



Intervention at the ECOSOC Partnership Forum, 31st January 2023

Thank you Madam President for the floor.

I am Yugratna Srivastava, Environmental Affairs Policy Officer for the Major Group for Children and Youth. MGCY organizes participation of young people in various UN avenues from humanitarian affairs to environment and human rights. Very recently, we coordinated youth engagement at the Stockholm+50 International Meeting.

First, we recognize the interventions from the member states advocating youth participation. We urge them to maintain their position and call upon all member states to advocate for intergenerational equity.

Secondly, only an urgent system-wide transformation can deliver the change needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda. We call for enhanced coherence, one UN approach and breaking of siloes as we approach the ECOSOC cycle this year.

Thirdly, the UN system has stood by while extractive industries and consumerism become the yardstick for development, rolling back on environmental and social safeguards. But who will pay for the harm to human health and rights? We continue to call upon UN agencies to divest from funding or close partnerships with hydrocarbon, fossil fuel and polluting industries responsible for planetary destruction.

Fourth, the youth constituency engages informal and grassroots groups globally. This can be further enhanced by better adjusting to the needs of youth organizations. We call upon member states to provide funding support to the children and youth constituency toward engagement in the SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future. And ensure rights based engagement of major groups and stakeholders in these processes.

Finally, we also want to recognize the progress that is happening on youth engagement. Young people being part of the UN Environment Management Group, the UN youth office and new youth movement on food systems. UN agencies and member states need to do more to enhance designated spaces for youth. Before being consumers, target audiences and vote banks, young people are humans. When youth are tokenized, the systems tokenizing them suffer too. Therefore, we remind you again: Nothing about us, without us.

The Children and Youth of the world expect leadership and action from ECOSOC and we stand ready to support and engage with all member states and the secretariat on the same.

Thank you, Madam President

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