

**CSD-18, May 3-14, 2010**

**NGO Major Group Opening Oral Statement (1 minute)**

Thank you chair. Good afternoon distinguished delegates.

The NGO major group discussion paper which addresses the entire thematic cluster notes that “technological advances and efficiency gains are necessary but will not, in and of themselves, bring about the required scale of change towards sustainable development.” We call for a shift to a “sustainable and fair economy” paradigm.

Such a transformation requires an earnest examination of our understanding of human nature and of the cultural frameworks driving institutions of society. It implies an organic change in the structure of society itself so as to reflect fully the interdependence of the entire social body – and its interconnectedness with the natural world that sustains it.

A sustainable social order will be distinguished by an ethic of reciprocity and balance at all levels of human organization. The pursuit of justice within the framework of unity (in diversity) should guide our work and offer a means by which unified thought and action can be achieved. We look forward to engaging in dialogue with you during the Commission. Thank you.