



Leigh Ellwood-brown, SI Director of Advocacy, reports from the online event for stakeholders by stakeholders on Stockholm+50 with a view to 2030, held May 18- 19 2022.

“I attended the first workshop on 18th May. The purpose of these two workshops, on May 18 and 19 was to engage civil society and non-state stakeholders in contributing to the content of outcome documents in connection with the Stockholm+50 conference.

The overarching title of the outcome document for this day is called The People’s Environment Narrative. This narrative will collect initiatives and documents that emanate from the many activities carried out by civil society and non-state actors leading up to and during the Stockholm + 50 event in June 2022. The outcome from this workshop will be a summary of statements to be included as key elements in the Narrative and further presented during a side event at the Stockholm conference on June 3.

Seven themes guided the 18th May discussion. These themes are referred to as the Legacy Themes. They have been given this name because the themes played significant roles in the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. That conference, among many things, established the UN Environment Programme, UNEP. The themes have since 1972 played key roles in how UNEP and environmentalists around the world have worked to protect the environment.

1. Environmental rights, human rights and environmental justice
2. “Strengthening environmental governance and law” with reference to UNEP@50
3. Connecting the dots – making a forceful canon of the Rio Conventions and the MEAs
4. Civil society, non-state stakeholders, & how they have worked for the environment & UNEP
5. Environmental diplomacy and the need for multilateralism
6. The environment, education and the future
7. Science and the environment – what now?

These 7 themes were broken down to 3 clusters that we discussed in breakout rooms; our goal was to find the gaps in the draft report they had sent through prior. Two points that I put forward, I am hoping will make it to the final document,

- States to be pro-active and create a 'preparedness' plan for all Women and Girls in an Emergency /Catastrophe
- To introduce and include Segregated Data within any planning associated with emergencies', both points to help the disproportionate percentage of Women & Girls affected in catastrophes / emergencies.

The first to be able to provide immediate help on the ground and the data to help in the planning of any emergency to cater for the needs of all Women and Girls. We also discussed the push-back of Civil Society in these meetings. The Chair, Jan Gustav Strandenaes from Norway stated Civil Society was enshrined in the UN Charter:

The Charter of the United Nations - Article 71 : The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the Member of the United Nations concerned."