

Youth

Thank you Madame Chair:

We are living in a time of global crises and political opportunity. A time when it is more important than ever for the world - global South and North, East and West, young and old and all of us in between - to join together and take meaningful action in an effort to achieve global security, equity, and ecological sustainability.

Ensuring household food security requires that we build global governance around food systems starting from the grassroots. Small-scale livestock and crop farmers, including pastoralists, must be supported with access to resources and tools that enable sustainable production and ensure livelihood security. This includes access to land, water and biodiversity, as well as markets for local and regional trade. The importance of indigenous knowledge should never be underestimated.

It is also important to develop additional empowerment programs and educational opportunities for people of all ages as part of Decade for Education on Sustainable Development. The creation and increased accessibility of formal *and* community-based education programs are essential in decreasing rural-urban migration, empowering families with economic security, encouraging children to retain sustainable agricultural and pastoral traditions, and discouraging agricultural child labour. Training programs that support learning and innovation among farmers of all ages can strengthen the sector and encourage sustainability.

All of us in this room have a joint responsibility to build global, national and local cultures of responsibility, including production and consumption patterns that sustain our planet and provide equitable access to its resources. The inclusion of diverse and experienced voices, including those of young and indigenous people, as well as women, is crucial to ensuring effective policy and practice. Youth and children would like to ally ourselves with communities who are dedicated to responsible consumerism, those who consider how *the way* we use resources impacts our planet.

Distinguished delegates - young people in the world are taking concrete actions that enable a sustainable global society. We are prepared to join you in drafting policies and taking actions that will ensure global sustainability and ask that you remember that providing tools and opportunities for young people--as well as building upon our suggestions and concerns--are both effective strategies for adapting to a rapidly changing world.

It is important for this Commission to challenge current paradigms and discuss groundbreaking matters. We must not forget that an ethical framework for international collaboration is critical and that this Commission provides a forum for this conversation.

Thank you.