



Major Group for Children and Youth



Rio+20 Final Report

September 2012





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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Great deliberations have been made about how to ensure a sustainable future world, marked by both environmental and social security. With the creation of Agenda 21 at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, activities were set in motion aimed at overcoming issues that acted as barriers to sustainable development and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) began to facilitate and review this process. Recognition was also given to the role of civil society within these deliberations, and particular emphasis was placed on the unique contribution of youth, understanding that their involvement in decision-making was vital to the long-term implementation of Agenda 21. The Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) – the official representation of the voices of children and youth at the CSD – has been engaged in this process ever since.

The vision of the MGCY is the advanced participation of young people at all levels: locally, nationally, regionally and internationally, in the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and social development. Its mission is to ensure that the interests of children and youth are taken into account in the planning and decision-making processes, and that youth in particular participate meaningfully in the CSD processes.

The MGCY is made up of volunteers, youth-led organisations, youth networks and individuals who care about the sustainability of our planet and actively want to participate in shaping the future. Through networking and collaborating with young people around the world, the MGCY develops policy recommendations for the official sustainable development process and participate in the negotiations to lobby for their adoption. In addition, the MGCY is a platform for youth involved in sustainability at a local level to share their ideas, tell their stories and voice their opinions. The MGCY is open to every young person under the age of 30 years or organisations that are child-led, youth-led, working with and for children and youth, and willing to influence and inspire change.

At the end of 2009, the UN General Assembly decided to organise a High-Level Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 in Brazil. The Conference would come 20 years after the Rio Earth Summit, which initially put sustainable development on the global agenda. The UN Conference on Sustainable Development, dubbed Rio+20, had the aim of renewing political will, reviewing implementation gaps and discussing new and emerging challenges in sustainable development, offering a unique opportunity for the voices of children and youth to be heard at this critical point of redefining our future.

The MGCY was an active participant in the preparatory processes leading up to Rio+20 through the formalization of policy contributions and locally based youth activism, and played a significant role in the Rio+20 negotiations themselves. This report will detail the MGCYs involvement prior to and at Rio+20. It will expand on the internal structures formed to facilitate global youth participation, highlighting both the processes followed and key outcomes of these activities. Significant reflection will be provided on the policy contributions of the MGCY, the use of media and social media, the Youth Blast, and other preparatory activities. The report will also detail events at Rio+20, highlighting policy successes, actions, statements, side events and other MGCY involvement. Through all their engagements, the MGCY aimed at instilling passion and vigour to drive actions to achieve sustainability. As mentioned in the Chair's Summary of the first Rio+20 Preparatory Committee, we need to 'revive the spirit of Rio' if we hope to overcome the new challenges facing the world, and this is what the MGCY sought to achieve.

Through this report, the MGCY provides their reflections on Rio+20, evaluating the outcomes, lessons learned and initial ideas for post-Rio+20 engagement, in the hope that this will continue to further advance the participation of young people in sustainability negotiations.



2.0 OVERVIEW OF RIO+20 AND ITS PROCESSES

The UN General Assembly (UN GA) decided in 2009 through resolution A/RES/64/236 to organise a conference on sustainable development in 2012. The UN GA stated in the resolution that it: “Decides to organize, in 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives, and in this regard accepts with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Brazil to host the Conference...”

The resolution specified the objective and themes of the Conference, clustered in two groups, one called the objectives of the Conference and the other the thematic focus of the Conference. The focus was considered to be the major themes with most discussions centering around these, however the three contained important aspects of the content. According to the UN resolution:

The **objectives** of the Conference were to:

- Secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development
- Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development
- Address new and emerging challenges

The **thematic focus** of the Conference included:

- A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
- The institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD)

In a unique decision, the UN invited all stakeholders, governments, intergovernmental agencies and civil society including the nine different Major Groups¹, to contribute to a working document to serve as the basis for the outcome document of Rio+20. The Bureau for Rio+20 proposed the decision and developed the concept, which was formally adopted by the 2nd Preparatory Committee meeting in New York (7-8 March 2011). The deadline set for contributions was November 2011, and a series of mandated (ie. the official/formal events for Rio+20) and informal meetings to negotiate the text and discuss Rio+20 were planned, forming the ‘road map to Rio’. The preparatory events included:

2011

- 2-13 May: CSD 19, New York
- 17-19 May: 2nd Rio+20 Preparatory Committee Meeting – PrepCom (mandated). The PrepCom assessed progress to date and the remaining gaps in implementing outcomes of major summits on sustainable development, as well as new and emerging challenges, a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the IFSD. Participants also organized their work in the lead-up to 2012, and considered the UNCSO’s rules of procedure.
- 1 September: UNEP International Consultation “Engaging with Major Groups and Stakeholders on Rio+20: the Role of Civil Society in Shaping the Sustainable Development Agenda for the 21st Century”, Bonn, Germany
- 3-5 September: 64th UN DPI Conference, on the Rio+20 process and voluntarism, Bonn, Germany
- 7 - 9 September: Latin America Regional Preparatory Meeting on the Rio+20 Process, Santiago, Chile (mandated)
- 21-23 September: the Seventh “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference, Astana, Kazakhstan
- 16-17 October: Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting, Cairo, Egypt (mandated)
- 19-20 October: Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, Seoul, Korea (mandated)

¹ There are nine Major Groups that represent civil society in the sustainability negotiations. These are: Children and Youth, NGOs, Women, Farmers, Science and Technology, Local Authorities, Trade Unions, Indigenous People and Business and Industry



- 20-25 October: Africa Regional Preparatory Meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (mandated)
- 1 November: Deadline for written contribution to the zero draft of the outcome document (mandated)
- 16-18 November: Bonn 2011 Conference: The Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus, Solutions for the Green Economy, Bonn Germany
- 28 November - 9 December: UNFCCC COP 17 (on climate), Durban, South Africa
- 1-2 December: Regional Preparatory Meeting for the UN ECE region, Geneva, Switzerland (mandated)
- 15-16 December: The 2nd Intersessional for Rio+20, to discuss compiled inputs thus far, including the structure of the outcome document. UN, New York (mandated). Participants discussed the compilation of submissions from states, UN bodies, intergovernmental organizations and Major Groups, and provided comments and guidance for the development, structure and format of a “zero draft” of the outcome document to be adopted at the UNCSD.

2012

- 10-11 January: Zero Draft made available for all to read.
- 25-27 January: Informal meetings to discuss content of the Zero draft document, UN, New York (mandated). In their opening statements, delegates agreed that the zero draft would serve as the basis for negotiations. They had submitted written comments on the first two sections—the Preamble/Stage Setting and Renewing Political Commitment Sections—prior to the January discussions, and began negotiations on these sections.
- 20-22 February: UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF), Nairobi, Kenya
- 26-29 February: ‘Planet Under Pressure’ Conference. A scientific conference to provide a comprehensive update of the environmental, economic and social impacts facing planet Earth and for input to Rio+20, London, UK
- 19-27 March: First Informal Informals and 3rd Intersessional, UN, NY (mandated). Delegates engaged in lengthy discussions on the text, proposing amendments and responding to other delegations’ suggestions. By the end of the meeting, most sections of the text had been reviewed and discussed more than once, with the text expanding to more than 200 pages.
- 23 April - 4 May: Second Informal Informals negotiating week on the Zero Draft. UN, NY (mandated). Delegates agreed *ad referendum* to 21 out of 420 paragraphs in the text, and so the Bureau decided to hold an additional negotiating session prior to the UNCSD.
- 29 May – 2 June: Third Informal Informals, UN, NY. Delegates discussed an 80-page revised draft text produced by the Co-Chairs, working in two working groups and over 20 issue-specific contact or “splinter” groups. In the end, 70 paragraphs were agreed *ad referendum*, with 259 containing bracketed text.
- 13-22 June: 3rd PrepComm, Dialogue Days and UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro Brazil (mandated)

The MGCY was actively involved in these preparatory processes, attending all mandated meetings and the majority of informal meetings. These meetings were used to prepare policy positions, advocate for MGCY policy points, build support for MGCY activities and support a global youth movement for Rio+20. More detail on the statements and MGCY reflections on some of these events can be found at:

<http://www.uncsdchildrenyouth.org/pages/mgcyinvolvement.html>.

3.0 MGCY PREPARATORY PROCESSES

MGCY began its initial preparations at the end of CSD-18, with the first PrepComm in New York, May 2010 and started initial ideas that would feed into an overall Rio+20 strategy. Over the next year, emphasis was



placed on preparations for CSD-19 and the formation of a strong policy component that would be able to effectively prepare for Rio+20.

One of the key MGCY outcomes for CSD-19 was the development of a broad strategy for Rio+20 which had the following features:

- Establishment of Rio+20 working group to initiate strategy for Rio+20 and to engage thematically
- An on-line space (listserve) that connects people in preparation for Rio+20 known as the YouthSpace (rioplus20youthspace@googlegroups.com)
- A facilitation team to guide MGCY preparations and that was the main MGCY decision making body for Rio+20
- A series of policy working groups to develop inputs for the Rio+20 'Zero Draft' document and policy follow up
- A series of working groups to foster communications and capacity building and accommodate different needs identified in the group.
- An international youth conference to engage with youth attending Rio+20 and effectively strategise MGCY involvement in the processes and to build post- Rio agenda
- Development of a website that effectively communicate key Rio+20 messages to interested young people.

With the MGCY relying completely on volunteers, an open call was sent out through MGCY networks and all young people were welcome to be involved.

3.1 MGCY structure for Rio+20

Several key internal structures existed within the MGCY to facilitate broad contribution to the Rio+20 process.

3.1.1 Organising Partners

The Organising Partners (OP) served as the main liaison between UNDESA, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the Major Groups in preparation for CSDs and Rio+20. The "Organising Partners" are typically representatives of organisations that help to facilitate the activities of each Major Group, through working with UNDESA and other Major Group OPs to facilitate civil society's participation in Rio+20, planning engagements through various entry points. For the MGCY, the OPs main role was to disseminate relevant data and information for the MGCY to help facilitate activities that maximize youth participation. The OPs were important mobilisers of the MGCY, ensuring that other teams functioned and broader engagement with Rio+20 was realized.

3.1.2 Facilitation Team

The Facilitation Team (FT) was the MGCY's decision-making body with the mandate to facilitate children and youth participation and activities within the MGCY and Rio+20 process. Members of the FT were energetic and result oriented people with a common interest in advancing the role of young people, and working with the MGCY. Fortnightly online calls were held with the FT to discuss plans of actions, effect decisions and maintain the functioning of the MGCY during its preparatory process. In the final months before Rio+20, these calls became weekly.

3.1.3 Policy Task Forces

Three Policy Task Forces (TFs) were established in line with the thematic/policy discussions for Rio+20. The TFs were focused on policy contributions and worked with youth internationally to develop and lobby for policy that reflects the voices, aspirations and concerns of young people. This included participating in, tracking and lobbying during the formal processes leading up to Rio+20.



3.1.4 Working Groups

Youth activism within the MGCY was facilitated through the Working Groups (WGs). Different WGs were established to enable young people with different interests to get involved according to their own level of capacity. The WGs, which included communications, media, and capacity building, had a primary focus of inspiring local action to help build the strength of the youth voices in the process.

3.2 Policy Preparations for Negotiating Text

The MGCY has always had a strong policy component to its work and is an active youth entity within the UN system in this regard. Extensive preparations were done to ensure the MGCY was thematically strong for Rio+20 as it had been for previous CSDs.

3.2.1 Formation of the Task Forces

The policy task forces were formed at the end of CSD-18 where initial discussions began, and became more active at the end of CSD-19. Three task forces were created aligned to the themes and objectives of the Conference:

- Green Economy in the Context of Poverty Eradication
- Institutional Frameworks for Sustainable Development
- Objectives and Sustainable Development Goals

Each task force created a mailing list for interested young people and attendance was open to all. A number of core facilitators led each task force, responsible for coordinating input and contributions within their group and were largely self-organised. An overview of how each task force operated is shown in the following table.

Table 3-1: Overview of Task Force Activity Coordination

Email Listserv	On-line Communication	Preparatory Events
Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development		
Regular emails on the mailing list rio-20-youth-IFSD@googlegroups.com . Mailing list has 328 members and 745 messages have been posted since it was established in September 2011.	Once a month Skype conferences with updates, discussions, action-points, minute-taking and follow-ups. Attendance varied between 10-25 participants on a regular basis. Facilitators and minute-takers for Skype calls and physical meetings were rotated.	During the preparatory events, including informals and intersessionals, the IFSD TF held daily meetings with all members physically present.
Objectives and Sustainable Development Goals		
Regular emails sent out on the mailing list: objectives-youth-task-force--rio-20@googlegroups.com . Mailing list has close to 200 members and 305 messages have been posted.	Majority of calls were organized using web-based tools such as gotomeeting.com and freeconference.com . There were 10 core team members, each one working on a specific issue: gender rights, human rights, water, energy, agriculture, health, oceans, conflict and peace, SDGs, SCP, and others. Minutes and links to key documents are available at: http://meetingwords.com/ObjectivesTaskForce	Some physical meetings occurred during the Intersessionals and the Stockholm+40 Conference.



Email Listserv	On-line Communication	Preparatory Events
Green Economy		
Regular emails sent on mailing list green-economy-youth@googlegroups.com . Mailing list has 370 members and 895 messages have been posted since its formation in January 2011. During Rio+20, a second mailing list (green-economy-taskforce-at-rio20@googlegroups.com) was created for communication between those who were on site. It counts 76 members and 333 messages.	Regular calls, starting from monthly in the first half of 2011, biweekly in the second half of 2011, and weekly in 2012 up until Rio. The calls involved introduction to the task force, updates, discussions, action points and sharing of information on green economy related topics. Calls were facilitated by the two task force facilitators.	Several regional meetings around the green economy fed their content into the TF, e.g. the European youth meeting on sustainable development in Tallinn.

3.2.2 MGCY Contribution to the Zero Draft

The UN invited all interested parties to provide input to the zero draft before the deadline 1 November 2011. Out of the 677 submissions, 493 came from Major Groups and Stakeholders, 73% of all contributions (uncsd2012.org). With only 15% of submissions coming from member states, it was an indication that civil society had a vested interest in the outcomes, while political commitment was lacking.

More than 600 youth and children from all over the world took part in developing the MGCY policy positions that were submitted to the Rio+20 Secretariat for the Zero Draft and lobbied for at Rio+20. These inputs were compiled by the Task Forces and their respective networks of young people around the world. The MGCY submission to the Zero Draft can be found at <http://www.uncsdchildrenyouth.org/pages/ourmgcydocuments.html> and included the key lobby points, as defined in the following section.

3.2.3 Development of Key Lobby Points

Once the MGCY contribution had been submitted, the Task Forces developed an overview of key lobby points for each theme that could be used in the upcoming negotiations. A brief overview of the points advocated for is as follows:

- **Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication**
 - Reducing unemployment through the creation of green jobs
 - Green, fair and people-centered agriculture to promote sustainable food systems
 - Supporting education for sustainable development to create the Green Economy
 - An integrated approach to the conservation of species
 - Strong legislative and executive actions required of governments to promote the Blue Economy
- **Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development**
 - Call for a High Commissioner/Ombudsperson for Future Generations
 - Upgrade of UNEP
 - Creation of a sustainable development council
 - Enforcement mechanism for the precautionary principle
 - Full and effective implementation of public participation in environmental decision-making
 - Intergovernmental Panel on Sustainable Development
 - Stronger governance of the global commons
 - Creation of a World Environmental Court



• Objectives

- Sustainable Development Goals
- Water-Food-Energy-Security Nexus
- 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Promotion of conflict resolution and peace as preconditions to sustainable development
- Human Rights approach

These policy points were developed into lobby sheets (Appendix A), used during the negotiations to advocate for MGCY perspectives to be included in the final outcome document.

