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Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Green REV Institute, we would like to provide comments on the theme for UNEA 6.

We were pleased to see the proposals in:

1. Environmental multilateralism fit for the future: Towards healthy economies, healthy societies and a healthy planet.
2. Towards the implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
3. Multilateral solutions for climate change, nature loss and pollution.

Below there are comments on each of the proposed topics. Undoubtedly, in the face of the economic crisis, the threats posed by the climate crisis and its consequences for people, animals, ecosystems, energy security, food security, and in the face of growing risks to democracy, a multi-sectoral, comprehensive, inclusive approach to the environment, human health, biodiversity, human rights and animal rights is necessary, especially the protection of farmed animals and the transition to plant-based food systems.

Here we would like to emphasize the need for a cross-silo approach to climate justice, a just transition, and the inclusion of the green food system transition in the climate debate.



Re 1 Environmental multilateralism fit for the future: Towards healthy economies, healthy societies and a healthy planet.

Climate education, incorporating education in the agri-food sector, the energy sector, and the transportation sector, must be the foundation of modern economies and modern eco-democratic states oriented to economic indicators based on a new approach, moving away from the old GDP approach, which does not take into account the long-term costs of industry on the environment, health, societies.

In this context, the role of the younger generation as agents of change for the planet, building green civil societies, is still underestimated. It is necessary to include young people in systemic activities, in activities at the political level, civil society organizations, modern business, and the media. Therefore, we need to redefine school, educational institutions and build a new education, teaching and preparing young people to be agents of building resilience, change for the planet, socially, climatically, environmentally responsible actions, organizations, businesses, institutions. The current model of education does not prepare for creating sustainable systems and implementing actions that connect the dots on the map of human, animal and planetary rights. Inclusive, modern education is still a privilege and an exception rather than a foundation in the 21st century. Many young people, due to the COVID -19 pandemic, have not had access to sound education, many, due to climate change and violent climate events, are excluded from any education because of where they live and where they were born. We must not forget that a very large number of young people in the world remain outside of educational support and this number, due to the consequences of climate change, may increase.



Re 2 Towards the implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

Environmental justice must be the basis for a just transition of the energy, food, transportation sectors. Failure to act for a just transition means more victims: people whose health and lives are threatened by food poverty, energy poverty, living in a polluted environment, lack of access to healthy food, water. We can already speak of environmental poverty, lack of access to clean air, water, soil, food, clean energy sources and transportation.

There are scientifically proven interlinkages between health, environmental and climate crises; extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, land degradation and water scarcity are displacing people and having a dramatic impact on their health. According to the World Health Organization, climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity, and it will cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths a year between 2030 and 2050, approximately 7 million premature deaths worldwide are caused by air pollution, and the costs of direct damage to health, including mental health, are estimated to rise to between USD 2 and 4 billion per year by 2030¹.

We want to mention here, in particular, the costs to indigenous peoples suffering from the actions of industry, particularly the animal industry, which is carrying out deforestation. Costs for people who live in the vicinity of factory farms (animal production is undoubtedly not without its health effects, both for those who work on factory farms and those who live in their neighborhoods. In addition to chemical and physical hazards, threats are posed by harmful factors of biological origin, which include micro and macro-organisms (bacteria, viruses, actinomycetes, fungi) and the structures and substances they produce, which have adverse effects on humans and can cause

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0373_EN.pdf



ailments and diseases of occupational origin, among others²), ammonia factories, water pollution, factories of stress and suffering, and people who are threatened by lack of access to healthy, sustainable food.

Global solutions are needed that put human rights above industrial & business interests and profits. Let us quote from the first publication on the costs of industrial farms in Poland, the White Paper: “Stench, Blood and Tears³” (Dr. Sylwia Spurek, MEP, Greens/EFA): ‘One resident of Kawęczyn (Wielkopolska Poland Region), where – as in hundreds of other places in Poland – residents are protesting against the factory farms, telling of the odor, said: “It’s impossible to stand. Adults are drawn to vomit, let alone children. Our eyes are watering. We have allergies. I suspect it's due to the gasses in the stench. It wasn't just one or two days, but we were nauseated from May to August. During those months, our clothes, beds, everything soaked up the stench.” Is this normal? Is this a tradition? Should political parties continue to defend it? The Supreme Administrative Court, in a 2019 ruling, pointed out that "an analysis of the jurisprudence of the administrative courts over the past few years indicates that the problem of odor nuisance in practice most often relates to ventures in the form of intensive animal production, including primarily the raising of chickens or pigs (i.e., large chicken or piggeries)." Moreover, in the same ruling, the Court noted the impact of odors on people's quality of life." Unfortunately, the lack of legal solutions causes the number of protests by residents to increase, but the problem of the agriculture industry remains unresolved and generates another cost to the planet, human and animal health.

