GLOBAL takes ACTION

Connecting Youth towards a Sustainable World

2021 FINAL REPORT
GLOBAL TAKES ACTION

CONNECTING YOUTH TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

FINAL REPORT 2021

We, the Global Youth, participants to “Global Takes Action: Connecting Youth towards a Sustainable World”, coming from more than 30 Countries of the World, have worked together in the last months to find global solutions to four main challenges: Household Sustainability & Renewable Energy; Soil and Water Pollution & Recycling; Food Security & Waste; Air Pollution & Sustainable Cities.

In the framework of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, the PRE-COP26, and the COP26, We pursued the objective to find substantial answers to global problems, trying to secure a sustainable future for all coming generations, including ours. We have often heard that “there is no planet B”, but too little has been done until now.

Today has come the time to take action at all levels of society. After having discussed our personal experiences, listened to experts from public and private sectors, and explored different points of views, We now call on Governments, Institutions and Partners to evaluate and concretely consider our proposals.
HOUSEHOLD SUSTAINABILITY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

We, the Global Youth,

1. Urge Governments to implement a worldwide taxonomy system to charge firms’ per tonne CO2 emissions, in order to concretely reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
Governments should put in place a taxonomy system to cut CO2 emissions with pollutant firms as the main target. It should be a worldwide system of cooperation among Countries, so that firms would not relocate production where environmental standards are lower. To incentivize such cuts, Governments should promote a campaign showing the benefits of the taxonomy system and, in particular, the advantages of alternative sustainable business models. Moreover, rigid fines should be issued if organisations fail to comply with the laws, also to avoid greenwashing.

2. Call upon Governments to set financial support and incentives for the use of renewable energies.
Governments should finance through bonuses the use of renewable energies, both for firms and households. In this field, burdensome bureaucracy should be diminished, in order to make such incentives more profitable for everyone. States should give stronger support to households and firms that have less economic opportunities. This proposal would generate a growth in job demand and long term economic benefits for citizens.

3. Suggest Governments to introduce mandatory courses on environment and climate change from elementary school and release a license that would be a plus when applying for jobs.
Governments should introduce mandatory courses on environment and climate change starting from elementary school. Initially, these courses should follow a gradual process, where the issues of environment and climate change would be part of all subjects. Later, from high school, courses would become a more detailed and
advanced training taught by experts in the field. It is crucial for Governments to raise awareness and educate future generations on the matter. Once students have completed all required courses, schools should award them with a license that has a high value when applying for jobs. In the case of adults, these licenses should be available through a specific organization created by the Government offering free online and in-person classes, as well as seminars for workers during their work hours. The aim is to push populations to become “eco-educated” and make the ecological transition become a shared value.

4. Ask Governments to finance sustainable architecture based on the use of sustainable materials and, at the same time, promote a process of urban reforestation.

Governments must encourage sustainable architecture and reforestation processes of big cities for the well-being of their citizens and the Planet. Governments should enforce a quota system which forces all future buildings to comply with a specific amount of sustainable material, in order to reduce the traditional non-sustainable architecture. Similarly, States should finance and help companies that have more innovative and sustainable architectural projects. Moreover, Governments should fund the research of new materials that can improve livelihood in the cities.

5. Ask Governments to enhance the use of electric public and private transportation and set up “no-transition” zones for cars in polluted cities.

Governments should renew the transport system by promoting the use of both public and private electric transportation. A transition towards sustainable options could be realized, for example, by introducing hybrid buses, positioning electric infrastructures also in extra-urban territories, and raising awareness of the advantages linked to the use of hybrid and electric vehicles, such as parking tickets or car tax exemptions. In addition, Governments should organize monthly or weekly restriction days in order to further reduce the use of polluting means of transportation.
6. **Call upon Governments to ban single-use plastic items and set a vision of a plastic-free future.**

Governments should implement anti-plastic policies, which, if not respected, provide for sanctions to those who continue to produce or consume plastic.

Governments should also encourage sensibilization campaigns on the responsible use of plastic, as for example switching to traditional plastic biodegradable and recyclable ones. The aim of this proposal is to sensitize the entire population to the issue of plastic pollution and spur people to change their unsustainable habits. This could be made by introducing throw plastic stations in supermarkets, where people can obtain some money back for each plastic object given.

7. **Urge Governments to ban polluting dye colors used by industries for mass production.**

Governments should invest in the chemical industry research field in order to find alternative materials that are less polluting than dye colors, such as vegetable dyes. These colors pollute waters and soil and destroy many ecosystems, with a consequent reduction of biodiversity. This is a huge problem that has consequences also on people's health: for these reasons, Governments should sanction firms that use dye colors. Governments could also push for a law that sets standards on the type of materials used.
SOIL AND WATER POLLUTION & RECYCLING

We, the Global Youth,

1. Call upon Governments to dedicate more resources and research into soil respect, investing in methods such as, but not limited to, Phytoremediation and Bio-augmentation.

In order to prevent soil degradation, Governments should enhance their investments in research and new technologies. The necessary funds to implement such a proposal could be obtained by promoting awareness campaigns through the use of social media and relying on the support of celebrities and influencers who care about this topic. Through the creation of specific incentives, Governments could also obtain the economic support of enterprises and companies. While each Country would develop its own researching policies taking into account its national needs, international cooperation would be helpful to reach more concrete results.

2. Urge Governments to support local production based on the respect of soil and water natural resources.

Globalization leads people to use products manufactured in places far from their own countries, increasing the level of CO2 deriving from shipping. Eating what is grown locally could make get rid of such a problem and, at the same time, help small producers to improve their means of cultivation. In order to support local production, Governments should sponsor local markets and fairs, as well as encourage consumers to buy local products by sharing with them the positive impact this action can have on soil and water natural resources. Similarly, Governments should discourage the consumption of non-organic products, especially those that can result in diseases.

