

MAJOR GROUP CHILDREN & YOUTH
Rio+20, 1st intersessional meeting
Session 1 (Objective) – January 10, 2011



Statement delivered by Nicolò Wojewoda

Thank you chair,

First of all, let me say on behalf of our Major Group that our expectations for Rio+20 and for this meeting are of course shaped by the mention in the 1st PrepComm, when the representative of the US called this conference a "**Rio for 20somethings**". Rio+20 will indeed be about the protection of fundamental rights of young and future generations.

Concerning the issues raised by the panelists, there are 3 points we'd like to make:

1) It's crucial to talk about a **simplified institutional framework** – As already hinted to by Dr. McNeely and mentioned the synthesis report, an estimated total of 500 international conventions and instruments have been developed since 1992 on sustainable development issues, which is simply too much to be effective. But, and here's our question, how are we going to get one coherent framework out of this? As far as we understand, there is less than a week of negotiation days leading up to the Conference, and only 3 days for the Conference itself, and how can we still ensure strong outcomes and a meaningful participatory process? To respond to what the distinguished delegate said about fragmentation not being the only issue and therefore simplification not being the only solution: perhaps simplification is not a sufficient condition, but it's definitely a necessary one.

2) **A youth-friendly green economy** – Recession was mentioned, and we know how young people are often being hit the hardest by the that crisis (high unemployment rates) environmental, social and economic crises – and that's despite the fact that they're the ones needing green and decent jobs the most. What role can business play in that, especially in terms of entrepreneurship education and what can other actors do in terms of non-formal education for sustainable development, so that young people are ready for and actively build the green economy we've been talking about?

3) We would also like to reaffirm that we need to go further than that. **Anything resulting from the Conference in 2012 needs to guide and inspire action.** Our vision is a framework, in which businesses provide solutions, like mentioned by Mr. Holliday, but also public and non-profit actors alike can cooperate to the best of their capacity to help children and young people in their fight for survival.

Thank you.