

Intervention from the NGOs on agenda point:

1) Governance (Rec: 6-9-10-11-12-18),

Thank you chair, dear delegates.

I'm Christina Catalano from The Institute for Planetary Synthesis, and I'm speaking on behalf of the NGOs:

We would like to see UNEP's role secured and strengthened, and also strengthen the role of UNEP in the SDG framework, with a clear mandate from UNDESA/ECOSOC.

It would improve the effectiveness of environmental governance to ensure that UNEP is able to increase coordination and cooperation amongst all environmental policy streams and MEAs (while not infringing the mandates of these).

Also, we need to strengthen UNEP's policy influence, not only across the UN system, but in respect of all relevant international organisations whose mandates may impact environmental matters (for example, a strong role in One Health/One Welfare cooperation in respect of pandemic prevention; and the Page programme on green economies).

We must ensure that the UNEA resolutions and directives are forwarded to and carried out by all other departments and agencies within governments; and that all countries recognize their environmental departments as the lead agencies in regards to environmental policies and upholding of environmental principles, legislation and law. Request UNEP, in cooperation with the UN Law Commission and UNDESA, to work with governments to ensure that this happens.

So how do we achieve this? One of the ways is through funding - the funding for UNEP should be significantly scaled up. Increasing levels of finance and staff should be provided to UNEP so that it can more effectively support the Strategies and Action Plans on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and proactive work to build Harmony with Nature.

Further, scientific analysis, reports and presentations should inform national and sub-national sustainable development commissions and processes. This scientific information should be discussed and forwarded to governments through national science and educational councils and associations.

The scientific community and scientific subsidiary bodies should be called upon to carry out definitive studies and report on the benefits that can come from transitioning to such best practices as:

- Regenerative Agriculture and dietary change for planetary health
- A circular economy
 - Greening finance and investments

- Environmentally friendly green chemicals
- Composting and biological waste processing
- Ecosystem restoration in all types of environments and habitats, etc.

Governments should be encouraged to make good use of holding public hearings and consulting with all stakeholder groups when determining policy and drafting legislation.

Finally, the International Court must be used to uphold all agreements, in which all MEAs are binding and not operating independently state to state, but, rather, operating as one.

We are confident that the following measures will lead to higher levels of more effective governance.

Thank you