In this context, it is impossible not to mention the people who, working in the animal agriculture & industry, are victims of forced labor and are exposed to loss of health (The most famous

² <https://futurefood4climate.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Minister-Zdrowia-z-upowaznienia-do-Pana-T-Latos-dot-wplywu-ferm-na-zdrowie-ludzi-uzupelnienie-stanowiska-6.2022-2-1.pdf>

³ <https://futurefood4climate.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Smrodkrewilzy-SylwiaSpurek.pdf>



publication in this regard, i.e., the report of the Brazilian investigative agency Repórter Brasil⁴, indicates clearly - Brazilian companies and slaughterhouses, including the world's largest meat producer, JBS, bought cows intended for meat from supply farms that exploited workers in slavery-like conditions).

As the European Parliament itself points out, "Climate change is directly or indirectly threatening the full exercise of human rights, including the rights to life, water and sanitation, food, health and housing. The ability of people to adapt to climate change is inextricably linked to their access to basic human rights and to the health of the ecosystems they depend on for their livelihoods and well-being. According to the International Organization for Migration, more than 200 million people could be forced to migrate due to the impact of climate change. The scale of internal climate migration will be largest in the poorest and most climate-vulnerable regions⁵." Legislative tools must include protection of workers, residents, those most at risk of lack of access to clean air, water, food, but also international agreements, international trade regulations, transparency of production and supply chains, forced labor issues, deforestation, etc.

⁴ <https://futurefood4climate.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Monitor-8-Slave-labor-in-Brazils-meat-industry.pdf>

⁵ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0373_EN.pdf



Re 3 Multilateral solutions for climate change, nature loss and pollution.

A multisectoral approach is clearly a necessity for climate change and action for the climate. Including business, business, civil society, governments, local governments and all actors must be the foundation for change. A foundation that cannot be created without the participation of the scientific community, investment in research, monitoring and evaluation of commitments made so far and future plans. We appreciate that the proposal strongly indicates the need for transition of the food sector and a sustainable approach to agriculture and fisheries. As indicated in publications and studies by the current food system is that by September 2020, \$11.7 trillion had been transferred worldwide for the effects of coping with COVID-19, an amount 19,500 to 117,000 times the estimated annual cost of stopping deforestation in the Amazon and 28 to 48 times the annual cost of mitigating climate change projected for 2030. The area of land used for agriculture has increased by about 5.5 times since 1600 and continues to grow. Today, crops and animal agriculture & production occupy about 50% of the world's habitable area. At the same time, meat production was 470% higher in 2018 than 50 years earlier. An unsustainable food system generates huge financial, health, and environmental costs. We must not forget the billions of farmed animals (including fish and aquatic animals) that we are unable to protect from unnecessary suffering, and whose breeding and rearing are driving the climate crisis.

It is also worth noting that agricultural crops, some of which are fed to farmed animals, occupy 12% of the planet's land area. However, much more land (about 26%) is used for grazing: in other words, to feed animals meat and milk from pasture. However, in this vast area, animals fed exclusively on pasture produce only 1% of the world's protein. In the lowlands, the Knepp rewilding project in Sussex shows how much production must fall to allow trees and other animals to return: it generates just 54 kg of meat per hectare. If, as many chefs and foodies and



some environmentalists propose, meat came only from regenerative farms, it would be so rare that only millionaires would eat it⁶.

Moving to plant-based diets for people and supporting plant-based agriculture is therefore crucial to creating a just food system and food justice.

Summary and recommendations:

All three proposals are extremely important and critical to the future of ecosystems, people and animals and building new strategies, a new economy based on care, compassion, green participation and democratic, as the climate crisis threatens democracy, societies.

We believe that in the current situation it is necessary to ensure that civil society, citizens who act for the climate, and those threatened by climate change have access to effective legislative tools, so pointing out the special importance of all 3 proposals, we want to support the option no.3.

The European Commission noted the need for legislation for a sustainable food system, pointing to the environmental, health and social costs of the current food system. Sustainable Food System legislation is not only a solution to food waste, green public procurement or labeling, but to support the protection of farmed animals and the transition and transformation to plant-based systems that are good for people, animals, and the planet. A multisectoral approach should be the basis for a comprehensive just transformation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daria Janowicz".

Daria Janowicz

Board Member Green REV Institute

⁶ https://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/downloads/reports/fcm_gnc_report.pdf