

## ***Bratislava Joint Regional Statement from Major Groups and Stakeholders in the European Region***

**in preparation of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)**

**based on the outcomes of the  
Regional Consultation Meeting for the European Region (RCM)  
27-29 November 2023, Bratislava, Slovak Republic + online**

### **Preamble**

We, representatives of Major Groups and Stakeholders who came together in Bratislava for our Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM), welcome the focus of the Sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) on effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. We sincerely appreciate the **recognition of the great urgency to take coordinated international action to tackle the systemic threats posed by the three planetary crises** of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution to sustainable development and their impacts on human well-being, environment, peace and security that are further aggravated by persistent levels of poverty, inequality and food insecurity.

While most stakeholders recognise the urgency, **action is too slow**. Global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue to rise. The climate crisis is a reality around the world with severe floods, droughts, storms, melting glaciers and whole ecosystems at risk of breakdown. Biodiversity loss is accelerating. Pollution has reached all corners of the planet, with children being born pre-polluted.

The emergency particularly **affects future generations** and is **disproportionately impacting marginalised communities** such as racialised communities and Indigenous People. Siloed environmental and climate policies and technology-focused solutions will not adequately address the triple crisis which is driven by the current economic system based on the limitless exploitation of natural resources, extractive materials and labour, and is further exacerbated by destruction of ecosystems in armed conflicts around the world. We are in need of a **deep, structural transformation** away from **an economic model depending on infinite economic growth** towards one centred on **achieving wellbeing for all within planetary boundaries and preserving human rights**. In particular those economies in the Global North whose wealth is linked to overconsumption and built on the exploitation of raw materials and labour in their periphery and the Global South, cannot further grow on a planet with finite resources.

We need an economic model in line with the **One Health** approach, recognising the interconnection between people, animals plants and their shared environment. We need favourable legislation, economic and financial incentives to **transform existing financial flows** in nature restoration, zero pollution and decarbonisation, while putting in place stronger **rules for accountability and liability** for environmental damage, including through criminal law and sanctions for individuals, companies and governments.

This transformation must **equally prioritise environmental and social justice objectives**, integrating strong policies to **secure the livelihoods of communities** affected by the transition. It must be guided by the **full respect for human rights**, including the **human right to a healthy, clean and sustainable environment**, and the protection and fulfilment of the **rights of youth and future generations** through long-term, future-oriented policies. Decision-making must be based on **democracy and the principle of intergenerational equity**. Truly effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions call for **meaningful engagement of underrepresented groups**, including youth, gender minorities, racialised groups and people from most affected areas, in all decision-making, budgetary, implementation and follow-up processes. Meaningful engagement in the transformation must also be built on **environmental education** focused on finding solutions and equipping people with knowledge and skills necessary to be able to cope and fight against the triple crisis.

UNEA 6 is meant to contribute to the **Summit of the Future** scheduled for September 2024. The Summit of the Future should ensure that:

- **civil society** is meaningfully included in decision making, starting from the UN Security Council, which should account for environmental consequences of armed conflict and for the environment as the main source of future conflicts. Civil society can make important contributions to the implementation of UN decisions, covering the gaps that persist in the implementations of global treaties. To do so, it must become a recognised member of the multilateral system.
- the **financial architecture** is restructured to enhance investments to support and not to impair the restoration of the environment. This requires the involvement of environmental advocates, especially young people, women and Indigenous People, in the allocation of resources.
- environmental felonies fall under **criminal law** while they are currently mostly persecuted under civil law, and that legal standing should be given to future generations and all living beings and ecosystems. The **right to a clean and healthy environment** must also entail the **right of the environment** to be clean and healthy, beyond the anthropocentric perspective.
- we increase the **understanding of and contact with nature** in order to lead to a cultural shift.
- UNEA decisions must be followed by concrete actions including resource allocation and implementation and monitoring mechanisms.

## Zero pollution for a healthy environment

The **pollution crisis is closely linked to the climate and biodiversity crisis**. The main sources of harmful pollution are linked to air pollution from petrochemical and industrial activities and pollution from chemicals and waste, including plastic waste.

