

# Launch of The People's Environment Narrative **50 Years of Environmental Policy**

*Highlights of the contributions by Stakeholders to UNEP@50  
& Stockholm+50*

**Isis Alvarez** - Introduction to the People's Environment Narrative Publication

**Leida Rijnhout** - Connecting UNEP@50 with Stockholm+50

**Daniel Magraw** - The Human Right to a Healthy Environment

**Dalia Marquez** - Intergenerational Equity

**Jorge Laguna-Celis** - UNEP Sustainable Consumption & Production (SCP) Secretariat

**Sue Miller** - Ecocide+50: Now is the Time

**Nathan Thanki** - The Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty

**Jan-Gustav Strandenaes** - Conclusions



**Moderated by Isis Alvarez, Stakeholder Forum**

**13 October 2022**

# Session 1

**Isis Alvarez**

Introduction to the People's Environment Narrative Publication

**Leida Rijnhout**

Connecting UNEP@50 with Stockholm+50

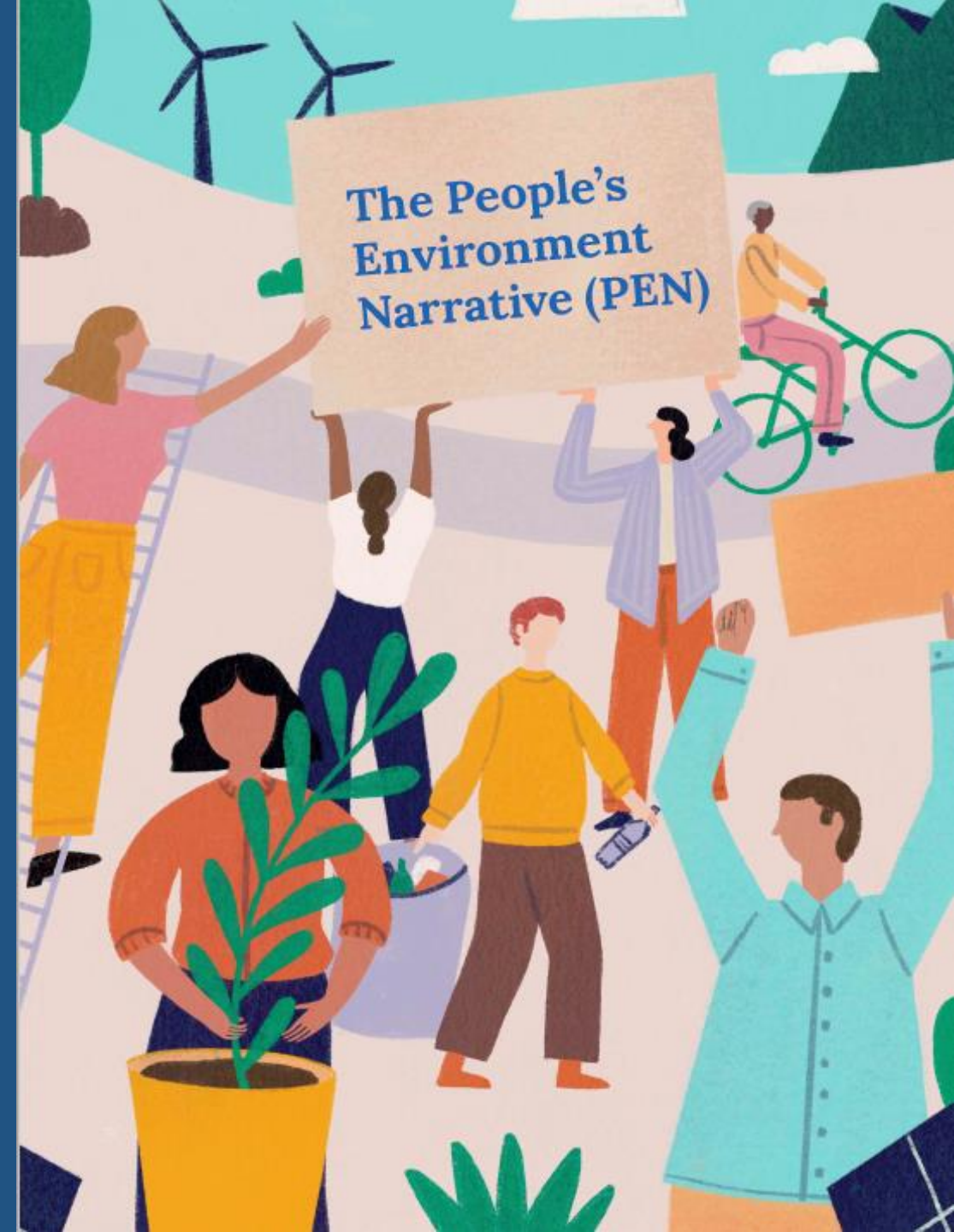
**Daniel Magraw**

The Human Right to a Healthy Environment

**50 years of work for the environment by civil society, the global NGO community and other stakeholders including representatives of the UN system to commemorate the 50 years of the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and 50 years since the first Human Environment conference (aka - Stockholm+50)**

*Editors: Jan-Gustav Strandenaes & Isis Alvarez*

*Design and layout: Maria Andrea Serna*



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# SECTION 1: An introductory background

Towards  
**Stockholm+50**



Stockholm+50 Flags at Venue © UNEP Duncan Moore

## Introduction to the People's Environment Narrative, the PEN

by Jan-Gustav Strandenaes & Isis Alvarez, Stakeholder Forum

**You are about to read a unique document.** Its content is about documenting 50 years of global work to safeguard the environment. We have called it the People's Environment Narrative, PEN for short. The reason behind creating and producing the PEN was the opportunity presented by the commemoration of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. UNEP was established by the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which took place in Stockholm in June 1972. 50 years later, two commemorative conferences were organised to mark this anniversary. The first of those conferences, UNEP@50 - a two-day high-level meeting on March the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022 - took place in Nairobi, Kenya at UNEP's headquarters. The second, in Stockholm, Sweden on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of June in 2022, was simply called Stockholm+50. Its formal name was "Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity." Official meetings are documented well; their outcomes are duly archived for posterity. This is not always the case with the efforts made by civil society<sup>1</sup>. In fact, to have their voices heard at these official, intergovernmental, multilateral conferences is not mandatory. An official outcome document is also but a summary of what the participating official government representatives agreed to. The long hours