

## **Youth Statement on Industrial development**

Thank you Chair. My name is Emmanuel Edudzie, from Ghana

On behalf of the Youth and Children Major Group, let me reiterate the following youth concerns:

1. Children and youth strongly believe that corporate social responsibility and accountability must be emphasized; while the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation highlighted this need, it was not mentioned at the fourteenth session of the Commission.
2. In order to set the right environment for fair and sustainable industrial development, national development strategies should be used to provide an enabling framework for business and industry to operate responsibly. Public-private partnerships are essential.
3. The environmental implications of development should be adequately addressed. Governments must consider the fundamental importance of the environment in providing basic human services and take meaningful steps to stop and reverse degradation.
4. Cleaner production should be matched with sustainable consumption. Fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are necessary to achieve global sustainable development. As stated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.
5. The global community should be educated on sustainable development. Youth worldwide are advancing sustainable procurement policies and environmental education programmes designed to raise awareness and promote individual empowerment. These efforts must be supported.
6. Finally, the Youth and Children Major would like to associate with the statement of the Netherlands which calls for the double-dividend approach for industrial development in which investing in youth yields environmental preservation and at the same time youth employment.

Chair, Children and youth do not wish to inherit a toxic, radioactive, dirty, carbon-driven world. We call on the Commission and all concerned stakeholders to take action to ensure that we will see a truly sustainable future.

Thank you!