

ALL MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE INTERVENTIONS BY MGCY
MEMBERS:

ROUNDTABLE 1 – NHATTAN NGUYEN

Thank you Madam Chair for the final word.

I am speaking on behalf of the Major Group of Children and Youth. We support Major Groups in their advocacy for increased participation of civil society in UNEP.

In addition to these principles, governments should consult with and work with Major Groups and Stakeholders, especially children and youth, in their countries for the implementation of a functioning science-policy interface as well as an effective response to national priorities in order to assess the multiple realities of local communities' needs. We are confident that children and youth are not only stakeholders of tomorrow's future, many of us are already acting as today's leaders. As such, young people believe that the effective engagement of civil society can be supported through education, sharing information, and propose transboundary collaboration to address UNEP's subprogrammes. We call on governments and UNEP to promote, cultivate and reap the fresh perspectives, innovation and energy of young students, professionals and leaders in fulfilling the World We Want.

Thank you.

ROUNDTABLE 2 – SEBASTIEN BUYCK

Sébastien Duyck – Youth

Thank you for your presence here at the GC and at this roundtable. I would like to address two issues very briefly.

A - SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE

With regards to the **science and policy interface**, this was a very important theme for our generation, in particular considering the very clear message of the scientific community ahead of Rio+20.

The youth engaged in the Rio+20 process had high expectations that the conference would provide a strong **acknowledgement of planetary boundaries**.

We look forward to a clear mandate being given to any science-policy interface created within UNEP to address this issue specifically. This would in particular empower UNEP to play fully its leadership role in International Environmental Governance.

B - STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATION

The second point that is particularly important for us in relation to the questions raised today relate to stakeholders participation. In relation to this important question, I would like to emphasize three dimensions.

- **First**, the need for the **Swift implementation** of this element, with decisions adopted at this governing council granting mandate for UNEP's Executive Director to move forward without the need to come back to the Governing Council. This mandate could include a direct reference to two valuable documents already produced:
 - the outcome of the Geneva **Expert meeting** held in January on models and
 - mechanisms of civil society participation,

the Set of Principles on Stakeholders Participation in UNEP developed and adopted by consensus during the Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum.

- **Second**, recognize that stakeholders have the deepest understanding of the most effective entry points for their participation and of practical constraints affecting these opportunities – hence any **process or discussion implementing the strengthening of our role should be based on full participation of stakeholders**.
- **Third**, the emphasize on the strengthening of stakeholders participation at each of the following levels:
 1. agenda setting
 2. policy making
 3. implementation

We look forward to continuing to work with you during the coming days to ensure that the outcomes of this historical governing will prepare for most effective functioning of UNEP.

ROUNDTABLE 3 – GRACIA PARAMITHA

Thank you for such good opportunity. We, the children and youth believe that UNEP along with the governments support civil society engagement, especially for children and youth. As you know the children and youth have been concerned about environmental issues for some years, even during Rio+20 Summit previously. We also would like to inform that last week, 10-14 February there was TUNZA International Youth Conference 2013, a programme from UNEP to encourage children and youth on environmental awareness. Around 300 participants from over 100 countries gathered here in Nairobi, Kenya and produced outcome whis related to the future of UNEP and stakeholder's participation. Speaking of effective engagement from civil society, we purpose UNEP to encourage system that facilitate young people that nit tokenistic. Leading by example, UNEP should enable individuals to develop and share skills for inclusive involvement. We highly recommend UNEP to organize special session on children and youth perspective towards environmental sustainability and UNEP institutional framework for the next GC meeting as we need effective organizational structure of TUNZA and stronger support from the government.

In terms of the name for the new universal governing body, we hope UNEP can reiterate and effectively implement the universal principle during the meeting, which also support children and youth ideas or thoughts. Thank you very much.

ROUNDTABLE 4 – KEHKASHAN BASU

Thank you chair.

