



MAJOR GROUP OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Open Working Group 5: Energy

Wednesday, November 27, 2013

Thank you,

My name is Surya and I have just returned from the United Nations Climate Change negotiations in Warsaw. Being at COP and then coming directly to this Open Working Group Meeting has opened my eyes to the reality of the political obstacles we face in the realm of climate change. Far too many governments and influential players in the private sector have rallied behind a position that will certainly undermine our future.

Our actions here today have consequences. They will dictate the future course of human history, and have an impact on the very viability of the earth as a source of life. Climate science has allowed us to glimpse at possible future scenarios, some of course more dire than others, yet, our inaction continues to add greater uncertainty as to what happens next. How will the world look in a 4 degree temperature increase scenario?

In Warsaw, the Japanese government announced its new greenhouse gas emissions target for 2020 vowing to cut emissions by 3.8 percent from its 2005 level. This translates to an increase of 3.1 per cent from its 1990 levels. With leadership like this from countries that have historically emitted more than their fair share of greenhouse gases; is there any hope that places like the Philippines will not experience more frequent and more devastating typhoons? Typhoon Haiyan alone resulted in the death of more than 5500 **Filipinos** so far and the destruction caused by the Typhoon must still be fully assessed.

The UN identified thirteen countries, with economies among the top twenty in the world account for 72% of global emissions of which their energy sectors is a major contributor. We need leadership to transition from a growth-focused economy, one that obsesses over profit at the expense of the earth, to a just, equitable, and sustainable economy with a world dependent on sustainable energy. An economy which facilitates greater natural resource conservation and management. Simply put, fossil fuels, coal and nuclear energy are not sustainable.

Therefore, the Major Group for Children and Youth urges:

- **That the upper limit on per capita consumption is fixed**, which is especially important for developed countries;
- **That developed countries take the lead in benchmarking best management practices and subsequently facilitate universal adoption, through technology transfer and appropriate intellectual property policies;**



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- **That countries be careful in developing Hydropower.** It may be an inexpensive energy source but it comes at the cost of precious ecosystems and irreversibly affects the lives and livelihoods of displaced individuals, many of whom are among the most vulnerable;
- **That energy be universally accessible, and at the same time, governments do more to inculcate sustainable consumption habits among their populations.**

Thank you.