MGCY Rio+20 Green Economy Points

- Reducing youth unemployment through the creation of green jobs**
Youth unemployment to be reduced through the creation of green jobs with a living wage and the stronger consideration of the impact of employment policy on youth. Governments should promote young people's role in the workforce by providing them with the appropriate skills and knowledge to improve their employability. Possible initiatives could include locally appropriate job-training in the context of sustainable development, start-up capital for young entrepreneurs and apprenticeship programmes.
- Green, fair and people-centred agriculture to promote sustainable food systems**
It is urgent to start a transition towards green, fair and people-centred agriculture that promotes a sustainable food system producing sufficient, healthy and balanced food for all and maintaining and/or enhancing ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources. Investments in rural areas should be increased to ensure decent incomes and living conditions while creating job opportunities for rural communities, particularly youth. Governments must protect the rights of those working and subsisting on the land and aim towards collective, decentralized ownership for sustainable, resilient and productive ecosystems management. Traditional farming and indigenous knowledge, past and present, offer a wealth of potential solutions and should be recognised as such. An outcome of Rio+20 needs to be a revitalisation of vital knowledge sharing mechanisms in agriculture.
- Supporting education for sustainable development to create the Green Economy**
Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) must equip the next generation of youth with skills, training and capacity to help create the Green Economy. ESD should be structurally integrated into the national and sub-national curricula and made accessible to all, taking into account local communities' needs. Priority should be given specifically to drastic improvements in teacher training for ESD and recognition and support for alternative forms of education, non-formal learning, online resources and peer education.
- An integrated approach to the conservation of species**
An integrated approach to the conservation of species and ecosystems, particularly threatened species and ecosystems, is required. Compliance with international conventions, and agreed international standards for the recording of natural resources and periodic assessment by independent authorities, in collaboration with all stakeholders. These efforts are crucial to ensuring that consumption of natural resources is below regeneration rates. Natural resource impact labelling should be mandatory for every industrial product.
- Strong legislative and executive actions required of governments to promote the Blue Economy**
Strong legislative and executive actions are required by governments to promote the sustainable development of our Blue Economy, and to avoid depletion of finite water resources and achieve long term food security for fisheries-dependent communities. Actions should include the establishment of a global network of marine protected areas and "no-take zones", including a moratorium on mineral exploration in the Arctic and proper mechanisms for conflict resolution over aquatic resources, with special emphasis on water. Conflict over future water availability and allocation decisions, under likely global pressures like climate change, must be recognised and addressed as a serious global threat to long term peace and security.

MGCY Rio+20 IFSD Points

- Calling for High Commissioner/ Ombudspersons for Future Generations**
There is need to mainstream politics from within, guaranteeing that sustainable development and long-term thinking are part of decision-making processes. At all levels of governance, appointing legal representatives, a High Commissioner or Ombudspersons for Future Generations that actively speak up in the name of future generations can help bring the necessary checks and balances to political systems and urge policy-makers to be cognizant about future generations.
- Upgrade of UNEP**
This new, specialised agency would provide an accountability mechanism for policy makers and national ministries, coordinating all UN programs, agencies and affiliates working on initiatives related to or having an impact on environmental sustainability, including the secretariats of existing and future IREAs.
- Creation of a sustainable development council**
This should be created as a subsidiary to the UN General Assembly, with the authority to adopt legally binding decisions, seeking integration of all composing elements of Sustainable Development, at a higher political level than is currently the case within the existing UN bodies dealing with the matter. It should endorse Civil Society participation, upgrading the existing CGI practices, and including representatives of Major Groups within its governance.
- Enforcement mechanism for the precautionary principle**
We call for the legal recognition of the fact that industrial production and commercialisation of new substances and technologies should not be authorised in the presence of a reasonable doubt regarding their potential to harm our environment or the natural capital left to our children. An insurance mechanism should obligate those taking the risks to be in the capacity to fully repair any damages intentionally or accidentally resulting from their actions.
- Full and effective implementation of public participation in environmental decision-making**
This is a core principle of good governance and sustainable development. Governments need to agree to an international convention on participation rights for stakeholders, launch processes for the establishment of regional conventions with compliance mechanisms, ensure that effective participation is a key element of governance reform, and reiterate their commitments to ensure participation in national institutions.
- Intergovernmental Panel on Sustainable Development (Sciences)**
This Panel would strengthen the science-policy interface by bridging the science-policy nexus and rebuilding trust in scientific advice. It would function as an umbrella organization for all international bodies dealing with sciences, with a key responsibility to design a sustainable development research agenda for the 21st century through the review of relevant scientific knowledge from all strands of science.
- Stronger governance of the global commons**
Rio+20 should secure immediate establishment of a transparent and participatory trusteeship for the transitional governance of the global commons until they are adequately governed by legally binding rules, based on a sense of shared responsibility and the principles of subsidiarity and intergenerational equity.
- Creation of a World Environmental Court**
Contrary to war crimes or humanity crimes, environmental crimes are often ignored. We call for the establishment of a World Environmental Court to take decisions related to the non-respect of national obligations under international environmental law. This would enable us to hold states party to international environmental agreement legally accountable for their commitments.

MGCY Rio+20 Objectives Points

- Sustainable Development Goals**
We call upon Member States to agree on a process to establish Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that recognize the changing historical and economic context since the creation of the Millennium Development Goals. Such a framework should tackle the underlying drivers of human insecurity and environmental degradation. Namely, SDGs must be deliberated through an open, transparent, and accountable process. SDGs should also build upon existing agreements such as Agenda 21, the Forest Principles, the Rio Conventions, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the draft decision on Sustainable Consumption and Production, to operationalise the interlinked nature of SDGs and to capitalise on synergies across sectors.
- Promotion of Conflict Resolution and Peace as preconditions for Sustainable Development**
Recalling Rio Principles 24 and 25, we call upon Member States to place special attention on the relationship between peace, conflict resolution and sustainable development in the Rio+20 Outcome Document. We specifically call for text that addresses the immediate and enduring effects of armed conflict on sustainable development, with special attention on related conditions that pose severe threats to children and youth. We further call for the active participation of all stakeholders, especially children and youth, in peace-building.
- Water – Food – Energy – Security Nexus**
The water-food-energy security nexus must be incorporated in the Rio+20 discussions, particularly when developing strategies for the green economy. This will promote an efficient use of resources to avoid worsening crises that impact youth and children.
- Human Rights Approach**
We call upon Member States to protect the existing Human Rights agreements in any green economy framework or new participatory structures for sustainable development. While equitable and universal access to natural resources and meeting of basic needs are fundamental, the Rio+20 Outcome Document must reaffirm the Human Rights approach.
- 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production**
We call for the adoption of a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production by 2013 and ensuring its integration into policies and law by 2015.

MGCY Rio+20 Policy Lobby Sheets

3.3 Complimentary MGCY Activities

While the MGCY was predominantly involved in policy development, it also recognized that the achievement of sustainable living is driven largely by local action; small-scale activities happening in local communities, across the planet, embracing sustainable living practices. The MGCY worked to increase the participation of young people in the MGCY and the broader sustainability movement through a series of outreach activities, which fell under the working groups involved in the processes leading up to Rio+20.

3.3.1 Communications

The MGCY used a variety of communication tools and platforms in the build up to Rio+20, aimed at gathering knowledge, making decisions and taking action for Rio+20.

Communications and Social Media Strategies

To increase communication and awareness about Rio+20, several social media strategies were devised and implemented. Using the various social media platforms, specific policy information related to MGCY and Rio+20 was provided, events and capacity building opportunities were encouraged, MGCY specific Tweets were developed to lobby for policy points and invite people to participate. The MGCY also participated in the broader UNDESA social media initiative to support Major Groups – through Tweets, Facebook and

website pages, the MGCY was promoted through the UNDESA networks, broadening our reach to young people across the globe.



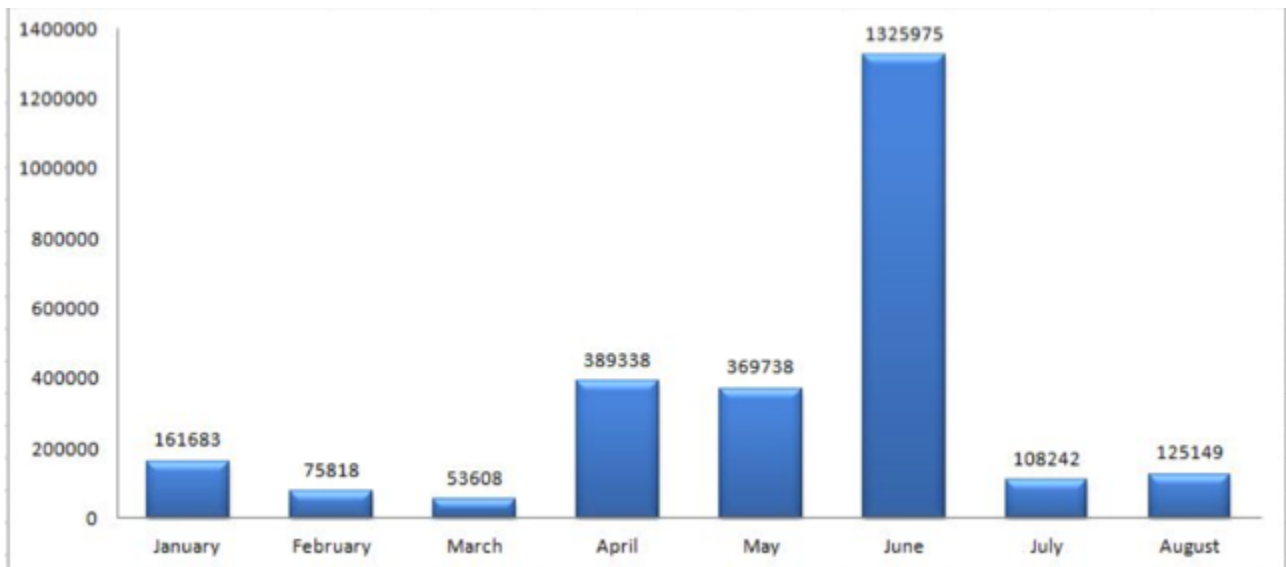
MGCY Website

The official MGCY website can be found at www.uncsdchildrenyouth.org. The website was an interactive platform for communication and mobilisation leading up to Rio+20 and worked as a hub where young people could find all the information they need to get involved – about the MGCY, what we're doing, what we're striving for and how we make our voices heard and followed up on.



Facebook

The MGCY Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/UNCSDYouthCaucus> was a main mode of communication in the Rio+20 preparations. Key information about the Rio+20 processes, events and activities were posted and promoted through the Facebook page, with great success. At its peak, the number of people ‘talking about’ the site increased from 6444 to 86,208. There was a total reach of 163,877 on Facebook (as seen in the graph below) and posts were seen 746,218 times in News Feed, ticker or visits to MGCY Page. Through concerted social media efforts, the MGCY reached 21,341 Portuguese (Brazil) users and 49, 516 (English) users.



Monthly reach on the MGCY Facebook Page, 2012



Twitter

Currently there are 888 followers of our @MGCY_UNCSD twitter account. Tweets were posted in English, Portuguese and many other languages regarding information about events, activities, policy recommendations, and local youth activism. Twitter was one of the strongest modes of online participation and one of the most successful.

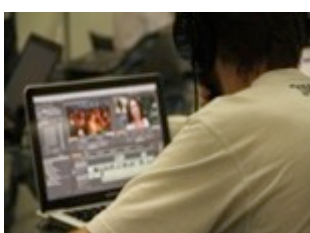


YouTube

Youth were encouraged to make videos recording their visions for the future, the outcomes of Rio+20 and their involvement at a local level. Through the YouTube, the MGCY shares these videos, including formal announcements from the MGCY Organisers regarding MGCY participation in the process. More than 70 videos have been uploaded to the site, which include:



- Something to Believe In: MGCY Declaration on Rio+20:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx6-vef889U&feature=plcp>
- Opening of Youth Blast and call for participants:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWFQ3_m9UKI&feature=related
- Brazilian Days:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uy8zTvKgg_o&feature=related
- Opening International Days:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2odaloxY4A&feature=related>
- “My message to the world” video series with 60+ videos:
<http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL454E09D95C816390>
- Closing of the Youth Blast with Mr. Sha Zukang:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7VJMktKea0&feature=plcp>
- Overall summary of the different Youth Events and Initiatives held in the run up to Rio+20:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxzDbZoWKpQ&feature=plcp>



3.3.2 Media

The MGCY formed a Media Working Group that was aimed at collaborating resources to better promote the work of the MGCY through international media. The team published extensively on the [Official Rio+20 website](#), and other sites including [Earth Summit](#) and in the [Youth Flash](#), newsletter of the UN Programme on Youth. Articles were also featured in the Huffington Post, Grassroots.org, Outreach, and Umweltjournal, to name a few. Numerous interviews have also been done with university students across the world that provided articles in local newspapers, journals and research reports.



Engagement with international media grew considerably during the Youth Blast – Conference of Youth. During the Brazilian Days of the Youth Blast, the Brazilian media coverage was at its peak, with all TV stations in Brazil attending the opening session, apart from two. A number of highlights can be seen at:



- Video about Youth Participation in the preparations for Rio+20:
<http://redeglobo.globo.com/globocidadania/videos/t/globo-ecologia/v/rio-20-integra/1972480>
- Story of the preparatory process of MGCY and the Youth Blast:
<http://www.correioweb.com.br/euestudante/noticias.php?id=29887>

MGCY engaging with media



- Official Youth Blast photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/foradoeixo/sets/72157630010526247/>
- Youth Blast video teaser: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWFQ3_m9UKI&feature=share

The MGCY also had interviews and engagements with CNN and BBC, providing media briefings and statements about the Youth Blast.

3.3.3 Capacity Building

The MGCY Capacity Building team was established in November 2011 with the objective of providing young people with the skills and knowledge to influence negotiations at Rio+20 as well as raise awareness of issues surrounding Rio+20 among youth who had no knowledge of Rio+20.

First, the MGCY helped develop a Rio+20 Participation Guide, translated into several languages, which can be found at http://rioplustwenties.org/?page_id=970. The guide was aimed at orienting young people into the sustainability negotiations, and was used as the official MGCY guide to the Rio+20 process.

The MGCY Capacity Building Team developed a sustainable development toolkit aimed at increasing knowledge about sustainable development and Rio+20. While the majority of resources are available online, the team had a particular interest in increasing the participation of young people without internet access through the development of training-friendly documents that can be printed and distributed at a local level, or shared by volunteers connected through social media.

