

Thank you co-facilitators for the floor.

I am Tabitha Mbuthia, a young lawyer from Kenya and I am speaking on behalf of the Major Group for Children and Youth. We appreciate the zero draft and the consultation process being held.

To this end, we highlight the following:

First, while we welcome the reference and a dedicated paragraph on children and youth, we believe that it needs to be strengthened to reflect the urgency of times we are in. We will be sending concrete written proposals for the text on youth.

Second, we request that reference to the outcomes of the ECOSOC Youth Forum which was included in the elements paper be brought back to the draft. This year's Forum was specially dedicated to the SDG Summit preparation.

Third, we are pleased to share that the Major Group for Children and Youth will be hosting grassroots consultations to bring youth perspectives to the SDG Summit.

We also plan to host a Youth SDG Moment in New York just before the SDG Summit and welcome partnerships.

Fourth, we are currently finalizing three key documents. These are, the Youth Sectoral Paper for HLPF, The Voices of Youth Report to SDG Summit and the second draft of the Youth Position Paper for the SDG Summit which will also capture our inputs to the declaration. We request the co-facilitators and member states to take into account the consulted inputs from young people.

Finally, actions should follow words. We call upon member states to provide designated funding to the youth constituency for meaningful youth participation at SDG Summit. Investing in youth empowerment is critical for the successful implementation of the 2030 agenda. Nothing About Us, Without Us.

Thank you.