



Growing Together in a Changing Climate

THE UNITED NATIONS, YOUNG PEOPLE, AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Growing Together in a Changing Climate:
The United Nations, Young People, and Climate Change

*A publication of the United Nations Joint
Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change*

2009-12

Print: Print One AB, Halmstad/Sweden

Layout: 5F, Adam Axelsson

Thank you to the many photographers and artists who have contributed
to this endeavour, in particular Franziska Seel, 350.org, and IYCN.

*This book is printed on paper certified
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Foreword

Throughout the climate change negotiations, young people have shown that they will not wait to inherit a world damaged by climate change, but that they want to be part of creating solutions. They have brought their energy and creativity to the intergovernmental process, demanding concrete action from their governments.

However, young people know that change must not only take place in terms of government, but also at home. They have changed their lifestyles, altering their consumption patterns to make ecologically conscious decisions. We expect young people to continue to lead us by launching environmentally responsible businesses and engaging in scientific research for clean and efficient energy sources.

It is then not surprising that since COP 11 in Montreal, youth engagement in the UNFCCC process has significantly increased. From 2009 onwards, youth will be recognized as a civil society actor in the negotiation process. This was the result of a serious desire expressed by young people to gain a louder voice within the intergovernmental process and of our commitment to ensuring such involvement. We welcome their inspiration and the contributions they will continue to make to this process.

United Nations agencies, development institutions and young people themselves have been busy carrying out activities leading to COP 15 in Copenhagen. This booklet highlights some of these initiatives. I thank our partners in the United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change and other entities that contributed to this endeavour. I hope it fosters greater awareness of how young people can get involved as well as promote further cooperation between the United Nations system and youth organizations in the area of climate change.

YVO DE BOER

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AYICC	African Youth Initiative on Climate Change
AYCC	Australian Youth Climate Coalition
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COM+	Alliance of Communicators for Sustainable Development
COP	Conference of the Parties
COY	Conference of Youth
CYCAN	China Youth Climate Action Network
DESD	Decade of Education for Sustainable Development
EAC	Energy Action Coalition
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ICC	International Climate Champions
IGO	Intergovernmental Organization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IVD	International Volunteer Day
IVEN	The InterVarsity Environment Network
IYCN	Indian Youth Climate Network
JVE	Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OIF	Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
PSP	Project Survival Pacific
SEMEP	South-Eastern Mediterranean Sea Project
TIG	TakingITGlobal
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UN CSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
WAGGGS	World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WOSM	World Organization of the Scout Movement
YFJ	European Youth Forum
YUNGA	Youth and United Nations Global Alliance
YOUNGO	The youth constituency under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, stands for Youth Non-Governmental Organization (Youth NGO)
YfC	Youth for Conservation

Introduction

A global youth movement has grown around climate change issues, with hundreds of grassroots initiatives and national campaigns springing up in countries around the world. Young people have been present at climate negotiations since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, and their actions have resulted in widespread media coverage and the mobilization of thousands of their peers. It is estimated that 200 young people participated at the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its thirteenth session held in Bali in December 2007, 500 at COP 14 in Poznan in December 2008, and indications are that more than 1,000 youth will attend COP 15 in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Since September 2008, the United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth and Climate Change has facilitated the coordination and implementation of initiatives for children and young people on climate change, and greater engagement of children and young people in intergovernmental processes on climate change and related activities undertaken by the United Nations system.

The Framework Initiative also fosters synergy between United Nations agencies and programmes for the implementation of the New Delhi work programme on Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which

addresses: education, training, public awareness, public participation and access to information in relation to climate change and its effects. Children and young people are identified as key target groups for activities under the New Delhi work programme.

“Growing Together in a Changing Climate: The United Nations, Young People, and Climate Change” contains information on some of the many climate change initiatives – projects, campaigns, educational tools, websites and publications – produced by the United Nations and young people, independently or in partnership. These range from global initiatives raising awareness for combating climate change, to advocacy

efforts at the UNFCCC negotiations. The initiatives presented in this publication are categorized broadly according to the key elements of Article 6 of the UNFCCC, as follows:

- *Youth participation in climate change issues,*
- *Education and training,*
- *Youth awareness and access to information.*

The initiatives presented here are by no means a complete account of all activities undertaken or ongoing, but rather a compilation to display a wide spectrum of projects and initiatives. United Nations agencies whose work includes children, youth and climate change, as well as recognized youth organizations, were invited to contribute to this publication. The responses received were reviewed and complemented with information readily available from public sources, such as websites and publications.

This publication is intended to inform young people of ways in which they can engage with their peers and with the United Nations to address climate change. For the United Nations family, it is intended as a means to share information and as a source of inspiration for future partnerships with young people on climate change issues. For negotiators, it provides inspiration for ambitious commitments envisioned by young people in their efforts to tackle climate change. And for all of us, it presents a challenge to further strengthen our work in order to bring about meaningful and sustainable change.

ARTICLE 6 of the UNFCCC: EDUCATION, TRAINING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

In carrying out their commitments under Article 4, paragraph 1(i), the Parties shall:

(a) Promote and facilitate at the national and, as appropriate, subregional and regional levels, and in accordance with national laws and regulations, and within their respective capacities:

(i) The development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects;

(ii) Public access to information on climate change and its effects;

(iii) Public participation in addressing climate change and its effects and developing adequate responses; and

(iv) Training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel.

(b) Cooperate in and promote, at the international level, and, where appropriate, using existing bodies:

(i) The development and exchange of educational and public awareness material on climate change and its effects; and

(ii) The development and implementation of education and training programmes, including the strengthening of national institutions and the exchange or secondment of personnel to train experts in this field, in particular for developing countries.



Youth Participation in Climate Change Issues

Young people have demonstrated that they can be active partners in promoting public participation in responding to climate change, as outlined in Article 6 of the UNFCCC, by engaging in local and global debates about climate change issues. The following initiatives, presented in alphabetical order, showcase some of the steps that young people have taken to become actors in international policy processes related to climate change.

African Youth Initiative on Climate Change

The African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC) is a youth network conceived in 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya, during the Conference of Youth held prior to COP 12. This initiative has continued to facilitate the linking of actors in the African continent to share knowledge, ideas, experiences, skills and strategies on youth action on climate change mitigation and adaptation. AYICC is also a platform for young people to discuss their regional challenges when attending international meetings such as the UNFCCC negotiations.