of deliberations and negotiations, the background papers, the input from break-out groups are rarely included. And as the outcome document is a synthesised product of what took place at the official conference, the inputs from civil society are often negligible in these documents. The multitude of voices from non-governmental actors are rarely taken notice of and preserved for posterity. "Having consulted with civil society ..." is a standard reference to the input from nonstate actors and is more often than not what posterity learns about their contributions in their official documents. The outcome document from the Rio+20 confer-

<sup>1</sup> **Please note:** the PEN is an anthology, with contributions from many authors. They all have their own way of writing, reporting and using words and concepts. Civil society is a frequently used concept. So is 'stakeholders', Major Groups, non-state actors, non-governmental organisations and NGOs. Further in this section we offer a thorough explanation of these concepts, concepts which are sometimes synonyms, sometimes not, depending on context. We have in this preface chose to use civil society and non-governmental organisations and NGOs, not as synonyms but as direct references to what these concepts imply: that civil society is different from private sector and from government. NGOs include all types of organisations that do not belong to the authorities, be they elected or appointed.



# SECTION 1: An introductory background



15 September 1971 - UN Headquarters, New York. **Mr. Maurice F. Strong**, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (right), shows United Nations Secretary-General **U Thant** a design for the official Conference poster. To the left is **Mr. Keith Johnson** (Jamaica), Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. © UN - Teddy Chen

To stay true to our original vision of the PEN, we have organised it into eight sections:

## SECTION 1

Introducing a commemorative document will always pose challenges.

We invited two people who were key persons at the 1972 Stockholm conference to send a greeting. Wayne Kines, a Canadian, who sent a small greeting was the first Director of Communication at UNEP. He was a childhood friend of Maurice Strong, but their careers had taken different ways until they met again to prepare and run the Stockholm 1972 conference. Wayne Kines from the UN worked closely with Lady Barbara Ward who represented civil society in 1972, and together they came up with

the process that allowed the daily report-backs and presentations of civil society matters to the official plenary.

Sadly, Wayne Kines passed away in August 2022, at the age of 85.

Hiro Shibuya, from Japan, was a youth representative working as one of Maurice Strong's closest advisers during the Stockholm conference. Hiro, as he is called, was a key person in the preparatory process leading up to this conference. He worked with Strong for several years, also as a senior adviser during the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 – the Earth Summit – which gave us Agenda 21.

