

CSD-18 – YOUTH CAUCUS OPENING STATEMENT

Thank you chair for giving me the floor

Dear delegates,

As this is the 18th session of the CSD, we have finally come of age. We are no longer in our childhood stages of determining sustainable development – the time of maturity has arrived. This year is the International Year of Youth and now, more than ever before, the youth are taking a stand.

The need for a change in our societies is stronger than ever. This transformation – that enables us to shift towards a more sustainable world – should be an organic process, guided by principles of compassion, integrity and justice. We need to pragmatically rethink our behavioral patterns, to enable a paradigm shift that is based on a cyclical process of action, reflection and meaningful participation, which involves citizens as a key driver of change.

Awareness, education and empowerment are fundamental requisites to enabling this process. We are ready to take on this challenge, as our organizations are key providers of non-formal education. Through peer-to-peer learning we are already investing in our own social capital to build patterns of awareness. We want to be empowered and count on your recognition to do this.

Youth are energetic and passionate about holding governments and all relevant stakeholders involved accountable for their actions. We are equal partners in this process and commit ourselves fully to achieving the challenges as will be identified by this Commission and the solutions required beyond today.

We need to transcend national borders and individual action. We all together have a common but differentiated responsibility.

Let our vision be world embracing.

Thank you!