

This is the statement made by Ward Claerbout on behalf of the major group Children and Youth on thursdaymorning 11th of may.

Thank you mister Chair.

Over the past two weeks of the CSD, we have heard of international best practices, regional inputs and many critical remarks for the work being done and not done. We are pleased that this session takes on a new approach, providing us the opportunity to define what our vision, aspirations and goals for the future are.

The first step in this process is to paint a vivid image of what it is we want the world to be. We need to start the process of defining our vision for the future, and then we can identify the groups and individuals that are required to make that vision a reality.

Vision

We have a vision that we live in harmony - on a fair and equitable basis - inclusive of all of humankind, and within the parameters of our planet. We have a vision of self-determination, where all people are able to attain their basic needs and develop their own potential. We have a vision that development is not at the cost of other's freedoms. We have a vision.

How to Attain Our Vision

This vision can only be attained through a process of constant reflection of our actions, and collaborative and constructive discussions about how those actions can be improved and enhanced. To achieve this, we need to create an enabling, welcoming environment where all actors are viewed as equal and valuable partners in the process of defining this new reality.

While we have constantly heard of the good intentions provided by government delegations and the international community as a whole, we have yet to see these ideologies translated into action. By creating this common vision of the future, we will be able to identify the necessary steps required to ensuring this action.

It is true that an encompassing vision shared by all, would be ideal. However, each of us present are used to working in less than perfect conditions. In this context, we can identify areas where we do agree and take action. We can create a green economy. We can eradicate child labour. We can achieve education for sustainable development. This requires reexamining the notions of empowerment and social development with the collaborative efforts of government, civil society and all other relevant stakeholders. These goals - and all others that we define - can be achieved. We ask for actions now.

Sustainable development needs to be mainstreamed and integrated into the United Nations system and specific sustainable development indicators need to be developed and formalized. This can only be achieved through behavioural changes and paradigm shifts that are at the core of this new vision of our shared future. The Major Group of Children and Youth are thrilled to be part of this process and we look forward to working with you all.

Thank you!