We also wanted to give space to UNEP. Ms. Ligia Noronha who has been appointed United

Nations Assistant Secretary-General and head of the New York office of UNEP in April 2021. She also navigated UNEP's role throughout the Stockholm+50 preparatory process until June 2022.

Finally, we provide a careful introduction for clarifying central concepts used frequently in this publication; the concepts explained are 'civil society,' 'stakeholders,' NGOs, and Major Groups, all in need of a contextual explanation.

## SECTION TWO

This section gives a thematic introduction to the content of the PEN. Leida Rijnhout has a long history of working with civil society and environmental governance. She was very active in the run-up to UNEP@50 as well as to the Stockholm+50 Conference. Leida also worked on the famous resolution UNGA A/Res/73/333 which became a central element in the declaration that the official UNEP@50 high-level meeting agreed to. Because of her involvement in the two commemorative conferences, she is the right person to link up the two events.

In a document where the intention is to give an overview of 50 years of work, a historical overview is needed. Being asked to appraise an issue, we often think that presenting a critical view is the best and most convincing way to do so. And surely, all events, inputs, organisations and institutions have a critical aspect to their existence. This time, however, we also wanted to focus on the positive accomplishments that have become the results of UNEP's 50 years' existence. Jan-Gustav's presentation on UNEP's history tries to do precisely that.

## SECTION THREE

This section has a focus on the process organised by civil society and the global NGO community leading up to the June Stockholm conference. The three elements here are the outcomes from key webinars organised by civil

society. More than a thousand persons participated in the nine webinars that were organised. We asked participants in each of the webinars to suggest recommendations on environmental work that would eventually be presented to UNEP during the Stockholm+50 process and conference. This section synthesises the recommendations from those webinars.

## SECTION FOUR

This section contains the seven legacy papers, or rather an executive summary of the seven legacy papers. At the end of each of these papers, there is a hyperlink to the completed paper. As our legacy writers immersed themselves in their topic, their creative efforts grew and as these papers are quite long, we decided to include them this way.

## SECTION FIVE

The United Nations Environment Programme with its staff was one of the official organisers of the two commemorative events. The Executive Director for UNEP, Ms. Inger Anderson, was appointed Secretary-General of the conference by the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres. In addition, the Swedish and Kenyan governments were the hosts of the Stockholm+50 conference. More than 4,000 people attended the two-day event. Sixty-plus ministers attended, and 50 side events were organised, including the leadership dialogues, action hubs, and the plenary sessions.

The UN also engaged in pre-meetings. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) were tasked to organise these. According to the UN, some 230 national conversations were held in about 50 countries with nearly 50,000 participants.

We do not pretend to cover in full what the UN did officially in connection with the Stockholm+50 process, but we have chosen a few key events to be presented in this section. In addition, we present the main outcomes of



# SECTION 1: An introductory background

Towards  
**Stockholm+50**

the UNDP national reports; we also present a summarised comparative analysis of the outcomes from the 5 regional stakeholder conferences organised by UNEP (these regions were: Europe, Africa, West Asia, Asia Pacific and Latin America); and we have included the summary points of the three official leadership dialogues that took place during the two days in Stockholm in 2022. We have also included an event by UNEP around Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), a summary of the One Planet Network Forum. We include this as UNEP was given a particular responsibility for this issue by the Rio+20 conference in 2012.

And finally, we have included the Stockholm+50 Declaration. It might be interesting to compare this with the declaration from the first declaration made 50 years ago in Stockholm back in 1972.

We have provided all these elements with hyperlinks so the interested reader can check the official outcomes as well.

## SECTION SIX

Civil society and the global NGO community took the commemoration of UNEP seriously. They saw this as an opportunity to rejuvenate and strengthen the global commitment for work on the environment. Paulo Magalhães, founder and director of the Common Home of Humanity, initiated the Stockholm+49 process which involved hundreds of NGOs and individuals. Stockholm+49 was organised as a virtual two-day event to heighten interest for Stockholm+50 and to develop a charter to challenge the decision-makers who would be present in Stockholm. We have brought a summary of the content of this event here.

