

MAJOR GROUP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
IPM
Statement on Mining
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Major Group for Children and Youth calls for the eradication of all forms of child labour in the mining industry in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and ILO Conventions Nos. 138 and 182. This Initiative should be in line with the Roadmap for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016. In addition, eradication of all forms of child labour can be achieved by the creation of alternative income generating activities for communities as a preventative action and by increasing of the technical and financial ability of small scale artisanal miners to decrease their environmental and health impacts.

In our lifetime, we hope for the adoption of an international legally binding instrument which governs extraction and utilisation of mining resources. For the CSD-19, we ask Governments to commit parties to managing the social dimension of mining-related activities by developing social support strategies that ensure community participation, including children and youth. This would involve mining companies to be required to involve impacted communities in mining planning processes and for Governments to intervene in cases of social instability and potential conflict. Furthermore, it is vital to ensure transparency in resource-extraction and production to eradicate the financing of armed conflict and human exploitation through the purchase of mining resources. It is from a great importance to legislate compulsory disclosure by producers of environmental and population impact to consumers. We ask you to include social, economic and environmental issues in mining negotiations between host governments and mining companies, involving relevant stakeholders.

We call for the designation of clear zones that are exempt from mineral extraction, recognising that this is vital for aquatic and other ecosystem preservation. Zones must be created and managed, guided by the precautionary principle where environmental effects are unclear and environmental liability for site remediation and cleanup should be ensured.

Let our vision be world embracing. Let us all act together to achieve sustainable global change in the mining industry.

Thank you.