



CSD-18 – YOUTH CAUCUS OPENING STATEMENT

3 May 2010

Delivered by Michaela Hogenboom

As the 18th session of the CSD, we have finally come of age. We are no longer in our childhood stages of determining sustainable development – the time of maturity has arrived. This year is marked by the International Year of Youth and now, more than ever before, the youth are taking a stand.

The need for cultural transformation in our time is stronger than ever. This transformation – that enables us to shift towards a more sustainable world – should be an organic process, guided by principles of compassion, integrity and justice. We need to pragmatically rethink our behavioural patterns, to enable a paradigm shift that is based on a cyclical process of action, reflection and meaningful participation.

Awareness, education and empowerment are fundamental requisites to enabling this process, and the youth are energetic and passionate about holding governments and all relevant stakeholders involved accountable for their actions. We are equal partners in this process and commit ourselves fully to achieving the objectives as decided by this Commission and the implementation required beyond today.

We need to transcend national borders and individual action. We need common but differentiated responsibilities.

Let our vision be world embracing.