As climate issues have become inextricably linked to environmental issues, and a wide array of different actors mobilize around it, we

invited members from the Demand Climate Justice movement to contribute to the PEN with a focus on their activities around the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Olof Palme, the late Swedish Prime Minister and host to the 1972 conference brought up the issue of Ecocide in his keynote to the delegates in June 1972. Official interest in the issue has never been great. Civil society has however kept the issue alive, and the Stop Ecocide International network hosted a two-day event at the conference. We have included this issue since it has disappeared from the official reports.

Faith-based organisations were also represented in Stockholm. The worldwide Baha'i community organised a two-day workshop on the key issues of the Stockholm+50 conference. We have allowed the Baha'i community to share the major outcomes from this seminar. One of their keynote speakers, Arthur Dahl, was also an active participant in the 1972 Stockholm conference and shared his experiences as a champion for a better world with a clean environment.

As indicated earlier, the youth movement played an important role in the Stockholm+50 process and conference; they established their own website, prepared a policy paper specifically for Stockholm+50 and brought youth, knowledge, statements, and advocacy to Stockholm. This is also reflected here in the PEN.

Indigenous Peoples were another group given a special position during the Stockholm+50 process. With their unique understanding of nature and the environment, and as guardians of the world's natural resources with their unique knowledge, no report on such issues would be complete without their contribution. We, therefore, include their official declaration emerging from Stockholm+50.

## SECTION SEVEN

This section has a quiet impression of what took place with the 50th commemoration of UNEP's work for the environment.

What took place at Stockholm+50 in June 2022, and how was it viewed by participants? Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, who was a young participant in Stockholm in 1972, working then as an intern with Wayne Kines, Hiro Shibuya, and Maurice Strong, and has worked on the environment and the UN ever since, offers in this epilogue his personal views on this Stockholm meeting, 50 years after the first one.

## SECTION EIGHT

This section offers short biographies of all of the people involved in making this unique product. And we also acknowledge the fact that this would not have been possible without the financial support from the Government of Sweden or the incredible support from Alexander Juras, Chief of the UNEP Civil Society Unit in Nairobi, his colleague Aurora Cheung and his colleague Laetitia Zobel who were the Stockholm+50 persons in his staff.

On behalf of the 'Towards Stockholm+50 and Beyond' project

**Jan-Gustav Strandenaes**  
Convener and project Manager of the  
Stockholm+50 project and Senior PEN Editor



**Isis Alvarez**, Chief Programme Officer and PEN Editor © IISD



**Jan-Gustav Strandenaes**, Convener and project Manager of the Stockholm+50 project and Senior PEN Editor © ForUM Norway

**Isis Alvarez**  
Chief Programme Officer and PEN Editor



**SECTION 3: Civil Society  
Organisations and other  
stakeholder  
recommendations –  
focussing on what needs to  
be improved**





# OUTCOMES FROM FULL-DAY EVENT ON PEOPLES ENVIRONMENT NARRATIVE\*

by Stakeholder Forum  
May 2022

An online event for civil society and other non-state stakeholders was held on May 18th, 2022. The purpose of the event was to engage civil society and non-state stakeholders in contributing to the content of outcome documents in connection with the Stockholm+50 conference. Seven themes guided the discussion which 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. The Legacy Themes have been presented and discussed during online **expert legacy webinars** which were open to all stakeholders which a set of recommendations emerged. The goal for the session included the active participation of civil society and non-state stakeholders in identifying the gaps in the 7 Legacy webinar outcome recommendations and whether any recommendations missing should be included, according to the participants' areas of work thus, it also served as a space to hear about their efforts to build a healthy planet for the prosperity of all.

The seven themes were clustered in three groups:

## CLUSTER 1

- Environmental rights, human rights and environmental justice
- "Strengthening environmental governance and law" with reference to UNEP@50
- Connecting the dots – making a forceful canon of the Rio Conventions and the MEAs

## CLUSTER 2

- Civil society, non-state stakeholders, and how they have worked for the environment and UNEP
- Environmental diplomacy and the need for multilateralism

## CLUSTER 3

- The environment, education and the future
- Science and the environment – What now?

\*A statement based on these outcomes was presented during the closing Stockholm+50 plenary on June 3rd, 2022 (see below).