AYICC's mission is to ensure active youth participation at all institutional levels as well as influence the adoption of climate-friendly behavioural changes at the community level, through skills-development and knowledge-building.

Key youth groups involved and playing a major role in AYICC are: Jeunes Volon-

taires pour l'Environnement (JVE), Togo, InterVarsity Environment Network (IVEN), Kenya, Youth for Conservation (YfC), Kenya, ECOWATCH Uganda, EARTH-LIVE South Africa, National Youth Coalition against Climate Change, Ghana and Rwanda.

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China Youth Climate Action Network

In June 2007, the 4th China Environment Forum was held in Wuhan with the theme “Global Warming and the Responsibilities of College Students in Environment Protection.” Chinese youth took the opportunity to debate climate change issues for the first time, and launched a series of discussions covering the current policies on climate change, which led to the establishment of the China Youth Climate Action Network (CYCAN).

Since then, CYCAN has established chapters in over 300 universities throughout China and become China’s largest youth-driven organization focused on clean energy and climate change. CYCAN has hosted hundreds of climate action events, and has mobilized over 30,000 young people in every province across China.

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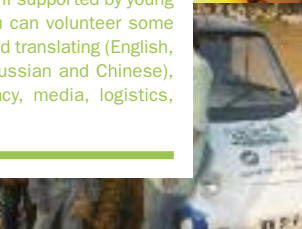
HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED IN THE CSD YOUTH CAUCUS?

If you are a young person and want to engage in youth's work on sustainable development at the UN, you can...

... start by finding out what is going on with the CSD Youth Caucus by joining the mailing list. Just send a blank e-mail to: WSSD-YouthCaucus-subscribe@groups.takingitglobal.org

... apply as a delegate! Each year in the spring, young people have the chance to participate in the two-week meeting of the UN CSD at the United Nations in New York City. Application forms and waivers are available as of January.

... contribute to our work! The Youth Caucus can only accomplish its mission if supported by young people and volunteers. You can volunteer some of your time and skills toward translating (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese), ICTs, lobbying and advocacy, media, logistics, fundraising...



Energy Action Coalition

The Energy Action Coalition (EAC) is leading the youth movement in the United States of America to address climate change both domestically and internationally. EAC unites a diverse group of 50 environmental and social justice organizations, more than 700 local groups, and hundreds of thousands of young people under a unified vision of a sustainable and equitable future.

In 2005, EAC launched the Campus Climate Challenge, an effort that has reached over two million young people at 760 university campuses and achieved 500 clean energy victories. Its national summits, PowerShift 2007 and 2009, have brought together thousands of young people from across the world to address the climate crisis. In collaboration with SustainUS, EAC has recruited and trained dozens of young people for the COP 15 negotiations.

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European Youth Forum

Independently established by youth organizations, the European Youth Forum (YFJ) is comprised of more than 90 national youth councils and international non-governmental youth organizations, which are federations of youth organizations in themselves. It brings together tens of millions of young people from all over Europe and represents

their common interests. YFJ works to empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives, by representing and advocating for the needs and interests of young people in Europe.

In March 2009, YFJ organised a round table on the role of youth in fighting climate change, where young people urged the European Union to work on a strong and ambitious agreement at COP 15. YFJ also arranged an exchange between young people from developed and developing countries in September 2009 at the Youth and Development Conference in Cape Verde, regarding developing countries' representation at COP 15 and the need to strengthen adaptation measures at the upcoming Copenhagen talks. In October 2009, YFJ also organized the COP 15 International Youth Preparatory meeting in Malmö, Sweden, to train 80 young people from around the world to become effective advocates at COP 15.

YFJ is leading a delegation to the Copenhagen negotiations to ensure that the views of young people are represented in the debate on climate change and the future of our planet.

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Indian Youth Climate Network

Founded in March 2008, the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN) is a coalition uniting Indian youth and youth-oriented organizations concerned about climate change. As the future leaders of the country, IYCN members strive to generate awareness and build consensus on the role of India in the global debate, and ways to address domestic issues of climate justice and adaptation. IYCN works on three levels:

- As a network of individuals allowing people to come together and interact at a grassroots level, form friendships and support each other.
- As a coalition of member and supporter groups that come under the umbrella of IYCN, while maintaining their autonomy and leveraging a national network of young people passionate about the environment and development.
- As a centralised organization that runs its own programmes and projects, accepts sponsorship and donations, forms partnerships and runs media campaigns.

Beyond promoting dialogue on climate change issues, IYCN has encouraged media outlets, scientists, academics and young people, to develop and implement climate solutions in India. In 2009, 20 young Indians rode Indian-made, solar-powered REVA cars across the country as part of the Climate Solutions Road Tour. They documented climate solutions being developed by ground-

breaking entrepreneurs, innovative villagers, creative non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and passionate youth. These solutions were profiled on the national media, while the Tour itself gathered attention worldwide through articles in many international media outlets. The next stage of the project is to micro-franchise successful solutions, and encourage and support more youth entrepreneurs.

In its short period of existence, IYCN has generated excitement from youth and adults at the grassroots. It is now present in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and is quickly moving into other regions of India.

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Intergenerational Inquiry Side Events at COP Sessions

The first Intergenerational Inquiry on Climate Change was organized at COP 14 in Poznan by the UNFCCC secretariat in partnership with United Nations organizations engaged in the Joint Framework Initiative for Children, Youth and Climate Change. It brought together young people from around the world, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, representatives of United Nations

agencies, key negotiators from developed and developing countries, and scientists to discuss how their actions contribute to a collective solution to climate challenges. Having received positive feedback from governments, United Nations officials and NGOs, the UNFCCC secretariat will regularly coordinate an Intergenerational Inquiry side event at the sessions of the COP. The Intergenerational Inquiry at COP 15 will bring together young people with a diverse group of decision-makers to discuss creative, collective solutions to climate change.

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International Organisation of La Francophonie

The International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) supports the active participation of young francophones in national and international decision-making processes on sustainable development. As such, environmental issues are among its priorities. In 2008 and 2009, the Francophonie Summer Schools, in Morocco and Burkina Faso respectively, were dedicated to themes of the environment and climate change. Since 2006 the OIF has been also supporting the participation of young delegates in the Conference of Youth, which takes place before each session of the COP. At COP 15, the OIF-Unité Jeunesse, together with the

Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie and the Institut de la Francophonie Numérique, is supporting mass youth participation through a video-conference series, live from Copenhagen.

