



THE 2014 KARIBUNI DECLARATION

Children and Youth Statement to the First United Nations Environment Assembly

We, the children and youth of the world are united in calling on governments to act quickly and ambitiously. As we look into the horizon with the Post-2015 Development Agenda, it is vital to the achievement of sustainable development that there is intergenerational dialogue. We urge governments to act on and not ignore the demands of children and youth.

Recognizing the critical importance of environmental education for sustainable development, we strongly encourage Environment Ministers to work side by side with Education Ministers and to cooperate with educational institutions in including education for sustainable development into curriculum at all levels through: national legislation; formal and non-formal sectors; technical and vocational training; lifelong learning and community education. Make environmental education practical and skill-based as well as theoretical, and ensure that it is accessible in all communities. Create environment-focused academic institutions in all countries, invest in teachers, and use digital technology to transform sustainable behavior.

We demand greater inclusion and engagement of children and youth as active voices in UNEA and also urge more governments to include official youth delegates in future delegations. We invite you to collaborate with youth organizations to increase engagement with environmental issues and create grants to help young people lead environmental activities.

To help ensure the success of meeting the goals set forward by the Sustainable Development Goals, we urge that UNEP be given sufficient powers and adequate financial support to coordinate efforts and create programs such as the 10 Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production which should be put at the heart of the SDGs. We ask that the sustainable development view is widened to also consider decent employment, accessibility, fair trade, good quality of health and transport services, social empowerment, and poverty eradication. We support the principle of leaving no one behind, especially in regard to the challenges faced by Small Island Developing States.

We have found policies insufficiently address the protection of our planet. We asked at Rio+20, and continue to urge now, that you establish an UN High Commissioner for Future Generations to safeguard the rights of young and future generations. We also ask you to create an International Environmental Court where ecocide must be recognized as a crime against humanity. We call upon governments to establish universal standards to environmental legislation and agreements that all nations must meet. We live in an age where innovation is one of our most powerful tools. Take advantage of this! Collaborate! Encourage the world to make sustainable technologies open-source.

We want to be able to tell our children that the elephants, the trees, the fish they see in books still walk beside us and that we were not responsible for wiping them off the planet. Please, establish an international mechanism to enforce laws on illegal wildlife trade with a standardized penal code and standards for ranger certification. Strengthen legally binding agreements on endangered wildlife protection. Refuse manufactured goods containing parts from species at risk and collaborate to protect migratory routes. Demand accountability from countries with high frequency of illegal trade, support states most vulnerable to poaching, extend marine and land bio-reserve areas and protections, and educate and engage your local communities in conservation.

We urge all governments to pick up their pace in transitioning to Green Economies and support developing countries in this transition. We ask governments to develop a detailed strategy to raise by 2030 the \$100 trillion estimated by the World Economic Forum required to finance infrastructure needs worldwide. Establish green economy funds in national budgets and green this investment with less carbon and fewer natural resources. Finally, honor the agreement in the Monterrey Consensus Outcome and help make sure that we are all on the path to living our lives with dignity.

Thank you.



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