

About the themes for the 2017 UN Environment Assembly

Three proposals have been tabled to the Sub Committees of the CPR on 24th November 2016.

1. Pollution free planet: delivering a deal to detoxify the world

Alternative title: It 's time to clean our planet: reversing the curve on pollution

2. Planet 2.0: how to prepare the planet for 3 degrees and 9 billion people

Alternative Title: Planet 2.0: preparing the planet for 9 billion people

3. #NatureForAll: how to create harmony for people and the planet

The suggestion of the Holy See (as presented by Fr. Etienne Triaille)

Proposals 2 and 3 are very interesting in that they frankly face the challenge of preparing “The Future we want”, particularly taking into account possible natural disasters and the quality of our natural environment.

As indicated by the representative of Argentina, the title of proposition 2 should be more positive. As it is written, it seems there is some fear concerning a population of 9 billion by the year 2050.

We fully agree with proposal 3. We must improve - not create - harmony among people and for nature.

We suggest that merging proposals 2 and 3 could soothe fears. If we improve harmony and peace among all human beings and if we focus our commitment to save nature as a whole, there is no doubt that the planet would be able to provide food, a safe environment and a happy life for all. This would meet the expectations of Pope Francis.

However, we think that this goal oversteps the mandate of UNEA and UNEP.

To create peace and harmony among peoples is the mandate of the United Nations. We read in the preamble of the charter signed in 1945:

“We the people of the United Nations (commit ourselves) to this end:

- to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and*
- to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and*
- to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and*
- to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,”*

Consequently, we opt for the first proposal as a more concrete theme for UNEA-3.

N.B. Putting in writing my intervention has been requested by Jorge Laguna-Celis, the secretary.