

# UNEA Monitor

UNEA Monitor is a daily newsletter powered by Major Groups during the UN Environment Assembly. The newsletter tracks the most important negotiations and events and delivers the daily news through the lens of civil society.

## Welcome to UNEA 5.2

Dear Friends and Colleagues,  
Welcome to the resumed session of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) and the Special Session of the UN Environment Assembly celebrating the 50th anniversary of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP@50).

During the meeting of the Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) last week, Major Groups and other stakeholders were actively following the negotiation, delivering statements from various Major Groups and organizing a number of meetings and events in the Green Room.



Ms. Carmen Capriles, Co-chair of MGFC representing WMG Delivering a joint statement on behalf of all Major groups at the OECPR opening session



Ms. Sarojeni Rengam, Asia Pacific RF delivering a statement on chemicals and waste focus on pesticides



Patrizia Heidegger, RF for Europe region speaking on behalf of all MGOs at closing of OECPR. (photo credit, IISD (ENB))

All along, one of the biggest expectations is that UNEA 5.2 reaches an agreement to start negotiations for a legally binding global instrument that will address the entire plastic life cycle to eliminate plastic pollution .

## Stories from the Green Room

The Green Room is the designated Civil Society space at UNEA-5. The UNEA Monitor is covering some of the Green Room events throughout the week of the Assembly.

For the agenda of the Green Room during the UNEA 5 week, kindly visit this link:

<https://www.unep.org/events/green-room/unea-52-green-room-events>

### 1- Executive Director, UN Environment Programme, Ms. Inger Andersen's dialogue with the Major Groups on 21<sup>st</sup> of Feb. 2022

Ms. Inger Andersen: This is the Paris Moment for the Plastic



Group Photo of MGOs with UNEP ED

### 2- Daily Morning Briefing meeting for Major groups in the Green Room.

A daily morning briefing meeting of MGOs was held to get updates on negotiations, discuss contentious issues and organize the daily engagement and activities of Major groups.



### 3- Major Groups and stakeholders Dialogue with H.E. Mr. Espen Barth Eid, President of UNEA 5 and Minister of Climate and Environment of Norway on 25<sup>th</sup> of Feb. 2022



### 4- MGFC organized a "Major Groups and Stakeholders Press Conference at UNEA 5.2 on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2022

The press conference is a reaction to the ongoing negotiations at UNEA 5. It was an opportunity for MGOs to present opinions, positions, and concerns from the nine Major Groups regarding various UNEA 5 resolutions (green economy, plastics, chemicals, pesticides, UNEP50, etc.).



MGFC co-chairs and C&Y Rep. Speaking at the Press conference

## Article

### **The paradoxical negotiations of the political declaration for UNEP@50**

We are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNEP. Among its tasks, UNEP promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development. Over the last 50 years, a great number of legally binding and non-legally binding resolutions have been adopted to protect our environment. Despite this growing body of norms, our planet's health continues to deteriorate due to the lack of strong governance and the rule of law. Without them, environmental protection is a fantasy. This is precisely why commitments adopted under the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, the Convention on Biological Diversity, or the Convention to Combat Desertification- to cite but a few - have not been achieved thereby compromising inter e intra generational equity.

UNGA Resolution 73/333 was adopted to revert this course particularly through enhancing the implementation of existing obligations and commitments under IEL. However, the process of negotiations towards

the political declaration for UNEP@50 is worrying. It seems that several countries do not understand that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) enshrined in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration with the purpose to cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem does not work without a robust governance and rule of law. Thus, claiming it while trying to diminish them is a paradox. The very same happens with the "human right to a healthy environment" recognized by resolution 48/13 of the Human Rights Council. Without that right, the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem is impossible and therefore the CBDR principle can be written thousands of times and it will still not be effective. If the right to a healthy environment is not guaranteed, Agenda 2030 and many of the SDGs' targets won't be achieved. Thus, positions against that right are equal to fighting the CBDR principle and the Agenda 2030 - yet another paradox. We cannot afford to waste resources and time anymore. Political goodwill is precisely what we lack at this point and this undermines the credibility of the institutions where negotiators work.

By Ana Barreira, LL.M, Director and Senior Lawyer International Institute for Law and the Environment

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