Four toolkits were developed in total:

- **Toolkit Part I: Introduction to Sustainable Development**
 - 1,720 downloads
 - <http://www.scribd.com/doc/88274095>
- **Toolkit Part II: Taking Action for Sustainable Development and Rio+20**
 - 998 downloads
 - <http://www.scribd.com/doc/88912050/Part-II-Our-Future-is-Worth-It-How-YOUTH-can-take-ACTION-for-Sustainable-Development>
- **Toolkit Part III: The Green Economy and using Social Media for Sustainable Development**
 - 616 downloads
 - <http://www.slideshare.net/EOTOWorld/part-iii-our-future-is-worth-it-how-youth-can-take-action-for-sustainable-development>
- **Toolkit Part IV: Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development and Using the Arts**
 - 366 downloads
 - <http://www.slideshare.net/EOTOWorld/part-iv-our-future-is-worth-it-how-youth-can-take-action-for-sustainable-development>

These toolkits were hosted on the MGCY website, but were also widely distributed to other organisations. In December 2011, the Capacity Building Team launched a ‘Call for Volunteers’ and over 500 applications were received within the first two weeks. Selected young people were tasked as ‘Country Outreach Volunteers’ in their countries, where they were able to use the MGCY platform and resources to spread the message about sustainability in their communities. The Capacity Building Team established Regional Coordinators to work with the Country Outreach Volunteers, who liaised with various youth networks and organisations to distribute the toolkit locally. Through the toolkit, the MGCY helped young people understand the concepts of sustainable development, and inspire them to take action locally, thus building our global youth movement towards sustainable living.

In addition to the toolkits, the MGCY also hosted a variety of webinars – on-line training sessions or classrooms aimed at helping young people understand a variety of topics related to sustainability. Some of these webinars included:



- **Webinar 1: The Earth Charter**
 - <http://earthcharter.wiziq.com/online-class/772281-earth-charter-webinar>
- **Webinar 2: Sustainable Development 101**
 - <http://earthcharter.wiziq.com/online-class/783735-what-is-sustainable-development>
- **Webinar 3: What is Rio+20 (beginners)**
 - <http://earthcharter.wiziq.com/online-class/784957-what-is-rio-20-the-un-csd-process-youth-participation-for-beginners>

The toolkits and webinars were promoted through a variety of social media platforms.

3.3.4 Uniting people through collective action: National Youth Delegate Campaign

The MGCY undertook to launch a National Youth Delegate campaign to promote the number of official delegates attending Rio+20. Active in mobilizing and preparing young people for Rio+20, the MGCY sought to increase Member States' awareness about youth participation and the importance of including youth delegates in their official delegations. The inclusion of a youth delegate would indicate the commitment of a Member State to the values of the Rio Declaration, which denote intergenerational equity and equal participation. Youth delegates could serve as a liaison with youth of their country, inspiring and encouraging young people to participate locally.

To promote the campaign, a Campaigns Working Group was formed that developed a 'National Youth Delegate Lobby Guide' that could be used by young people when engaging with their country representatives. An official MGCY Campaign letter was also developed and distributed through all social media networks. Both documents can be found at <http://www.uncsdchildreneyouth.org/pages/ourmgcydocuments.html>.

The MGCY and local organizations successfully lobbied for the inclusion of youth delegates in the official delegations for France, Hungary and the United States. Despite the efforts that took place in Mauritius to include a youth delegate, the government was not able to fulfill this goal.

Some Official Youth Delegates were selected several months before Rio+20 and could contribute to their government's preparations. Some Official Youth Delegates even were able to participate in one or several pre-negotiations in New York. At the summit itself, Official Youth Delegates were included in the following country delegations:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| • African Union | • Kenya |
| • Austria | • Morocco |
| • Belgium | • Netherlands |
| • Brazil | • New Zealand |
| • Democratic Republic of the Congo | • Norway |
| • Finland | • Pakistan |
| • France | • Rwanda |
| • Germany | • Sri Lanka |
| • Hungary | • Sweden |
| • Japan | • Switzerland |
| | • USA |

Governments undertook various processes for selecting youth delegates. Some invited youth previously involved in the CSD processes while others accepted proposals put forward by youth organisations. In some countries, National Youth Councils were involved in the selection process and could support the representatives both in the lead-up and during the days of Rio+20.



Including National Youth Councils is valuable in terms of ensuring genuine representation and in sustaining a Youth Delegates Programme that ensures proper training of the representatives, as well as follow-up and evaluation processes. Additional information about how to select Official Youth Delegates can be found at

<http://www.uncsdchildrenyouth.org/pages/ourmgcydocuments.html>.

3.4 Youth Blast

From 7-12 June 2012, the MGCY in co-partnership with the Government of Brazil, hosted the Youth Blast - Conference of Youth for Rio+20. The overall aim of the Youth Blast was to empower young people to effectively participate in Rio+20 and its processes, with three key areas of focus:

- Build capacity amongst young people to effectively participate in the formal and informal processes of Rio+20
- Strategise for MGCY engagement in the official Rio+20 processes
- Plan for a post-Rio+20 agenda, incorporating the outcomes from Rio+20 itself



The event, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was divided into two sections: Brazilian Days (7-8 June) aimed at strengthening and supporting the host country movement, and International Days (10-12 June) aimed at bringing together Brazilian and International youth to prepare for Rio+20.



The Youth Blast was a great success with the participation of more than 1,800 young people from 123 countries from six continents. A breakdown of participants was:

- 816 Brazilian participants
- 724 International participants
- 84 press
- 215 volunteers



These young people had the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities, including a series of panel discussions, plenaries, elective youth-hosted workshops, and workshops hosted by various UN agencies and governments.

Almost 150 sessions were held over the Youth Blast days and included:

- Brazilian Days:
 - 5 panel discussions
 - 3 plenaries
 - 24 parallel sessions
 - 2 moments for working groups to work on the 9 themes creating the outcome document
- International Days:
 - 92 parallel sessions
 - 7 activities in the Art Space
 - 4 plenaries
 - 16 introduction sessions on Rio+20, MGCY and the different Task Forces (in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French)



Images from the Rio+20 Youth Blast



Images from the Rio+20 Youth Blast

The various sessions covered a wide range of topics including the themes of the Rio+20 Conference itself, the work of the MGCY, the policy points being lobbied for and a variety of youth-inspired topics that included:

- Sustainability in universities
- Media coverage for youth activities
- Green Schools
- Mobilising young people into action
- Alternative indicators of growth
- Citizen Emancipation for Sustainability
- Pan-African Youth Union
- Building Youth-led organisations
- Human rights, rights of the child and youth rights
- Transitioning to a fossil fuel free world
- Leadership development
- Child consumerism, advertising and sustainability
- Theatre for change
- Innovations Think Tank
- Creative action for social change
- Children as agents of environmental transformation

During the Youth Blast, strong emphasis was placed on e-participation to increase the participation of youth with fewer opportunities from developing countries and economies in transition, and to mobilise youth groups across the world to take local action in support of Rio+20.

A collaborative team worked to ensure that a maximum number of people both inside and outside the venue were aware of the activities transpiring, and able to engage with them. A total of seven sessions were live-streamed using Google Hangout, allowing on-line participants to both watch and engage in the sessions. Recordings of these sessions are hosted on the MGCY YouTube and TIGVid sites. There have been approximately 3,600 views of the videos posted, demonstrating a strong desire to engage on-line through these platforms. Live-streamed plenary sessions gained as many as 282 remote viewers with participation from 91 countries. The top five countries were Brazil (2,145), United States (283), United Arab Emirates (115), India (90) and Germany (59).

There was also a strong media and social media component to the Youth Blast. The MGCY worked with 50 Brazilian journalists involved in documenting, covering and reporting on activities taking place and with a well set-up media room, space was provided for the journalists to produce excellent work. During the Brazilian Days of the Youth Blast, the Brazilian media coverage was at its peak, with all TV stations in Brazil attending the opening session, apart from two.

Social media was also at its peak. There was a total reach of 163,877 on Facebook over the Youth Blast and posts were seen 746,218 times in News Feed, ticker or visits to MGCY Page. The link youth-blast.org was shared so many times that Facebook banned it several times thinking it was spam, and then unbanned it when they confirmed that it was a youth conference. During this period, we reached 21,341 Portuguese (Brazil) users and 49,516 (English) users. During the Brazilian Days of the Youth Blast, a 'twitter storm' was initiated with the hashtag #YouthBlastBrasil. Participation from around the world was remarkable, pushing the Youth Blast to be the third most commented tag globally, and the first most commented tag in Brazil. The participation



gathered around this social media activity is one of the key successes of the Youth Blast.

In addition to building capacity, strategizing and planning for a post-Rio+20 agenda, the Youth Blast created a platform for young people to share experiences and solutions related to sustainable development. It fostered an environment that helped to forge global partnerships, develop an international knowledge base of activities, initiatives and best practices, and strengthen the MG CY constituency to ensure the continued participation of young people in these important sustainability processes. A comprehensive Youth Blast report has been developed and can be found at <http://www.uncsdchildrenyouth.org/pages/ourmgcydocuments.html>.



4.0 RIO+20

4.1 General Overview of Rio+20

The Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development was a complex series of activities, taking place from 13-22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with both formal and informal activities throughout. The three formal

events were the 3rd PrepCom, Sustainable Development Dialogue Days and the High Level Segment of Rio+20. Around these activities, over 3,000 unofficial events - side events, discussions, meetings, and informal gatherings - took place, which the MG CY was involved in.

4.1.1 Third Preparatory Committee, 13-15 June 2012

From 13-15 June, the Third PrepCom was held and these were considered 'make or break' days (UNCS D Secretary-General Sha Zukang) for successful outcomes of Rio+20. A succinct overview of the proceedings is outlined below, as detailed by IISD Reporting Services.

Negotiators worked throughout the three days and nights within approximately ten splinter groups and multiple informal consultations, including on outstanding issues in the Rules of Procedure. On Friday, 15 June, negotiators were encouraged to hasten their agreements, as they were informed that organization of the four days in between the closing of PrepCom III and the opening of Rio+20 itself were to be coordinated by the host country.

In an evening plenary on 15 June, PrepCom Co-Chair John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda) called to order the first formal meeting of PrepCom III. The meeting elected two new Vice-Chairs, Mootaz Ahmadein Bahieeldin Khalil (Egypt) and Josefina Bunge (Argentina) to represent Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively, replacing outgoing officers.

At the suggestion of Co-Chair Ashe, the PrepCom decided that the host country should take over the consultation process until the start of the Conference on 20 June. Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio de Aguiar Patriota said much work remained, but that consultations with many delegations had deepened Brazil's understanding of where efforts need to be concentrated. He announced that the pre-conference informal consultations led by the host country would commence on Saturday, 16 June, on the basis of a revised draft text that would be available earlier that morning. Co-Chair Ashe pledged the Bureau's support during the consultations.

The UNCS D "Pre-Conference Informal Consultations led by the host country" began Saturday afternoon. During an opening plenary, the Brazilian organizers discussed the process that they would use to facilitate consultations on the Rio+20 outcome document. A new consolidated text was released, and four negotiating groups were scheduled to meet. Instead, delegates requested a plenary meeting to present their initial impressions on the draft, so the day concluded with an hour-long plenary.

During the second and third days of the consultations, delegates were asked to examine new drafts of the paragraphs that had not been agreed *ad referendum* during the PrepCom, and to propose new options for



text they wanted to change. The facilitators indicated that the text should be completed by Monday evening, 18 June, and late Monday it was announced that a plenary would convene. At 2:18 am, Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio de Aguiar Patriota informed the delegates that a final text would be available by 7:00 am the following day, a plenary would convene at 10:30 am, and that he would announce to the press that the elaboration of the text has been concluded. Patriota opened a mid-day plenary on Tuesday, 19 June, and informed waiting delegates that he believed they were in a position to adopt the text to be formally presented at the Conference for adoption. Delegates adopted the text *ad referendum* and proceeded to make statements supporting the outcome as well as, in some cases, expressing disappointment with specific paragraphs.

4.1.2 Sustainable Development Dialogue Days, 16-19 June 2012

During the days between the 3rd PrepComm and the High-Level Segment of Rio+20, the Government of Brazil, with the support of the United Nations, organized the Sustainable Development Dialogues, held in Rio Centro from 16-19 June 2012.

Representatives from civil society, including private sector, NGOs, scientific community, among other Major Groups, convened and engaged in an open and action-oriented debate on key topics related to sustainable development, without the participation of Governments or UN agencies. Three recommendations emanating from each of the Dialogues were conveyed directly to the Heads of State and Government present at the Summit.

Ten topics were debated, based on their relevance to the furthering of sustainable development:

- Unemployment, decent work and migrations
- Sustainable development as an answer to the economic and financial crises
- Sustainable development for fighting poverty
- The economics of sustainable development, including sustainable patterns of production and consumption
- Forests
- Food and nutrition security
- Sustainable energy for all
- Water
- Sustainable cities and innovation
- Oceans

The debates were broadcasted live through the UN website using a digital platform (<https://www.riodialogues.org/>) to provide the wider public a democratic space for discussion. The on-line debates (which started months before Rio+20) on each of the ten themes of the Dialogues, facilitated by researchers from renowned academic institutions around the world, resulted in ten concrete recommendations that could be viewed and voted for on a public website (<http://vote.riodialogues.org>).

The ten recommendations in each theme, ranked by the support received inside the platform and by the votes received in the public site, were organized by the facilitators and presented to the Panelists in the Sustainable Development Dialogues during Rio+20.

This innovative bridge between civil society and Heads of State and Government was expected to contribute to the incorporation and engagement of stakeholders, based on the understanding that public participation is essential for the consolidation of sustainable development as the paradigm for action in both the public and the private sectors. There were also youth mobilisers for the Dialogues, many of which were from MGCY. For more detail on the Sustainable Development Dialogues, visit <http://www.uncsd2012.org/sddialoguedays.html>.



4.1.3 High-Level Segment of Rio+20, 20-22 June 2012

As detailed by IISD Reporting Services, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development officially opened on Wednesday, 20 June 2012. Following the election of officers, adoption of the agenda and other organizational items, delegates conducted a general debate. Over the course of three days, 191 Heads of State or Government, and Vice-Presidents, Ministers and heads of delegation addressed the meeting. The high-level participants also took part in four roundtable discussions.

The four round tables considered the theme “Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference.” Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Heads of UN agencies and international organizations, representatives from Major Groups, The Elders and the Sustainable Development Dialogues, members of the Global Sustainability Panel and Nobel Laureates presented short statements around the themes of Rio+20 and implementation experiences and requirements.

On 22 June, the closing plenary session was held. Rapporteurs of the four roundtables presented their reports on “Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference.” Amb. Figueiredo then invited delegates to consider the outcome document of the conference, which was adopted without objection.

UNCSD Secretary-General Sha Zukang said he did not doubt that the outcome document would provide an enduring legacy, and said the next step would be to use it as the basis for action. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President, 66th session of the UNGA, said the 67th UNGA session would dedicate its best efforts to make the right decisions to implement the outcome.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the adoption of the outcome document, and highlighted the accomplishments of the Conference, such as agreeing to establish SDGs, strengthening the institutional infrastructure, reaffirming the right to water and food, and agreeing on the 10YFP on SCP. He thanked the Brazilian Government and President Dilma Rousseff for her personal leadership and dedication to Rio+20, and said, “the speeches are over, now the work begins.”

4.2 MGCY engagement in Rio+20

The MGCY was extensively involved in the activities of Rio+20. With thousands of young people attending the Conference, participation of MGCY was at its peak. Various activities were coordinated at a daily MGCY meeting, where updates were provided, plans of engagement organised, activities ventured and momentum built.

The MGCY functioned through the coordination of key facilitators; the Organising Partners, Task Force and Working Group Facilitators, amongst others. Responsibilities and activities were assigned to people, a breakdown of which is found in Appendix B, to help balance work and facilitate the process.

4.2.1 Organisation of Work

Rio+20 had the largest number of youth at a single conference in the history of the MGCY and having clear processes for the organization of work was important to ensure that processes remained fair and open to all. A document was developed by the Facilitation Team outlining this organization and can be found at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ruVg0Ru56AHzeq98EsVaA33e6MNIpsUVU1FVU2DUx8E/edit>

Key elements of this document included the following.

