

**Youth and Children Statement: Industrial Development**  
**1 May 2007**

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the youth and children of the world.

We agree that education is key to the implementation of sustainable development policies. Shifting the societal consciousness requires education about issues around sustainability for both the public and within formal education systems, in order to effectively garner understanding of and support for sustainability.

We also understand incentivizing change to be another key component for realizing sustainable practices. A foremost hindrance to change towards sustainability by corporations and citizens alike is a lack of profitable incentives. Governments must implement economic and social policies that reward the behaviors they wish to encourage, those that lead to global sustainability.

There are youth-led projects that are addressing many of the issues on sustainability we are discussing today. These groups working are on the ground and need the support, both verbal and financial, of their governments.

As youth, we also want to advocate for local economic control and ownership. This is a cross-cutting issue that solves both social and environmental obstacles to sustainability and includes access to affordable capital and support of entrepreneurship.

Last, we believe that nations should measure progress using growth indexes that account for social and environmental factors, not only economic factors as GNP does.

Many delegates have brought up the point that, in the future, youth will ask about why we didn't take action now about these important issues. The time for saying this, however, is over: youth are asking you now.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.