We are extremely concerned that **children are being born pre-polluted** with a cocktail of hazardous chemicals including **forever chemicals** (such as PFAS), **endocrine disrupting chemicals** (EDCs), reprotoxic, neurotoxic and carcinogenic chemicals which already result in increased levels of irreversible disorders and diseases. Entire ecosystems are at risk from **pollinator-killing pesticides** and **all-pervasive microplastics**; however, **some industry lobbies delay** urgent measures to **phase-out substances of concern** including hazardous pesticides. We call on our European leaders to step-up **measures towards zero-pollution** to protect our health and the environment, ensuring human rights and gender equality.

**Air pollution continues to be the biggest environmental killer** and the large majority of the population in the region is exposed to dangerous levels of air pollution. We call on all Member States to **fully implement the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution** and the **Pollution Release and Transfer Register Protocol** under the Aarhus Convention. We call for a **global industrial emission monitoring agreement**, **air quality standards** with limit and target values in line with WHO recommendations, and the development of national **air quality plans and short-term action plans**.

We call for urgent legislative measures to ensure the **sound management of chemicals and waste**, including through the implementation of regional and global environmental multilateral agreements such as the **Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions**, in particular progress towards phasing out of 'forever chemicals', the rapid implementation of the **Global Framework on Chemicals (2023)** and its **gender resolution**, and an urgent agreement on a strong **global treaty to end plastic pollution** throughout its lifecycle, which is currently being negotiated.

We call on governments to stop the further spread of toxic materials through wrong recycling practices. The petrochemical industry makes **false promises regarding the recyclability of plastic waste** which should be exposed and not funded. It leads to a continued use and dispersion of hazardous chemicals added to plastics including endocrine disruptors and forever chemicals which accumulate in recycled material.

**Access to information on the chemical composition of manufactured materials and products throughout their life cycle** is fundamental to control and monitor the implementation of multilateral agreements on chemicals and wastes. Yet, no globally harmonised mandatory disclosure requirements and labelling provisions for chemicals in manufactured materials and products exist in any current environmental agreements, leading to challenges in their implementation. However, transparency and traceability of

chemical information is now high on the agenda in the negotiations of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, paving the way for other multilateral agreements to make necessary amendments and contribute to the development of a toxics-free globalised circular economy. Leading up to UNEA7, countries should prepare a **resolution for a globally harmonised cross-sectorial chemical transparency and traceability system** for informed decision-making on all types of manufactured materials and products throughout their entire lifecycle.

The continued exports of **highly hazardous pesticides** whose use has been restricted in many European countries, must be stopped. We call on governments to work together to phase out highly hazardous pesticides to protect human health and the environment.

Hazardous chemical pollution caused by **armed conflicts in the region** creates an enormous, long-term risk to human health, nature, biodiversity, soil and water bodies. We call on Member States to ensure and finance urgent measures to contain and clean up pollution stemming from military activities.

It is key to draw lessons from the devastating impacts of Covid-19 and leverage the **One-Health approach** to avert future pandemics, including stressing the use of non-chemical alternatives over insecticides and antibacterial substances is essential to **mitigate the risk of exposure to antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** in human and animal populations and the environment. This not only safeguards against the proliferation of AMR but also promotes healthier ecosystems and communities.

Finally, Major Groups and Stakeholders in the region welcome and support the **Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention** as agreed at UNEA 5.2. However, we are concerned by the undue influence of representatives of the chemical industry on the development of the Panel. We call for strong due diligence measures to avoid any conflict of interest and to ensure equal access for experts from Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in particular women.

## Water resources and water ecosystems

Water resources are under pressure globally. Many parts of our region suffer from water shortage, droughts and water pollution. Water is not just a resource; it is a **fundamental pillar of life and a human right**, and our collective efforts must reflect its significance. We therefore welcome the initiative from Saudi Arabia to address droughts, and the initiative from the EU to step up water policy at international level. Recognising the critical importance of water resilience in the face of global challenges, we emphasize the need for **concrete actions to address water scarcity, overconsumption, pollution and the impact of climate change on water resources**. A **comprehensive approach to water management** including stronger policies, technological innovations and public awareness is vital for achieving sustainable and equitable water use in the region and globally, emphasizing equity and resilience.