### Recommendations for Member States/ Nations/ Regions:

- Increase corporate accountability
- Multilevel governance culture
- Subsidiarity principle (environmental decisions at level close to those who are affected) - implies multilevel governance (i.e. opposite to power concentrated on a specific centre)
- Anti-corruption initiatives
- Value-added economies (diversifying economies)
- Keep performance under constant peer review
- Strengthen generally environmental governance as this is the first thing to be obscured or sacrificed in the case of conflict

### Recommendations for Governments

- Implementing good environmental governance structures and strong institutions for environmental issues.
- In order to implement good governance, include, facilitate and support Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Maintain Ministers for the Environment
- Implement international agreements
- Legal frameworks to enforce corporate accountability
- Of critical importance not just for youth to be listened to, but to be included as equal stakeholders in decision-making environments, processes, and structures
- International trade systems include sufficient focus on environmental impact on increased consumption
- Renegotiate trade agreements which only focus on maximizing economic returns, without enough recognition of social and environmental impacts
- Stop fossil fuel and other perverse subsidies and incentives and move towards supporting a cleaner and greener future.

### Recommendations for UNEP

- Urge for a global consensus on binding norms on corporate accountability
- Increase coordination and facilitation to implement and enforce environmental governance and law
- Frameworks in place with goals, targets, means of implementation, review mechanisms, indicators
- Need for increased political leadership
- Foster capacity building and enable financial sustainability
- More clarity on what the right to a healthy environment entails, how to implement it, etc. - no clear international global statement, accepted shape or definition on how those rights can be implemented
- Upgrade UNEP to a Specialized Agency
- Promotion of mechanisms, procedures, protocols, and institutions for accountability at all levels for good environmental governance. These tools support access to justice that can remedy environmental wrongs.

### Recommendations for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other Non-state Actors

- Increased active roles in decision-making processes given the shrinking of the civil society space
- Increased efforts for collectively demanding good governance including governance structures and strong institutions for environmental issues
- Publish widely the "UNEP we Want" document and continue to use it for advocacy on good governance and environmental laws, etc.
- During Stockholm+50, promote foundations for a binding norm on corporate accountability
- Make visible CSOs role as bridges between Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and local action (bridge between international and national levels)
- A stronger and more active involvement both at national and international level of CSOs is urgently needed
- Be prepared for the meetings

## SECTION 3: Civil Society Organisations and other stakeholder recommendations – focussing on what needs to be improved



**SECTION 6:**  
**Civil society and**  
**non-state**  
**stakeholders –**  
**key**  
**environmental**  
**concerns for the**  
**future**

Towards  
**Stockholm+50**

# One Planet, One Habitation

*A Bahá'í Perspective on Recasting Humanity's  
Relationship with the Natural World*

A STATEMENT OF THE BAHÁ'Í INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

## “One Planet, One Habitation”

Climate Initiatives of the Baha'i International Community  
at Stockholm+50 and Beyond

*by Daniel Perell, Representative to the United Nations, Baha'i International Community  
September 2022*

The Bahá'í International Community (BIC) represents the worldwide membership of the Bahá'í Faith, organized through some 200 national affiliates, to the United Nations. First established in 1948, the BIC has consultative status with ECOSOC and UNICEF, as well as accreditation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC).

At the heart of the BIC's message at the Stockholm+50 conference was one central message: the coordinated contributions of numerous populations around the world will be required to rebalance humanity's relationship with the natural world.

Among a range of activities it undertook at the conference, the BIC released a major environmental statement entitled *One Planet, One Habitation: A Baha'i Perspective on Recasting Humanity's Relationship With the Natural World*.

The statement suggested that one of the central challenges facing humanity today is bridging the gulf between intention and action.

“Moving humanity to a more sustainable and harmonious relationship with the natural world will require a strong and actionable consensus, along with collective will, around key principles that are to shape the affairs of the international community,” it read.

“Consensus that has been well settled is demonstrated not merely by the name and claim of text on a page, but through coordi-

nated, collaborative action; its touchstone is deeds, not words.”

Concepts explored in the statement included the need to empower masses of humanity to contribute to processes of constructive social transformation, the need to redefine notions of progress and success in more holistic and less material terms, the need to align personal and institutional choices with higher principles, and the need to base collective action on consciousness of the oneness of humanity, as expressed through relationships of justice and appreciation for diversity.

“Will humanity act on the truth that its own destiny and that of the planet are irrevocably intertwined?” the statement asked. “Or will still greater calamities be required to move it to action?”

