

[THE 2014 KARIBUNI DECLARATION \(COMPRESSED\)](#)

Children and Youth Statement to the First United Nations Environment Assembly

We, the children and youth of the world are united in calling on governments to act quickly and ambitiously. As we look into the horizon with the Post-2015 Development Agenda, it is vital to the achievement of sustainable development that there is intergenerational dialogue.

We urge governments to act on and not ignore the demands of children and youth. Establish a United Nations High Commissioner for Future Generations to safeguard the rights of young and future generations. We demand active engagement of young people in the United Nations Environment Assembly and also urge more governments to include youth on their delegations.

We strongly encourage Environmental Ministries to work together with Education Ministries to achieve education for sustainable development at all levels by establishing environment-focused academic institutions and investing in digital technology to transform to sustainable behaviour. Education for sustainable development should be practical and skill-based, and accessible to all communities.

For achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, we urge that the United Nations Environment Programme be given sufficient powers and adequate financial support to create and coordinate programs, such as the 10 Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production which should be put at the heart of the SDGs.

We ask that the sustainable development view is widened to also consider decent employment, accessibility, fair trade, quality health and transport, social empowerment, and poverty eradication. Leave no one behind, especially in regard to the challenges faced by Small Island Developing States.

We call for establishment of

1. An International Environmental Court where ecocide must be recognized as a crime against humanity.
2. Universal standards for environmental legislation and agreements.

We want to be able to tell our children that the birds, fish and elephants that they see in books still walk beside us and that we were not responsible for wiping them off the planet. Governments need to create an international mechanism to enforce laws on illegal wildlife trade with a standardized penal code and standards for ranger certification. Also, there is a need to strengthen legally binding agreements on endangered wildlife protection.

We urge all governments to expedite the transition to a global Green Economy and support developing countries in this transition. Establish green economy funds in national budgets and make this investment sustainable with less carbon and fewer natural resources. Help make sure that we are **all** on the path to living our lives with dignity.

Thank you.