First of all, we call on governments to step up **water policies that prevent water pollution** in particular caused by industries and agriculture as well as urban wastewater, **better water treatment technologies** and to **regulate overconsumption of scarce water resources** by certain industrial or production processes. Water is not for free, and prioritised access must be given for drinking water and human consumption and local and sustainable food production over water intensive mass manufacturing (e.g., textile or beverage production) and intensive agriculture. In the face of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, **new technologies in water treatment** are crucial to reduce waterborne disease spread, especially in the context of climate change.

Next to stricter rules, we call on member states to increase public awareness as a key component in fostering **responsible water consumption**. We ask for community-led monitoring systems to track water usage, quality, and potential issues, promoting a sense of responsibility and ownership. Moreover, recognising the **virtual water footprint in products** is essential. Water is intricately linked to various aspects of production, and understanding its virtual presence in goods can guide sustainable consumption practices.

Climate change must be taken seriously, and attention paid to **climate resilience in the design and construction of water infrastructure**, taking into account the potential impacts of climate change on rainfall patterns and extreme weather events. We call on governments to collaborate to develop and implement **early warning systems** to mitigate the impact of floods and droughts on water resources, and to internationally to invest in the upgrade and maintenance of water infrastructure, including pipelines, treatment plants, and distribution networks, to reduce water losses and improve overall efficiency.

We request that **financial support and capacity building** be provided to empower stakeholders, including local communities, governments and non-governmental organisations, in effective water resource management. We call for the establishment of international funds to assist developing countries in implementing sustainable water management practices, with a focus on both freshwater and marine ecosystems. We call for more **support of initiatives such as smart cities as well as promotion of smart water solutions** such as rainwater purification, green roofs and increasing water retention, reuse, and drainage in urban areas.

We also call on governments to step up **transboundary, inter-state cooperation on water basin management**, and to collaborate across borders to and **protect the last free-flowing rivers** their rich biodiversity, including through a moratorium on new dams.

We would like to highlight that **water resources, water ecosystems and marine environments are often highly impacted by armed conflicts, both in terms of direct attacks and environmental pollution from war**. We call on states to endorse strong international legal rules and procedures around the protection of water resources in armed conflicts and to support the restoration of water resources in affected areas.



## Global Biodiversity Framework, Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

Even with the Global Biodiversity Framework adopted and protected areas growing, we are concerned by the overall lack of action. Biodiversity is declining rapidly, and ecosystems are under threat. We are calling on member states to bring biodiversity back to UNEA-6 and to discuss the establishment of a **transparent system of reporting and monitoring to ensure accountability**. We need to **better manage protected areas**, also through better transboundary cooperation for high value sites, and ensure **conservation of habitats outside of protected areas, while further expanding protected areas**. We call on member states to develop initiatives to **better enforce agreements** for biodiversity protection and to enable **prosecution of environmental crimes** such as habitat destruction and illegal wildlife trafficking.

More research on management of **invasive species** and prevention is needed. We also call on governments to support **harnessing Indigenous knowledge and local stewardship** with the goal to protect habitats and species and local livelihoods. We need to better protect and promote local and **sustainable agricultural and fishing practices** that protect local biodiversity. Overall, we encourage you to build on UNEA 5.2 resolutions and to address the interconnection of human, animal and ecosystem health with increased action from UNEP for cooperation to stop future pandemics.

We suggest declaring **30 November the International Remembrance Day of lost species** to increase awareness of rapid biodiversity decline.

We also welcome the initiative for a **UNEA-6 resolution on Nature-based Solutions (NbS)**. Throughout the discussion on NbS in the UNEA process, stakeholders have been warning of the risks linked to investments in NbS where these are not strictly defined. According to some research of climate mitigation investments in NbS, some research has shown, up to 90% result in **no net benefit to the environment**. Even if only 50% of investments are not beneficial, such projects often cause more harm than good and actually further degrade nature, such as monoculture tree plantations. Unfortunately, the consultation process that followed UNEA 5.2 was designed to have a positive outcome about NbS, and critical views were sidelined in the process and hardly taken up in reports.

What is missing from the discussion so far are **strict criteria for NbS** for governments and investors to follow including a **clear understanding of good and bad practices**. We ask for clearly defined ways to **exclude non-compliant projects**. We also call on the government to make sure the **rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities** are fully protected, and that all NbS projects respect human rights. **Indigenous and traditional knowledge** needs to be fully credited and directly benefit the communities. NbS investments must be planned and implemented on a **solid scientific basis and in close consultation with civil society under strict monitoring of their net benefits to the environment and communities**.

