

**Vision and priorities of civil society, the private sector and other major groups and stakeholders: realizing the SDGs during the COVID-19 recovery**  
**July 9, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm EDT**

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Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin, Honourable Chair, Excellencies.

We, as Major Group for Children and Youth would like to say that children and youth now do not have the same opportunities as the previous generations, they are deprived of them due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is urgent for us to unite our efforts to ensure that children have a normal childhood, and that adolescents can grow up and enjoy the same equal opportunities and live in a peaceful world.

Also, the grown-ups now should pay as much attention as possible to make sure that the pandemic does not go online. This why it is crucial for all of us to follow up with the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. To support inclusion of the younger generation together with the other stakeholder groups in all the processes on the way to build the Information Society. I would like to highlight the work of the UN DESA and the Internet Governance Forum, who ensure that young people have equal share on the table in these processes.

What can we do right now to build back better. We should take those proven initiatives and solutions which young people, civil society members are developing day by day on the ground to rebuild our societies, to help us to get to our normal life. We should support them and support action orientation. I want to underline it. We as young people can propose our own solutions to achieving the SDGs even in such critical times.

Let us please unite our efforts to give the young people decent opportunities to share their voices equally and meaningfully. And let us do all our best to ensure peace and same equal opportunities for this younger generation, as for the previous ones. Thank you very much.