

**Statement of Major Groups
For the 20th Session of the CSD
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Delivered by: Joao Scarpelini, Brazil - representative of the Major Group for Children and Youth on behalf of all 9 Major Groups.

My name is Joao Scarpelini and I come from Brazil. I am a part of the Major Group for Children and Youth but today, at the last session of the CSD, I have the honour and the challenge to deliver this statement on behalf of all nine major Groups. But before I do so, let me however start with a personal note.

We are here at the last session of the CSD, to mark an end of an era, but our work is far from done. Millions of people, particularly young people, are still lacking access to employment opportunities. Our climate still changing, deforestation growing. And may we not forget, that inequalities are still a sad and strong reality around the world. We are still struggling for the realization of our basic human rights.

May we not forget, that when we talk about sustainable development, we are talking about something bigger than a development paradigm, it is a way of life, it is a way of ensuring that future will be prosperous and the world will be just and sustainable for all, for women and men, girls and boys regardless of their status and personal characteristics. We know that achieving sustainability must come from within, it is about finding balance between our different needs for which every and each person counts.

Your excellencies, let me begin the statement of the Major Groups.

This planet, our common home, has boundaries and limits. Our resources are not infinite. Short term interests dominate 'business as usual'. To truly defend our futures, your legacy needs to include institutional mechanisms that ensure intergenerational justice. We must not only recognize that sustainability is important, but we must create spaces for civil society voices to become an integral part of the process. We must recognize our common but differentiated responsibilities, allow for the transfer of knowledge and technology, and the build genuine capacity to engage intelligently with it.

Over the last twenty years of the Commission on Sustainable Development, it is widely acknowledged that the active participation of Major Groups played an instrumental role in its success and transparency. Major Groups' participation had infused the CSD with new ideas, challenges and information and thus as enriched the inter-governmental debate. But what was also really important is that civil society took the CSD home and to their workplaces, to promote the outcomes at national and local levels.

At the Rio+20 Conference, Member States agreed "to work more closely with the major groups and other stakeholders and encourage their active participation, as appropriate, in processes that

contribute to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programmes for sustainable development at all levels.”

On behalf of all Major Groups, we respectfully request your support to ensure that the good practices of the past are not lost. We hope you will ensure that the High Level Political Forum begins its work with the participation of all relevant stakeholders -- in a transparent, accountable, open, holistic and inclusive way. We look forward to continuing to work with you to support the establishment of an effective and credible body to enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development at all levels. Only with true civil society participation Sustainable Development will not only happen in the UN-buildings in New York, but also on the national, regional and local levels where the implementation and dissemination of the outcomes is the most crucial.

We also really expect that the actual multiple financial, institutional, environmental and social crises will be used as the opportunity to change towards more sustainable economies and lifestyles, more sustainable patterns of consumption and production and innovative business models. Economies where the future of our Planet and species, social equity, creation of decent jobs, and wellbeing for all, prevail above maximising financial profit or reckless speculation with food or land.

Last but not least: We see it as very important to decide soon on a dashboard of indicators to measure the progress of those goals and well being in general.

We have high ambitions in the future Sustainable Development Goals, and are eager to design and implement them, as follow up of the MDGs. So count on us for working on it, in close cooperation with you and all stakeholders.

Thank you!