



## CALLING ALL YOUTH

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Now that you have read *the World Youth Report: Youth and Climate Change*, it is the hope that with this newly gained knowledge you are inspired to take on the challenges presented by climate change and do your part in achieving sustainable development goals. Here are some suggested steps youth can take toward mobilizing collective action for positive change:

## GET INFORMED:

Keeping in step with the latest scientific advancements and political developments on the climate change agenda is important when advocating for change. Relevant and informed positions lead to better strategies and more success.

## BE THE CHANGE:

Taking a more conscious approach to your everyday behaviours by considering the environmental and social consequences of your actions is a good first step in decreasing your carbon footprint. Practicing a sustainable lifestyle sets a positive example for others to follow; therefore, multiplying your personal efforts.

## EDUCATE:

Share your knowledge, information and innovative ideas with others, including: your peers, school boards, community leaders, Government Officials, business owners, and so on. Encourage them to learn more about climate change and to modify their personal and work-place consumptive behaviours.

## MOBILIZE:

Collectively, youth in action are a powerful force. Consider the deep convictions held by young people, especially with respect to their future prospects, together with the vast number of youth today. In some countries, youth populations outnumber all other groups so, youth groups have great lobbying potential from local to national levels.

## VOLUNTEER:

Youth civic engagement has the potential to profoundly impact local communities' sustainable development efforts. Donating your knowledge, skills and labour on activities such as environmental clean-

ups, building sustainable structures, and recycling programmes have both immediate and long-term effects.

## PARTNER:

Partnerships for sustainable development contribute to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments and were a complementary outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The UN Commission on Sustainable Development establishes partnerships with a variety of actors, including youth organisations, with the aim of contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21, Rio+5 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Through formally established multi-sectoral partnerships, organizations have the opportunity to interact with a range of actors and increase their knowledge on emerging climate change issues.

## ADVOCATE FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION:

It is up to the current generation of leaders to take concrete steps to harness the potential young people represent in the fight against climate change. Governments should draw upon their youth populations to compliment their efforts and strengthen the implementation of sustainable development policies and programmes. Youth can call upon their Governments to:

- **Institutionalize youth participation in decision-making.** Tokenistic arrangements must be replaced with formalized inclusive and deliberative processes that allow young people to routinely influence climate change policy development and decision-making. In addition, a mechanism to ensure serious and timely consideration of their proposals should also be established with a component to assess and

explain the adaptation or rejection of their inputs. Just as in other democratic processes, institutionalized youth participation must be characterized by consistency, transparency, and accountability at all levels of decision-making.

- **Invest in youth initiatives.** Strategies to secure funding for youth organizations involved in addressing climate change are required at local, national, regional and international levels. A climate change fund could be administered by and for young people to support initiatives that promote youth engagement in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities.
- **Establish a participatory role in international forums.** Young people are now involved on a regular basis in the activities of various international advisory bodies, including within the United Nations system. The effectiveness of these bodies in integrating youth perspectives and facilitating youth empowerment should be evaluated with the aim of supporting the “ladder of participation” model outlined in chapter IV of this report. Actions such as granting permanent status to the youth constituency (YOUNGO) at COP 17 are a step in the right direction.

