



## Comments and proposals regarding the theme of UNEA 6 from stakeholders in the European Region

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On 18 January 2023, the Regional Facilitators invited stakeholders from the European Region to attend an online consultation to provide comments and proposals to the theme of the 6<sup>th</sup> UN Environment Assembly. 63 stakeholders from countries across the region and representing different Major Groups actively participated in the consultation.

The stakeholders welcome the proposed theme and propose the following alternative title for UNEA 6: "Accelerating effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle *the root causes of* climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution *and to transform our relationship with Nature, including through sustainable reconstruction and recovery.* First, stakeholders would like to highlight that solutions are urgently needed while they also need to be effective and inclusive. Secondly, we sought to highlight that global solutions need to address the root causes of the triple planetary crisis, such as the extraction and use of fossil fuels or intensive agriculture. UNEA needs to address systemic issues. Finally, stakeholders would like UNEA 6 to address sustainable reconstruction and recovery both after economic crisis and conflict.

More specifically, stakeholders agreed to share the following comments and proposals in answer to the further revised paper on the UNEA 6 theme (as of 12 January 2023):

- UNEA 6 should further **strengthen the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals**. Governments, institutions and other organisations often still work in narrow siloes, and cooperation towards the 2030 Agenda and SDGs needs to be broadened.
- UNEA 6 should agree on new measures to **advance the realisation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment** to accelerate societal transformation.
- UNEA 6 needs to address the **impact of the war in Ukraine**, environmental destruction, the roll back on the renewable energy transition, the impact on food security and the push back regarding the transition towards sustainable food systems (e.g., the reduction of chemical pesticide use). We welcome the role UNEP is playing in addressing the environmental consequences of the war in Ukraine and other conflict-affected areas. It is important to have dedicated

expertise and capacity to assess conflict-linked environmental degradation. This work is often considered sensitive, and UNEP has faced serious pushback against this role. In the light of UNEP's mainstreaming the work of the Disasters and Conflict branch in its Medium-Term Strategy, we urge UNEA to support UNEP in working on the environmental dimensions of armed conflict and in providing a clear plan that cements the commitment to have conflict as part of UNEP's ongoing important work on environment, peace and security.

- UNEA 6, with its focus on strengthening environmental multilateralism, should address the root causes of global environmental destruction and discuss the needs for **new MEAs addressing unsustainable resource extraction and use** (e.g., a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty or a framework for global mineral governance and caps on raw material extraction or moratorium on any new or expanded mining) and legal measures to ensure previous decisions on extractives can be reopened.
- UNEA 6 needs to provide solutions regarding the transition towards **sustainable food systems** that function within planetary boundaries. UNEA should work towards an agreement to reduce meat production and to decrease the need for animal feed in order to ease pressure on agricultural land and increase food security with nearly 80% of agricultural land currently used for meat and dairy production (pastures used for grazing and land used to grow crops for animal feed). It needs to address the loss of fertile agricultural land, and the threat this poses to future generations.
- UNEA 6 needs to advance **solutions towards the zero-pollution ambition**, in particular regarding chemicals and waste management where global solutions remain scattered and weak with many pollution issues still unaddressed by MEAs. UNEA needs to address the lack of accountability of companies responsible for pollution, e.g., water pollution caused by pharmaceutical companies.
- UNEA 6 needs to **address the health impacts of the triple planetary crisis** and advance the sharing of available solutions according to relevant SDGs in different regions.
- As a part of strengthening environmental multilateralism, UNEA 6 should build on the outcomes of key agreements such as the CBD COP15 and the Paris Agreement adopted by 196 Parties, contribute to strengthening the national implementation plans, and **increase the cohesion between MEAs** (e.g., “non-toxic climate solutions”) and stronger cooperation between regions.
- Stakeholders expect UNEA 6 to provide advanced analysis and agreed measures to **ensure global solutions are effective**, in particular, how MEAs can be **better implemented** (including in wealthy, industrialised countries), and how global solutions can be more inclusive. UNEA 6 needs to provide new ideas and measures regarding implementation at national level and better support and programmes from the **national to the local level**. It needs to increase public sector responsibility, awareness and engagement.

- UNEA 6 needs to agree on new measures to increase **youth engagement** at all levels and provide new agreements around strengthening environmental educations working with children from early childhood.
- UNEA 6 should **broaden stakeholder engagement**, e.g., interfaith groups, while putting women's and Indigenous Peoples' perspective at the forefront of solutions.

## Contact

Regional Facilitators for the European Region:

Patrizia Heidegger: [patrizia.heidegger@eeb.org](mailto:patrizia.heidegger@eeb.org)

Ida Bakhturidze: [ida.bakhturidze@wecf.org](mailto:ida.bakhturidze@wecf.org)

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