Partners: Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie and the Institut de la Francophonie Numérique

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Photograph courtesy of IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin.

Project Survival Pacific

The Project Survival Pacific (PSP) is an initiative of the Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC). PSP had its origins at COP 14 in December 2008, where the Australian youth delegation recognised that a lack of resources and personnel was a major barrier faced by all Pacific island nations at the Conference. It aims to raise awareness about climate change concerns in the Pacific, support the participation of Pacific nations at international climate negotiations and empower Pacific youth to take action to ensure long-term survival of their region.

To date, PSP has supported the development of climate action groups in a number of Pacific nations, and played a key role in drafting the Pasifika Youth Declaration. PSP members in the Pacific liaise with and assist island delegations, while working with local youth to ensure their participation in events such as the International Day of Climate Action. In collaboration with other NGOs, PSP is also designing written materials to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change across the region, and to provide ideas to resident communities to help them adapt to the changes they are facing. PSP is supporting at least ten Pacific youth to participate at COP 15 in Copenhagen.

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UNEP/TUNZA

In February 2003, the Governing Council of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) adopted a long-term strategy for engaging young people in environmental activities and its work. The strategy was entitled the Tunza Youth Strategy. The word “TUNZA” means “to treat with care

or affection” in Kiswahili (a sub-regional language of Eastern Africa). It is an initiative aiming to develop activities in the areas of capacity-building, environmental awareness, and information exchange, with a vision to foster a generation of environmentally conscious citizens, capable of positive action. Important by-products of this strategy include the annual Tunza International Youth Conference, Tunza Advisory Council and a quarterly Tunza magazine.

Under the overall concept of Tunza, the 25th session of the Governing Council of UNEP in February 2009 adopted the second long-term strategy for the engagement of young people in environmental issues. This included the convening of the Tunza International Children and Youth Conference in Daejeon, Korea, from 17 to 23 August 2009. The Conference brought together 750 participants comprising 550 children and their chaperones, and 200 youth from 106 countries.

The theme of the Conference was “Climate Change: Our Challenge.” It included two high profile events, a Seal the Deal Global Townhall meeting and a Global Debate. The Conference resulted in a statement to world leaders and an action plan on climate change.

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"I am very pleased to note the high level of awareness on climate change among 12 to 18 year olds. These are the voices of the generation that will inherit the impacts of climate change if world leaders fail to act. It is clear from the survey that young people around the world are seriously worried about what climate change will mean in terms of their future on this planet. World leaders have now heard the concerns of young people. This generation must now take responsibility for the next."

ACHIM STEINER, UNITED NATIONS
UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNEP COMMENTS

UNICEF's Climate Ambassador Program

As part of its Climate Ambassador Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) promoted children's participation at two key events in 2009: the United Nations High Level Summit on Climate Change in New York, and the UNFCCC COP 15 negotiations in Copenhagen.

At the Summit, 13 child delegates interacted with Heads of State and shared their points of view on climate change. The children also assisted in the production of a short film on climate change solutions shown during the opening session. To prepare for the Summit, the child delegates participated in a training session on youth campaigning around climate change, local adaptation and mitigation solutions, and youth advocacy at international climate negotiations.

Prior to COP 15, UNICEF is organizing the Children's Climate Forum in Copenhagen, which will bring together 165 children from 45 developing and industrialized countries. The children will learn advocacy and civic engagement strategies to support their work at the community level through leadership development and skill-building training around climate change adaptation, mitigation and the negotiation process.

After the Forum, participants will contribute to climate change policy and action through the Climate Ambassador Program. UNICEF will continue to engage the delegates on advocacy, mitigation (i.e. energy efficiency), adaptation (e.g. disaster risk reduction, water and food management strategies) and child protection issues. The child delegates will report on progress made after returning to their countries through the use of traditional media outlets and via the Internet and SMS.

These activities are part of UNICEF's efforts to enhance children's and youth's participation in climate change governance and adaptation programming as well as collect best practices and lessons learned.

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YOUNGO Constituency at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Since its inception at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, young people, globally, have been active participants in the UNFCCC process. Starting in COP 11 in Montreal, young people have been organizing a multi-day preparatory event for youth delegates called the Conference of the Youth (COY). The COY provides a forum for youth delegates to come together, strategise, finalize preparations, share experiences, and support the transfer of institutional memory between individuals and organizations prior to the opening of the COP proceedings.

As the youth movement grew over the years, there was a need to effectively influence the international climate change policy-making process. Therefore, young people undertook efforts to organize themselves into a recognised stakeholder in the UNFCCC process. As of September 2009, youth were provisionally recognized as an official civil society constituency by the UNFCCC secretariat, and identified as “YOUNGO”. YOUNGO will have provisional constituency status until COP 17 when a final decision will be made. Constituency status provides young people with the opportunity to give input to the international climate negotiation process.

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**Youth and Sustainable Development:
Youth at the Commission on Sustainable Development**

Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1992, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UN CSD) is mandated to ensure effective follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) also known as the Earth Summit. The CSD Youth Caucus works to ensure that children and young people’s perspectives are represented at each meeting, striving to increase their visibility and participation at each stage. The CSD Youth Caucus is a youth-led, youth-driven initiative comprised of an international network of over 2,000 youth leaders from hundreds of organizations.

It brings together young people with a desire to build a more sustainable world. The CSD Youth Caucus facilitates youth input into the UN CSD in a way that provides a platform for them to express concerns and share successes, and fosters information-sharing and communication among diverse networks of youth organizations with a common interest in sustainable development.

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Education and Training

Instilling environmental awareness at a young age is the best way to protect the environment. Programmes that improve the availability and quality of environmental education are key interventions for long-term change. And while schools – and especially primary schools – are ideal platforms for increasing children’s environmental knowledge, the most effective learning programmes go beyond schools and into communities.

The following initiatives, presented in alphabetical order, provide a snapshot of education and training opportunities for and by young people in the area of climate change.