UNEP's endeavor for greater and transparent engagement with all stakeholders, in line with paragraph 88h of the Rio+20 outcome document is much appreciated. We, the Major Group for Children and Youth, feel that the environmental issues cannot be generalized. The causes of environmental degradation and the factors that drive it are unique to each region depending on its governance, local laws, developmental needs and the attitude and demands of the local stakeholders and civil society. It is therefore imperative that environmental matters are looked at microscopically and not at a macro level, if we are to move towards sustainability. Therefore, we, children and youth, wholeheartedly support a regional approach to the issue and encourage greater presence of UNEP at region and at country level. At the same time, there needs to be strict environmental codes which UNEP should apply irrespective of the region, without any concession, so that there is a level playing field for all concerned. Too often we see that economic demands are overriding environmental concerns and the presence of UNEP at a regional level would provide a system of check and balance whereby policy makers need to look at long term sustainable goals. We, the children and youth, believe that the environmental clock is ticking very fast and quick response to any kind of environmental threat is the key. UNEP's localized representation will help to improve response time and be more effective in curtailing environmental degradation before they spin out of control. UNEP's universal membership is a step in the right direction and this too demands that UNEP should press its network and reach to all countries and regions as soon as possible.

Thank you chair.

ROUNDTABLE 5 – DALIA MARQUEZ

Hello delegates, speakers and representatives of major groups. I'm Dalia Marquez, Youth Advisory Council from Latin America and the Caribbean for TUNZA, I'm from Venezuela and I'm here, representing the children and youth. Like some of you know, the last week many youths from over 100 countries of the world were working in the TUNZA international youth conference. There, all youth were agree in the points for our final statement, and there we have interesting suggestions but and I just gonna say two about sustainable consumption. The first point is about waste food, because waste food is not sustainable consumption, in this sense: We call on governments, business, cities and civil society to support the several efficient campaigns such UNEP and FAO's new ThinkEatSave campaign against food-waste and unsustainable consumption. We further call on governments and all sectors of society to cut back on food waste and food loss as a post 2015 development agenda target as a Sustainable Development Goal. For that reason the children and youth, support the #ThinkEatsave campaign, to reduce food waste and pledge to do our best job to spread the campaign and not waste food since this is a key aspect of sustainable consumption. The second point is about preserving ecosystem for water security. So we request that UNEP along with the governments should support and facilitate youth led campaigns (example Unite for Water Campaign) and projects aimed at preserving ecosystems for water security as well as efficient sustainable water use. Here, it is also requested to have the sustainable use of water be put forward as a post 2015 Sustainable Development Goal. We will be grateful and will be wonderful if the voice of youth is heard and we really hope that we get your support. Thank you so much.

ROUNDTABLE 6 – MIRNA FERNANDEZ

Thank you Madam Chair.

The Major Group Children and Youth supports the development of SDGs that will respond to the complex interrelations between new global development challenges in an era marked by rapid change in social, environmental, and economic arenas. The SDGs should tackle the underlying drivers of social injustice and environmental degradation, at all times taking into consideration the links between poverty, gender inequality, climate change, biological diversity, macroeconomic structures, consumption patterns, and human rights protection. SDGs should be universally recognizable, simple, and clear. Overall time frames for goals should be differentiated by shorter term targets. Similarly, each target should be differentiated according to regional and national realities, need and ability to execute, and developed according to country-relevant indicators set at national level for greater accountability, monitoring, and ownership. It is clear to us that the SDGs must build from the Rio Principles, Agenda 21, JPOI, Millennium Declaration, the World Programme of Action for Youth, and other internationally agreed development processes to become a new overarching set of goals. In the view of the MGCY, the post-2015 framework, including the SDG's, can be clustered around three main areas: *Human Development, Security and Poverty Eradication for all people*Governance, Participation and Access to Justice*Natural Resources use and Cross Sectorial Development areas When the MDGs expire in 2015 the SDGs and post-MDG framework must be incorporated together to serve a broader context where the emphasis is placed on the harmonisation of economic, societal development and environmental limitations. The key is a comprehensive and universal approach which will help build trust between the global north and south. The Major Group Children and Youth and international youth organisations have played a key role in bringing together north-south and south-south approaches to development, therefore our role in any combined process must be ensured.