

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA) 4-6TH DECEMBER 2017

The Geography and Environment Studies Biodiversity Masters Class had the opportunity to participate in the Global Environment Assembly held in Nairobi, Kenya from 4 to 6th December 2017. The theme of this year's UNEA was "Beat Pollution". Before the UNEA, the UNEP had organized a high level segment of the Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives as well as the Open Science Policy Forum which also, the students participated in.

Outcomes of the UNEA 3 included a political declaration on pollution linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); resolutions and decisions adopted by Member States to address specific dimensions of pollution; voluntary commitments by governments, private sector entities and civil society organizations to clean up the planet; and the Clean Planet Pledge, a collection of individual commitments to take personal action to end pollution in all its forms.

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta was highly appreciated for taking the initiative to ban the use as well as the manufacture of plastic bags which are known to mess the environment especially clogging the water bodies and ending in stomachs of animals.

The Science Policy Forum also appreciated the academic intelligence of Prof. Krhoda on water governance and pollution. Prof shared challenges, success stories and the future of fresh water in Kenya.



Beat Pollution



Prof. Krhoda with international water experts

The emphasis of “Beat pollution” was more on water bodies and biodiversity. Madam Elizabeth Mrema, Head of Environment Law at the UNEP addressed this issue in line with Biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and the students appreciated getting a session to interact with her and learn a lot on biodiversity issues. The students have pledged to work closely with her team and help implement the Biodiversity MEAs in line to “Beat pollution”.



Elizabeth Mrema, Head of Environment Law with the Geography and Environmental Studies Group