This also requires strict guidelines for financial institutions such as the World Bank and IMF. A substantial proportion of the commitments towards financing for NbS should be dedicated towards the **science-policy interface** for research, testing, new methodologies, criteria and standard-setting for NbS. Specific attention needs to be given to **tailor-made local solutions**, for instance, in an urban context, using local traditions as far as possible. Moreover, **certification, verification and long-term monitoring by the public** must be harmonised and financed. Investments must also be linked to **anti-corruption measures**, especially where the private sector is involved.

Finally, we support those Member States pushing for a **binding regulatory framework of NbS on the national or international level** as research shows that voluntary approaches tend to be ineffective.

### Sustainable food systems, including sustainable nutrient use

We deplore the fact that the six priorities outlined for UNEA-6 do not include a **holistic approach to sustainable food systems**, but we welcome the priority set for the **sustainable use of nutrients**. We would like to share three main concerns and call on member states to bring sustainable foods systems back to the agenda:

Across a number of areas, the risk to future sustainable food systems lies in the **challenge of attracting and retaining people across the food system**. With movement from rural areas to urban and declining generational industries like traditional farming and sea fishing, there is a major challenge to bring enough young people in. Low income levels and the problems of accessing capital are major barriers for young farmers. Member States should be urged to recognise the extent of the demographic problems within their own regions. We urge governments to support the use of agro-ecological practices and to ensure sustainable livelihoods, including a gender sensitive response.

The loss of small traditional and mixed farms and the financial pressure for cheap food that moves land use to monoculture under volatile markets has put many soils under pressure and contributes to water and air pollution. **Good soil health** is the foundation of sustainable food systems, sustainable nutrition of the soil and the food it produces. Effective recycling of nutrients is both good for the soil and reduces the impact of particular fertiliser demand. There is much new understanding of soil biology and soil management techniques. It is vital for member states to find improved communication and **education for future soil managers** and to **better regulate the input of chemical pesticides and fertilisers**. Good soil management also offers a unique opportunity to build, retain and store carbon in an entirely natural way.

**Excess nitrogen from agricultural sources is one of the main causes of water pollution** in Europe, and in many other parts of the world. It stems from fertilisers and manure and can render water unsuitable as drinking water. A UNEA 5.2 resolution has recognised the multiple pollution threats resulting from anthropogenic reactive nitrogen.

The ongoing negotiations to establish an **intergovernmental coordination mechanism** for nitrogen policies requires for **meaningful Major Groups representation**, and we call on governments to ensure that for the proposed mechanism.

Finally, it is widely recognised that the **future sustainability of water use across the food supply chain** will come under great pressure as demand grows and climate events bring more frequent extremes. Member states need to fully understand their own food system future water requirement and how it can be made more sustainable. In addition, the exporting and importing of food has a water footprint that is frequently ignored.

### Climate-altering Technologies and Measures (CATMs)

Solar radiation modification (SRM), also known as solar radiation manipulation or solar geoengineering approaches, are a set of technological fixes intended to manipulate the amount of sunlight that reaches the Earth's atmosphere. They are a **dangerous distraction from the urgent task of finding solutions to the triple planetary crisis**. They seek to treat some of the symptoms of global warming but not the root causes, a convenient 'get out of jail free card' for big polluters.

The **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** has been addressing the risks of **geoengineering** since before 2008, applying the Precautionary Principle in view of the risks to biodiversity posed by 'climate-fixes' such as ocean fertilisation and all climate-related geoengineering. This led to the adoption of a **de facto moratorium in 2010**. The London Convention and Protocol adopted a series of decisions that call for **utmost precaution**, led to **ban ocean fertilisation**, and more recently called governments for extreme caution on four other marine geoengineering techniques (enhancing ocean alkalinity, macroalgae cultivation and other biomass for sequestration including artificial upwelling; marine cloud brightening; and microbubbles, reflective particles and material because of their "potential for deleterious effects that are widespread, long-lasting or severe". All UN member states agreed on the grave risks of flooding, droughts and threats to biodiversity from these technologies.