Formation of a Pass Distribution and Speech Writing Group

To facilitate an open, inclusive, fair, and democratic process of distribution of the secondary passes as well as selection of the MGCY speakers, the MGCY established a Speech-writing and Pass Distribution Group, with defined principles and criteria for the selection process. The group had the responsibility to perform the following tasks:

- Conduct the process for distribution of secondary passes to the MGCY members for Rio+20 UNCSD



- Select and nominate MGCY Representatives for the High Level Round Tables
- Prepare interventions
- Select speakers for the MGCY interventions.

Members of the Speech-writing and Distribution Group included one MGCY Organising Partner and six representatives from the Policy Taskforces, and an open application process was available for people interested in being in the group.



Secondary passes distribution for PrepCom, Dialogue Days and High Level Round Tables

It was anticipated that there would be limited places for attendance in the PrepCom III and/or the UNCSO Rio+20 negotiation rooms, and each Major Group received a number of transferable passes for the plenary sessions and negotiations. To increase participation, passes were distributed for half days – morning and afternoon sessions – and were distributed as follows:



- Pass for the Secondary Pass Coordinator appointed by the Speech-writing and Distribution Group, to facilitate participation at the sessions.
- Passes for Task Forces, given to the Task Force Focal Points for distribution
- Passes for MGCY members, of which at least 1 will go to each UN region.



Youth interested in receiving a pass had to apply through an on-line form and the Speech-Writing and Distribution Group selected nominations based on the following criteria:



- Regional balance
- Gender balance
- Fluency in English
- Level of involvement in the MGCY
- Applicants must be under 30 years old

MGCY Interventions

The MGCY had the opportunity to deliver an Opening Statement at Rio+20 and the group was responsible for facilitating the drafting process. Considerations for developing the statement were detailed and once developed, the statement was distributed through the MGCY listserv for comment and amendment. Several drafts were developed until a statement was finalized. The Speech-writing and Distribution Group also accepted nominations of young people to deliver the speech through an open application process. The selection criteria included:



- Younger than 30 years old
- Fluent in English
- Effective at public speaking



MGCY youth participating in the formal policy negotiations of Rio+20

These processes were distributed through the MGCY listserves, available on the website and were further discussed at the daily MGCY meetings at Rio+20 to further clarify the process and increase participation of all interested youth.

4.2.2 Policy Negotiations

At Rio+20, each task force held their own daily meetings and engaged in the proceedings through lobbying and tracking negotiations. The key lobby points had been developed and youth negotiators tracked these points in a comprehensive document that provided the status of the text, amendments made, authors of the document, and whether these changes were in line with MGCY policy. While different youth tracked different negotiations simultaneously, daily summaries of all negotiations were provided to the team to determine further lobbying action. These summaries also provided important information included in press briefing and media interviews. Other actors were so impressed with the quality of the tracking document, that they requested to use and have access to them as well.

Civil society access into the negotiating rooms is left to the decision of the Chair of the session. In some cases the rooms were closed to observers without explanation. The youth organized various lobbying strategies, such as key people to negotiate with or ‘actions’ that would help emphasise MGCY policy contributions. Official Youth Delegates played a critical role during these times and were able to communicate information to youth ‘on the outside’ while continuing to lobby for MGCY policy inclusion. Most delegates were in close contact with their delegation and provided substantial input and advice on both youth related issues and strategic questions in relation to civil society and Major Groups. Official Youth Delegates played an important role within the MGCY by bringing in government perspectives and also providing easy access to their delegation.

A summary of the policy process from the MGCY perspective is found as follows.

Table 4-1: Overview of MGCY Policy Points in the Outcome Document

MGCY Policy Points	Rio+20 Outcome Document
Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication	
<p>Reducing youth unemployment through the creation of green jobs. “Youth unemployment to be reduced through the creation of green jobs with a living wage and stronger consideration of the impact of employment policy on youth. Governments should promote young people’s role in the workforce by providing them with the appropriate skills and knowledge to improve their employability. Possible initiatives could include locally appropriate job training in the context of sustainable development, start-up capital for young entrepreneurs and apprenticeship programmes.”</p>	<p>Overview: The term “green jobs” is not significantly mentioned, but youth unemployment is addressed.</p> <p>Specifics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Green jobs’ mentioned in para 154 as “Green Jobs initiatives”, in the context of promoting but not requiring the sharing of information and knowledge for creating these ‘green job initiatives’ and decent work. • Role of the private sector, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives is emphasized within this whole process. The importance of including ‘relevant data’ in national employment policies is mentioned. The “green jobs” term was bracketed and finally included after significant youth lobbying. • Para 155 mentions sharing experiences and best practices to address underemployment and unemployment in general but specifically among young people. • Access to skills for young people is mentioned in para 152. This is done along with mentioning that governments, trade unions, workers and employers all have a role in making these skills available to young people for employment, including in emerging sectors. • Although this is not in line with MGCY’s desired position, youth unemployment has been specifically mentioned in the section in paragraphs 148,152,154,155. There is no reference to entrepreneurship and any specific commitments for a plan of action have not been mentioned.
<p>Supporting education for sustainable development to create the green economy. “Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) must equip the next</p>	<p>Overview: ESD not mentioned, but there is a section on education, including the mention of on non-formal education in a paragraph drafted and lobbied for by youth, para 231.</p>



MGCY Policy Points	Rio+20 Outcome Document
<p>generation of youth with skills, training and capacity to help create the Green Economy. ESD should be structurally integrated into the national and sub-national curricula and made accessible to all, taking into account local communities' needs. Priority should be given specifically to drastic improvements in teacher training for ESD and recognition and support for alternative forms of education, non-formal learning, online resources and peer education."</p>	<p>Specifics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 230 is the closest realization of the MGCY lobby point. It actually uses the word 'resolve' while mentioning improving the capacities of educations systems to gear them more towards pursuing sustainable development. "Green Economy" is not mentioned while talking about education and skill development. • Teacher training is specifically mentioned and so is the idea of preparing students for careers in sustainability. • Para 233 again uses the word "resolve" for promoting ESD and talks about a time horizon of and going beyond the decade of ESD. • Non-formal education is specifically mentioned. This was taken out of the text, but then reintroduced after significant youth action. There is however no reference to peer learning and online resources. • Terms like "local needs" are not mentioned but specific emphasis has been placed on developing countries' building the capacity for ESD and specifically to close the skill gap. • Liz Thompson mentioned on several occasions that sustainable development should be made a mandatory component of all degrees in institutions of higher education.
<p>An integrated approach to the conservation of species. "An integrated approach to the conservation of species and ecosystems, particularly threatened species and ecosystems, is required. Compliance with international conventions, and agreed international standards for the recording of natural resources and periodic assessment by independent authorities, in collaboration with all stakeholders. These efforts are crucial to ensuring that consumption of natural resources is below regeneration rates. Natural resource impact labeling should be mandatory for every industrial product."</p>	<p>Overview: Not sufficiently covered.</p> <p>Specifics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paras 197-204, the term "Integrated Approach to Conservations of Species" is absent. • Importance of international conventions reaffirmed. • The UN Decade on Biodiversity, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted have been given reaffirming reference. • Reiteration for the commitment to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and call for urgent actions that effectively reduce the rate of, halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity. • Stakeholder engagement mentioned, but no reference to an independent periodic assessment that includes all stakeholders. Mention of natural resource impact labeling or limiting the use of natural resources to below the regeneration rate. • Acknowledgement of the special role indigenous peoples' methods and traditional knowledge can play in preserving species and biodiversity and its link with sustainable livelihoods. • Note of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, extending an invitation to the early commencement of its work, to provide the best available policy-relevant information on biodiversity to assist decision makers.
<p>Green, fair and people-centered agriculture to promote sustainable food systems. "It is urgent to start a transition towards green, fair and people-centered agriculture that promotes a sustainable food system producing sufficient, healthy and balanced food for all and maintaining and/or enhancing ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources. Investments in rural areas should be increased to ensure decent incomes and living conditions while</p>	<p>Overview: Partly addressed in the section on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>Specifics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paras 108-118, no mention of the term "people centered agriculture". Some reference in para 118 to smallhold and women farmers in terms of encouraging their participation in local, regional and international markets. • There is no particular mention of land ownership but some reference made to the Committee on World Food Security



MGCY Policy Points	Rio+20 Outcome Document
<p>creating job opportunities for rural communities, particularly youth. Governments must protect the rights of those working and subsisting on the land and aim towards collective, decentralized ownership for sustainable, resilient and productive ecosystem management. Traditional farming and indigenous knowledge, past and present, offer a wealth of potential solutions and should be recognized as such. An outcome of Rio+20 needs to be a revitalization of vital knowledge sharing mechanisms in agriculture.”</p>	<p>Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of indigenous knowledge and saving seed practices have been mentioned, but nothing specific offered. • Reference made to nutrition while reaffirming commitments to enhancing food security and access to adequate, safe and nutritious food for present and future generations in line with the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security adopted in 2009, including for children under two, and through, as appropriate, national, regional and global food security and nutrition strategies.
<p>Strong legislative and executive actions required of governments to promote the blue economy. “Strong legislative and executive actions are required for governments to promote the sustainable development of our Blue Economy, and to avoid depletion of finite water resources and achieve long term food security for fisheries-dependent communities. Actions should include the establishment of a global network of marine protected areas and “no-take-zones”, including a moratorium on mineral exploration in the Arctic and proper mechanisms for conflict resolution over aquatic resources, with special emphasis on water. Conflict over future water availability and allocation decisions, under likely global pressures like climate change, must be recognized and addressed as a serious global threat to long-term peace and security.”</p>	<p>Overview: Term “blue economy” not mentioned. Weak outcomes on oceans.</p> <p>Specifics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeated reference made to UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Ocean acidification is talked about and action is encouraged, but no commitments made. In terms of fisheries all states are called upon to implement a Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the FAO international plans of action and technical guidelines. “No Take Zones” are not mentioned, but there is a reference in para 177 to decision X/2 of the tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, that by 2020 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are to be conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. • No reference of a moratorium on exploitation of the arctic and no mention to a mechanism for conflict resolution over aquatic resources. There are references to eliminating harmful subsidies in the fishing industry. Para 172 calls for more transparency and accountability in fisheries management by regional fisheries management organizations. Encouragement is given to making public results of independent performance reviews.
<p>Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development</p>	
<p>Calling for High Commissioners/Ombudspersons for Future Generations. “There is need to mainstream politics from within, guaranteeing that sustainable development and long-term thinking are part of decision-making processes. At all levels of governance, appointing legal representatives, High Commissioners or Ombudspersons for Future Generations that actively speak up in the name of future generations can help bring the necessary checks and balances to political systems and urge policy-makers to be cognizant about future generations.”</p>	<p>Overview: This was taken out of the text, and in the text there is only a request to produce a report about future generations (para 86). However, outside the outcome document and unrelated to the Rio+20 process, there was a last-minute announcement that the UN Secretary General will appoint a special advisor on future generations. Pending issue <i>(Note: The High Commissioner and the Special Advisor and two separate roles and not explicitly connected to each other. The MGCY delivered focused and persuasive lobbying for the inclusion of a High Commissioner, and it remained in draft text until the final round of negotiations. This would not have been the case without the work of the MGCY. Due to the determination of the Brazilian hosts to agree to all text before the arrival of government ministers for the Summit, they simply deleted those sections causing controversy (including the High Commissioner proposal). This was a great disappointment to the IFSD group but not attributable to any failings on their part.)</i></p>



MGCY Policy Points	Rio+20 Outcome Document
<p>Upgrade of UNEP. “This new, specialized agency would provide an accountability mechanism for policy makers and national ministries, coordinating all UN programs, agencies and affiliates working on initiatives related to or having an impact on environmental sustainability, including the secretariats of existing and future MEAs.”</p>	<p>Overview: Paragraph 88 covers the future of UNEP. There is agreement to strengthen and upgrade UNEP, but it did not become a specialized agency and did not get to coordinate all MEAs.</p> <p>Specifics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 88 invites the General Assembly to strengthen and upgrade UNEP, followed by a list of criteria, e.g. universal governing council membership (a), better financing (b), empowering UNEP to lead efforts to formulate UN system-wide environment strategies (c). • Para 88d calls to “consolidate headquarter functions in Nairobi, as well as strengthen its regional presence”
<p>Creation of a sustainable development council. “This should be created as a subsidiary to the UN General Assembly, with the authority to adopt legally binding decisions, seeking integration of all composing elements of Sustainable Development, at a higher political level than is currently the case within the existing UN bodies dealing with the matter. It should enshrine civil society participation, upgrading the existing CSD practices, and including representatives of Major Groups within its governance.”</p>	<p>Overview: Paragraph 85 decides that CSD will be replaced by a high-level political forum rather than a sustainable development council. It is not a subsidiary to the UNGA but placed under ECOSOC.</p> <p>Specifics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 85f encourages system-wide participation of UN agencies, funds and programs other multilateral financial/trade institutions and treaty bodies. • Paras 85f, 85g and 85j refer to improving system-wide coordination and coherence. • Para 85h refers to enhancing the consultative role and participation of major groups and other stakeholders, “while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions”. • No mandate for legally binding decisions.
<p>Enforcement mechanism for the precautionary principle. “We call for the legal recognition of the fact that industrial production and commercialization of new substances and technologies should not be authorized in the presence of a reasonable doubt regarding their potential to harm our environment or the natural capital left to our children. An insurance mechanism should obligate those taking the risks to be in the capacity to fully repair any damages intentionally or accidentally resulting from their actions.”</p>	<p>Overview: Not included. “Precautionary approach” only mentioned in two paragraphs.</p> <p>Specifics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precautionary principle not explicitly mentioned, general reaffirmation of Rio principles in Para 15 (with explicit reference to CBDR) • Reference to the precautionary approach in paras 158 and 167 (both on oceans and seas)
<p>Full and effective implementation of public participation in environmental decision-making. “This is a core principle of good governance and sustainable development. Governments need to agree to an international convention on participation rights for stakeholders, launch processes for the establishment of regional conventions with compliance mechanisms, ensure that effective participation is a key element of governance reform, and reiterate their commitments to ensure participation in national institutions.”</p>	<p>Overview: Some promising paragraphs, but it will be a future battle to get them interpreted and implemented in the best possible way.</p> <p>Specifics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neither Principle 10 nor the Aarhus convention are explicitly mentioned. • Para 99 refers to promoting access to information and public participation in environmental matters on regional, national, sub national and local levels.
<p>Intergovernmental Panel on Sustainable Development (Sciences). “This Panel would strengthen the science-policy interface by bridging the science-policy nexus and rebuilding trust in scientific advice. It would function as an umbrella organization for all international bodies dealing with sciences, with a key responsibility to design a</p>	<p>Overview: Not included, but the high-level political forum was tasked to improve the science-policy interface.</p> <p>Specifics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 48 (engaging stakeholders) commits to strengthening the science-policy interface and fostering international research collaboration on SD. • Para 76 (IFSD) refers to promoting the science-policy interface



MG CY Policy Points	Rio+20 Outcome Document
sustainable development research agenda for the 21st century through the review of relevant scientific knowledge from all strands of science.”	and strengthening participation of all countries in int’l SD processes and capacity-building for developing countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 85k outlines a HLF mandate to strengthen science-policy interface through review of documentation and a global SD report. • 88c (UNEP) refers to a strong science-policy interface.
Stronger governance of the global commons. “Rio+20 should secure immediate establishment of a transparent and participatory trusteeship for the transitional governance of the global commons until they are adequately governed by legally binding rules, based on a sense of shared responsibility and the principles of subsidiary and intergenerational equity.”	Commons not mentioned.
Creation of a World Environment Court. “Contrary to war crimes or humanity crimes, environmental crimes are often ignored. We call for the establishment of a World Environment Court to take decisions related to the non-respect of national obligations under international environmental law. This would enable us to hold states party to international environmental agreements legally accountable for their commitments.”	Overview: Not included. Specifics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 99 refers to promoting access to justice in environmental matters on regional, national, sub-national and local levels. • Paras 78, 88a, 93, 243 refer to accountability of UN institutions to Member States. • Para 238 resolves to ensure equal access to justice and legal support for women. • References to improving accountability are spread throughout the text (paras 10, 19, 78, 88a, 92, 93, 172, 228, 243, 258, 259)
Objectives and Sustainable Development Goals	
Sustainable Development Goals. “We call upon Member States to agree on a process to establish Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that recognize the changing historical and economic context since the creation of the Millennium Development Goals. Such a framework should tackle the underlying drivers of human insecurity and environmental degradation. Namely, SDGs must be deliberated through an open, transparent, and accountable process. SDGs should also build upon existing agreements such as Agenda 21, the Forest Principles, the Rio Conventions, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the draft decision on Sustainable Consumption and Production, to operationalise the interlinked nature of SDGs and to capitalize on synergies across sectors.”	Overview: Achieved Specifics: Paragraph 245-251 in Section V. Framework for action and follow-up are entitled “B. Sustainable development goals”. Not yet with well-defined process.
Water-Food-Energy-Security Nexus. “The water-food-energy-security nexus must be incorporated in the Rio+20 discussions, particularly when developing strategies for the green economy. This will promote an efficient use of resources to avoid worsening crises that impact youth and children.”	Not included
10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production. “We call for the adoption of a 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production by 2013 and ensuring its integration into policies and law by 2015.”	Achieved , however this has been adopted on a voluntary commitment.
Promotion of Conflict Resolution and Peace as preconditions for Sustainable Development. “Recalling Rio Principles 24 and 25, we call upon Member States to place special attention on the	Only one mention of peace and one mention of conflict. Paragraph 8 reaffirms the importance of peace, and paragraph 32 includes the sentence “Countries in situations of conflict also need special attention”.



