



**United Nations 16th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development
Regional Implementation Meeting for Europe and North America**

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NGO Statement - Crosscutting issues

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Ladies and Gentleman, distinguished delegates,

Most of the questions are already answered in Agenda 21. Political leadership in implementation of sustainable development is still lacking in many countries also in our region. Most of the discussion in the North is still about economic growth but not about wellbeing and redistribution of wealth.

Climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, resource depletion are the result of unsustainable consumption and production patterns. Much of the discussion in the last two days was on the end of pipe solutions but not on the underlying cause of these problems.

In many cases governments are looking at the technical and technological solutions to these problems, but NGOs think there is an urgent need for a solidarity based economy.

We also need indicators which not only measure economic activity but take into account other aspects of sustainable development. We have to go beyond GDP.

The NGO community is willing to participate in the process of implementing sustainable development. But many countries don't have their National Sustainable Development Strategy, and the ones who have do not always use proper participation of major groups. Countries from our region should also encourage developing countries to use the instrument of participatory NSDS – not the poverty reduction plans, which stimulates exports and selling out their natural resources.

The price of inaction will only increase.

We need you to put this on the sustainable development agenda now, not later.

Thank you very much!