

Collaborators:

International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission
Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP)
World Assembly of Youth
UN MGCY
SOS Children's Villages
Muslims for Progressive Values
LGBTIQ Constituency AP-RCEM
International Planned Parenthood Federation
Russian Fair Trade Organization
Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
WMG are they not endorsing as well?
ASTRA Youth
Advocates for Youth
Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues
YouAct
Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR)
WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME
Espolea A.C.
ACT!2015
Caribbean Leadership Network on Population and Development

Statement on Adolescents and Youth in Post 2015

Presented by: Tania Martinez, Espolea, Mexico

Dear co-facilitators, member states, colleagues:

As many of you know, children, adolescents and young people across the world, of all identities, ethnicities and cultures have mobilized throughout this process to ensure our rights and priorities are at the center of the post 2015 agenda. We have sought, alongside many people and governments in this room, the creation of a transformative agenda that recognizes us as the generation that will carry this agenda forward. We appreciate your partnership efforts.

Keeping the delicate political balance in mind, the endeavor of technical proofing is indeed brave. We support this undertaking if it increases the ambition of the agenda.

On a positive note, we welcome the revision to target 1.5 and the inclusion of humanitarian emergencies, which many children, adolescents and young people are adversely affected by, and which needs to be addressed.

Despite this, many of our core concerns continue to be ignored.

1. Young people, especially indigenous young people, depend on their lands, forests and ecosystems, which for many of them is their home, livelihood, source of food and medicine, and holds important cultural, spiritual and community significance. We do not support the change to target 15.1 and 15.2 that call for an additional ten year time frame during which time even more forests will be destroyed. Moreover, the targets under Goal 15 must include substantially increased reforestation and ecosystem restoration and a clear and immediate commitment to implement these actions.

2. Control over our bodies and access to accurate information is critical to ensure all children, adolescents and youth can make fully informed decisions, stay healthy, and achieve our rights. Although Goal 4 on education has increased in its level of ambition, we are disappointed about the continued omission and controversial perception of comprehensive sexuality education, informal and non-formal education, and indigenous knowledge.

Furthermore, we must ensure that the implementation of this agenda happens across its full fifteen year lifespan. We look forward to continue working with you in the implementation of this agenda.

To conclude, in the words of Dr Seuss:

*“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It simply is not.”*