

Children and Youth Major Group
Drought
Wednesday 7 May 2008 at 10am - 1pm

Youth Statement

Thank you Mr. Chairman. As the generation that will be living tomorrow with the decisions made today, children and youth are highly concerned about the drastic and increasingly common droughts, occurring around the globe. We are ready to take action and have already begun the process of addressing the causes of drought.

Addressing drought during this CSD cycle implores us to focus on root causes. Residential water consumption is one exacerbating facet of drought that has true potential to be *drastically* reduced.

Young people are raising awareness and taking actions by using peer education to address unsustainable water consumption patterns. In the United States, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University organized a water conservation competition that engaged thousands of young students, raised awareness about 2007 state wide drought, and the concrete impact that students could have by changing their daily habits, saving 42 million liters of water.

Both universities continue to implement long term conservation measures that include low-flow faucets, toilet fixtures and showerheads. With water conservation in mind, new buildings are now built to capture, store, and reuse rainwater collected from the roofs.

Our case study shows that water conservation , through effective educational programs implemented in local communities can raise awareness and empower youth to implement water saving techniques and technology. These programs should be adopted and expanded to all age levels. Now is the time to take action. Although the youth here today and across the world will be sitting in your seats in the coming decades, we do not want to be discussing the same problems.