Item 6. A green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Round-table parallel session

Statement on behalf of the Major Group of Children and Youth

As mentioned by, for example, Switzerland, the Major Group of Children and Youth call for the development of a green economy roadmap, but one that responds to the needs of young people, particularly to both save our planet AND create jobs. Because how we define green economy as already said, is not innocent.

Although, there seems to be an implicit agreement that a move to a green economy would create more jobs some caveats apply. As Peter Poschen of the International Labour Organisation just underlined, many green economy proposals simply require the substitution of traditional production processes with more resource-efficient ones. As such, they don’t necessarily contribute to job-creation, or youth-job creation, and in some cases might even contribute to job loss as economic agents figure out how to produce goods with fewer inputs. Furthermore, a significant area that is being ignored is the quality of jobs. So that should be a key dimension of such a roadmap

Secondly, as there is no definition, boundaries are not always present and we have to ensure that the Green Economy remains in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication, which also need to be duly reflected in the frame to be adopted.

Then such a roadmap should incorporate the development of financial policies that will reduce harmful fossil fuels subsidies and that facilitate the transfers of green technology.

A green economy roadmap should not only look at production and thus will not be completed if we don't adopt the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production by 2013, and ensure its integration into policies and law by 2015.

And finally, the instrument should also look at the transformative competences and skills needed for the transition. Hence a strong Education for Sustainable Development dimension that includes the whole educational community, including the non-formal educational community such as youth organisations. Education can be a tool, but can also help define what differentiates a green economy from a brown economy, as education changes mindsets.