

Thank you Mr Chairman.

The older generation and decision makers of today should take responsibility towards the coming generations through sustainable consumption and production.

We need to educate youth to give them knowledge and tools to actively participate in our pursuit towards sustainable development. Both formal and non-formal education plays a central role in this endeavour.

For example, youth can contribute to raise awareness on the need for energy efficiency. Youth in many countries use competition between and within schools as a way of educating their peers on how to reduce energy. Youth also bring about the transition to clean, renewable energy sources on campuses and within communities around the world.

The Swedish parliament has decided to mainstream sustainable development in all higher education. This is an example on a policy change in education that should lead to greater awareness for the future greening of the Swedish welfare state. Students were the driving force for this development.

Truly sustainable industrial development can be a vehicle for crucial job creation for young people. Youth, that is both young women and young men, can substantially contribute with a broad range of perspectives. This can bring in new and creative ideas that can help in the formulation of new types of jobs and services to contribute both to sustainable industrial development and sustainable development at large.

For young people, long-term environmental sustainability of industries is crucial. Youth-led initiatives are vital to poverty eradication. Microfinance can be one of many important tools in creating sustainable opportunities for young people. It is as important that youth take part in large-scale industrial production as young people often are important consumers of their products.

Thank you.