

Opening Statement at October 12, 2020 7th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

12 October 2020

Thank you Respected Chair. Indeed our request for a short opening statement appreciated. Thank you so much for the floor.

Your Excellencies and Respected Distinguished Delegates,

I am John Aggrey from Ghana and I speak here on behalf of the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP. As the formal youth engagement mechanism to UNEP, we bring together over 500 youth-led and youth-focussed organisations from all over the world. We thank you all for organizing this meeting.

We are delivering this as a short opening intervention as we commence this meeting.

As the UN commemorates its 75th anniversary, We as young people continue to be highly concerned about the ongoing climate and ecological crisis. We want to see stronger commitment to investing in green pandemic recovery. UNEP and member states must demonstrate good leadership and continue to promote ambitious targets internationally.

As we have this meeting, we remind you that worldwide over 1 million lives have been lost from COVID-19. This is certainly not business as usual, and our actions including in this meeting should be ambitious and set a clear tone for environmental processes in 2021.

The work we do here today is for everyone. And more specifically those on the frontline of the environmental crisis. This includes young people from developing countries, rural communities, Indigenous communities and right-holder groups. And we remind you that their engagement needs to be rights-based and structurally designated.



Global Youth for Environment
UNEP MAJOR GROUP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Over the next few days, I will be joined with my youth colleagues from different regions, as part of the youth constituency delegation and we will engage on different agenda items. In the lead-up to this meeting, we have conducted various internal consultations, including a global youth survey on the UNEP Medium Term strategy, UN75 Youth Plenary and Major Group and Stakeholders Consultation last Friday; so we are excited to share our inputs with you.

Respected Chair, In conclusion, this meeting must not just be a table of discussion, but rather a table of action, to make UNEP strong, and make UNEA strong. We once again thank the Executive director, the secretariat, and Co-chairs for hosting this meeting; and we look forward to working with you to have concrete and realistic outcomes at the end of the week.

Thank you Respected Chair.

FOCAL POINTS:

Children and Youth Representatives to UNEP Major Group Facilitation Committee

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