



Agenda item 9: Intervention

Excellencies, Executive Director, distinguished delegates,

My name is Zipporah Njenga Speaking on behalf Children and Youth International within Major Group for Children and Youth,

We welcome the ambition reflected in the report; A 73% increase in national reporting, 69 country submissions, and expanded UN system coordination ,these signal genuine momentum. But momentum toward what, and for whom, matters enormously.

We are concerned about how stakeholder engagement is being approached.

The New Urban Agenda was adopted under the promise of inclusive multilateralism. Yet the engagement described here ; surveys, stakeholder forums, e-learning enrolments , remains consultative at best and tokenistic at worst. Consultation is not participation. Input is not partnership.

The UN Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda, explicitly called for "networked multilateralism" with meaningful civil society integration as a prerequisite for legitimate global governance. The 2023 UN report on effective stakeholder engagement found that policy outcomes with structured Major Groups participation demonstrated measurably stronger implementation rates than those relying on general public consultation alone.

UNEP offers a reference model. Its Major Groups and Stakeholders framework , with constituency-specific engagement, formal observer access to negotiating sessions, and response mechanisms has been internationally recognized as best practice.

These systems deliver what general stakeholder consultations cannot:

- Predictability – allowing constituencies to prepare and consult internally, not respond to last-minute requests to give inputs
- Accountability – clear traceability from input to final outcome
- Long-term institutional relationships enabling sustained engagement as opposed to current Transactional, one-off consultations with no follow-through

What is described here is the opposite,

No accountability loop connecting input to outcome. Not one paragraph on structured youth engagement in the implementation of NUA

We therefore urge that the Political Declaration, to include concrete commitments:

One; On pathways to Formally adopt the Major Groups framework as outlined by AGENDA 21, for all New Urban Agenda intergovernmental processes, including Children and Youth

SECOND; the quadrennial reporting cycle must include a specific indicator on meaningful youth engagement, disaggregated by age, gender, and marginalized group status. What gets measured gets done.

The second decade of the New Urban Agenda belongs to young people. We are not just a stakeholder category. Either we are partners in designing it or we will inherit a system we had no hand in building, and be blamed for failing to fix it.

Thank you.