MGCY Policy Points	Rio+20 Outcome Document
<p>relationship between peace, conflict resolution and sustainable development in the Rio+20 Outcome Document. We specifically call for text that addresses the immediate and enduring effects of armed conflict on sustainable development, with special attention on related conditions that pose severe threats to children and youth. We further call for the active participation of all stakeholders, especially children and youth, in peace-building.”</p>	
<p>Human Rights Approach. “We call upon Member States to protect the existing Human Rights agreements in any green economy framework or new participatory structures for sustainable development. While equitable and universal access to natural resources and meeting of basic needs are fundamental, the Rio+20 Outcome Document must reaffirm the Human Rights approach.”</p>	<p>Mentions of human rights were included in the introductory section of the text and in 6 paragraphs in total. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was reaffirmed (para. 8 and para. 9). Reproductive rights, however, were removed from the text.</p>

4.2.3 MGCY Statements

An MGCY Speech Writing Committee was established in line with the processes detailed in the MGCY’s Organisation of Work. Officially, all Major Groups only had one official speaking slot: Opening Statement for the High-Level Segment of Rio+20. Once the statement had been developed, containing a balance between policy points and a call to action, a young person was selected to deliver it. The official MGCY Opening Statement was read by Karuna Rana (24) from Mauritius. The text of the statement can be found at www.uncsdchildrenyouth.org and the delivery can be viewed at <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/watch/representative-of-the-children-and-youth-major-group-opening-of-the-conference-1st-plenary-meeting-rio20/1698978204001>. The statement was well received.

The Major Group also delivered a statement at a meeting with the Major Groups and the Co-Chairs of Rio+20 during the Third Prep Comm. The statement expressed disappointment with the negotiations thus far, but emphasized that it would still be possible to achieve an action-oriented outcome if there was stronger collaboration between civil society and Major Groups. The statement, delivered by Organising Partner Saba Loftus, highlighted the 10 Year Framework for SCP, the integration of formal and non-formal education for sustainable development, and the Ombudsperson for Future Generation as key initiatives that needed to be incorporated into the negotiations.

The Major Groups had the unique opportunity of a meeting with UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon. Major Groups were able to address the Secretary General and due to limited time, the nine Major Groups were clustered into three groups that developed combined statements, thus three statements were delivered in total. These statements were developed through consultation and collaboration with other Major Groups, finding points of solidarity and specific emphasis. The MGCY worked with the NGOs and Farmers Major Groups and developed a statement focused on food security and food rights. The statement was delivered by MGCY representative Olimar Maisonet-Guzman.

The MGCY also delivered a statement at the fourth High Level Round Table, under the discussion on ‘Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference’. Delivered by Harriet Thew of WAGGGS, the statement expressed the disappointment of the MGCY in the outcomes of the Conference, urging member states to take action regarding green jobs, reproductive rights and Ombudsperson for Future Generations.

During the final days of Rio+20, the MGCY was under the impression that Major Groups would be given the opportunity to address Member States in the Closing Ceremony. The Speech Writing Committee developed

a passionate statement, one that reflected the disappointment in the outcomes of the Conference, but also conveyed a willingness to move forward, decisively and with action. Upon learning that Major Groups did not have a speaking slot, Organising Partner Kiara Worth delivered the statement at the final Major Groups meeting as a reflection of the MGCY’s involvement and opinion on the entire Rio+20 process. The statement was well received, receiving a standing ovation from all Major Groups, and the statement was swiftly adopted to represent all of civil society. While the lack of civil society representation in the Closing Ceremony was said to be ‘due to time’, UNDESA made every effort to have the statement read on behalf of all civil society, thereby reducing the time required. After much negotiation, the Major Groups were denied from having the statement read. In response to this, the MGCY addressed media on the events and delivered the statement as part of live interviews. Extensive discussions also occurred on Twitter and Facebook with youth taking action locally in support of the voice of civil society. Some media coverage of this statement can be found at:

- <http://vimeo.com/44530167>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=nSVLMHhMKQw

All MGCY Statements delivered at Rio+20 can be found at <http://www.uncsdchildrenyouth.org/pages/ourmgcydocuments.html>.

4.2.4 Side Events

The MGCY was involved in a number of side events throughout Rio+20. These are as follows.

Table 4-2: Overview of MGCY participation in side events

Side Event	Details
WAGGGS: Youth led solutions to sustainable development	Side event was aimed at providing practical examples of how young people have taken action for sustainable development. Organised and hosted by WAGGGS, the Worldwide Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, key discussions included the need for an Ombudsperson for Future Generations, youth participation, youth organisations and local and international action. With a key focus on education, the side event was a great success and marked a key step in attaining broader support for youth-led solutions to sustainable development. Speakers included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 UNICEF representative • 2 members of MGCY, Alice Vincent (World Future Council) and Lloyd Russel-Moyle (ICMYO and European Youth Forum representative) • 3 members of WAGGGS
Sri Lanka: Enabling Youth participation in bridging Rio+20 Outcomes Beyond 2015	Side event was aimed at bringing together a large number of people to discuss opportunities for collaboration and cooperation in bridging the outcomes of Rio+20 into post-2015 discussions. The World Youth Conference to be hosted by Sri Lanka in 2014 was a key focal area, as well as drawing on experiences from the MGCY Youth Blast and the important role of youth organisations internationally. Speakers included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-HABITAT • Minister for Youth of Sri Lanka • Head of Youth Office in Mexico • Organising Partners of MGCY Kiara Worth and Ivana Savic • ICMYO and European Youth Forum representative Lloyd Russell-Moyle • Beyond 2015 Campaign representative Bernadette Fischer
Beyond Rio+20: A Global Youth Movement on Sustainable Development	The MGCY, AEGEE and Peace Child International hosted a side event to discuss the global youth movement after Rio+20, with the discussion focused on how young people can work together, in collaboration with other stakeholders, as a follow up to the summit. Speakers included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Nabarro – UN Secretary General’s Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition • Janez Potocnik – European Commissioner for the Environment • Jan-Willem Scheijgrond – Senior Director Environment, Health & Safety, Philips



	<p>Corporate Sustainability Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicolo Wojewoda – Director, Road to Rio+20 • Olimar E. Maisonet-Guzman – Rio+20 Facilitator, Major Group for Children and Youth - UNCSD • A Representative of Greenpeace <p>More detailed information can be found at: http://www.roadtorioplus20.org/beyond_rio_20_a_global_youth_movement_for_sustainable_development</p>
<p>What will be the Rio+20 Legacy?</p>	<p>MGCY in association with GCCA held a debate at the People’s Summit in Flamengo Park to discuss what the legacy of Rio+20 would be. It was essentially an intergenerational dialogue on sustainability involving various sections of youth and civil society as to how the unresolved or unaddressed issues of sustainable development goals would be carried forward after Rio+20. Participants included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith leader • Sustainable development campaign veteran from Uganda • Youth leader Andrea Carafa • Indigenous Interests Representative • Non-formal educator from Girl Guides Australia, Alison Hooper • Child delegate – Kehkashan Basu • The discussion was moderated by Luciano Frontelle of MGCY <p>Further information can be found at http://beyond2015.org.</p>
<p>My World on the Planet</p>	<p>MGCY representative Kehkashan Basu participated in a social integration activity involving children and youth residing in Rio’s favelas. A discussion was on sustainability was organised at the Morro da babilonia favela. The discussion brought together the favela children with select MGCY representatives to discuss how attain and practice sustainable living across all sections of civil society. The importance of education as a stepping stone to SDG was stressed.</p>
<p>Which decisions have to be taken now and by whom to create sustainable cities by 2030?</p>	<p>MGCY participated at a side event promoted by ICLEI together with the World Future Council, Sweden, World Business Council on Sustainable Development, World Resources Institute and WWF. The event created a dialogue around the main question: Which decisions have to be taken now and by whom in order to create a sustainable city by 2030?</p> <p>The speakers were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Cadman, ICLEI President • Philippe Joubert, Senior Advisor, WBCSD • Staffan Tillander, Swedish Ambassador for Rio+20 • Herbert Girardet, Co-Founder, World Future Council • Manish Bapna, Acting President, World Resources Institute • Lasse Gustavsson, International Executive Director of Conservation, WWF • Luciano Frontelle, Rio+20 Youth Delegate (MGCY) <p>A full article about the side event, written by the World Future Council, can be found here: http://bit.ly/M0Lkw1</p>
<p>Green Cross International: Action to Face the Urgent Realities of Climate Change</p>	<p>This event was held to launch the Statement on "Action to Face the Urgent Realities of Climate Change" by the Climate Change Taskforce of Green Cross International. The Statement, released by the Climate Change Task Force, was also accompanied by a call on world leaders and delegates of Rio+20 to take action against climate change as a pre-condition to achieving progress towards sustainable economic and social development.</p> <p>The speakers were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rajendra Pachauri, Chairperson Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (watch the video here) • Alexander Likhotal, President, Green Cross International (GCI) • Ashok Khosla, President, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) • Bill Becker, Climate policy, Sustainable Development expert, Future We Want • Martin Lees, Rector Emeritus, UN University for Peace, former UN Assistant

	<p>Secretary-General for Science and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martha Delgado, Minister of Environment, Mexico City, representing Marcelo Ebrard, Mayor of Mexico City and Chair of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change • Konrad Otto-Zimmermann, Secretary General, ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability • Fabio Leite, Deputy Director representing Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General, United Nations International Telecommunications Union • Wen Jia Hoe and Brendan Coolsaet, representatives of the MGCY
<p>Youth 21: Building for Change – High Level Panel on establishing a United Nations Permanent Forum on Youth Issues</p>	<p>The MGCY, partnering with UN-HABITAT and the governments of Brazil, Norway and Sri Lanka co-hosted Youth 21: Building for Change side-event. The event was a High Level Panel to discuss the setting up of a United Nations Permanent Forum on Youth Issues to enhance youth engagement in the United Nations system. The High Level meeting brought together representatives from Governments, Youth Councils, UN Agencies and Youth-led Organizations for an intense day of discussions and negotiations. The day started with representatives from National Youth Councils from Brazil, Norway, Sri Lanka and Mozambique presenting their views on the establishment of the Forum, followed by a big brainstorming session with the young people there on the structure and the process we should follow in establishing this Permanent Forum. This session was led by the MGCY, represented by Ivana Savic and Joao Scarpelini, and produced a series of key recommendations that were later presented to the government representatives. The afternoon the High-Level Panel was reserved for Member States and High-level Officials from the UN system. Attended the event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Gilberto Carvalho, Minister of the Presidency of Brazil, Government of Brazil • Mr. Heikki Holmås, Minister for International Development in Norway • H.E. Duminda Dissanayake, Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and Skills Development in Sri Lanka • H.E. Severine Macedo, National Secretary for Youth Affairs of Brazil and the Incoming Chair Special Meeting on Youth, MERCOSUR • Mr. Ricardo Araujo, Director, Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth, Government of Portugal • Mr. Luis Felipe San Martín Porter, National Director, National Youth Institute, Minister of Social Development, Government of Chile • among other government representatives as well as high-level officials from UN-HABITAT and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs <p>The meeting ended with an outcome document "Towards establishing a Permanent Forum for Youth". The Outcome document was supported by the Governments of Brazil, Norway and Sri Lanka as well as endorsed by the governments present on the panel.</p>
<p>World Cafe</p>	<p>A 'World Café' was hosted by members of the MGCY, with the vision of bringing people from diverse cultural backgrounds together to explore visions of a sustainable world. Focused on overcoming miscommunication and conflict, the workshop was a café style, offering participants the opportunity to share their vision of the future over a cup of coffee with friends. Using creative techniques such as image theatre, participants were able to integrate a variety of cultural norms and behaviours to create a common vision of the Future We Want.</p>





MGCY youth participating in a variety of Rio+20 Side Events

4.2.5 Youth Actions

While the MGCY was engaged in the formal processes of Rio+20, there was also a great movement towards demonstrating their position and beliefs through ‘actions’ within Rio Centro. These actions included demonstrations and flash mobs that were aimed at visually communicating to member states what needed to be included in the outcome document and to place pressure on negotiators to ensure the voice of civil society was included.

With a variety of beliefs from the youth, the MGCY coordinated all activities in an attempt to find unity in diversity and to respect the varying forms of tactics that youth wanted to use. The MGCY worked closely with UNDESA and UN Security to ensure that the maximum amount of actions could take place – all youth wanting to do actions had to submit a request to the Organising Partners, which was then communicated to UN Security and negotiated until they were allowed to transpire, ensuring that all demonstrations remained respectful of the processes, yet also highlighted the need for stronger commitment and action. All actions were constructive, non-violent, non-discriminatory, respectful of the process, people’s culture, religion and safety. The actions were an effective way of communicating beliefs and influencing the negotiation process.

Table 4-3: Overview of MGCY Actions at Rio+20

Action	Description
SCP action	A group within the MGCY was strongly advocating for the outcome document to reflect the need for the programmes of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP). Banners with “I (heart) SCP” were painted, at up to 10 youth stood outside of the negotiating rooms on several occasions holding the signs and handing out leaflets on information that expanded on their position.
SD Needs Peace	A group within the MGCY was strongly advocating for the outcome document to reflect the impact that conflict has on sustainable development, through using the tag phrase ‘SD NEEDS PEACE’. Banners with this phrase were painted, at up to 10 youth stood outside of the negotiating rooms on several occasions holding the signs and handing out leaflets on information that expanded on their position.



