

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

We, the Major group of Children and Youth strive to encourage stakeholders to join us in becoming active agents of change.

This can be accomplished by building on existing processes that promote collaboration to create a shift in mentality, to refocus on holistic approaches to development that will act as a powerful complement to the prevailing state-to-state relationships.

Children and Youth have demonstrated their ability to be at the forefront of progressive, innovative, and effective local and global action. We have come to realize that the achievement of sustainable development necessitates equitable, dynamic, and collaborative partnerships. We strongly believe that the inclusion of youth is one of the seeds of success for multi-stakeholder partnerships in sustainable development.

To achieve our common goals:

- Youth involvement in Rio + 20 and other frameworks is essential. Currently there are a few delegations that have official youth delegates - mainly those from European nations. Greater efforts need to be made to include youth delegates from developing nations. A legitimized youth representation will increase equitable input and meaningful participation in official government delegations.
- We also call for Governments to increase their inclusion of youth in the existing decision making processes, leveraging on our dynamism, courage, idealism, and outreach capacity. Not only will this empower civil society, but also assist governments in fulfilling the will of the people and ensuring continuity of development efforts.

We all share the common but differentiated responsibility to take immediate action to develop a more sustainable world. Partnerships must be adapted to changing circumstances. Therefore, it is imperative that we synergize and utilize our greatest strength--a fundamental shared vision of unity in diversity.

Let our vision be world-embracing.