

Joint civil society's call for the adoption of the draft resolution on environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflict

February 28, 2024

At UNEA-6 in Nairobi, civil society has been strongly advocating for the need to address the environmental impacts of wars, which have devastating effects on people's lives, livelihoods and earth. We have repeatedly urged States to strengthen international responses to the environmental dimensions of armed conflicts in our [interventions](#), [policy recommendations](#) and through the silent [solidarity protest](#). And we have been strongly supportive of the draft resolution on environmental assistance and recovery in areas affected by armed conflicts.

The original draft resolution aimed to strengthen international norms on the protection of the environment in relation to armed conflict, called for greater accountability for conflict-linked environmental damage, and proposed functional mechanisms to assist conflict-affected states in the collection of data on environmental damage. This is a logical and much needed continuation of two previous UNEA resolutions on the protection of the environment in areas affected by armed conflicts and on conflict-pollution. This new resolution would further improve UNEP's capacity to help countries that are suffering from environmental destruction and are grappling with legacies of wars.

However, we have been alarmed by efforts of some States to politicize the negotiating process and sabotage the resolution. While we regret that the current version of the document is much less ambitious than the original, we urge all delegations **to support the final co-chair's non paper in full**, without watering it down further. It will contribute to the strengthening of UNEP's operational activities in this field, containing no provisions that can be interpreted as politically sensitive. After the extensive consultations, it also takes into account the interests of the majority of States. In conclusion, it remains a vehicle for progress on supporting conflict-affected states and communities with environmental recovery, restoring the natural systems and working landscapes that support livelihoods and resilience, and strengthening protection of the environment and the people dependent on it.

Therefore, we urge delegates to accept this present text, and to withdraw any language proposals that they know are needlessly obstructive, impede consensus, and which lack legal coherence.

As civil society representatives, many of whom come from conflict-affected countries, we call on States to set political differences aside and adopt this draft resolution with the best interests of conflict-affected communities, and our Mother Earth.

Signatories

Major Groups:

- Children and Youth
- Farmers
- Indigenous Peoples
- NGO
- Science and Technology
- Women Major Group

Regional facilitators:

- Asia Pacific Regional Facilitators
- European Region Regional Facilitators
- North American Regional Facilitators
- West Asia Regional Facilitators

Individual organizations:

- Anglican Consultative Council
- Arts & Culture Working Group
- Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
- Conflict and Environment Observatory
- Create2030
- Deriba Center for Environmental Studies
- EAGLES 2030 International
- European Environmental Bureau
- Fondazione Proclade Internazionale
- Greener Communities Program
- GRID-Arendal
- HATOF Foundation
- Journalists for Human Rights
- Juventud Unida en Acción
- Ocean. Now!
- PAN International
- PAX
- Plastic Free Future
- Reacción Climática-Bolivia
- Smart Youth Network Initiative
- Society for Roots for Equity
- Stewards of Change
- Swiss Engineering Geneva, Switzerland
- The Arab Group for the Protection of Nature
- The National Ecological Centre of Ukraine
- The Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (ForUM Norway)
- Transfo Green World
- UNA Finland
- WOMENVAI (WOMen and Men in ENVironment and Artificial Intelligence)
- Women Engage for a Common Future - WECF
- World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO)
- Zoī Environment Network