Be the Change! Challenge

This educational programme allows young people to work with children to create and sign a Lifestyle Contract. This Contract encourages progress toward sustainable lifestyle habits at school and home, in order to tackle climate change. It also promotes changes in behaviour, primarily in young people, but also through them to their families. It provides incentive for school communities to embed a culture of “consumption awareness,” and trains Be the Change! Ambassadors to be peer-to-peer sustainable lifestyle educators.

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Climate Change and Environmental Education Module for Child Friendly Schools

The Climate Change and Environmental Education Resource Pack (CCEERP) for Child Friendly Schools is a resource being developed by UNICEF in collaboration with United Nations partners such as United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), governments and civil society to support countries in strengthening children’s knowledge, skills, attitudes and ability to adapt to a changing physical environment, while providing a mechanism to promote and support the use of facilities-based environmental solutions.

The CCEERP offers guidance to countries for developing their own climate and environment related education programmes, including the development of norms, standards and curricula on skills-based climate change and environmental education based on individual country contexts and priorities.

These resources are being designed keeping the following objectives in mind:

- To step up natural disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response education in light of increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events;
- To develop capacity to promote environmentally sensible and sustainable solutions which will improve learning environments for children while taking the ownership of maintaining the good health of fresh water resources and associated ecosystems, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and restoring local environmental conditions;
- To integrate facilities-based environmental solutions with a child-centred, gender responsive, skills-based curriculum employing participatory tools and community interventions to strengthen linkages and empower learners;
- To ensure that girls' and boys' rights, needs and capacities are central to all adaptation and risk reduction policy frameworks.

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Climate Change Guide

The Climate Change Guide provides an overview of the main issues concerning climate change and food security. The individual chapters are being developed in collaboration with technical experts, education specialists, different United Nations agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations, youth organizations and with contributions from children and young people. The guide has 18 chapters and covers a wide range of topics, including monitoring systems, agriculture, oceans, forests, biodiversity, adaptation, mitigation and international and local action.

Partners: Meteorological Research Institute of Japan, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, Scottish Agricultural College, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), World Bank, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), UNFCCC, UNEP/TUNZA

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Climate Change Youth Guide to Action

The TakingITGlobal “Climate Change Youth Guide to Action” is intended to inspire, inform and involve youth in taking action on climate change. It promotes the concept that young people have a distinct stake in the fight against climate change. In communities and schools, young people have the tools to take action and stop the climate crisis – and are already using them. Youth will be the leaders of tomorrow, and are already leading today. The “Climate Change Youth Guide to Action”, developed by young people themselves, helps channel energy towards effective change. This Guide focuses on youth participation, and encourages individual reflection on the context in which they would like to undertake a particular action.

[HTTP://ISSUES.TIGWEB.ORG/CLIMATE](http://issues.tigweb.org/climate)

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COP 15 Training Workshop for Young Professional Journalists

A two-week training workshop for young professionals from developing countries and countries with economies in transition is closely linked to the ongoing UNFCCC training programme for journalists. Under this programme key journalists from developing country media received training at the COP sessions in 2008 and 2009. During the training workshop, young professionals will have access to experienced journalists

from their regions who can help explain issues and put them in a regional/national context. In addition, young professionals will have access to supporting information and a blog created specifically for this training on Facebook.

The training will consist of a broad introduction of the Bali Action Plan, with special attention to the issues that are of greatest concern to young people. All participating journalists and broadcasters will be required to submit stories to their media organizations, in print, on-line, by radio or TV based on participation in the process, interviews with national delegations and other officials, participation in youth events and side events. Special attention is paid to integrate key youth activities taking place during COP 15 such as the Intergenerational Inquiry and youth briefings into the training workshop.

Partners: Alliance of Communicators for Sustainable Development (Com+), UNEP, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Bank, and Reuters Foundation

[HTTP://UNFCCC.INT/MEETINGS/COP_15/PRESS/ITEMS/5070.PHP](http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_15/press/items/5070.php)

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Food Security and Climate Change Challenge Badge

The Food Security and Climate Change Challenge Badge is designed to help educate children and young people about climate change and food security, and encourage

them to act against global warming, environmental degradation and hunger in the world. By carrying out the requisite activities to receive the badge, young people identify and take actions to reduce their environmental footprint and learn how to make better consumer and lifestyle choices. The badge curriculum has three age groups: 5 to 10, 11 to 15, 16 to 20. It is divided into three categories:

- **Our Climate:** A selection of activities to help young people understand weather and climate, determine their impact on the environment and find solutions to deal with the effects of climate change;
- **Our Food:** Activities to help young people learn more about the consequences of our food and lifestyle choices for our planet and our dependence on climate for our nutrition and health;
- **Our World:** Ideas to help young people carry out projects and programmes in their local communities to reduce unsustainable use of resources, restore ecosystems and fight hunger in the world.

The badge curriculum is available in English, and soon also in French, Spanish and Italian.

Partners: FAO, WAGGGS, Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA)

[HTTP://WWW.FAO.ORG/CLIMATECHANGE/YOUTH/54579/EN/](http://www.fao.org/climatechange/youth/54579/en/)

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International Climate Champions

The International Climate Champion (ICC) is a programme of the British Council in sixty countries around the world, which engages young people who are passionate and committed to action on climate change. Climate Champions develop and implement projects within their local communities that raise awareness of, adapt to, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. By delivering grassroots projects, building relationships and sharing knowledge around the world, ICC makes a positive difference to peoples' lives and aims to influence decision-makers to take much needed action. Some Champions will have the chance to express their views to world leaders at international meetings, such as COP 15 in Copenhagen.

[HTTP://WWW.BRITISHCOUNCIL.ORG/CLIMATECHANGE](http://www.britishcouncil.org/climatechange)

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IPCC Climate Education Programme

In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of the voluntary efforts of thousands of leading scientists, who over twenty years worked to assess all aspects of climate change. The Prize recognised the IPCC's specific commitment to peace and human security. The IPCC has decided to draw on the award money, as a seed capital and a catalyst, to establish a Climate Education Programme.

