



CONSOLIDATION OF YOUTH CAUCUS MEMBERS' AGENDA

With the guiding principles of an *ethical approach* to deriving sustainable development policies, as well as the desire for *the inclusion of stake-holders in the information-gathering, decision-making, implementation, and evaluation of sustainable development initiatives/processes/projects*, the following points were aggregated from the members of the YOUTH CAUCUS.

Please read the points in their entirety and vote for the **five (5)** you feel the YOUTH CAUCUS should pursue during the CSD-17. The voting form can be found here: <http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=cmtiNGExQmJrQmgwWWRINzYwWnpqT0E6MA>. Please complete your voting by **6th May '09, 10:00 am (GMT -4:00)**.

1. Agriculture

- 1.1. Highlight that while agriculture constitutes the fundamental basis for economic and community life, they are often underpaid and undervalued
- 1.2. Children should be encouraged to retain family agricultural and pastoral traditions while agricultural child labour should be discouraged.
- 1.3. **(and rural development)**: Reduce hazardous/exploitative child labour in the agricultural sector by ensuring fair prices for farmers and access to education for children in rural areas.
- 1.4. Young farmers should gain access to financial facilities such as micro-credits, micro-savings combined with training, capacity building to improve market access.
- 1.5. Agricultural policy in developing countries should stimulate the shift from raw resource production to semi-processed and processed goods in order to increase local farmers' share of the value chain.
- 1.6. International standards on non food-based biofuels are necessary.



- 1.7. Ensure that international standards for pesticides and herbicides in agricultural production are enforced and encourage the whole-systems approach to agricultural practices.

2. Africa

- 2.1. Emphasise that the financial crisis does not relieve countries from their previous commitments on debt relief and development aid
- 2.2. Emphasise that the financial crisis does not relieve countries from their previous commitments on debt relief and development aid
- 2.3. Focus discussion more on human development and to recognise Africa's potential as a positive and constructive voice in sustainable development.
- 2.4. More focus on the social aspects of development in Africa (social factor paradigms: e.g. access to health care, safe environment for children, access to water)
- 2.5. Acknowledge the important role youth play in development.
- 2.6. The regional economic integration and the assurance of Africa's sovereignty over its means of production and consumption should be the priority of the international community.
- 2.7. Promote investment in youth and youth organisations through projects that would include, but not be limited to, creating government youth grant systems, increasing access to credit and lowering barriers to entrepreneurial pursuits.
- 2.8. Emphasis on wealth redistribution and wealth-generation



3. Drought and Desertification

- 3.1. Emphasise the adverse effects of **drought** and **desertification** on education and the empowerment of women
- 3.2. Integrating diverse voices in combating drought and desertification will ensure that mitigation and coping plans are comprehensive.
- 3.3. Increase the co-operation between the UN instruments that deal with d&d issues, such as CSD, UNFCCC, etc. Especially stress the connection between D6D and CC.

4. Rural Development

- 4.1. Investing in infrastructure is not a goal in itself but a means towards a human-centred development. [Human factor paradigm]
- 4.2. Ensure the inheritance of traditional knowledge while fostering innovation
- 4.3. Encouraging the return of educated youth to rural areas through scholarship, etc.

5. Land

- 5.1. Ensure women and young people's rights to clear and secure land tenure and equitable access to land systems.



6. Inter-linkages, Cross Cutting Issues, and Means of Implementation

- 6.1. Increase efficiency of initiatives by utilising NGOs, local authorities, and other stake-holders with expertise and existing relevant activities, freeing governments from the need for replicating efforts
- 6.2. Clear, open, and transparent communication of information about climate change and other environmental issues
- 6.3. A binding global fair agreement to tackle climate change, in the context of sustainable development
- 6.4. Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities
- 6.5. Emphasise the need to involve particularly the youth, women, and local communities in sustainable development initiatives
- 6.6. Strengthening of civil society, in order to empower local communities and young people in particular, by engagement in all phases of the process
- 6.7. Strengthen international capacity building initiatives to allow stake-holders to better assess health and environmental linkages, to improve the knowledge base for national and regional policy responses to environmental threats to health
- 6.8. More official national youth delegates to the Commission on Sustainable Development
- 6.9. Education for sustainable development, mainstreamed into formal education and further strengthened into non-formal education and informal learning.



The Children and Youth Major Group, CSD-17

- 6.10. Promote universal primary education in rural areas and increase access to education opportunities at all levels, as well as training programmes for rural youth
- 6.11. Support educating young farmers in ecosystem-based agriculture methods.
- 6.12. Improve funding of public health systems to strengthen health-care systems including for combating diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS
- 6.13. Encourage states to show their commitment towards implementing the objectives of the WTO Doha round. Countries should be able to enjoy fair competition
- 6.14. Greater scrutiny of the impact of biofuels on sustainable development

Reminder:

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