This is particularly concerning given that the **ocean is a crucial ally against climate change** due to its ability to absorb vast amounts of carbon dioxide and heat and to regulate global temperatures. The implementation of some of the referred marine geoengineering interventions may inadvertently **compromise the resilience of ocean ecosystems** and disrupt their natural ability to mitigate climate change.

**Switzerland has announced its intention to submit a draft resolution at UNEA-6 on Solar Radiation Modification.** Among solar geoengineering technologies are Stratospheric Aerosol Injection (SAI) which involves the release of chemicals and particles through balloons or airplanes into the stratosphere with the aim to limit sunlight coming to the earth, and Marine Cloud Brightening (MCB) which involves adding salt particles into clouds to make them whiter to reflect solar rays back.



SAI, if applied, would pose a great risk: stratospheric injections would have to be continued for hundreds and thousands of years into the future and stopping it would [trigger a so-called 'termination shock'](#) where the temperature would suddenly rise with the potential to destroy or at least severely damage life on earth. According to the **Advisory Committee to the UN Human Rights Council, solar geoengineering technologies are some of the most extreme and existentially threatening technologies ever conceived** and were declared **incompatible with human rights**.

We therefore call to fully support the **call for a non-use agreement on solar geo-engineering** already supported by hundreds of experts and academics<sup>1</sup> who call on countries to forbid any public investments in the development of these technologies, not to hand out any patents and for no support for SRM in international institutions.

We call on governments to **strengthen the existing moratorium on geo-engineering** under the CBD. The lead should remain with the CBD process and should neither be shifted to UNEA nor to the UNFCCC. We also ask to affirm the precautionary principle and to ratify the decisions on marine geoengineering under the London Convention and Protocol from 2013 and to support the current process of evaluation of marine geoengineering technologies with a view to ban all marine geoengineering technologies.

## Sustainable raw material and resource use, Circular Economy

Both the current levels of consumption and production in our region as well as the transition to carbon neutrality require large amounts of raw materials. The projected increase for Europe is enormous, for instance, if we look at the amounts of lithium required for electrification of transport and industry. We cannot simply address the issue of raw material and resource use from the perspective of securing our access to these materials and ensuring "sustainable" mining. **Green Mining is a myth**: each mining project comes with huge impacts on nature and people. Across the European region and globally, we see a boost in mining projects that trigger **environmental conflicts and local resistance** and that threaten livelihoods, often those of Indigenous People or rural communities, such as in Serbia, Portugal or Sweden, to name only a few examples within Europe. The **Global North is dependent on raw materials exploitation** in the Global South and uses its own peripheral area such as the Balkans as its resource provider. The power imbalance between stronger EU economies and the periphery is huge.

We welcome the Swiss initiative to bring the international discussion on mining and raw materials forward and encourage the sponsors to look at raw material and resources from a **systems change approach**. We first need to minimise mining as far as possible and focus on **secondary materials recovered by recycling and solutions that reduce the demand for raw materials**. In economies with high resource consumption, we need to

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<sup>1</sup>[www.solargeoeng.org](http://www.solargeoeng.org)

downsize those sectors that are very resource intensive; there needs to be a price tag on virgin materials and incentives for secondary material use; we need to address overconsumption and define consumption corridors, in particular in those countries that have the highest rate of per capita and total material consumption. We need an international treaty for **global governance of raw materials** to ensure the **equitable** use of the world's resources. It needs to define **no-go zones** such as the most fertile agricultural areas, primeval forests and biodiversity hotspots, areas that are key as water resources or the deep sea. **It also needs to establish material use reduction targets**, similar to CO2 reduction targets, at international level.

Where mining projects are not avoidable, they need to adhere to the highest environmental and social standards in full respect of **human rights and environmental rights**, including a right of affected communities to say no. The rights of Indigenous People must be respected at all times, including Free Prior Informed consent. Even where mining projects are declared as strategic, **fast tracking** cannot be at the expense of the full respect of environmental rights, and full compliance with Strategic Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Assessments. We call for **very strict rules on the technologies and chemicals** used in mining, including for tailings management. Mining companies must be **fully liable for any environmental or economic damage** during the operation and after the closing, proper remediation and renaturation of the site.

