

Good evening

I am Piet Ubels from New Zealand speaking on behalf of the major group of Children & Youth.

Firstly we would like to acknowledge UNEP's role in formally promoting the Paris agreement and action on climate change. This helps to lay out an important vision for the future.

However, we also recognize that even if the current plans of the world's nations are implemented, the global average temperature is set to rise between approximately 2.7 and 3.5 degrees; a range considerably far off the 1.5 degree goalpost set. Moreover, many governments have been repeatedly shown to not have strong enough plans in place to meet their own emission targets. We also note that as of today there are 177 member signatories to the Paris Agreement out of the 195 member states. Of those, only 17 States have deposited their instruments of ratification of which almost all are low lying small island nations accounting for **0.04%** of the total global greenhouse gas emissions.

Therefore, on behalf of the group who has the most to lose, children and youth, we urge countries to quickly ratify Paris agreement. Only this will lay a strong foundation that will quickly allow the world's governments to take practical & realistic actions required to make the 1.5 degree target more than just a discussion.

Thank you