Action	Description
<p>Save our Say: High Commissioner for Future Generations</p>	<p>One of the key lobby points of the IFSD Task Force was the call for a high commissioner for future generations. During the negotiations, all reference to future generations was deleted and the youth decided to visually show their disappointment. A small group of people painted signs in the shape of people and wrote the words ‘Save our Say: High Commissioner for Future Generations’ across them. These signs, along with the lobby points of the MGCY, were placed throughout various spaces within Rio Centro, creating a striking, noticeable image of the future generations that were being omitted from the discussions. In addition, several demonstrations took place outside of the negotiating rooms where up to 20 youth stood in silence, with tape covering their mouths to demonstrate how their voices had been silenced, holding the signs about the High Commissioner for Future Generations. These demonstrations were extremely effective and comments from various people included that the ‘youth should keep the pressure up’. These demonstrations were supported through social media sites, including Facebook and Twitter to try and increase their impact.</p>
<p>Rio+Veg</p>	<p>This action, organized by Rio+Veg, was aimed at raising awareness about the importance of reducing meat consumption. Despite all the environmental, ethical, social and health problems related to meat consumption and production, this issue was considered overlooked in all environmental conferences to date. With members of Rio+Veg dressed up in a variety of animal costumes, they were stationed outside of the negotiating rooms and distributed flyers about the need for reducing meat consumption.</p>
<p>Our Red Line</p>	<p>A broad coalition of civil society groups came together in the Rio+20 conference center to lay out the “red-line” commitments they are demanding from their government representatives at Rio+20. ‘Redline’ is a term used by negotiators in the UN to describe things they are not willing to compromise. Wearing red and holding signs stating their most basic demands, such as the rights to water, rights to food, and the right to have a voice, the people came together to form a human red line to greet delegates as they entered the first plenary of the high level negotiations. The goal of the action was to echo the real-life red lines of communities outside the conference center and around the world that are being stepped on, to amplify the voice of those who are calling for a life of dignity but are being ignored. Ironically, the UN security did not allow the protesters to voice their concerns in any form of chant.</p> <p>The activists were trying to call on governments to make their decisions based on protecting and implementing basic principles for life, including Justice, Rights, Equity and the Earth’s integrity. However silently, they were telling governments that if they cross this bottom line, civil society will regard Rio+20 as a failure both in process and content.</p> <p>The People’s Red Line action aimed to be inclusive of all peoples, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, sexuality, affiliation, title, status or profession. In an attempt to bring a wide range of voices from around the globe together, it was also held in the People’s Summit space and around the globe using the #redline hash tag.</p>

Action	Description
<p>Silent Space</p>	<p>This action brought people together to spend time collectively in silence (about 20 minutes) before the day's negotiations began, creating a space for mindfulness, prayer and peace. The time was used to reflect on the message youth wanted to carry through the day, visualize the Future We Want, pray for a better world, make a silent protest or just being in a silent space. The action concluded with the sharing of experiences, bringing more mindfulness and reflection to the negotiations, focusing on what is positive and possible.</p>
<p>Fossil of the Day</p>	<p>Organised by Avaaz, the Fossil of the Day Award is notorious at sustainability conferences for being a satirical rendition of negotiations, where key countries are 'awarded' for helping to destruct the planet. This action attracted hundreds of people daily and a number of countries were 'shamed' through this humorous action. More information about Fossil of the Day can be found at http://www.fossil-of-the-day.org/. On the final day of Rio+20, instead of 'naming and shaming' a country, the Fossil of the Day awarded a gift to the country of Bhutan, in recognition of their efforts to include youth and their initiative to restructure national economies through the Gross National Happiness Index. As a gift of respect, the Fossil of the Day presented one of the MGCY banners from the Future We Want Exhibition space which was warmly received by the delegation.</p>
<p>End Fossil Fuel Subsidies Flash Mob</p>	<p>Organised by Human Impacts Institute, a flash mob action was initiated to end fossil fuel subsidies. Part of their communication was, "Nearly \$1 trillion is being given out to fossil fuel subsidies each year for the continued exploitation of our planet's natural resources. If we are to begin growing a green economy and investing in sustainable development, we must stop giving handouts to some of the richest companies on the planet. Governments need to show their support for sustainable development by phasing out fossil fuel subsidies completely and investing more in renewable alternatives. We are calling upon world leaders to commit at Rio+20 to phasing out fossil fuel subsidies by 2020 and to creating an international body to facilitate, monitor, and enforce the process of ending fossil fuel subsidies." The flash mob brought together more than 100 young people who, through a rehearsed action, displayed banners, costumes and artwork in support of ending fossil fuel subsidies.</p>
<p>Negotiations Moving Backwards</p>	<p>A number of youth felt that the negotiations were moving backwards, creating a weaker outcome document than had been developed at Earth Summit '92 and one that did not reflect the urgency of the present day situation. In response to this, they created a simple but effective action where youth were continuously walking through the plenaries backwards. A large number of people responded to it, finding the correlation between walking backwards and the impending negotiations.</p>
<p>The Weight of our Future</p>	<p>A number of youth felt that negotiators were not 'feeling the weight of the future' when making important decisions regarding the text. To demonstrate this, a small group of youth brought bags into Rio Centro that they dragged around the plenaries, acting as if they were exceptionally heavy, with a small label on the bag saying 'We carry the weight of the future. Do you?' and similar comments. This was another simple action that had great visual effect.</p>

Action	Description
People vs Polluters Tug of War	Avaaz organized a tug of war in Rio Centro between ‘people’ and ‘polluters’, to indicate the struggle between large oil companies and people who are affected by these decisions. In this mock tug-of-war, an impersonation of Brazilian President Dilma acted as the referee.
The Future We Bought	Youth led action, with support from the NGO Major Group, to demonstrate their disappointment in the Outcome Document of Rio+20. Done in a semi-theatrical skit, youth representatives in suits held up a mock outcome document entitled ‘The Future We Bought’ and after stating their disappointment, ceremoniously ripped up the document to the cheers of supporters.



MGCY youth participating in a variety of Youth Actions, including SD Needs Peace, Our Red Line, Save our Say, Fossil of the Day, the Future We Bought, People vs Polluters, End Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Rio+Veg

On 21 June 2012, a number of youth walked out of Rio Centro and the negotiations to demonstrate their feelings on what they viewed as a ‘failed process’. The action was not ‘approved’ or condoned by the MGCY, but started as the ‘Future We Bought’ action, as mentioned above, that was sanctioned by UN Security. Towards the end, the action turned into a protest. During a raucous demonstration that saw hundreds of young people and supporters occupying space between the plenary halls, speeches and testimonials were made about views on the negotiations and Rio+20 as a whole.

"World leaders have delivered something that fails to move the world forward from the first Rio summit, showing up with empty promises at Rio+20," said Miariana Calderon, a young woman from California. "This text is a polluters' plan, and unless people start listening to the people, history will remember it as a failure for the people and the planet." Protestors were also disappointed that the Outcome Document was finalized before the arrival of the more than 150 world leaders and ministers who they feel should have demonstrated more political commitment to the achieving sustainability. Eleven-year-old Ta'Kaiya Blaney of the Sliammon nation, an indigenous group from British Columbia, sang to the gathering and appealed for action. "What are we going to leave for future generations? There'll be no environment left without change. It needs to come not tomorrow, but today."

As the protest continued, UN Security wanted protesters removed from the building, with the cancellation of their accreditation passes, considering it an ‘unsanctioned action’. While the MGCY helped to facilitate negotiations between Security and the protesting youth, the group eventually decided to walk out of the building, handing in their passes and marching to a chant of ‘the future we want is not found here’. The MGCY also helped to facilitate transport for the protesters so they were able to leave the venue after the walk out and reposition themselves with the People’s Summit. Coverage of the protest can be found at:

- <http://vimeo.com/44625148>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=FRJws0xIDyU&noredirect=1



Youth Walk Out

The response of the MGCY to the action is two-fold, a sentiment shared with the UNDESA Major Groups Coordinator. While the need to demonstrate is understood, and it is commendable that such a large number of people supported the demonstration, the manner in which it was done did not help to further advance the role of civil society nor the negotiation process. The main concern was that the action had not been planned with UN Security, UNDESA and the MGCY, thus disrespecting the process of civil society participation in the Conference. While the action was undertaken by a few, it has broader consequences for the participation of civil society and there is a threat that certain organisations will no longer be able to gain accreditation to similar negotiations.

On the other hand, it is the role of civil society to constantly put pressure on governments to respect the voices of their people, and in some ways the demonstration did that. With the support that it quickly garnered, it was a prime media attraction and the disappointment of the Conference was adequately conveyed to the world. However, no forward action for how to rectify the situation was within the action, thus it could also be viewed as another demonstration that does not have significant substance. There are a variety of views held regarding the importance of and effectiveness of the walk out that serves for an interesting debate.

During the final day of the Conference, police presence was considerably higher than on previous days. Ranks of police lined the main entrance and armed troops patrolled the perimeters of the venue. No further youth actions were allowed to take place in Rio Centro.

4.2.6 Exhibition Spaces

The MGCY made full use of all exhibition opportunities at Rio Centro. Major Groups were allocated three exhibition spaces at the Major Groups Pavilion. To ensure maximum representation of different youth initiatives, a roster was developed for the 10 days of Rio+20, and three youth initiatives or organisations were featured each day. Located in a busy thoroughfare, the exhibition space was well positioned to attract attention and was a good way of furthering the understanding of youth participation in the sustainability processes.

The MGCY also had the unique opportunity of a 40m exhibition space in the main corridor of Rio Centro, the entrance way leading to all the negotiating halls. The Future We Want campaign contacted the MGCY prior to Rio+20 indicating they had exhibition space that they wanted to use to promote youth participation. Thrilled at the opportunity, the MGCY made plans to develop a series of paintings and artwork at the Youth Blast that could then be displayed in the exhibition space. In addition, in the centre of the exhibition space, the MGCY would create a ‘vision tree’, a tree made of sticky notes with messages of the ‘future we want’ written by all delegates at Rio. The exhibition space was a huge success and swiftly became one of the main attractions in Rio Centro, used as a gathering point for actions and a prime media spot for interviews and discussions. To build the vision tree, the MGCY organized youth volunteers to be stationed at a table in front of the exhibition space for all the days of the Conference. These youth would engage with fellow delegates and invite them to write their thoughts on the sticky notes, which would be added to the colourful vision of the ‘future we want’. One of the most interesting things about the exhibit was that it was completely organic. While the rest of Rio Centro was equipped with professional framing and hi-tech media equipment, the MGCY exhibition was almost entirely hand-made and it included the delegates at Rio to be involved in its creation.



The Future We Want and MGCY Exhibition Space, with the Vision Tree, in Rio Centro



4.2.7 Engagement with Media

The MGCY was extensively involved with local and international media over the days of the Conference. Following from the high media coverage at the Youth Blast, various Brazilian networks interviewed MGCY members at the Conference to follow up on the progress of youth participation.

The MGCY was also formally involved in media briefings with the Major Groups. Organised by Earth Media, 10 briefing sessions were held, involving six Major Groups at each briefing, allowing civil society to express their opinions and concerns to international media. The MGCY participated in three of these briefings, outlining MGCY policy positions on various topics and providing overall reflections on events.

The MGCY participated in a Major Group's luncheon with journalists at Rio+20 where representatives from all Major Groups were able to voice their thoughts and perspectives on the state of negotiations. The MGCY outlined key policy points, recognizing those that had been achieved, while expressing disappointment at the overall lack of ambition that the outcome document text reflected. Two key experts from the MGCY representing the Green Economy and IFSD Task Forces were also present at the briefing to provide further information.

The MGCY also was invited by CNN International to be part of their feature "Road to Rio: Green City Journey" show, hosted by the special correspondent Philippe Cousteau. Joao Felipe Scarpelini, from Brazil represented the MGCY in the expert panel that discussed with Helen Clark (UNDP Administrator and former Prime Minister of New Zealand) and Jim Leape (WWF International Director General).

The show produced 3 feature pieces:

- CNN International at the Road to Rio Show: Rio+20, Empowering Women.
- <http://edition.cnn.com/video/?/video/international/2012/07/02/road-rio-earth-summit-20-c.cnn>
- CNN International at the Road to Rio Show: Rio+20, Progress in the Private Sector
- <http://edition.cnn.com/video/?/video/international/2012/07/02/road-rio-earth-summit-20-b.cnn>
- CNN International at the Road to Rio Show: Rio+20, Managing World Resources
<http://edition.cnn.com/video/#/video/international/2012/07/02/road-rio-earth-summit-20-a.cnn>

These features were aired 12 times in the international CNN schedule between 5 and 16 July 2012.

The MGCY media team was also active through Rio+20, tracking articles and media coverage on youth. Youth received thousands of mentions in media around the world, ranging from large, well-known newspapers and television to small, local radio stations and blogs in their home cities. A sample of tracked articles can be found in Appendix C.

The MGCY also spearheaded social media coverage on Rio+20. In coordination with the IISD Reporting Services, MGCY promoted a curated twitter feed - @RioPlus20RT - that provided hand-picked and real time updates from twitter related to Rio+20 negotiations and surrounding activity.

Other media statements made by the MGCY can be found at:

- <http://vimeo.com/44360621>

5.0 OVERALL OUTCOMES AND REFLECTIONS OF RIO+20

Often the question is asked, what did this conference achieve? Were there actually concrete outcomes or was it just another talk? The answer depends on your perspective and the MGCY provides consideration on the various aspects of Rio+20 and its processes.



5.1 Official Rio+20 Outcomes

Rio+20 essentially developed a 49-page non-binding document entitled ‘The Future We Want’, and in it, the heads of state of the 192 governments in attendance ‘renewed’ their political commitment to sustainable development and ‘declared their commitment’ to the promotion of a sustainable future. The document largely reaffirms previous action plans like Agenda 21.

Many young people expressed deep disappointment with the official outcomes of Rio+20, feeling that governments had betrayed them and that the Conference was a failure. The biggest criticisms are that the Outcome Document has few actions and commitments, is non-binding, fails to promise resources for sustainability, and does not reflect the urgency with which these issues need to be addressed. There is felt to be an imbalance between the three pillars of sustainable development, and for those who fear that we are rising towards a tipping point beyond which the damage to our environment and ecosystems is truly irreversible, the document is far from offering comfort.

When the final text was released, MGCY reacted with alarm and pushed for it to not be accepted in its weak condition. When it became obvious that delegations would not reopen negotiations but saw this as a ‘take-it-or-leave-it’ situation, MGCY discussed internally whether it would be better or worse to have no agreement at all. The High-Level Segment saw protests by disappointed youth activists, and the MGCY closing statement declares the MGCY’s disappointment in the Conference, addressing member states in the closing statement saying, “You were supposed to show leadership. It was not just your job to seek consensus. It was your responsibility to commit, show ambition and to lead. You have failed.”

The MGCY’s closing statement was quoted in the IISD’s final reflections on the Conference stating:

“In a final statement to a meeting of Major Groups at Rio+20, the Children and Youth presented their judgment on the deliberations that failed to inspire them. They told the government delegations: “We came here to celebrate our generation. We have danced, and dreamed and loved on the streets of Rio and found something to believe in. You have chosen not to celebrate with us.” It was a feature of Rio+20 that this youthful, radical and always hopeful challenge coincided in many ways with insights of The Elders of the Rio process.”

