

Statement by Youth and Children
11 May 2007

Thank you chairperson and distinguished delegates, we are grateful for the opportunity to be here and contribute to the discussion of these important issues.

Please stand up if you drink coffee!..stand up if you drink water!.if you like skiing! if you like honey! if you need food to survive. . The issues at hand are no longer abstract, or restricted by nationalities. This is personal. Here now today for you and me. We are looking at the earth we inherited and we are terrified.

// Fossil fuels and nuclear energy are not sustainable. //

We are disturbed that the chair's text as it stands, which has been weakened day by day throughout the past 2 weeks, will serve not only to perpetuate current unsustainable practices, but also to justify the inertia which limits the creation of the policies we urgently need.

// Fossil fuels and nuclear energy are not sustainable. //

An OPEC representative said yesterday that fossil fuels are the only energy source that will be here for a longtime and even more disturbing is that no one corrected him.

We are correcting him now.

// Fossil fuels and nuclear energy are not sustainable. //

What about the sun? The wind ? Indigenous knowledge? Fossil fuels in fact are the only source that won't be around for very long. They took millions of years to be created and we are using them in hundreds.

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Developing countries must change their direction to avoid the technology lock-in of fossil fuels by transitioning quickly to clean energy sources with the support of developed countries, in ways that are regionally and culturally appropriate. Developed countries must also take leadership and initiative to make that transition a reality. Our lives are being threatened today by the disregard of the full cycle costs of fossil fuels, from extraction to consumption.

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To move from discussion to action, we need time-bound targets, follow-up mechanisms, and transparency. Within this framework, stakeholders must be engaged in developing indicator based assessments which go beyond economic dimensions, addressing social and ethical perspectives while encouraging proactive visionary community planning.

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Governments and civil society should work together to increase awareness and enhance education for sustainable development at all levels, with an emphasis on peer-to-peer education. Effective adaptation to climate change and its impacts will require diverse solutions including climate vulnerability assessment and regional disaster preparedness. We strongly encourage governments to take action towards adaptation as a response to the needs of today, by involving local communities and major groups in the planning, decision-making, and implementation.

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Our desire to engage in the decisions that affect our lives is being impeded by the lack of agreed support from the governments. We would like to thank all of the governments who have upheld their commitments made in Agenda 21 Chapter 25 to bring youth on their official delegation.

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Albert Einstein said; when the bees disappear humans have 4 years left. Well “the bees are disappearing already. Another warning is when the youth lose hope. Please don’t make us lose hope today in our collective present and future.

Once again, we're here to remind you:

// Fossil fuels and nuclear energy are not sustainable.

Please, don't turn your backs on us. //