

**-- AWG-KP Contact group on item 3 YOUNGO intervention --**

**-- Delivered by Quintin Combrink on behalf of YOUNGO --**

Friday, 2 December 2011 – [10.00 - 10.45] -- (Open to Parties and observers), King Protea

Thank you Chair

My name is Quintin Combrink. I am 24 years old and I speak on behalf of the youth constituency. I am from South Africa, and I, like all of you, have invested a lot of time in this conference.

This is more important than anything else I could be doing. Climate change is the moral issue facing both my and your generation.

We came here hopeful. We came inspired. We came energised. Now, among the youth present, doubt is spreading. Young people here doubt the political will of parties. Some of them are beginning to doubt the process itself. We are losing faith in you.

I'm sure you share this sense of dashed idealism and lost hope. But we believe in this, we hope for this, and we need you to work for this. So Mr. Chair and Delegates, I'm going to try something different here. When we make decisions as international youth, we recognise coming to consensus can be challenging – we often have trouble with this ourselves. Good communication is vital but with a little work, we find we can build trust, and a spirit of mutual co-operation can be achieved.

So I ask you:

Can you please raise your hand if you're wearing shoes?

*(Come on, some of you must be wearing shoes)*

Okay. Can you raise your hand if you think you didn't have enough sleep last night?

*(Well I certainly didn't!)*

Raise your hand if you're here to find a solution to the climate crisis.

*(...well then I guess I am making the front page!)*

Please raise your hand if you think the first Kyoto commitment period was worthwhile

*(...)*

Raise your hand if you believe that by the end of next week, this conference could agree to a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

*(...)*

We need to build trust. We need openness. We all want a solution. We need all cards on the table. Tricks of diplomacy do not work here. This is about the future of our global society.

We call for a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. We call for it to last five years or less. We call for it to start by January 2013. We cannot wait until 2015, let alone 2020 for a new binding agreement. You've all seen the figures: emissions must peak by 2015.

But more than anything we want a solution. We need to work together. We need trust. We are here to work with you. We hope you are here to work with each other. We *are* watching, we *are* listening, and we *will* be taking action.

Thank you.