Despite disappointment in the Outcome Document, there were a number of policy successes for civil society as a whole, and for the MGCY specifically. These included:

- **Importance of civil society is integrated and emphasized throughout the Outcome Document.** The language clearly indicates a desire to work more closely with Major Groups and other stakeholders engaging them in decision-making, planning and implementation of sustainable development. Reference to Major Groups is made in paragraphs 43, 55, 76, 84, and 85.
- **Inclusion of non-formal education in the Outcome Document.** This became reality in paragraph 231 that reads “We encourage Member States to promote sustainable development awareness among youth, inter alia by promoting programmes for non-formal education in accordance with the goals of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005-2014.”
- **Agreement on a process to establish Sustainable Development Goals.** The MGCY advocated for Member States to agree on a process to establish Sustainable Development Goals that recognize the changing historical and economic context since the creation of the Millennium Development Goals. While the process is not well-defined, a framework was established as stated in paragraph 245-251 in Section V. Framework for action and follow-up are entitled “B. Sustainable development goals”.

Also within the Outcome Document is the decision to “establish a universal intergovernmental High-Level Political Forum that will build on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replace the Commission. The high-level political forum shall follow up on the implementation of sustainable development and should



avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner” (para 84). This Forum is expected to first convene at the beginning of the sixty-eighth session of the UN General Assembly in September 2013. The establishment of this Forum provides an opportunity for the MGCY to further engage in the sustainability negotiations, and to share lessons learned and experiences to continuously strengthen the process.

5.2 Non-Official Outcomes

While the Outcome Document of Rio+20 was an important aspect of the work of Rio+20, it was by no means limited to this. The broader scope of the MGCY is to advance the participation of young people in the sustainability processes, both through being a credible actor in the negotiations and through broadening outreach, and the MGCY had successful outcomes in both regards.

Rio+20 was far more than just the Outcome Document. Throughout the days of Rio+20, a festival of sustainable development-related activities took place, involving hundreds of youth sharing knowledge and experiences and positively contributing to the sustainable development discussion. Many of the world’s leading proponents of sustainability spent considerable time in side events, offering an opportunity for learning and growth. Voluntary agreements were entered into by governments, NGOs, and Major Groups – while governments only accounted 7% of these commitments, there was an overwhelming recognition that sustainable development cannot be achieved by governments alone, and that inclusion of civil society and other stakeholders is vital.

The MGCY participated in all available entry points into Rio+20, gathering support for youth-related policy, side events, exhibition spaces, speaking slots, negotiations, actions, and much more. All these activities worked to build a stronger youth movement for sustainability, with individuals and organisations working collaboratively and building relationships that will positively lead into the future. Thousands of young people who were not previously aware of the global debates on sustainable development have gained their own entry point and are becoming more involved, while longstanding youth leaders have become even more committed to the cause.

Rio+20 also helped to reflect on structures that ensure the greater participation of young people in the post-Rio+20 activities. While internal UN youth structures were not specifically in communication with each other, the processes building up to and at Rio+20 helped to reach across borders and consolidate activities, building partnerships and increase understanding.

On the whole, Rio+20 was a great success for the MGCY, helping to foster positive relationships, critique global policy, build understanding and awareness across diverse groups of people, and building the momentum for a stronger youth movement to achieve sustainability.

6.0 LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There was a wealth of lessons learned in the whole experience that was Rio+20. While the MGCY was successful in many regards, there were also areas that could have been improved. The following table seeks to highlight some of the key experiences and lessons learned in the hope it will further improve the MGCY’s own functioning and provide consideration for other youth embarking on similar work.

Table 6-1: Overview of Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Experience	Lessons Learned and Recommendations
Preparations	
<p>While the MGCY discussed a Rio+20 Strategy extensively and developed several drafts, a comprehensive document outlining goals, objectives and actions for achieving this was not developed. Various Task Forces and Working Groups within the MGCY developed their own objectives and core strategies, but this was never fully accomplished for the group of the whole. In some ways this allowed the MGCY to organically develop, but for the most part it hampered preparations and activities.</p>	<p>For an event of this scale, a clear strategy outlining goals, objectives and modes of operation would have been very important, as it could have created a clear guideline for the core objectives of the MGCY. Some of the challenges in developing the strategy included limited human resources, differences in opinion as to whether a strategy was needed/already broadly existed, varying beliefs on the goals and objectives within Rio+20. More time should have been spent on developing such a strategy document, as it would have garnered greater support for activities, helped to sustain workload preparations, and been clearly communicable to young people around the world, thus advancing their participation. It is recommended that in preparation for such an engagement in the future, time be spent on developing such a strategy to support later activities, aimed at creating a common objective for all participants.</p>
<p>Limited participant knowledge of and prior engagement with the MGCY, the UN-CSD and Rio+20 processes</p>	<p>With the scale of Rio+20, a significant amount of young people were new to the process, and had no prior understanding or knowledge of the CSD structures and processes, including the MGCY. There was limited knowledge of what the MGCY is, what its objectives are, and how people could get involved. Certain assumptions were made from the MGCY that this knowledge was more commonly understood, leading to miscommunication and occasional frustration. The importance of capacity building is crucial, both for the thematic aspects of sustainability, and for the internal structures that guide them. Greater emphasis should have been placed on building knowledge around the MGCY and the internal processes to better allow people to fully engage. While effort was made to have this as a component of the MGCY Capacity Building working group, and some overview information was available, it was not emphasised enough. Greater information should have been readily available, in a multitude of languages, to better inform people. A series of preparatory capacity building workshops would have been beneficial.</p>
<p>Limited resources and funding provided challenges in sustaining activities and ensuring the participation of young people.</p>	<p>The MGCY operated on almost no funding to coordinate all activities. All MGCY members served as volunteers and activities were limited to those that youth could either secure or provide. While on the whole it is remarkable that the MGCY was able to achieve what it did without resources, a number of activities could have been vastly improved had adequate resources been available. In terms of social media, the MGCY struggled with finances to build websites and develop on-line platforms, and only received support for this well into the preparatory processes. With key organisers also using their own resources to action tasks, human capacity was somewhat limited. Should the MGCY – and the role of civil society at large – be viewed as an integral part of the negotiations for the UN, then adequate funding should be made available in this regard. While UNDESA</p>

Experience	Lessons Learned and Recommendations
	<p>did coordinate the availability of funds on several occasions, such as providing funding for Major Group participants to attend meetings, this funding was limited and often delayed, thus increasing the challenge of ensuring youth participation. One of the key challenges for the MGCY is the ability to sustain activities and a more reliable and consistent set of resources would better enable the group to do this.</p>
<p>Dealing with the complexity of thematic discussions, and balancing MGCY policy points with personal beliefs.</p>	<p>The themes of Rio+20 were challenging in themselves, condensing a series of very complex issues into two very broad themes. The themes were generally too large to manage effectively within a single task force, a feeling that was shared with many stakeholders, and there was often overlap between themes. In addition, it was difficult for task force facilitators to balance the interests of individuals in both understanding the topics and developing policy amendments, and the need to focus on specific subjects to stay relevant with the debates. Despite being presented with these challenges, the task forces were very successful in their policy engagement, creating a small but focused teams of youth who were able to effectively negotiate and engage in the process. Task forces had good regional and gender representation. The task forces also had committed individuals who were experts in particular fields, and understood the topics and process enough to effectively follow and engage in the negotiations, thus ensuring their successful participation at Rio+20.</p>
Communications and Social Media	
<p>Using on-line platforms and social media to strengthen the activities of the MGCY was done successfully.</p>	<p>Despite the limited resources available to the MGCY, they were able to make good use of free and available on-line and social media platforms to inspire action. The MGCY effectively used shared notepads to draft statements, letters, position papers and others, allowing all interested youth access to MGCY resources. A variety of conference call platforms were used to coordinate calls, mobilise groups and set actions in this place. At various points throughout Rio+20 preparations, other stakeholders such as Major Groups and government delegations, commended the MGCY on their use of social media to participate in the discussions. At numerous times, the MGCY shared these techniques with stakeholders to help build civil society's engagement in the process. While much of this work could have been better and more consistently coordinated through secured resources, the MGCY did an excellent job of using resources to mobilise young people as much as possible.</p>
<p>While a communications team did exist within the MGCY, communications about MGCY activities could have been vastly improved, both internally and externally, allowing for the greater participation of young people.</p>	<p>Communication is vital for any undertaking such as this and great efforts need to be made towards securing a strong communications team. There were a number of challenges with the MGCY communication team for Rio+20. Key facilitators of the team were actively involved in other components of MGCY work and while this was beneficial in terms of access to information, there were often time constraints for managing activities. There was also limited communications experience within the team and</p>



Experience	Lessons Learned and Recommendations
	<p>members spent significant time trying to learn tools rather than being immediately able to use them. While a communications strategy existed, there was great difficulty in effecting this strategy – one of the core challenges faced in all aspects of the group: the challenge lay not in the conceptual thinking, but in the implementation. This was also the case for internal communication: while processes were established to receive regular feedback from all teams through the Facilitation Team, this was harder in implementation than had been anticipated. With often the same people involved in a variety of activities, regular updates did not always work and were not always well structured. It is recommended that similar initiatives develop a strong communications strategy and regular processes to ensure its actualization.</p>
Internal Organisation	
<p>A core objective of the MGCY is to increase the participation of young people from the global south and in many ways were successful in doing this. However, a number of the internal structures and facilitation roles (task forces and working groups) were heavily Western-dominated and there was difficulty in securing the regular involvement of people from the global south.</p>	<p>One of the key challenges in encouraging participation of the global south is resources. The global south is notorious for having difficulties in accessing steady internet, which the majority of MGCY work depended on. In response to this, one of the goals of the capacity building team was to reach people without internet through developing the Rio+20 Toolkit. While the Toolkit was available on-line, it was designed so that one person could download it and, either independently or with a group, study the Toolkit to broaden their own awareness of sustainability. This approach was sound and the development of the Toolkit successful, however, greater effort should have been made in identifying ‘country coordinators’ to disseminate the Toolkit in their own areas. Had the Toolkit been launched with a full plan of potential activities, specified dates, and generally a more coordinated approach, the Toolkit would have been more successful. In terms of participation of internal structures, the key challenge was access to communication. While a number of global south participants were and wanted to be more active in the group, the lack of internet or MGCY conference call facilities limited their participation. It is believed that with better secured resources, this challenge could be overcome.</p>
<p>Challenges faced in finding the balance between recruiting new members to the MGCY who are able and willing to take on tasks, while ensuring that those tasks were completed. A large majority of the work became the responsibility of a few, thus causing tensions between people who felt the process was not as democratic as it could have been.</p>	<p>The MGCY holds the principle of democracy very tightly and strives to provide youth with the opportunity to participate in all possible avenues. One of the key challenges consistently faced with the MGCY is the limited number of stable and committed human resources within the group. With the work of the MGCY completely volunteer and intensely spread out and complex, the expectation of volunteers is very high. There was difficulty in recruiting new members that were not able to physically attend any negotiations. Due to the limited human resources, it was often hard to strike a balance between reaching out beyond the core group of the MGCY to raise awareness and encourage participation, while still trying to complete and achieve the activities of the group. While strong bonds were formed between key committed people within the group leading to many</p>

Experience	Lessons Learned and Recommendations
	<p>successes of the MGCY, there has been criticism that the group was not as open to decision-making processes as it had intended to be. A few key recommendations to overcoming this are developing a key strategy for activities to help guide the process of work, having clearly identified internal structures to conduct work, set realistic work expectations on volunteers prior to their involvement, secure funds to increase participation, and have a committed public relations representative who is able to coordinate outreach and capacity building activities for young people at large.</p>
<p>Roles, responsibilities and implications for internal structures</p>	<p>From the start of Rio+20 preparations, the MGCY had a clear idea of the internal structures it would use. While the people involved in the establishing of these structures were well versed, roles and responsibilities for these structures was not always well understood, occasionally causing tension and frustration internally. The reason for this was two-fold. While the structures had been established, the structures themselves – roles, responsibilities and expectations – should have been more clearly identified from the beginning and more succinctly communicated. This would have helped the group to remain more accountable and to ensure transparency and inclusiveness to the MGCY constituency. Secondly, a key challenge experienced in maintaining the structure was the high turn-over of youth in various groups. While a core team existed, people active in groups was constantly changing. In some cases this led to groups becoming defunct and in other cases to difficult power balances where groups felt they could act without the consideration of the whole constituency. It is recommended that further consideration be given to internal structures, ensuring that structures suit the overall objectives and needs of the group, that roles, responsibilities and expectations are clearly outlined, and that accountability mechanisms are put in place to ensure objectives are achieved. These processes should also be well communicated to all stakeholders, to ensure that processes are well understood, thereby maximizing the ability of young people to fully engage.</p>
<p>The limited human resources to complete activities, with efforts centering around a few, was partly due to the lack of institutional organization within the MGCY and focus being placed on individual work rather than organisational.</p>	<p>The role of the Major Groups is to act as an umbrella for civil society organizations to participate in the UN sustainability negotiations. Many of the other Major Groups have well established organisations within them, with access to resources and an established vested interest in the process. Youth organisations, however, are generally not as well established and it is harder to illicit their participation in such discussions. For the past few years, the MGCY has been dominated by individuals rather than organisations, and while they have been successful at mobilizing youth, it has created an interesting structural dynamic that needs to be reviewed. While individual leaders within the MGCY have been active, they have their own institutional support, both with resources, networks and experience in managing such initiatives. While the MGCY has worked with</p>



Experience	Lessons Learned and Recommendations
	<p>organisations, efforts need to be made to find a suitable way of balancing individual and institutional participation. One way of improving the situation would be to have a registry of all MGCY participants (currently this exists only in the mailing lists) and to map the various organisations active across the globe. While several attempts were made to do this, it is a key communication tool that would serve the group well. Further linkages and networking needs to occur with other institutions, such as internal UN agencies to gather stronger support for the global youth movement.</p>
Personal engagement	
<p>Working with people from diverse backgrounds, languages, expertise and life experiences</p>	<p>Patience and openness for alternative ways of communication are of great importance, particularly in situations where language barriers exist. Communication should be facilitated in such a way that it provides information that is clear, simple and easy to understand by people of different backgrounds. Great effort should be made to ensure team building prior to the event, so that team members have a better understanding of each others strengths and weaknesses and can work better as a team when under stressful and pressured situations.</p>
<p>Identifying principles that underscore all work, helping to foster positive relationships amongst MGCY members</p>	<p>One of the successes of the MGCY was the development of a Processes and Procedures Document that identified a number of core ways the MGCY worked. While the document could have been greatly expanded on, one of its key successes was the outlining of certain principles and values that the MGCY operated with. With the intensity and stress of preparing for Rio+20, there was a lot of room for confrontation, and this was generally overcome by key facilitators going back to these guiding principles and values to reaffirm the group’s activities and mode of operation. It is recommended that principles and values are a shared foundation for all work done, and that constant reminders of these principles are integrated into the work of the group.</p>
<p>Challenges in sustaining the motivation and participation of members.</p>	<p>As detailed extensively, one of the key challenges of the MGCY was available human resources. With a disproportionate allocation of work, key members often faced ‘burn out’ and lacked motivation at times when they were needed. In addition, regularity on coordination calls was inconsistent – one week would be a call full of active members and the following week a whole set of new people would attend, without the presence of the previous people. This constant turn over made it challenging to sustain both activities and motivation of committed people.</p>
<p>One of the key successes of the MGCY was its ability to bring an extremely diverse set of people together, creating unity in diversity and fostering an environment where people were able to share experiences, form bonds and increase their own connectivity to the world.</p>	<p>One of the reasons for the MGCYs success in bringing people together was the focus on forming friendships. Throughout all activities, the MGCY sought to engage with participants as equals and friends were formed on-line and through engagement in activities, with the majority of the people never having met personally. Strong bonds were formed between people, acting as pillars of encouragement to achieve activities. The MGCY worked hard to encourage the participation of all people, and even when situations were challenging, this principle was held in highest</p>



Experience	Lessons Learned and Recommendations
	regard. As a result, a strong core group of people existed, creating bonds of trust, respect and friendship that developed over the months of preparation.
Outcomes and Further Engagements	
While disappointed with the overall Outcome Document of Rio+20, the MGCY was successful in lobbying for specific MGCY policy points to be included in the text.	One of the MGCYs strengths was its negotiation and contribution to policy at Rio+20. Throughout preparations, MGCY built up a very good repertoire and relationships with various government delegations, increasing the visibility and reputation of the MGCY. Opportunities to make connections and build relationships with delegations were taken and this had positive results. One of the key lessons learned in this is that it takes time to build these relationships, and the consistent, committed and focused engagement of the MGCY in the Rio+20 process was one of its greatest strengths.
Follow up and post-Rio+20 activities	While numerous discussions were held at the Youth Blast, at Rio+20 and on-line, greater effort should have been made to more thoroughly plan for post-Rio+20 activities and immediate follow-up activities. There were two core challenges faced with this. First, the preparations for Rio+20 itself were so intense that there was little room or time to discuss anything other than immediate actions, and core-drivers of the group suffered significant burn-out by the end of the Conference. Second, there was not and remains not a clear understanding of what the role of Major Groups will be in the new structure presented by Rio+20. While more concrete discussions would have been beneficial, there remains the opportunity for youth to reflect more on the processes leading up to Rio+20 and concretely contribute to the formation of a new structure to lead civil society into the post-Rio+20 agenda.

