

Major Groups Statement on the 'Healthy Planet Healthy People' Report

Thank you Mrs. Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the WMG, Science & Technology, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, Trade Unions, Local Authorities and Regional Representatives

We are thankful for this report aimed at making the linkages between Health and Environment, a key consideration to have if the Agenda 2030 is to be achieved. We appreciate that this is a working document and have the opportunity to contribute.

However, we believe that the report could still go deeper in providing scientific information as well as best practices that show how a fundamental transition from the current recognized problematic could happen. We would like to see further details on the root causes of environmental degradation and health - especially the vulnerability of some groups such as women & children - and also the nefast role that our economic and financial systems play. This is not just about human health, but also our relations with ecosystems including other living organisms. In this sense, intergenerational traditional knowledge should have a more prominent role in the whole report.

Recognizing the limits of the report, it is good that information gaps are mentioned but we hope more could be added, especially updated information about recent disease outbreaks, for instance, zika virus, lassa fever and ebola, and their close relation to the environment including the links with unsustainable production and consumption patterns; for instance, consider the importance of naming highly polluting components in the different industry and areas, especially labelling our food.

We feel the report could still use some more emphasis on the current models of food production. Although the general public could use this report, data is missing. The 4 integrated actions are a good start but there could be more information and best practices to show how a transition to decarbonize, detoxify, decouple and enhance resilience is possible, among others.

We would like to highlight that local and subnational governments have competencies and responsibilities in these areas and develop and implement policies on the vast majority of issues described in the report and hope they will be consulted. CSOs also have the competencies to contribute.

We hope that we can continue to contribute to this report that will be presented at UNEA-2. It is important for all of our futures.

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