

INTERVENTION BY CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE 4, 19 FEB 2013

Thank you Chair

I am Kehkashan Basu and I am the Global Coordinator of UNEP's Major Groups for Children and Youth. I represent the Major Groups for Children and Youth, who, I believe, will actually live through that future, that we are debating about. In this context, our Major Group is greatly indebted and appreciative of the platform of dialogue and representative engagement provided by UNEP.

Regarding the discussion subject, the problem that we face today is the conflict between the 3 pillars of sustainability. Instead of working in harmony and complementing each other, economic considerations are often in direct competition to environmental needs while society remains a mute spectator.

The challenges to the environment are more from within the sustainable framework . We, the Children & Youth, are unaffected by economic bias and are always wholeheartedly in support of long term sustainability. Hence, we call for full implementation of paragraph 88h of the Rio+20 outcome document which will enhance our engagement. We want involvement in discussions at all levels which means – on;

- 1) policy,
- 2) agenda setting and
- 3) implementation ,

to ensure that production and consumption patterns are sustainable. It is also important that distribution of green products and services are equitable and is balanced across economic divides. We, the Major Group of Children and Youth, are also concerned that production patterns are driven more by economic returns which more often than not, are not sustainable. We look upon UNEP to take a leadership status on monitoring and safeguarding this.

Thank you Chair.