Civil society statement to Expert Group Session of the SDGs Consultative meeting, Saturday Nov 2, 2013

Chair, we are grateful to have been given chance to address the meeting at such late hour. It is approx. 8.15 pm and I guess most of the member States are tired, however will continue to make our address.

Chair, Para 248 of the Future We Want called for establishing an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders. And the 9 major groups are part of the stakeholders.

Chair, reducing the 9 major groups stipulated in Agenda 21 is not okay with most of us since we are here to speak in capacity of each major group.

Chair, we should be building on the arrangements and practices observed under CSD, including the Economic and Social Council.

Talking of intergovernmental process, the recent decision under Format and organizational aspects of the **High-Level Political Forum** on sustainable development clearly mentions what the Major Groups are allowed to do.

Amongst them are some of the following:

* To intervene in official meetings;
* To submit documents and present written and oral contributions;
* To make recommendations;
* To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat of the United Nations;

Chair, I rest my case. Good evening.