*One Planet, One Habitation* joins contributions the BIC made to other notable environmental milestones, such as the 21st meeting of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties, from which the 2015 Paris Agreement emerged ([statement](#)), the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or Rio “Earth Summit” ([statement](#)), and the original 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment ([statement](#)).

The statement was launched at an [event](#) that the BIC co-hosted at the Swedish Parliament with several other civil society organizations, including the Climate Governance Commission and Global Women Leaders: Voices for Change and Inclusion. The event was moderated

Photo cover: The BIC statement on the natural world suggests that the gulf between intention and action is one of the central challenges facing humanity today.



## SECTION 6: Civil society and non-state stakeholders – key environmental concerns for the future

Towards  
**Stockholm+50**



## Stop Ecocide

*by Sue Miller, Stop Ecocide  
September 2022*

**Stockholm +50** was a symbolically significant event for the Stop Ecocide movement, marking 50 years since the first use of the word “ecocide” by then Prime Minister Olof Palme. It also highlighted the disparity between the strong support among civil society and the timidity at political level. Following an intensive programme of activities and events, the movement to criminalise ecocide internationally emerged from the conference having made some real progress, and in the knowledge that the case for ecocide had registered and was being taken seriously at the highest levels.

We, and an exponentially growing body of both civil and political society, see ecocide law as an essential piece of the framework of measures and regulations which is being created to protect the Earth and future generations. Whilst serious and widespread damage to nature remains legal and perpetrators unaccountable, it will continue to happen, regardless of the pacts, agreements, goals and targets we may put in place. It is simply too easy to continue established and profitable practices. A new international crime of ecocide, within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, would see the key decision makers of the companies behind acts of serious environmental destruction face personal criminal liability and potential loss of personal freedom. They will no longer be able to write off environmental harm on a balance sheet as a cost of doing business.

A new crime of ecocide will not only have a strong deterrent effect once it is enacted and ratified; it will start to curb destructive activity from the moment corporations realise that it is on its way. It not only has enormous preventative power, but it will also steer corporations and governments towards creative innovation and new ways of doing business. By supporting the recognition of the crime of ecocide in international law, businesses, organisations and their employees can play an active role in protecting people and planet.



THE END

THANK YOU!

