

This statement was not delivered in Plenary due to time constraints.



Thank you, distinguished co-chairs.

Delegates, colleagues, friends,

First and foremost, we want to thank the great co-chairs for their patience and enthusiasm to engage. You know we mean it. We know your intentions are truly ambitious, and you would concede that we are truly committed, even during nights like these, where the only sleep we can catch is on the floor of the Delegates Lounge. We have the highest degree of respect for you.

In this early hour, the Major Group of Children and Youth will not take up any more of your time with pleasantries and platitudes.

We know we will have to continue to work hard to ensure young people and children, in all their diversity, are represented within the process going forward until and beyond 2015, and trust that we have your commitment to ensuring our full and inclusive participation.

We have embarked on a journey to create a transformative agenda that is meant to usher us into a new era of sustainable development and in harmony with nature, that is rights based and ensures no-one is left behind.

We have made some progress. We witnessed the successes - when free education was recognized, youth unemployment was brought back as target 8.6, Universal Health Coverage became an agreed target, SCP remained a goal.

But this progress is certainly far from what the Major Group of Children and Youth expected and have fought for since 1992. Young people's rights are not just about education and employment. And neither are the planet's resources infinite.

We saw it through even when Major Groups had no formal roles. We witnessed when this group decided that humanity is just not ready to outgrow growth, a false paradigm that prevents our development in a truly holistic way. We witnessed our sexual and reproductive rights, and our right to comprehensive sexuality education, overlooked. Many member states shared these concerns. We witnessed when the carrying capacity of the earth was not respected and removed from 12.2. We witnessed when the means to implement this agenda were weakened to serve the hands of powerful business. And we witnessed when the definitions of peace, justice, human rights and social security became controversial.

We understand and recognize that these are complex issues, burdened with red lines and instructions from capital. But we need to do better, much better, in order to deliver on the greatest challenges of our time and to secure a safe world for future generations.

In today's world, we are crossing planetary boundaries, something this room does not acknowledge; we are compromising needs of future generations due to shortsighted decision-making; and we are risking dangerous climate change, already witnessing the first victims. If we don't take the appropriate action here, in these comfortable seats, the fight for achieving a sustainable world is useless. In addition, it is simply unacceptable that our human rights, including our sexual and reproductive rights, our autonomy, our health and our sexuality are questioned, traded and violated.

The current development model has inflicted a global system of extraction, exploitation, oppression of people and their rights, and mass consumption. This needs to change, if we are to create the future people need. The time has come for us to work together strongly, between countries, and between generations.

We will work with you, encourage you, support you, and also critique you. But above all, hold you accountable. We are here, and here to stay. Good luck and thank you for this beginning. You deserve a wonderful weekend, a long rest, and we will see you again, very soon.