

Dear state officials, representants of UN agencies, delegates and permanent representatives, I am speaking today on behalf of the Major Group for Children and Youth, representing the voices of young people from the ECE region.

I want to recall the core challenges faced by young people in enhancing collaboration for sustainable development. We started our youth consultations by wondering about the SDGs themselves and realised knowledge of their existence was extremely disparate between youth of the ECE region. This also applies to societies on a broader level which is especially felt in the professional sector as we are reuniting today

The needs regarding SDG 17 presented in the youth report of the RFSD 2025 that we outlined yesterday during the high-level policy segment is that SDGs awareness, with an emphasis on widespread education, including school programs enabling young people to understand and interact with SDGs. That shall also include SDG-related activities, enabling children and youth to apply their knowledge. Creating a social impact project, an art piece, or a debate can empower young people in participation for and contribution to the SDGs.

This is especially important to target future stakeholders that can not yet take part in the mechanisms you have mentioned since the beginning of this round-table. Most young people do not yet have a job in the private sector in which they could propose a partnership to enhance sustainable development initiatives, nor the financial capabilities to take part in improving financing sustainable development. Those people should be equally supported with taking an initiative in shaping a more positive world that it also theirs.

A positive note is the fact that we, as young people, have been growing with the SDGs, we have been raised with the sustainable initiatives put in place by the ECE societies and have experienced their positive impact, which makes us more inclined to participate in engaging with the SDGs than other generations.

In light of this, awareness shall also be ensured in the professional sphere where there is a natural knowledge disparity regarding sustainable developments between sectors, differently sized and located businesses. We have to remind of the huge responsibility of the private sector for the wellbeing of our planet. It thus needs to be ensured that all levels and parts of the business are both well-aware of the impact of their actions and of the necessity to respect the environment and human rights. That awareness has to be executed and measured in actions thanks to data collection mechanisms to progress towards more sustainable development and to weight failures and successes.