

## Statement for Monday- 16th of June 2013

Thank you Co-chair,

In the interest of time we will only mention the most critical amendments and changes we wish to introduce.

Keep in mind, this is a general response to the document that was released. In addition to this we are submitting a detailed, point by point, official response with amendments and additions.

First for the Chapeau, it is essential that a specific reference to young people and adolescents be made. We suggest including the following additions in paragraph 5 of the chapeau: "We further recognize that the needs of adolescents and young people, as the stewards of this next development agenda, must be integrated across all dimensions of sustainable development. Adolescents and youth should be involved in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs that impact their lives." As you know, a critical shortcoming of the MDGs was their failure to substantively address the needs of adolescents and young people. Therefore, it is essential that the Post-2015 Development Agenda recognize the multifaceted and cross-cutting needs of adolescents and youth, with a focus on their human rights and health needs.

Now moving on to the goals themselves, we welcome the integration of various aspects of sustainable development in the goal to end poverty, but call for the inclusion of economic development, not economic growth, as a central enabler for ending poverty. From the very beginning of the Open Working Group process, the Major Group for Children and Youth has been firm in terms of the need of the international community to move beyond certain aspects of the old development paradigm. Specifically, the MGCY has called for a development model that goes beyond growth. Besides Goal 1, proposed Goal 8 also falls short of this, of realizing the all important paradigm shift essential to achieving sustainable development. Goal 8 must be reworked to read: "Promote strong, inclusive and sustainable economic **development** and decent work for all **within planetary boundaries**," and should include a target on decoupling ecological footprints from economic development. We have witnessed the limits of economic growth with a system that continues to prioritize economic growth over people and planet, leading to significant unequal distribution of wealth, destruction of the environment and negative effects on health. We need absolute caps on liquidation of natural resources and must ensure that development does not occur at the expense of the environment.

Respect for planetary boundaries must also be reflected in how this development framework addresses issues related to sustainable consumption and production patterns. In order to achieve an effective framework for sustainable development by 2030, a multilateral effort to improve the resource efficiency of production and consumption activities is required. Furthermore, metric indicators should be incorporated into previously agreed international frameworks in order to promote the minimization and management of the waste created from current production methods. One such way to do this is to create economic incentives and scientific capacities which enable and promote a circular resource flow and resource-efficiency in order to ensure that economic growth is more sustainable than what is allowed for in previous models.

Achieving a paradigm shift also means there must be a recognition of the importance of alternative ownership structures within the new development framework. Post-2015

development policy must encourage the establishment of cooperatives in all sectors. The targets within Goal 9 must be modified to include language that refers specifically to cooperatives whenever types of business organizations, like SMEs, are mentioned.

It is wonderful that there is a target within Goal 3 calling for universal health coverage, but it is critical that this target recognizes that even within a system that proclaims to provide healthcare for all, there are always obstacles to access for people belonging to the most marginalized groups within society. As a result, target 3.6 must include language that “address[es] barriers to care within the health system.” A universal health care system can only be as good as its inclusiveness.

There is currently no mention of comprehensive sexuality education in the Zero Draft. Sustainable development will only occur when girls and boys alike understand their bodies, know their rights, and have the necessary skills to negotiate on important aspects of their lives. We propose including a new target under Goal 4 that reads “by 2030, ensure universal access to comprehensive sexuality education that promotes values of respect for human rights, tolerance, gender equality and non-violence for all, in and out of schools.” Targets 4.7 and 5.4 must also include language referring to comprehensive sexuality education.

Finally, we would like to request the introduction of rights based language in several areas as part of the language of the goals themselves or as targets under Means of Implementation. This includes the recognition of the right to food, the right to education, the right to water, and the right to development to guarantee that the improvements intended by this process reach those who need them most. We also want to restate our support for Goal 16, which includes crucial targets to ensure young people’s participation in decision making and their part in implementing the goals. Young people have consistently called for governance and accountability to be an integral part of the framework and we strongly call for Goal 16’s continued inclusion.

We’d also like to echo the disappointment of our colleagues in the Stakeholder Group on Aging about the exclusion of population aging and older persons in the document. Older persons will constitute 16% of the global population by 2030 and it would certainly be a detriment to us all if the needs of this group are not addressed. All of this is critical to ensure that within this new development framework, truly, no one is left behind.