



UN Major Group for **Children and Youth** the space for children and youth in the United Nations

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Intervention at the Open-Ended Informal Consultative Meeting for Habitat III
The Transformative Commitments for a Sustainable Urban Development
Urban Economic Development Strategies

27th April 2016

Thank you Facilitator for giving the floor.

The UN Major Group for Children and Youth has a concern of this discourse taking place here, which seems to us MDGs model. The Sustainable Urban Development means the integration of the three dimensions which are Economic, Social, and importantly Environmental dimensions into the development.

Therefore, we would like to emphasise the environmental perspectives in this conversation.

When we talk about the GDP, many people refer to the fact that large part of GDPs are produced in Cities. However, this a value agnostic banal and buzz expression does not capture the resource extraction from the planet, especially around rural and peri-urban areas.

Therefore, Productivities, income, inequality, etc should be looked at in an enhanced angle, not just by the GDPs.

This is not a radical thought, and has already been inter governmentally agreed in Rio+20, the 2030 Agenda and the FfD outcome

Serious cohesive implementation of the NUA involves assessments of the respective trajectories of the environmental, social, and economic variables, and how they affect to each other, and in turn the indicators of the NUA.

Measuring and assessing the progress of the SDGs in an urban context and the NUA indicators, as compared to the national and city level ecological footprint as a ratio along with new measures of progress beyond GDP is critical to ascertain the genuine holistic national progress towards sustainable development.

This analogy should also be extended to incorporate extra-territorial contributions to ecological footprints.

In addition, taking stock of a city's ecological footprint (through a natural capital accountability system) compared to environmental thresholds, planetary boundaries and biocapacity, should be included as a mandatory guidelines in national reviews at the global and national levels.

Such an analysis should also track input oriented proactive measures like regulatory steps imposing biophysical caps on the extraction of virgin resources and measures being taken to replenish the depleted resources in the communities where the depletion took place (distance and hypothetical replenishments through credits and offsets do not account for real replenishments.)

The structure of such an analysis can be borrowed from the work of the Secretary General's scientific advisory board, whose terms of reference (TORs) includes actions points on creating global assessments of critical environmental thresholds.

Thank you.