Under the Climate Education Programme, a scholarship is created for young scholars from developing and Least Developed Countries, small island States and those regions worst hit by droughts, floods, famine and changed patterns of precipitation. The first scholarships will be awarded in 2010. With an objective to build knowledge and the research base in highly vulnerable countries with scarce resources, the scholarship will create opportunities for young people from those countries to develop their knowledge, skills and capacity to address climate change impacts and sustainable development; strengthen scientific capacity relating to climate science and modeling on impacts; bridge gaps in knowledge in regions worst hit by climate change; build capacity for adaptation and mitigation; and design situation-specific solutions in key focus areas for peace:

- *Agriculture and food security;*
- *Transport and human settlements;*

- *Energy and water resources;*
- *Extreme events and natural disasters;*
- *Health and human well-being*

Partners: IPCC, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UNEP

[HTTP://WWW.WMO.INT](http://www.wmo.int)

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"Children must understand how human actions have influenced the climate of this planet. They must understand the terrible impacts that are likely to take place if we don't do anything. And finally they must understand what can be done to solve the problem.

If we don't do anything about climate change and we don't take urgent and effective action to mitigate the emissions of greenhouse gasses, then in the future, the impact of climate change will be much worse – and that clearly is going to affect the future of children."

RAJENDRA PACHAURI, INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE NOBEL PRIZE WINNER AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Learning to Combat Desertification – UNCCD-UNESCO desertification Kit

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in collaboration with UNESCO produced an education kit for use in the classroom by teachers and their pupils between ages of 10 and 12 years. A module of this kit focuses on climate change and its interlinkages with desertification. The education kit has been translated in more than 10 languages. It helps children

understand that desertification, climate change and depletion of natural resources lead to poverty, hunger and mass migrations. A follow-up publication “Teaching resource kit for dryland countries: a creative approach to environmental education” for secondary schools is based on an innovative approach to appeal to the creativity and artistic sensibility of students aged between 10 and 15 years. The kit is available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

[HTTP://UNESDOC.UNESCO.ORG/IMAGES/012/001258/125816E.PDF](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/012/001258/125816E.pdf) AND
[HTTP://UN ESDOC.UNESCO.ORG/ULIS/CGIBIN/ULIS.PL?CATNO=163264&GP=1&LIN=1&LL=1](http://un.esdoc.unesco.org/ulis/cgi-bin/ulis.pl?catno=163264&gp=1&lin=1&ll=1)

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Lupo Alberto: There Is No Rug Big Enough To Sweep The Desert Under

Since 1997, the UNCCD has been distributing the comic strip “Lupo Alberto: There Is No Rug Big Enough To Sweep The Desert Under”. The comic, created by an artist and comedian Guido Silvestri, depicts the adventures of Lupo Alberto, who is trying to convince the inhabitants of his farm to protect their natural resources to combat desertification and prevent the effects of climate change. The comic has been translated in more than 10 languages.

[HTTP://WWW.UNCCD.INT/PUBLICINFO/ LUPOALBERTO/LUPOALBERTO-ENG.PDF](http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/luportalberto/luportalberto-eng.pdf)

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EMAIL: SECRETARIAT@UNCCD.INT



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Our World, Our Climate, Our Food: Local Action for a Global Challenge

Our World, Our Climate, Our Food is a worldwide educational initiative to raise awareness among children and young people of the issues of climate change and food security, with the purpose of encouraging them to take action against a changing climate and hunger in the world. Designed as an educational project, it comprises the development of illustrated publications, activity guides for teachers and youth leaders, a set of resources and action packs and other initiatives such as competitions. The message to be conveyed is that climate change is caused by individual actions, has adverse affects, especially on people from poor countries and actions need to be undertaken to combat climate change and hunger.

Girl Guide groups and Brownies that develop projects to undertake in their local communities receive financial support. The projects can be related to adaptation (helping people cope with climate change) or mitigation (preventing further CO2 emissions) efforts. The projects can also include food security aspects and/or have inter-country collaboration with other groups. Photos and articles from all the projects are posted on the website, and the best ideas and initiatives will be used to develop activity and resource packs.

Partners: FAO, WAGGGS, YUNGA

[HTTP://WWW.FAO.ORG/CLIMATECHANGE/YOUTH/54402/EN/](http://www.fao.org/climatechange/youth/54402/en/)

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Patrimonito Mobilizes Against Climate Change: A New Cartoon For World Heritage Education

As part of the cartoon series entitled “Patrimonito’s World Heritage Adventures”, a new TV episode introduces the Great Barrier Reef, a Pacific World Heritage site. It presents the negative impact of global warming on biological diversity of the coral reef system.

Cartoon storyboards were chosen and professionally animated following a competition among secondary school pupils from the UNESCO’s Associated Schools Project Network. The cartoon targets students at primary and secondary school level worldwide. It is a useful teaching tool to involve young people in reflecting on the issue of climate change and its impact on World Heritage and to promote sustainable behaviours.

[HTTP://WHC.UNESCO.ORG/EN/PATRIMONITO](http://whc.unesco.org/en/patrimonito)

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Sandwatch – Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development

Sandwatch is one of the key flagship projects for UNESCO Associated Schools. It was launched by UNESCO at a regional Associated Schools meeting in the Caribbean in 1994 and has since become a global activity with Sandwatch teams active in more than 40 countries, including 20 small island developing States in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans. Sandwatch is coordinated by the non-profit Sandwatch Foundation. The project's objectives are to:

- Involve school students (at primary and secondary levels) in hands-on activities, particularly in the scientific observation, measurement and analysis of beaches utilizing an inter-disciplinary approach;
- Enhance school-community cooperation;
- Assist school students, with the help of local communities, in applying their information and knowledge to the wise management and enhancement of their beaches, in giving due attention to local and indigenous knowledge; and
- Find creative solutions to reduce the level of pollution in adjoining seas and oceans.

UNESCO and the Sandwatch Foundation have recently entered into a partnership with the Government of Denmark aimed at strengthening and developing the use of Sandwatch as a resource for climate change education. Funded by the Government of Denmark, the project will develop a new edition of the Sandwatch manual, incorporating material relating to observation of

and adaptation to climate change, as well as Sandwatch networking and communication. Also under development is a Sandwatch-Climate Change, web based database that will allow Sandwatch teams to upload their observations and data, thereby contributing to a global monitoring network for coastal areas. Finally, the project includes several training events and the development of a Sandwatch instructional DVD, serving to extend the reach of Sandwatch particularly in small island countries.