Towards  
**Stockholm+50**



 **Stakeholder Forum**  
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

 **Norwegian Forum**  
for Development  
and Environment

 **UN**  
environment  
programme

# Session 2

**Dalia Marquez**

Intergenerational Equity

**Jorge Laguna-Celis**

UNEP Sustainable Consumption & Production (SCP) Secretariat

**Sue Miller**

Ecocide+50: Now is the Time

**Nathan Thanki**

The Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty



















A bold project to phase out fossil fuels  
and support a global just transition



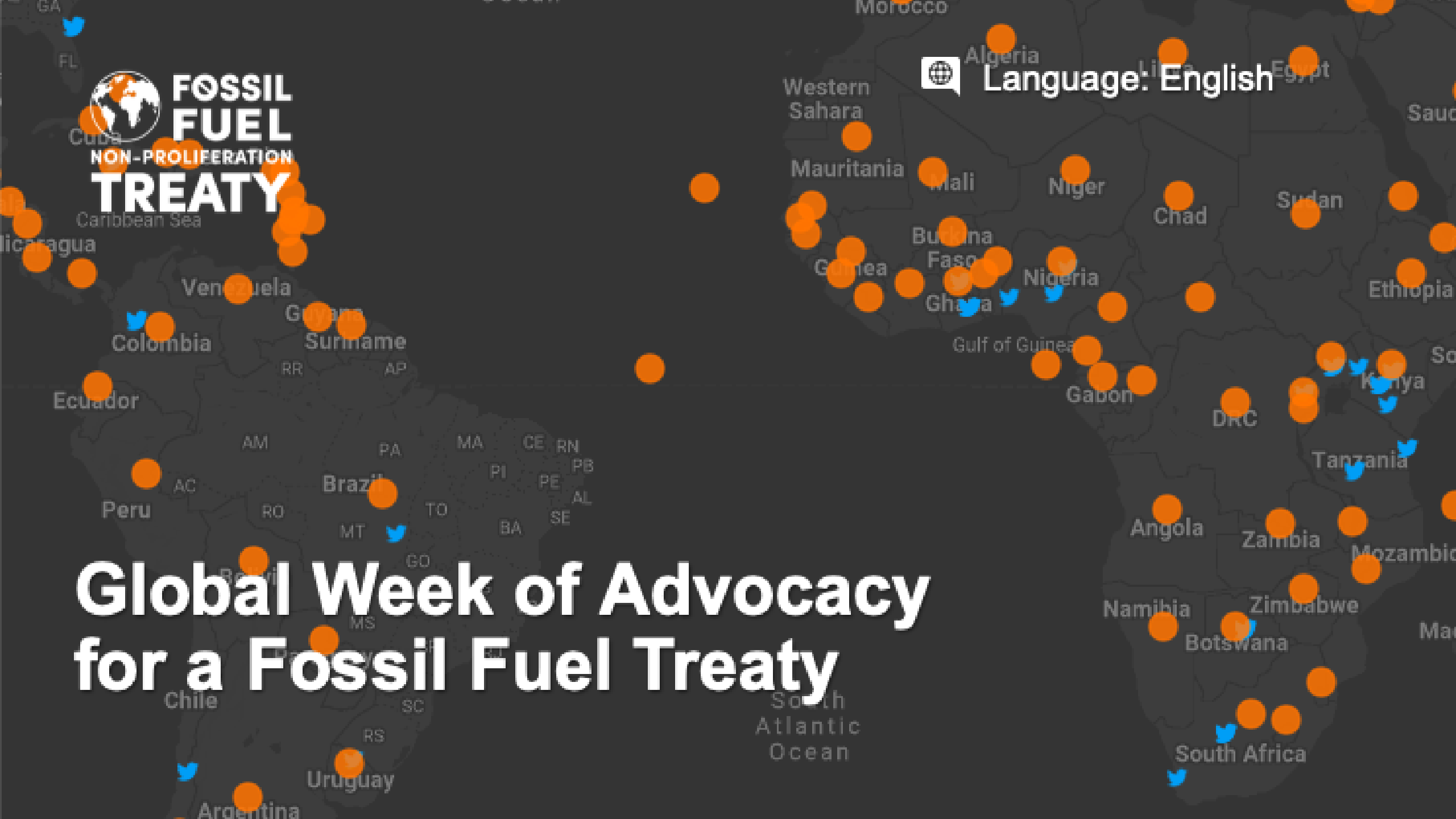
Our network directly influenced major global summit, making it the **first UN conference to clearly recommend the “phase out of all fossil fuels”** and to recognise the urgent need for “financial and technical support to realize a just transition.”





Language: English

# Global Week of Advocacy for a Fossil Fuel Treaty



# NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

## FUELLING FAILURE



Gas and coal are  
climate change and  
United Nations  
Development Goals













It's time  
for a



**FOSSIL FUEL TREATY**  
NON-PROLIFERATION





SECRETARY-GENERAL  
INTERNATIONAL MEETING

PRESIDENT



A wide-angle photograph of the United Nations General Assembly hall. The room is large and semi-circular, with rows of delegates seated at long desks. The desks are arranged in a semi-circle, facing a large stage at the front. The stage features a large, curved wall with the United Nations emblem. A speaker is visible on the stage, and a large screen on the right shows a close-up of the speaker. The lighting is dim, with the stage area being brighter. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Vanuatu becomes first  
nation state to call for a  
Fossil Fuel Non- Proliferation Treaty  
at the **UN General Assembly**

# Conclusions

## Jan-Gustav Strandenaes

Senior Advisor on Governance for Sustainable Development at Stakeholder Forum, Project Manager of the Towards Stockholm+50 Project, & Co-editor of the People's Environment Narrative



**Thank you for joining us today**

**Merci de vous être joints à nous aujourd'hui**

**Gracias por acompañarnos hoy**

<https://towardstockholm50.org/>

**Isis Alvarez** - Introduction to the People's Environment Narrative Publication

**Leida Rijnhout** - Connecting UNEP@50 with Stockholm+50

**Daniel Magraw** - The Human Right to a Healthy Environment

**Dalia Marquez** - Intergenerational Equity

**Jorge Laguna-Celis** - UNEP Sustainable Consumption & Production (SCP) Secretariat

**Sue Miller** - Ecocide+50: Now is the Time

**Nathan Thanki** - The Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty

**Jan-Gustav Strandenaes** – Conclusions



Your host: **Charles Nouhan**, Stakeholder Forum