

**STATEMENT FROM THE YOUTH AND CHILDREN MAJOR GROUP AT THE
CSD-18 ROUND TABLE MEETING ON SCP.**

12th May, 2010.

Thank you Chair,

Last week, as the Major Group on Children & Youth, we outlined our priorities in answer to how the needed behavioural change can be reached. We believe this can be achieved through education and awareness raising for SCP. This can take place in informal, non-formal and formal learning environments. Youth and youth organisations can play a crucial role in the shift towards sustainability, by being the change we want to see in society. However, we need an environment that is conducive to this change and engages all relevant stakeholders from all aspects of our society -- youth and children in specific.

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In which way can the role of youth be embedded in the 10 year framework, both in the process of drafting, institutional support and the content of the programmes?

We are aware of the fact that many countries are concerned about starting a unilateral shift towards sustainable production and consumption patterns, because they fear a disadvantage in the global market. However, we cannot be crippled by fear of market forces. Market forces can be driven in an entrepreneurial way by a coherent policy environment. This Framework is urgently needed for a coherent-shift throughout the world during the "Decade for Sustainable Consumption and production patterns".

We want to stress that the Marakesh process needs to be formalized within the framework of the CSD.

On the consumption side,

Let us introduce international political guidance, regulation and implementation **now**, which includes the social and environmental costs into the production process, so prices reflect real costs. In addition, there is a need for clarity on sustainable consumption choices, therefore we urge governments to take strong steps to ensure that eco-labels are appropriate and trustworthy.

We want sustainability to not only be a nice afterthought but a core standard.

On the production side,

In the SCP discussion so far, there has been too little attention directed towards sustainable production patterns in communities which depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. We underline the statement made by last year's chair, Mrs Verburg about the role of agriculture as both being a big part of the current problem in unsustainable production and likewise being a part of the solution towards sustainable production and food security. Current conventional agricultural practices available to small scale farmers cause soil degradation and biodiversity-loss threatening their source of livelihoods now and that of the future generations. The role of agriculture in sustainable production and food security should be stressed in the 10 year framework.

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We would like to know how the outcomes of CSD 17, especially on agriculture will be embedded in the 10 year framework of programmes?

Thank you.