

Chair, Honorable Delegates, Fellow Students,

My name is Clara Edmonds, and I am a Year 11 student at the International School of Geneva.

I am honored to be here today to present a short film that I made about the Sustainable Development Goals. I would like to thank the organisers of FerMUN 2015 for inviting me.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a UN initiative that - like the Millennium Development Goals before them - aim to improve our world. These goals are a chance for our generation to shape the world we want.

I am alarmed that many teenagers don't know or care about these goals or about the post-2015 development agenda that will determine the future of our planet.

They do not know that these goals will guide future development efforts. That they are set to be accomplished by 2030.

By that time, we will be adults and in a position to shape and lead our world. That's why it is extremely important that we are aware of these goals - so that we can keep them alive and help accomplish them.

However, some governments are opposed to the Sustainable Development Goals. Because their leaders are afraid of change. They do not see how gender equality, human rights and a greener planet will benefit them.

One way you can help influence our world leaders and to show your support for sustainable development is to take the MY World survey. This is the largest survey the UN has ever launched.

More than 7 million people - mostly young women and men - from 194 countries have already taken the survey. Their votes represent the hopes and dreams of 1 in every 1,000 people on the planet.

They have told the UN which issues are most important to them and their families – from clean water and sanitation to freedom from discrimination. Their top three priorities so far are a good education, better healthcare and better job opportunities.

The intergovernmental negotiations in New York have just begun. It will not be easy, but the UN hopes to have a final set of goals adopted by our world leaders in September this year. This makes it even more important that we show our support for these goals now.

As Nelson Mandela said, “sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great, you can be that generation”. I believe we are that generation, and I know that together we can make a change for the better.

Thank you very much!