



Distinguished guests, fellow young advocates,

I am Mara Ghilan, representing YOUNGO, the Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC.

The Global Youth Environment Assembly is a remarkable opportunity for us, the youth who work on each of the three planetary crises (climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution) to come together, share knowledge, reflect on intersections, and put forward a unified message. The theme of UNEA-6, "Effective, Inclusive, and Sustainable Multilateral Actions to Tackle Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Pollution" calls for inclusivity and spells out the need for cooperation across thematics and across institutions.

In this context, two questions arise: how can we, as children and youth, tackle the triple planetary crisis? and how can we, as sister constituencies, maximise synergies to achieve this goal? In the next few minutes, I'll share YOUNGO's vision on these two questions with you.

Firstly, on the role of children and youth in environmental action is the mission of a generation

Just as previous generations faced their own share of adversities and united to bring about systemic solutions to systemic problems, so we are mobilising to reconcile our species' potential for growth with the boundaries of the planet it inhabits.

If our predecessors rose to the challenges of their times and brought about land rights, the right to vote, the 40-hour work week, social care and gender equality, now seen as fundamental in many places around the world, we, today, are building on their legacy and rising to the challenges imposed by the triple planetary crisis, building a world in which climate justice and environmental protection will, in turn, be fundamental for future generations.

Secondly, on synergising work across constituencies

As sister children and youth constituencies, we are carrying the messages of a generation into the highest fora of negotiation, bringing young voices together into a harmonious choir chanting clearly: climate justice now and a shared future for all life.



Our two declarations, the Global Youth Statement and the Global Youth Declaration exemplify the multiple synergies within our work.

The Global Youth Statement gathers the voices of hundreds of thousands of children and youth from more than 160 countries, crystallising them into a set of demands. Our demands are concrete. We ask for intergenerational climate justice, but we also indicate what this means in practice. Our demands are technically and financially feasible. Everything that we demand can be put into practice starting now. It is only a matter of political will.

The Global Youth Declaration - shares similar objectives, gathering the recommendations of the youth delegates into a call for effective, inclusive, and sustainable actions to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. The Statement and the Declaration represent powerful advocacy tools. You, the honourable attendees at the Global Youth Environment Assembly can consider yourselves equipped with these tools: master them and use them in your work, because the purpose of the Global Youth Statement and the Global Youth Declaration is for them to be turned from mere demands into policy through our dedicated work.

Finally, by participating in the sessions this weekend we are improving our skills, strengthening our ties, and tuning our messages to carry the demands of children and youth into UNEA-6 and beyond so that climate justice and environmental protection will at one point become as uncontroversial as the 40 hour work week.

Thank you!