

Statement by Major Group of Children and Youth on the “Environment Management Group’s Work and the Report on the implementation of decisions adopted by past sessions of the governing body (UNEP/EA.1/3/Add.2)

Good morning chair . My name is Kehkashan Basu and I am the Global Coordinator for the Major Group of Children and youth .

1. We, children and youth , are the Future Generation and the decisions that we take today will impact our lives the most . We are one of the largest constituents of civil society , yet amongst the most vulnerable and suffer due to a lack of representation and opportunity.
2. We strongly welcome the coherence imparted to the environmental and sustainability agenda by the work of the Environmental Management Group, as issues born out of climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss cannot be looked at in isolation. Environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity and even desertification are mostly irreversible. The continuing loss of natural capital will further aggravate the challenges that future generations will face in achieving sustainability , which will continue to be challenged further by the ever increasing global population.
3. Youth migration as a consequence of climate change and land degradation is a stark reality and this must be taken into account in discussions on inclusive green economy policies .
4. In this regard we would like to draw attention to para 62 of the Rio+20 outcome document which makes specific reference to the needs of youth in the context of green economy. It calls for the “implementation of green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in a manner that endeavours to drive sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and job creation, particularly for women, youth and the poor”.
5. Thus we would urge further cooperation across the United Nations system, by further strengthening of mechanisms such as the EMG, and the proper allocation of resources at all levels to help equip children and youth with the necessary skills , through education, capacity building , social and health protection .