

Section 3 : Strengthening the Role of Major Groups

Chapter 25 : Children and youth in sustainable development

Youth comprise nearly 30 percent of the world's population. The involvement of youth is critical to the long term success of Agenda 21.

A. Advancing the role of youth and actively involving them in the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and social development

Objectives

Each country should:

- promote dialogue between youth and government at all levels
- reduce youth unemployment
- seek youth representation in the United Nations
- provide youth with legal protection, skills, opportunities and support so they can fulfil their personal, economic and social aspirations and potentials.

Activities

Governments should:

- ensure access for all youth to all types of education
- create alternative employment and training opportunities for youth
- establish youth task forces to increase awareness on critical issues for youth
- seek youth involvement in youth issues.

The United Nations and other international organisations should:

- review and enhance coordination of their youth programmes
- improve distribution of information to governments and youth organisations
- promote the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Youth Year.

B. Children in sustainable development

Children will inherit the future responsibility for the Earth. They are highly aware of environmental issues and are vulnerable to environmental degradation.

Objectives

Governments should:

- ensure the survival, protection and development of children in accordance with the goals of the 1990 World Summit for Children
- incorporate children's concerns into all relevant policies and strategies for environment and development.

Activities

Governments should:

- implement programmes for children in the areas of environment, development, health, nutrition, education and poverty alleviation
- ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- improve the environment for children at the household and community level
- expand educational opportunities for children
- mobilise communities through schools and local health centres
- cooperate with UNICEF and other organisations.