Sandwatch has undertaken a number of innovative activities, including a video competition “Coping with Climate Change: Sandwatch Leading the Way” in 2008, as well as training events relating to the new climate change related Sandwatch materials. Many articles illustrating the wonderful work of the participating schools – including many UNESCO Associated Schools – are published in the electronic newsletter “The Sandwatcher” in 3 languages (English, French and Spanish).

[HTTP://WWW.SANDWATCH.ORG](http://www.sandwatch.org)

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Tread Lightly

Tread Lightly is a climate change education and engagement initiative. It helps young people around the world take real action to reduce their impact on the planet through:

- An online calculator of a personal ecological footprint.
- An international eco-art contest allowing young people to creatively express their ideas about climate change and sustainability.
- A global 40-day challenge designed to help young people green their habits and encourage others to do the same.
- A climate change curriculum and accompanying online classroom to support learning about this important issue.

Partners: TakingITGlobal, Peace Child International

[HTTP://TREADLIGHTLY.TIGWEB.ORG/](http://TREADLIGHTLY.TIGWEB.ORG/)

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POEM FROM TREAD LIGHTLY

S.O.S. Earth

*I see the world drowning in the mighty sea,
Being taken away, not knowing where she will end up.
She has peace with it,
not knowing what her destiny will be.
As the clouds flow along, honest and pure,
yet polluted and damaged, separated from each other but still
forming one,
the world is at once aware and ignorant of the consequences.
Nevertheless, we keep on trying as one,
one world, one life, one love and one dream.*

*The rising water stares at me, questioning, wondering, whether
I will solve the problem of her growing surface and drifting ice-scotches.
I see the oil lying on top of the mighty waves, laughing at them.
The rising tides follow humanity's will.
The waves harshly scorch the sea, blaming her,
for it is she who warmed by a degree.
There is one fish left at the bottom, trying to recover its true earth,
all the way down in the sea where everything is excessively hurt.*

*I see the earth how it is to be.
I hear the moon calling, warning us of the biggest danger we will see.
He is worrying about the wellbeing of the earth – not of the human race.
He tells us about the horror we are about to face.
He tells us that we will die if we do not live in a sustainable way,
and that we should stop damaging the ozone layer every day.
He told me this and he erased my memory,
He erased my memory and everything I see.*

BY **JESSE ABBEY**,
AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS, 13 YEARS OLD.

United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Climate change is one of the key action areas of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD, 2005-2014). The DESD, for which UNESCO is the lead agency, provides a framework for enhancing and promoting active learning and innovative ways of framing the climate change issue so that it makes sense in the context of people's daily lives, helping translate passive awareness into active concern and behaviour change. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) seeks to enable individuals to make informed and responsible development decisions, now and in the future. Educating about climate change contributes to building the skills and attitudes needed to question the way we think, the values we hold and the decisions we make in the context of sustainable development.

The United Nations Interagency Committee on the DESD (IAC/DESD) mobilises political will to make education for sustainable development high on the international commitments and development agenda. It aims to integrate ESD into ongoing educational development agendas and processes.

No institution, even at global scale, can manage to achieve the goals of the Decade on its own. Partnerships have been established and synergies created among initiatives and programmes. Thus, UNESCO has entered

into a number of partnerships or joint actions with sister United Nations agencies, civil society partners, private sector companies, media professionals, and faith-based organizations to mobilize all stakeholders, promote and implement various dimensions of the DESD.

Partners: UNEP, YUNGA, UNICEF, South-Eastern Mediterranean Sea Project (SEMPEP), Eco-Schools, CarboSchools, World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM).

[HTTP://WWW.UNESCO.ORG/EN/ESD](http://www.unesco.org/en/esd)

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Youth Awareness and Access to Information

Climate change is a top concern among young people. Nearly 90 per cent of young people surveyed worldwide think that world leaders should do “whatever it takes” to tackle climate change. This is among the top findings of a poll conducted in October 2008 on behalf of UNEP. Four in five young people surveyed believe they can make a difference on climate change; however, a majority also say they need more information about what they can do to become effective change makers.

Many governments, Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and NGOs are already working actively to raise awareness and access to information. The scale of changes required, however, and the vast number of people and interests that must be influenced, call for outreach activities of a greater magnitude. Through young people, we can reach out to approximately 3 billion people around the planet who are under 25. The following examples, presented in alphabetical order, are initiatives by the international community and young people themselves to raise awareness about climate change.

CC:iNet

The information network clearing house (CC:iNet) was launched by the UNFCCC secretariat in December 2005 to support the implementation of Article 6 of the UNFCCC by facilitating the exchange of information and experiences on climate change education and outreach activities.

This clearing house includes various indexed textual and relational databases, search features and links to partners, including Parties, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations engaged in the implementation of Article 6. To further promote and facilitate the use of the clearing house, the secretariat has developed a users’ guide outlining the steps to be taken for submission of content information. The secretariat has also enhanced the start page of CC:iNet, which now offers a “What’s New” section featuring recent and innovative products or initiatives, and a “CC:iNet Spotlight” section highlighting the latest content information submitted, sorted by scope.

CC:iNet contains information on and/or links to over 1,100 programmes and initiatives undertaken in 57 countries, with new information being submitted on a regular basis by almost 200 registered users. These

initiatives undertaken on regional, national and international scales and include multi-lingual content, although English is the most common. Over 20 per cent of the current content is designed with youth as part of the target audience, and half of this content has youth as primary respondents for the materials.

[HTTP://UNFCCC.INT/CC_INET](http://unfccc.int/cc_inet)

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International Day of Climate Action – 350.org

350.org is an international youth-led campaign to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis. The mission is to inspire the world to rise to meet the challenge of climate change – to create a new sense of urgency and of possibility for our planet.

In the 18 months since scientists first published the finding that 350 parts per million (ppm) is the safe upper limit of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the 350.org message has rapidly spread. Young activists around the world, on every continent, prepared and led the most widespread day of climate action ever: the International Day of Climate Action was a global event designed to send a charge into 2009 United Nations Climate Meetings in Copenhagen.

On 24 October 2009, people in 181 countries came together at over 5200 events to call for

action on the climate crisis. Youth activists, faith groups, and others took part in actions all over the world, from high in the Himalayas to underwater off the Maldives Islands, where the nation's President led 350 scuba divers in one of the first-ever underwater protests.

