



UN CSD Major Group of Children and Youth

Rio+20 and Water

Key Messages

The MGCY is the official constituency of children and youth in the CSD process. The MGCY has called for the recognition of the water-food-energy security nexus in the Rio+20 discussions. Additionally, the MGCY supports water efficiency in order to avoid worsening crises that affect youth and children. In terms of the Zero Draft, the MGCY supports:

- The importance of the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights
- The important role of the private sector and civil society in meeting the water challenge
- The renewal of the commitment made in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) regarding the development and implementation of integrated water resource management, the nexus approach, and water efficiency plans
- The development of specific water efficiency measures to track water use throughout all sectors such as agriculture, energy, industrial and urban use
- The implementation of national and regional water-basin frameworks to improve a mechanism for solving conflicts among water-users

Key Issues at Rio+20

Water-energy-food security nexus: There is a need to integrate water in development and sectoral policies, in particular agricultural, rural and urban development and energy related policies, to promote efficient water use throughout all productive sectors. In this regard, governments and the private sector must facilitate research and incentives to promote water efficiency and water quality monitoring technologies.

Right to Water: The UN has recognized the importance of defining water and sanitation as an independent right since 2010. The right to water guarantees all citizens: "sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses." Later on, the United Nations adopted guidelines for the realization of the right to drinking water and sanitation and unifying principles for public action. Consequently, green economy policies must respect the human right to water.

Transboundary Cooperation: The achievement of an equitable distribution of water and cooperation among water users will only be achieved if Member States recognize existing transboundary and water basin agreements. This will also facilitate the participation of all stakeholders, including women and children in the promotion of sound water management.

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