

OWG9 MGCY Statement, Wednesday, 5 March (2-3 Minutes)

On behalf of the UN Major Group of Children and Youth, we are deeply concerned by the lack of focus on the needs and rights of youth, adolescents, and children in relation to each priority area. We would like to share our appreciation for the many delegations that have shared this concern. Young people support the urgent call for an ambitious and transformative vision as well as actionable strategies for achieving this.

To be ambitious, children and youth need to be incorporated as a critical priority area across all dimensions of the agenda but also in the form of youth-sensitive targets and indicators as promoted by the Common Wealth Youth Ministers. A true and inclusive **global partnership** can only be achieved with the **full engagement of young people at every level** -- not only in the design and development but in the **implementation** of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to be **transformative**, we must go beyond an outdated linear growth model to build a better economic system, in which perverse subsidies, incentives and wage structures that increase inequality are not the norm. A specific framework that promotes ecological regeneration, reduces **inequalities** and promotes **human rights** is needed and can be achieved by integrating concept of **common but differentiated responsibilities** for the the limited resources within our **planetary boundaries**.

From the many offline and online consultations on the post-2015 framework over the past three years, **good governance** and the rule of law have emerged as a priority theme that is missing from the focus areas. From our perspective, there needs to be a clear mandate and mechanisms for how civil society, children and youth in particular, to hold Member States to account.

Additionally, there needs to be a **focus on human rights**. For us, the children and youth, this is a red line. The post-2015 development agenda **must** be grounded in human rights principles of **equality** and non-discrimination. We call for Member States to commit to fulfilling and upholding existing human rights commitments, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, elimination of the worst forms of child labour and ensuring social protection for young workers. We must go beyond mere empowerment.

We strongly emphasize the need to recognize **intersections** between all priority areas. In order to be transformative, we must move beyond the rhetoric, and commit to concrete actions to effectively integrate important cross-cutting issues across all dimensions of the SDGs framework.

Children and youth have the most at stake in the post-2015 agenda. We've shown our commitment to sharing our concerns, and it is a mistake to not include young people in the implementation of this agenda. Earlier, we have circulated a comprehensive response to the co-chairs focus areas that include concrete recommendations on how to create a Sustainable Future for us all. We hope that you will take the time to consider them. Thank you.