



# UN Major Group for Children and Youth

the space for children and youth in the United Nations

**United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth**  
Oceans conference preparatory meeting, 15th - 16th February 2017

## **Our life**

50% of the oxygen we breathe comes from the oceans. But with every breath we take and every step we make, we are currently putting the oceans at risk.

We are prepared to take action on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Are you? Our lives and those of future generations depend on it.

## **Our community**

We therefore ask you to recognize the immediate impact on youth in national strategies relating to the ocean and climate change - their wellbeing and on their development of sustainable use and conservation of oceans, seas and marine. Further, we call for the meaningful youth participation and partnership in defining the three major outcomes of the UN Oceans Conference: call for action, partnership dialogue, and voluntary commitments for Oceans.

## **Our food and nutrition is vital..**

Ensure ocean-based food sovereignty for development of young people globally as they rely on nutrition from the ocean, specifically in LIFDCs and LDCs. It is key to our development.

## **..yet we do not care for plastic soup**

Food security is crucial, yet we also need to raise awareness and formulate policy to reduce the plastic use and marine litters. Building on the work of the 2030 Agenda (2015), the G7 (2015) and the UNEA (2016), member states must establish a timeline and process to agree to a global treaty on plastics, including microplastics.

## **Our blue Economy**

Ensure that member States use the Oceans sustainably to improve the economy and livelihood of the people especially the surrounding communities. Declare our oceans open for regional and continental economic integration with young people trained to take advantage of this for economic empowerment in a sustainable way.

## **Our education is key..**

Ensure oceans related capacity building to include not only littoral and island but also landlocked countries to strengthen awareness of importance of oceans for our and the planet's wellbeing and sustainable development, beyond the study of natural sciences.

## **.. and we need data, appropriate technology, coherence, and science-policy interface**

We call for evidence-based, data-informed policy processes, with inclusive use of technologies and innovations that fills gaps in the implementation, monitoring, follow-up, and review, connected to Annual Multi-stakeholder STI forum for the SDGs in May 2017. Promote coherence between Goal 14 and other intergovernmentally agreed frameworks such as the Sendai Framework targets A, B, C, & E, SAMOA Pathway for SIDS and more.

## **Our voluntary commitment**

We are currently gathering voluntary commitments of youth groups from around the world through our consultation process within the UN MGCY. We are prepared and ready to take action on our part and hope to see the same commitment from Member States and all other stakeholders.