[HTTP://WWW.350.ORG](http://www.350.org)

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"I would like to thank the millions of people in 181 countries who participated in 350.org's Day of Climate Action on 24 October. It was one of the most inspiring examples of grassroots political action on global warming the world has ever witnessed. This Day of Climate Action came at a critical time in the global negotiations, and demonstrated that people around the world – from Ethiopia to India, Paraguay to the United States – understand the scientific challenge the world faces. I encourage governments to heed the example set by their citizens, and to take strong action in Copenhagen to address this crisis through bold, visionary leadership."

BAN KI-MOON, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS



It's Getting Hot In Here

It's Getting Hot in Here is the voice of a growing movement of young bloggers who are actively working to stop climate change. Initiated by youth reporting live from COP 11 in Montreal in 2005, It's Getting Hot in Here has grown into a global online community, with over 300 student and youth leaders writing from countries around the world. The youth contributors to It's Getting Hot In Here report on the climate change initiatives in which they are engaged locally, regionally, nationally, and globally, and provide commentary on national and international climate politics, as well as updates and analysis on the UNFCCC negotiations.

[HTTP://ITSGETTINGHOTINHERE.ORG/](http://itsgettinghotinhere.org/)

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My View – Video Competition

My View is a climate change video competition initiated by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and running until 31 January 2010. Young people from the ADB's member countries are welcome to submit short videos on what they think should be done to protect the region's people, economy, and environment from the effects of climate change.

[HTTP://WWW.ADB.ORG/DOCUMENTS/EVENTS/2009/CLIMATE-CHANGE-VIDEO-CONTEST/DEFAULT.ASP](http://www.adb.org/documents/events/2009/climate-change-video-contest/default.asp)

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Project Survival Media

Project Survival Media is a global network of youth journalists reporting from the frontlines of the climate crisis in the lead up to COP 15 in Copenhagen. Seven media teams report on the most compelling climate stories from around the world, amplify voices underrepresented by traditional media, and launch "Survival" to the forefront of the political debate.

Project Survival Media now empowers 93 young journalists to develop a strong narrative on the climate crisis. In lead up to COP 15, the Project produced six mini-documentaries, 70 professional photographs, and 100 blogs. Project Survival Media will also be reporting live with a delegation of youth journalists at COP 15 to act as a rapid response media team, covering the most pressing issues and distributing media products through the Project's growing networks.

[HTTP://WWW.PROJECTSURVIVALMEDIA.ORG](http://www.projectsurvivalmedia.org)

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Seal the Deal!

The United Nations-led Seal the Deal Campaign aims to galvanize political will and public support for reaching a comprehensive global climate agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Reaching a deal by the time the meeting in Copenhagen ends will depend not only on complex political negotiations, but also on public pressure from around the globe.

The United Nations has launched “Seal the Deal” campaign that encourages users to sign an online global petition, which will then be presented by civil society to governments of the world.

The petition will serve as a reminder that our leaders must negotiate a fair, balanced and effective agreement in Copenhagen, and that they must seal a deal to power green growth, protect our planet and build a more sustainable, prosperous global economy that will benefit all nations and people

Partners: UNEP, UNEP/TUNZA, UNICEF, FAO, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), UNESCO, UN Habitat, WMO, WOSM, WAGGS and 350.org

[HTTP://WWW.SEALTHEDEAL2009.ORG/](http://www.sealthedeal2009.org/)

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SEAL THE DEAL! BUDDY CAMPAIGN

On 7 November 2009, in the lead to Copenhagen, UNEP/TUNZA launched a Seal the Deal! Buddy campaign. This was a one day campaign where Tunza network members received an online buddy campaign flyer and sent it further to 7 of their friends to sign the online climate petition (at www.sealthedeal2009.org) as chain email. The aim of this campaign was to gather as many signatures as possible for a fair, balanced and effective climate agreement in Copenhagen.

State of the World Population 2009 – Facing a Changing World: Women, Population and Climate

Annually, UNFPA releases the “State of the World Population” report, together with a Youth Supplement. The 2009 report focuses on climate change, with the Youth Supplement illustrating how young people will be affected by scenarios predicted to become more common with climate change, underscoring the importance of taking youth concerns into account when developing policies and interventions to address climate change.

The Youth Supplement shows that young people are in great need of political support as well as support in managing mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. The Youth Supplement captures these concepts by allowing seven young people from over the world to share their life stories.

[HTTP://WWW.UNFPA.ORG/SWP/](http://www.unfpa.org/swp/)

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"Do not forget why you're attending these conferences, who you're doing this for – we are your own children. You are deciding what kind of world we will grow up in. Parents should be able to comfort their children by saying "everything's going to be alright", "we're doing the best we can" and "it's not the end of the world". But I don't think you can say that to us anymore. Are we even on your list of priorities? My father always says "You are what you do, not what you say." Well, what you do makes me cry at night. you grown ups say you love us. I challenge you, please make your actions reflect your words. Thank you for listening."

SEVERN SUZUKI, 12 YEARS OLD.
ADDRESS TO THE PLENARY SESSION,
EARTH SUMMIT, RIO CENTRO, BRAZIL
1992





Two Degrees of Separation: Between Hope and Despair – A Young Peoples' Summary of the United Nations Human Development Report 2007/2008

The 2007/2008 United Nations Human Development Report was entitled “Fighting Climate Change: Human Solidarity in a Divided World.” Youth from different parts of the world gathered to create a summary of the report, illustrating and telling the causes and effects of, and options to address climate change, by-youth-for-youth.

*Partners: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
Peace Child International*

[HTTP://HDR.UNDP.ORG/EN/MEDIA/TWO_DEGREES_EN.PDF](http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/two_degrees_en.pdf)

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Understanding Climate Change Through the Eyes of Tomorrow's Leaders

AIIESEC International, in collaboration with Futures Research and consulting firm Kairos Future conducted a survey asking AIIESEC members globally about their views on climate change. The project was conducted in November 2009 in order to provide an opportunity for youth from around the world to voice their opinions on climate change. Most of the respondents are students born in the 1980's and a majority of them are planning to become managers in the future.

AIIESEC is the world's largest youth-run organization, present in over 100 countries

and territories, with more than 38,000 members and 800,000 alumni worldwide.

