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UNESCO  
Welt-Jugend-Festival  
STUTT GART

# A Wake-Up Call for Climate Protection Stuttgart Declaration

## A wake up-call from the youth, for the youth, to the world's decision makers

Over 500 youth representatives from 46 countries met in Stuttgart to discuss the issues of climate change, the future of energy resources, and the impact this will have on our planet. Following two days of intense discussions with a focus placed on the question of what each individual can do, we appeal to decision makers to take action, quickly and with determination.

Wake up! Climate change is a reality. The facts are on the table and can no longer be denied. Stop diminishing the importance of what's at stake; stop thinking only in terms of profit and opinion polls! Act now, because climate change will transform our planet into a hostile place to live and will threaten civilization as we know it. Only by taking firm action now can we avoid disaster.

### We appeal to the youth of the world:

We realize that change has to begin with each individual. Be the change you want to see! A lot of energy is wasted through carelessness and thoughtlessness. For instance, we discovered at the UNESCO Youth Congress that every one of us can easily reduce his or her energy consumption by 15%. Small changes by many people can make a big difference!

#### Let's make a commitment to ourselves:

- **To consume energy, responsibly and efficiently**

We will only use electricity that we truly need by, for example, pulling the plug of unneeded electrical devices, thus eliminating stand-by energy use. We will not overheat or over-cool our buildings. We will use windows and doors as much as we can to avoid air conditioning. We will actively monitor our

energy consumption and seek to discover better energy conservation measures. We will actively minimize water usage, waste, and the consumption of meat. We will actively seek to live with less.

- **To use environmentally friendly means of mobility**

As often as possible, we will walk, ride a bicycle, and use public transport instead of using cars. When we must drive a car, we will carpool.

- **To become politically involved in our own communities**

We will keep ourselves informed about methods to protect the environment, and we will encourage others to follow our example. We will become actively involved in politics. We will encourage our parents, friends, relatives, and neighbours to become environmentally aware in their everyday lives. We will urge them to use renewable energy. We will motivate them to insulate their homes, buy more energy efficient appliances and automobiles, and share them with others. We will also plant trees.

## We appeal to policy makers:

We are ready to make our contribution; however, today's decision makers, too, must make strategic decisions for the future. Without a common understanding and strict regulations at local, regional, national, and international levels, the commitment by individuals like us will be in vain.

### Therefore we demand:

- **To ensure a better education on environmental issues**  
Ensure that knowledge of environmental pollution and environmentally friendly practices reaches all nations and that, starting at a young age, children learn how important this issue really is. Make environmental education an important element of your pre-school and schools' curricula!
- **To encourage environmentally friendly practices**  
Initiate "Days without cars" programs! Expand public transport and make it more attractive! Promote environmentally friendly products, renewable energies and the energy efficiency of homes (insulation!). Reward energy conservation and sanction waste of resources!
- **To increase the cross-border exchange of ideas**  
Promote conferences on environmental protection, strengthen the dialogue among experts of all nations, and guarantee the free flow of ideas by word and image!
- **To promote research**  
Put more money and support into environmental research! Promote the development of environmentally friendly cars!
- **To adopt international legislation**  
Adopt international laws, which promote environmentally friendly production and sanction offences against environmental laws, that are binding for all nations. Organize an effective trading system of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which in effect reduces its emission. Adopt stricter laws for pollution control and take concrete steps to enforce them! Raise taxes on fossil fuels (for instance aviation fuel)!
- **To support environmentally friendly companies**  
Incentives should be given for investments on behalf of the environment and to encourage environmentally friendly practices. Introduce a grading system which indicates the energy consumption of a product. Make companies pay for their external costs! Invest into sustainable development also in developing nations! The public sector should support environmentally friendly products and production processes via tax incentives.

## We appeal to the business community:

- **To save resources**  
Cut down on waste in your production chain and cut down on packaging material! Use more renewable sources of energy! Emphasize cooperation with local producers to reduce the transport distance of goods (especially food). Provide more funding for the research of environmentally friendly production processes!
- **To promote environmentally friendly products**  
Make the environmental impact of your products transparent and produce environmentally friendly and resource-saving products! Take appropriate action to ensure that your sustainable products are affordable for everyone!
- **To support the financing of environmentally friendly projects**  
Banks should finance environmentally friendly projects at a much higher rate. These include sustainable buildings, agriculture, and manufacturing, among others.

## We appeal to the scientific community:

- **To improve understanding of the issues at hand**  
Make climate research more accessible and tangible for broader communities around the globe! Encourage the exchange of ideas between the scientific community and the general public! Withstand efforts made by politicians and companies to influence you! Communicate with the youth!
- **To improve existing technologies**  
Promote the research of efficient and alternative transport systems! Make existing technologies more energy efficient and make all products recyclable!
- **To develop new technologies**  
Develop better climate models, more methods of carbon capture, and strategies designed to better adapt to the detrimental effects of climate change.
- **To intensify international cooperation**  
Foster a more transparent and unlimited exchange of knowledge by making all research accessible to the entire scientific community.

Only through a joint effort by all people will we avoid the threat to humanity posed by climate change. The future of our planet is in our hands. This is why we must protect our environment. This is why we must accept responsibility.

**This is why we must wake up and act now!**