7.0 POST-RIO+20

While the Conference has come and gone and time continuously presses forward, big questions remain about the Rio+20 agenda, and the MGCY involvement in it. Several discussions were had at the MGCY Youth Blast, during and after Rio+20 to discuss certain possibilities, ideas and convictions, based on the outcomes of Rio+20 and the implications for new UN structures to manage sustainability.

Among the topics discussed were issues that should become the focus of the youth movement worldwide and models for collaboration, with a process to develop SDGs and capacity building emerging as two priorities for youth engagement in the post-Rio+20 agenda. One of the key outcomes of these meetings was the need for broader collaboration – both with the UN and other members of civil society, particularly those represented at the People’s Summit.

Other discussions revolved around the creation of local summits/assemblies where these discussions and collaborations can continue in a decentralized way, the setting up of a clearinghouse and collaboration platform for the movement as a whole, and the need to engage with the UN to improve processes within the new High Level Forum, as an outcome of Rio+20.

The MGCY is exploring the opportunities for engagement in the post-Rio+20 agenda, but some discussions and activities are taking place. These include:



- **Internal reflection and organization.** Developing an on-line survey to be distributed through the YouthSpace to gather the following:
 - Reflections on existing structures
 - Ideas for new structures and their modes of operation
 - Ideas for core MGCY activities, both policy and youth activism related, based on global youth perspectives
 - Key modes of operational engagement with the UN and the new High Level Forum to replace the CSD
- **Continued work with UNDESA and the Major Groups.** Working with UNDESA to discuss various entry points for civil society in the new structure and within the Rio+20 Outcome Document. Potential entry points include:
 - Sustainable development goals
 - High Level Political Forum
 - Finance
 - Technology
 - 10 Year Framework of Programmes
 - Ombudsperson for future generations
 - Oceans
 - Beyond GDP
- **Preparations for CSD-20.** The MGCY will prepare for CSD-20 which will be focused on (still to be confirmed):
 - Lessons learned from the CSD as input to the High-Level Political Forum discussions
 - Other post-Rio+20 processes
 - Preparations for the 2014 conference on SIDS
- **Engagement in the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals.** Discussions are currently taking place to determine the extent of MGCYs involvement in the post-2015 MDGs. This could include:
 - Development of capacity building materials to advance youth participation
 - Involvement in the UN-Inter Agency Technical Group planning for youth involvement for post-2015.

Until such time as a new/improved internal structure is set in place, decision-making will be the core responsibility of the Facilitation Team and the Organising Partners, to liaise information with UNDESA. All communications will continue to be sent out through the YouthSpace. It is anticipated that once key discussions have taken place, an overview document highlighting core MGCY activity for post-Rio+20 engagement will be developed and distributed.

Finally, while the post-Rio+20 agenda is extensive and will undoubtedly have its own challenges, the MGCY remains committed to the process and firmly believes that sustainability can be achieved. To articulate this conviction, the MGCY compiled the closing statement from Rio+20 into a video to inspire people into action. Using this video, the MGCY hopes to inspire people into action and continue to build a youth movement for sustainability. The video can be viewed at:

- **English:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kx6-vef889U>
- **French:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y20YagbNaNY>
- **Español:** vimeo.com/macondofilm/creoenjuventud
- **Portugues:** vimeo.com/macondofilm/acreditarnajuventude



8.0 CONCLUSION

Rio+20 was a momentous occasion, both for sustainable development and advancing the participation of children and youth in these discussions. Despite a number of challenges faced, and frustrations with the processes followed, there were significant outcomes that mark the Conference successful and helped to build capacity amongst youth globally and locally to take action for a more sustainable future.

One of the primary reasons the MGCY was able to be involved as much as they were was the untiring effort of children and youth civil society organisations and hundreds of young volunteers worldwide. Rio+20 was successful in fostering partnerships between parties that have not traditionally worked together, one of the ‘invisible’ outcomes of the Conference. It has demonstrated that partnership between diverse partners is possible when a common vision is shared. Partners and MGCY members contributed in a multitude of ways and it was only thanks to their common vision – the desire to create a more sustainable planet – that a wide range of outcomes were attained, further advancing the ability of young people to engage successfully in sustainable development. Young people that participated in Rio+20, in situ and remotely, showed commitment and will for making sustainability a reality, creating partnerships and building actions for a just and sustainable world.

While the final outcome of Rio+20 did not present our ideal in terms of MGCY vision, there is still plenty to work with. The level of interest and awareness from governments and global civil society would not have been generated without the Rio process. Through the use of traditional and social media, there was broad awareness raising, ultimately contributing to shifting young people from being objects of protection, to agents of change. Moving forward, difficult issues need to be navigated whilst incorporating a long term vision above short term national interests, ensuring that the values of sustainability, equity and justice are at the foundation of actions.

The MGCY remains committed to this process. Through the momentum gained at the Rio+20, the MGCY will continue to work towards creating an enabling environment for young people to engage in sustainability activities at both local, national and international levels, in the pursuit of achieving a sustainable future for the planet. As the final remark of the MGCY Closing Statement for Rio+20 states, “We are moving forward, decisively, and with action. We are not deterred.”



APPENDIX A: MGCY POLICY POINTS FOR RIO+20



MGCY Rio+20 Green Economy Points



Reducing youth unemployment through the creation of green jobs

Youth unemployment to be reduced through the creation of green jobs with a living wage and the stronger consideration of the impact of employment policy on youth. Governments should promote young people's role in the workforce by providing them with the appropriate skills and knowledge to improve their employability. Possible initiatives could include locally appropriate job-training in the context of sustainable development, start-up capital for young entrepreneurs and apprenticeship programmes.



Supporting education for sustainable development to create the Green Economy

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) must equip the next generation of youth with skills, training and capacity to help create the Green Economy. ESD should be structurally integrated into the national and sub-national curricula and made accessible to all, taking into account local communities' needs. Priority should be given specifically to drastic improvements in teacher training for ESD and recognition and support for alternative forms of education, non-formal learning, online resources and peer education.



An integrated approach to the conservation of species

An integrated approach to the conservation of species and ecosystems, particularly threatened species and ecosystems, is required. Compliance with international conventions, and agreed international standards for the recording of natural resources and periodic assessment by independent authorities, in collaboration with all stakeholders. These efforts are crucial to ensuring that consumption of natural resources is below regeneration rates. Natural resource impact labelling should be mandatory for every industrial product.



Green, fair and people-centred agriculture to promote sustainable food systems

It is urgent to start a transition towards green, fair and people-centered agriculture that promotes a sustainable food system producing sufficient, healthy and balanced food for all and maintaining and/or enhancing ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources. Investments in rural areas should be increased to ensure decent incomes and living conditions while creating job opportunities for rural communities, particularly youth. Governments must protect the rights of those working and subsisting on the land and aim towards collective, decentralised ownership for sustainable, resilient and productive ecosystem management. Traditional farming and indigenous knowledge, past and present, offer a wealth of potential solutions and should be recognised as such. An outcome of Rio+20 needs to be a revitalisation of vital knowledge sharing mechanisms in agriculture.



Strong legislative and executive actions required of governments to promote the Blue Economy

Strong legislative and executive actions are required by governments to promote the sustainable development of our Blue Economy, and to avoid depletion of finite water resources and achieve long term food security for fisheries-dependent communities. Actions should include the establishment of a global network of marine protected areas and "no-take zones", including a moratorium on mineral exploration in the Arctic and proper mechanisms for conflict resolution over aquatic resources, with special emphasis on water. Conflict over future water availability and allocation decisions, under likely global pressures like climate change, must be recognised and addressed as a serious global threat to long-term peace and security.



MGCY Rio+20 IFSD Points



Calling for High Commissioner/ Ombudspersons for Future Generations

There is need to mainstream politics from within, guaranteeing that sustainable development and long-term thinking are part of decision-making processes. At all levels of governance, appointing legal representatives, a High Commissioner or Ombudspersons for Future Generations that actively speak-up in the name of future generations can help bring the necessary checks and balances to political systems and urge policy-makers to be cognizant about future generations.



Upgrade of UNEP

This new, specialised agency would provide an accountability mechanism for policy makers and national ministries, coordinating all UN programs, agencies and affiliates working on initiatives related to or having an impact on environmental sustainability, including the secretariats of existing and future MEAs.



Creation of a sustainable development council

This should be created as a subsidiary to the UN General Assembly, with the authority to adopt legally binding decisions, seeking integration of all composing elements of Sustainable Development, at a higher political level than is currently the case within the existing UN bodies dealing with the matter. It should enshrine Civil Society participation, upgrading the existing CSD practices, and including representatives of Major Groups within its governance.



Enforcement mechanism for the precautionary principle

We call for the legal recognition of the fact that industrial production and commercialisation of new substances and technologies should not be authorised in the presence of a reasonable doubt regarding their potential to harm our environment or the natural capital left to our children. An insurance mechanism should obligate those taking the risks to be in the capacity to fully repair any damages intentionally or accidentally resulting from their actions.



Full and effective implementation of public participation in environmental decision-making

This is a core principle of good governance and sustainable development. Governments need to agree to an international convention on participation rights for stakeholders, launch processes for the establishment of regional conventions with compliance mechanisms, ensure that effective participation is a key element of governance reform, and reiterate their commitments to ensure participation in national institutions.



Intergovernmental Panel on Sustainable Development (Sciences)

This Panel would strengthen the science-policy interface by bridging the science-policy nexus and rebuilding trust in scientific advice. It would function as an umbrella organization for all international bodies dealing with sciences, with a key responsibility to design a sustainable development research agenda for the 21st century through the review of relevant scientific knowledge from all strands of science.



Stronger governance of the global commons

Rio+20 should secure immediate establishment of a transparent and participatory trusteeship for the transitional governance of the global commons until they are adequately governed by legally binding rules, based on a sense of shared responsibility and the principles of subsidiarity and intergenerational equity.



Creation of a World Environmental Court

Contrary to war crimes or humanity crimes, environmental crimes are often ignored. We call for the establishment of a World Environmental Court to take decisions related to the non-respect of national obligations under international environmental law. This would enable us to hold states party to international environmental agreement legally accountable for their commitments.



MGCY Rio+20 Objectives Points



Sustainable Development Goals

We call upon Members States to agree on a process to establish Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that recognize the changing historical and economic context since the creation of the Millennium Development Goals. Such a framework should tackle the underlying drivers of human insecurity and environmental degradation. Namely, SDGs must be deliberated through an open, transparent, and accountable process. SDGs should also build upon existing agreements such as Agenda 21, the Forest Principles, the Rio Conventions, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the draft decision on Sustainable Consumption and Production, to operationalise the interlinked nature of SDGs and to capitalise on synergies across sectors.



Promotion of Conflict Resolution and Peace as preconditions for Sustainable Development

Recalling Rio Principles 24 and 25, we call upon Member States to place special attention on the relationship between peace, conflict resolution and sustainable development in the Rio+20 Outcome Document. We specifically call for text that addresses the immediate and enduring effects of armed conflict on sustainable development, with special attention on related conditions that pose severe threats to children and youth. We further call for the active participation of all stakeholders, especially children and youth, in peace-building.



Water – Food – Energy – Security Nexus

The **water-food-energy security nexus** must be incorporated in the Rio+20 discussions, particularly when developing strategies for the green economy. This will promote an efficient use of resources to avoid worsening crises that impact youth and children.



Human Rights Approach

We call upon Member States to protect the existing Human Rights agreements in any green economy framework or new participatory structures for sustainable development. While equitable and universal access to natural resources and meeting of basic needs are fundamental, the Rio+20 Outcome Document must reaffirm the Human Rights approach.



10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production

We call for the adoption of a **10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production** by 2013 and ensuring its integration into policies and law by 2015.



APPENDIX B: KEY MGCY ORGANISERS AND FACILITATORS FOR RIO+20



Key MGCY Facilitators	
Organising Partners	Kiara Worth Ivana Savic Saba Loftus Ben Vanpeperstraete (<i>until March 2012</i>)
UNDESA MGCY Consultants	Joao Scarpellini Severine Calza
Policy Task Force Facilitators	
Green Economy	Lena Maeckelburg Aashish Khular Brendan Coolsaet Michaela Hoogenboom
Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development	Lloyd Russel-Moyle Alice Vincent Sebastien Duyck (<i>until June 2012</i>)
Objectives and Sustainable Development Goals	Olimar Maisonet-Guzman Wen How
Working Groups	
Communications	Kiara Worth
Media	Kyle Gracey
Social Media	Saba Loftus
Capacity Building	Barkha Mosse Elischia Fludd Nora Mahmoud
Campaigns	Olimar Maisonet-Guzman Mathieu Soete
Youth Blast	
Funding and General Coordination	Joao Scarpellini Kiara Worth Ivana Savic Saba Loftus Severine Calza Pedro Telles Juliana Russar
Programme Development and Information to Participants	Pedro Telles Juliana Russar Saba Loftus Ivana Savic Anna Collins Sarah Dayringer Sara Svensson Laura Fernandez Mathieu Soete Ashley Taubman
Volunteers Coordination	Leo Rodarte
On-Site Coordination	Ariadyne Acunha
E-Participation	Luciano Frontelle Liam O'Doherty Ivana Savic



ArtSpace	Anna Collins Pedro Cunha
Media and Communications	Kiara Worth Ionara Silva
Rio+20 Coordination	
Exhibition Spaces	Kiara Worth
Youth Actions	Kiara Worth Joao Scarpellini
Policy Coordination	Saba Loftus
Process Coordination	Ivana Savic
Media and Communications	Kiara Worth Saba Loftus Kyle Gracey



APPENDIX C: MEDIA COVERAGE OF YOUTH AT RIO+20



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