



Chemicals & Waste Youth Platform

CHEMICALS AND WASTE YOUTH PLATFORM – MAJOR GROUP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Closing Statement

Plenary – 3 March 2023

Delivered By: Muthoni Truphena and Erustus Muriki

Thank you for the floor. We are Muthoni Truphena from Trees of Life and Erustus Muriki from Ufanisi Youth Advocacy Alliance, speaking on behalf of the Chemicals and Waste Youth Platform constituency of the Major Group for Children and Youth. I come from an Indigenous community of Kikuyu and Maasai.

The youth constituency thanks the ICCM-5 Presidency, IP Co-Chairs and SAICM Secretariat for supporting the meaningful engagement of children and youth.

We recognize interventions from member states who advocated for children and youth participation.

We urge them to maintain their position and call upon all member states to advocate for intergenerational equity.

In the 2006 Dubai Declaration, SAICM began with the vision to “protect children and the unborn child from chemical exposures that impair their future lives.”

Seventeen years later, some of those “future lives” are now standing here in this room.

They are entering young adulthood in the middle of a Triple Planetary Crisis fueled by uncontrolled toxic chemical production and environmental contamination.

Sitting behind this “children and youth” sign, we are the human faces of the need for a bold and effective Beyond 2020 instrument.

As we close an energetic and constructive week of negotiations, we have certain reflections to offer:

First, we are glad that the youth constituency introduced a CRP on “Children, Youth and Intergenerational Protection.”



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Second, the proposed framework must recognize children and youth as the most vulnerable group to the negative impacts of chemicals and waste. Education, training, and capacity building of youth on green and sustainable chemistry must be ensured.

Third, the instrument must ensure that chemical safety regulations are applied and enforced equitably in all countries. This should be done while considering the provision of additional funding to the Global South to aid in implementing these regulations.

Fourth, we reiterate our call upon the UN system to divest immediately from taking funding and partnerships with fossil fuel and polluting industries responsible for planetary destruction.

Finally, on the road to ICCM-5, we call for enhanced support, including financial support towards the youth constituency as we prepare for a Chemicals and Waste Youth Assembly before ICCM-5 and a Global Youth Declaration on Chemicals and Waste.

It may be necessary to make compromises in everyday politics, but we cannot compromise with our conscience. Put people and planet before profits.

Thank you.

Submitted by:

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