

## **Closing intervention by the Major Groups and Stakeholders - UNEA2**

Thank you Chair. I speak on behalf of all nine Major Groups and Regional Representatives.

We wholeheartedly support UNEA and UNEP in taking a lead role to ensure effective implementation of the environmental dimensions of Agenda 2030, especially through active participation and decision making in the High Level Political Forum.

While we welcome some of the Resolutions and Decisions adopted here, we feel many fail to address the root causes of environmental degradation. The social impacts of environmental policies, including gender aspects, are not fully taken into account.

We express concern about the potential negative impact of the monetization of nature and some market-based approaches, as well as trade and investment agreements that undermine natural resource conservation. We are also concerned with the increasing tendency to shift sources of financial support for UNEP and environmental policies to non-public actors, including through Public Private Partnerships. As a minimum, we call for full transparency and accountability regarding any partnerships or other financial arrangements that might compromise the independence of UNEP or other UN agencies.

We call on Environmental Ministers to adopt just transition policies in order to achieve the transformation necessary to move towards a sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient economy, taking into account protection and sustainable use of natural assets, as well as the creation of decent work or other meaningful participation in society that offers quality of life and social protection.

We also call on National Governments and UNEP to actively respond and collaborate with local authorities, communities, and other Major Groups in ensuring that well-planned and managed urbanization is an opportunity for sustainable development.

We welcome the recognition of the importance of respecting, protecting and promoting human rights, gender equality and the role of Indigenous Peoples in delivering the environmental dimension of 2030 Agenda. Traditional and indigenous knowledge, innovations and citizen science should be fully respected and integrated in all assessments and environmental monitoring processes.

We call for the effective participation of UNEP and other relevant stakeholders in developing safe, sound, environmentally and socially sustainable new technologies, as well as agro-ecological based agriculture that safeguards the environment and the livelihood of farmers.

As Major Groups that **include many persons with disabilities**, we call upon the Executive Director of UNEP to ensure that they can participate fully and effectively in UNEA meetings and other relevant processes on the UNON campus, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (particularly Article 9), and the intention of Agenda 2030 to leave no one behind.

The challenge now is to translate the resolutions and declarations adopted into concrete actions, ensuring policy coherence and taking into account the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities.

We believe that reaching the 2030 Goals will require active and open engagement with Major Groups, guaranteed by a robust Stakeholder Engagement Policy. We thank the former and new UNEA presidents for actively trying to achieve a policy that builds on current procedures and practices. We express disappointment, however, that Member States have not fulfilled their commitment to paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 Outcome. We look forward to further engagement in the intersessional period.

We are committed to working with Member States, UNEP and other UN agencies to fulfil the 2030 Agenda to create a sustainable future for all.

Thank you so much.

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