



UN Major Group for
Children and Youth
childrenyouth.org

UN Major Group for Children and Youth response to the zero-draft declaration section

Dear Co-facilitators,

On behalf of the UN Major Group for Children and Youth, we would like to make five recommendations:

- Firstly, the realization, protection and promotion of our **human rights and right to development**, must reflect children and youth as rights holders and valuable agents of change. To achieve this, children and youth should be able to meaningfully participate in all levels.
 - To this end, we recommend that in paragraph 17 'age and other status' is added and in paragraph 21, the term 'marginalized' should replace "vulnerable sections of the population."
 - Also, In para 15, we should replace 'affordable' with 'human right to water' as per agreed GA language.
 - Equally we support the call to strive to make reference to all gender identities and sexual orientations.

- Secondly, it is fundamental to incorporate **gender equality** so that young women and girl live without discrimination and harmful practices.
- Thirdly, relating to health, paragraph 23 should incorporate a ‘youth friendly’ wording and ensure there are no age or gender barriers.
- Forthly, paragraph 22 should include “**free**” education, acknowledge the role of youth organisations in non-formal education and incorporate **comprehensive sexuality education**.
- Lastly, we need to effectively integrate the environmental dimension with the social and economic ones. To this effect, as the SG scientific advisory board called for, the deceleration should make specific reference to **moving beyond growth and remaining within planetary boundaries**. We have repeatedly made this call and are deeply disappointed that this has not been taken forward.

We hope that our the specific and special role of children, youth and their organizations in sustainable development is recognised. We call on all to make sure that rights of children and youth around the world are protected, promoted and fulfilled.

Thank you.

Contributors

The UN MGCY conducted an online process to create this statement, over 2,000 people fed into the background work and the following people took on the specific wording for the zero-draft response:

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