



SUSTAINAWARE



Institute
for Health
and Environment



Youth Health
Organization
INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

Declaration

International Youth Climate Summit taking place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 7th to 8th July 2022, focused on Sustainable Development Goals, namely SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), SDG 10 (Reducing Inequalities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

1. ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- Young people play an important role in advocating for the health co-benefits of climate action for reducing inequalities.
- It is crucial that young people are included in policy making and implementation.
- Young people have a voice in spreading the awareness about the climate crisis and health inequalities.
- Young people and youth organisations are taking action to battle the climate crisis and reduce inequalities.

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2. EDUCATION

- Many school systems all over the globe do not sufficiently address the need for holistic education on climate change and its impacts on public health.
- On the one hand, informal climate education is as important as the formal one, but on the other hand, it is still strongly under-financed and does not reach the general population.
- Unequal access to quality education is still one of the major drivers of other inequalities in the population.

3. ECONOMY

- The current global economic model with the need for constant growth drastically drives climate change in the Anthropocene.
- The discussion about degrowth does not have enough space in public debates.
- Although we are aware of the negative effects of fossil fuel consumption subsidies, countries still support the industries that are the most responsible for the current climate crisis.

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4. INFRASTRUCTURE

- There are not enough investments in the exploitation of renewable energy sources, especially solar energy, which also means the decentralisation of energy sources.
- In many countries, public transport infrastructure is still underdeveloped and uncompetitive, which encourages the use of personal vehicles and unsustainable means of transportation.
- Urban planning does not address climate mitigation and adaptation ambitiously enough.

5. POLICY

- Policymaking often does not rely on science-based facts that serve common human and environmental well-being but rather on the interests of the capital.
- In many cases, environmental justice is neglected during policymaking and forgotten when thinking about the historical burden of responsibility for current environmental problems between the global north and global south.
- New policies usually do not enable the connection between personal and system changes with the goal of solving the environmental and health crisis. Furthermore, governments usually transfer the burden of responsibility to the individual which is too big to handle.

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We, therefore, call on the governments and international community to:

- Support young people and youth organisations in implementing local and global initiatives that are combating climate crisis and inequalities.
- Integrate Education for Sustainable Development in formal education curriculum with special emphasis on solving the problems.
- Secure sustainable food supply chains as well as a safe and nutritious diet for everyone and systemically limit overconsumption and food waste.
- Invest in efficient, affordable, and internationally connected public transport and provide subsidies for climate-friendly vehicles.
- Bring more opportunities to rural and remote areas, decentralise the institutions, and spread the decision-making powers.
- Include young people in the decision-making and implementation of science-based and not capital-based policies that address climate crisis and health inequalities.
- Invest in sustainable spatial planning with special emphasis on climate adaptation and mitigation as well as community development in urban and rural areas.
- Include the discussion about degrowth in political and economic debates and set the plans for its implementation.

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