[HTTP://WWW.AIESEC.ORG](http://www.aiiesec.org) AND
[HTTP://WWW.KAIROSFUTURE.COM](http://www.kairosfuture.com)

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UNICEF UK and Tagd.org

During 2009, the United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF (UNICEF UK) has supported youth in the United Kingdom to actively engage in climate change issues on both local and national levels. Locally, individual youth have given talks in schools, run campaigns and met with parliamentarians – helping to encourage more young people to take action and have their voice heard on current climate issues. Nationally, UNICEF UK has provided a platform for advocacy efforts, supporting youth meetings with the Under Secretary for Energy and Climate Change and the Scottish Minister for Finance and Sustainable Growth. UNICEF UK together with youth have also helped facilitate sessions on children's rights and climate change at the Young Commonwealth Climate Change Summit which took place in London, United Kingdom, from 28 to 30 October 2009, taken part in national radio interviews, and actively blogged about climate change on UNICEF UK's online youth website, Tagd.

[HTTP://WWW.TAGD.ORG.UK/CLIMATE](http://www.tagd.org.uk/climate)
[HTTP://WWW.UNICEFTAGD.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://www.uniceftagd.blogspot.com)

CONTACT: **TAGD@UNICEF.ORG.UK**

Unite for Climate

Unite for Climate is a social media initiative with grassroots links, aimed at supporting youth action on climate change worldwide. Started through seed funding from UNICEF, the initiative brings together partners from the United Nations, youth NGOs, academia and the private sector. It focuses on providing tools for increased coordination as well as a forum for visibility of youth initiatives at local and global level. The initiative has four major components:

- An online community offering young people tools and resources to work together to address climate change;
- A central media hub and campaign clearing house for youth, policy makers and the media;
- The Youth Climate Debates, a partnership with Google/YouTube which engages young people globally to express their opinions on key questions prior to the Copenhagen climate change negotiations; and
- Connecting Classrooms, an innovative online program that brings together classrooms around the world to create learning opportunities, dialogue and debate around key global issues.

Partners: UNICEF, UNEP/TUNZA, WMO, YUNGA, FAO, UNDP and the Earth Institute

[HTTP://WWW.UNITEFORCLIMATE.ORG](http://www.uniteforclimate.org)

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THE YOUTH CLIMATE DEBATES: ARE YOUR POLITICAL LEADERS DOING ENOUGH?

The Youth Climate Debates feature young voices in global dialogue on climate change. Find out what others think, or upload your own answer to the question, "Are your political leaders doing enough about climate change?" Join the debate!

[HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/USER/YOUTHCLIMATEDEBATE](http://www.youtube.com/user/youthclimatedebate)



Volunteering for Our Planet

Millions of people around the world volunteer their time and energy to help others. They work in local communities to tackle development challenges such as education, health and environmental issues, and to help people recover from natural disasters, like earthquakes, floods and famines, and man-made disasters like war and climate change.

In 2009, to highlight the importance of volunteerism in coping with the effects of climate change, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) celebrated the International Volunteer Day (IVD) under the theme “Volunteering for our Planet”. This global campaign tracked the time that volunteers spent in the six months before IVD 2009 volunteering on environmental issues, sustainable development, and in support of adapting to or mitigating climate change. In the first weeks of the campaign alone, more than 400,000 hours were registered, demonstrating that people everywhere are willing to take direct action and be a part of the solution as volunteers. Volunteers, who are an essential part of the solution to climate change, started the global environmental movement. By Volunteering for our Planet, young people are supporting the United Nations campaign to “Seal the Deal” on a binding, fair and sustainable climate agreement.

Since UNV was created in 1970 by the United Nations General Assembly, its mandate has expanded beyond mobilizing

experts to work with United Nations agencies, to include greater recognition of volunteerism, advancing the role of youth in development, and working with developing countries to engage volunteers to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

WWW.VOLUNTEERINGFOROURPLANET.ORG
AND WWW.ONLINEVOLUNTEERING.ORG

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AMINA.SAID@UNVOLUNTEERS.ORG

World Youth Report 2009: Youth and Climate Change

While climate change has received increased attention in recent years, and a myriad of books and reports have been published on the issue, youth as a group has received surprisingly little attention, despite the fact that their fate is inextricably intertwined with that of the planet. The World Youth Report 2009: Youth and Climate Change seeks to address this gap.

The World Youth Report 2009 examines the issue of youth and climate from various angles. It begins with a look at the effect of climate change on the well-being of youth, including their health, security and livelihood potential. Next it explores the role that youth consumption-oriented lifestyles are playing in the climate crisis, and suggests ways to modify these behaviours to promote greater environmental sustainability. It follows with a discussion of ways to promote climate change education as a means for

engaging youth as more active and informed citizens in the fight against climate change. The report proceeds with an assessment of the employment impacts of climate change on youth, including the prospects for youth to acquire “green jobs” that allow young people to combine income generation with the ability to positively contribute to sustainable development. Finally, it wraps up with a focus on youth participation as active players in global and local movements to mitigate and adapt to climate change – as young people will be those living to see the consequences of decisions and actions that are taken today.

The World Youth Report series is produced by the United Nations Programme on Youth, situated in UN DESA. In preparing the 2009 edition of the Report, the United Nations Programme on Youth sought input from young people and youth-led organizations. Contributions were received from youth from around the world and taken into account in the drafting process.

[HTTP://WWW.UN.ORG/YOUTH](http://www.un.org/youth)

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Youthink!

Youthink! is a World Bank website for youth. It seeks to inspire young people to:

- Learn the Facts: It provides young people with information about global

issues such as climate change. Youth are given access to research, knowledge, and experience gathered by the World Bank's experts on international development;

- Share Youth Stories: Young people share their stories, from their angle and as these relate to their communities; and
- Act: Young people figure out what they can do to make their community a better place. It provides opportunities to take actions in an interdependent manner, linking climate change, education, employment, health, trade and conflict issues.

[HTTP://YOUTHINKBLOG.WORLDBANK.ORG /CATEGORY/ISSUES/CLIMATE-CHANGE](http://youthinkblog.worldbank.org/category/issues/climate-change)

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The logo features the text "UNFCCC" in a bold, red, serif font. To the right of the text is a large, solid red circle. A thin, red, wavy line curves from the bottom left of the circle, extending towards the right.

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