To Ensure ambitious steps to achieve greener technology and innovation through research, especially in developing countries
- We further call for The role of the UNEP as the custodian of International Environmental Law must be strengthened both by UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50 processes.
- The progress made on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration is valuable. We ask you to Consider an overall Ecosystem Restoration reporting framework as an outcome of the Stockholm+50

- We Request you to Promote inclusivity and advocate for traditional (cultural) knowledge as well as inculcating indigenous practices in UNEP@50 and Stockholm+50 processes
- We Request the UNEP Asia Pacific Office and member states to support funded participation of Asia Pacific youth to UNEA and Stockholm+50. We also urge all the member states to include youth as part of the country delegation team.
- Regarding Stockholm+50, we want to specifically share that the youth constituency has been working together with the host Sweden via the establishment of the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force. Various activities are planned, among which the Asia Pacific Youth leadership dialogue took place during the Youth Forum last weekend. We invite member states and interested partners to support the Stockholm+50 Youth Task Force.

On ensuring meaningful youth engagement in Asia-Pacific

- Youth participants of the Forum will be further operationalizing the Asia Pacific Working Group (Aka Asia Pacific Youth Environment Caucus) of the Children and Youth Major Group as an active youth constituency that will collaborate with the UNEP Regional Office of Asia & Pacific, member states, and relevant regional actors.
- Over the coming months, we will work to strengthen youth representation in each sub-region in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

On upholding the youth engagements in high-level dialogues/negotiations

- We call upon sub-regional commissions and coordination bodies to ensure Sub-regional youth representation in high-level negotiations to engage grassroots communities, NGOs as front liner fighters.
- We recommend that new environmental conservation activities identified through youth activities be introduced into decision-making processes and shared as good practices.

On promoting climate literacy, green jobs, and youth entrepreneurship

- We request governments to make environmental education compulsory, assessed, and linked to civic engagement. By civic engagement, we mean students will be taught the necessary skills to take an active role in shaping the future of their communities and our planet and we believe that climate literacy needs to be embedded across all grade levels.

- We highlight the importance of facilitating youth with entrepreneurial skills and training, we urge member states to encourage funding for green jobs, new startups, or companies who are running their businesses for ensuring environmental sustainability

On Asia-Pacific Clean Air Partnership

- Only 16 countries have joined this partnership since 2015, and countries with some of the most polluted cities are not part of it. Thus, we call upon UNEP to urge member states to formally join this partnership and to scale up youth engagement in APCAP.

We offer our sincerest gratitude to the UNEP Regional Office for Asia & Pacific and the host country Republic of Korea for supporting youth engagement in this process. Thank you so much for inviting youth from Asia-Pacific to the Ministerial Forum and providing delegation and intervention opportunities. We will also be sending our inputs to the global youth environment assembly that will take place in Nairobi before UNEA 5.2, and at the sub-committee meetings in the lead-up to that where the youth constituency regularly participates

Finally - I want to tell you Instead of finding environmental solutions for youth and children, capacitate them and let them find solutions for the planet.

As part of the Asia-Pacific Youth Environment Caucus, we are looking forward to working with the UNEP Regional Office for Asia & Pacific and the member states in the region.