**We also highly welcome the EU initiative to present a draft resolution on Circular Economy at UNEA 6.** A circular economy needs to be based on reducing consumption first, for instance, as outlined above, clear **targets for material use reduction**. The concept has been misused for **greenwashing** products and processes, and the term needs clear definition. For instance, downcycling cannot be considered as being a circular practice (e.g. plastic bottles into flooring), and circular practices need to be sustainable in the broader senses. We need to acknowledge that **economies in the EU are currently linear, not circular**. Current consumption levels require resources from the Global South including raw materials, agricultural commodities and labour, with end-of-life products often dumped back into third countries.

We encourage **international initiatives to close all waste leakages** and illegal exports such as plastic waste, end-of-life vehicles and WEEE. We call for **international initiatives to regulate products and strict standards** around durability, repairability, reusability, recyclability, and to set up international Extender Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes. Product categories that need to be regulated also globally and that we are particularly concerned about include but are not limited to batteries, solar panels, cars, textiles, and buildings. **Unsustainable products and processes need to be phased out**. We call for clear incentives such as tax breaks on repair and refurbishment, and support for sustainable local practices and traditions that are already circular. We encourage the resolution to advance on creating a **toxics-free Circular Economy** to ensure harmful chemicals are not recirculated in new products.

Finally, we encourage the EU to **support and collaborate with third countries in ensuring sustainable waste management in full respect of the waste hierarchy with waste prevention** as the top priority. We call on governments not to invest in wrong solutions (such as incinerators which then require certain amounts to be produced in order to be operated), and to support countries to set up waste management systems.

## Environment and Conflict

We note with disappointment that the **second draft of the Ministerial Declaration in its current version does not recognize the effects of conflict and military activities** on global climate and environmental and developmental challenges. This is at a time when the **devastating impact of the war** is contributing to serious conflict-pollution hotspots and loss of valuable natural areas and biodiversity, setting back whole countries and regions on their path to carbon neutrality, zero pollution, restored nature and long-term sustainability. Fragility and conflict lead to the collapse of environmental governance, which can exacerbate underlying environmental challenges and weaken systems of protection and sustainable resource use. Ongoing hostilities hamper States' abilities for climate adaptation, leaving vulnerable communities poorer, less resilient, and ill-equipped to cope with the effects of climate change. These concerns also come with particular gender angles in conflict areas that often put women and girls at risk from societal instability and degraded environmental conditions. We are convinced that recognizing the **interlinkages between the triple planetary crisis, conflict and peace** by UNEA 6 would not only contribute to better analysis of the nature of these global challenges but will also provide for effective and sustainable solutions to address them.

We welcome Ukraine's initiative for a **resolution on the environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts**. We call on governments:

- to recognise that the adverse environmental effects of armed conflicts, such as Russia's war against Ukraine, result in the impossibility of the impacted countries to implement their commitments under the 2030 Agenda and multilateral environmental agreements on water and air pollution, climate and biodiversity.
- to support UNEP in working on the environmental dimensions of armed conflict and providing a clear plan, mandate, and resourcing that cements the commitment including increased funds for comprehensive assessments of environmental damage and its public health impacts, with methodological and technical support for calculation of environmental losses and damages.
- to include conflict sensitivity in relevant international environmental agreements for more coherent and effective multilateral response to pressing challenges related to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution in the conflict settings.
- to provide regions and countries that have suffered from environmental damages in armed conflict with financial and technical support for a green and sustainable reconstruction and recovery, an integration of environmental consideration in the peace-building process including conflict-sensitive investment and redevelopment of energy projects, infrastructure and industry.

- to encourage States to adopt the International Committee of the Red Cross' Updated Military Guidelines on the Protection of the Natural Environment in Armed Conflict and International Law Commission's Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflicts (PERAC) principles on how the environment should be protected before, during and after armed conflicts as one of the ways to mitigate the triple planetary crisis.

We call up on UNEP Regional Office for Europe to **support the organisation of consultations with Major Groups and Stakeholders on a regular basis** and use it as a platform to empower and build the capacity of MGS to advance the environmental dimension of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. We call on member states to **provide UNEP with** secure, stable, adequate, and increased financial resources to fulfill its mandate and to be able to support regular and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

**There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.** A **culture of peace** needs to cultivate **harmony between humanity and the planet**, promoting sustainable practices, protection and restoration, and responsible stewardship. It recognises the **interconnectedness of environmental wellbeing and human flourishing**, fostering a collective commitment to safeguarding the Earth for **present and future generations**.