



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 November 2016

Excellency,

In 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was unanimously adopted by Member States of the United Nations. Taken with the Paris Climate Change Agreement, which came into force on 4 November, the community of nations now has in place a comprehensive plan to achieve a sustainable future for humankind on this planet.

As President of the General Assembly's 71st Session, I have made the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda the central focus of the session. Here at the Office of the President of the General Assembly we are aiming to achieve momentum for all 17 of the Goals and are devoting ourselves to the task.

Since today's youth will be the inheritors of the success or failure of the Sustainable Development Goals, their ownership and commitment to the Goals will be critical to success. For this to be so, they must be taught to embrace the 17 Goals as fundamental to their future well-being and sustainability.

In pursuit of this high purpose, I am writing to you and every Head of Government of the Member States of the United Nations, with the request that national efforts are made to educate young people on the vital importance of the Sustainable Development Goals. If every school curriculum in the world incorporates the Sustainable Development Goals, every school teaches them, and every young person on the planet is made aware of them as rights and responsibilities, the world will stand a very good chance of attaining the Goals by 2030.

I am pleased to advise, Excellency, that in support of the policies that your government may decide on the matter, tools are already available to help support SDG learning, such as those developed by UNICEF, UNESCO, the Global Partnership for Education and the "World's Largest Lesson".

This letter is written to you in the spirit of universality in which the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda was forged. It is also written from the perspective of a loving grandfather who cares deeply whether post-2030 conditions will allow for a sustainable way of life for humankind on Planet Earth. It is written, in the conviction that determined implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by the youth of today and adults of tomorrow, will secure that future for humanity.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Peter Thomson

To All Heads of Government of the Member States
of the United Nations