3. Urge Governments to take action in the effective implementation and enforcement of global environmental laws.

International standards that regulate and deal with environmental issues must be regarded as a necessary tool to effectively tackle soil and water pollution. Such rules
SOIL AND WATER POLLUTION & RECYCLING

should be followed by everyone, including physical persons and legal entities. While these standards could be established through international cooperation among Countries, they should be respected by warning and sanctioning at the national level those who do not follow them. Sanctions should not just amount to economic fines, but they could correspond also to the execution of social community services related to the redevelopment of the environment.

4. Suggest Governments to offer subsidies to companies that actively take steps in recycling, in order to make their businesses more environment-friendly and sustainable.

To increase the establishment of sustainability-based companies, Governments should constitute small committees of experts in charge of monitoring the recycling activities promoted and concretely performed by enterprises doing profits in their Countries. Through the creation of specific parameters establishing how much and how effectively companies are involved in recycling, Governments could reward the businesses more involved in such a practice by offering them various kinds of advantages, including tax benefits. This would encourage the increase, in number, of more sustainable productions.

5. Call upon Governments to consider the protection of natural environments, especially the virgin ones, as a way of economic development and not as a limit to economic progress.

Protecting natural environments represents not only a way to save the Planet, but also a tool to generate economic outcomes. Governments should establish and promote natural parks and reserves to share among their citizens the role of soil and water in today’s society and use the proceeds of their fair exploitation to sensitize people on the negative impact of disrespecting and damaging natural resources.
5. Suggest Governments to gradually include in the students’ high school curricula the study of the environment to better inform, involve, and include everyone, especially young people, in taking action in sustainable projects.

Awareness on sustainability should be boosted, first of all, through the educational system. Governments should provide students with adequate awareness on the importance of respecting the environment. Such a proposal could be implemented in reality by integrating the school curricula with specific new modules dealing with the reasons to live in a sustainable way and describing the various actions that each student can take in his/her daily life to preserve the environment. These new modules would be taught by experts or teachers adequately trained.

6. Call upon Governments to encourage the society to reduce the use of plastic made out of petrochemicals and/or fossil fuels and implement the use of compostable plastics derived from renewable materials such as, but not limited to, corn, potato, and soy protein.

Industrial plastics are particularly toxic and need hundreds of years to depose of, seriously impacting and polluting soil and water. Governments should push their citizens to use materials that are non-toxic and decompose back into carbon dioxide, water, and biomass when composted, creating specific incentives to promote them and discouraging the production of chemical plastics. Taxing the use of the latter would also encourage companies to invest in finding out new eco-friendly materials.

7. Suggest Governments to focus and support ideas from the current generation promoting recycling projects to maintain clean soil and water.

Governments should listen to the ideas of young people, who embody the future and the hope of every Country. They should collaborate with the youth and not to underestimate its role in the society. Through the organization of youth panels, the correct use of social media, and the arrangement of fairs and national competitions, the dialogue between political institutions and the youth could be emphasized and broadened, resulting in a fresh form of cooperation aimed at implementing new original policies on the promotion and spread of the necessity to recycle.
FOOD SECURITY & WASTE

We, the Global Youth,

1. Call upon Governments to promote sustainable production and fight against food insecurity

To promote sustainable production and fight against food insecurity, Governments of developed countries should devote part of their budgets to international cooperation for development, enhancing fair trade practices and designing a circular economy ecosystem for conscious production and consumption. Governments should monitor major food companies in their production systems and prevent food waste. In this respect, a global network of collaboration and expertise should be developed through governmental policies to support capacity building.

2. Request Governments to engage citizens in public awareness campaigns on the subject of food waste through the use of social media and public television commercials, in collaboration with prominent figures and influencers.

For raising public awareness, Governments should invest in advertising and communication campaigns, in which they should involve public figures who have an impact to the public, by providing them captivating opportunities for partnerships and collaborations. In this way it would be easier to reach a large audience, since today social networks play a fundamental role in everyone’s life. The kind of communication campaigns should be focused not only on the commercial aspect, but especially on the sensitive one, underlining the importance and the gravity of the issues related to food insecurity and waste.

3. Call upon Governments to promote family farming and provide local farmers and breeders with financial support.

Governments should recognize the value of family farming in a rapidly changing world and highlight the important role it plays in eradicating hunger and shaping our
FOOD SECURITY & WASTE

future of food. Governments ought to offer citizens with easy access to general education on the subject and, once opened a farming or breeding activity, should provide financial support for the first 12-months period of activity.

4. **Urge Governments to provide citizens with public urban cultivable areas.** The creation of urban cultivable gardens plays another important role in raising awareness about food security and making citizens more conscious about the issues related to the subject. Governments should allow citizens to cultivate in public areas following the food policy guidelines. The urban cultivable gardens represent an effective measure in fighting against food waste, reducing urban air pollution, changing the citizens’ diet in a more genuine one, developing a collective knowledge and independence about food security.

5. **Suggest Governments to promote the use of genetically modified organisms and foods by spreading awareness on the positive results from using them through the financing new scientific research.** The benefits of the implementation of genetically modified organisms and foods in everyday consumption are multiple: this technique can guarantee food a larger durability and a better appearance so it could drastically reduce the number of food rejects because of its aesthetic, besides it would be possible to attribute additional vitamins or proteins to benefit health. Governments should invest in new scientific research and promote awareness campaigns, for example, on the internet.

6. **Suggest Governments to establish subsidies to convert food waste into exploitable compost for agriculture to deal with the issue of food waste and the dangers of agricultural techniques.** Governments should introduce mandatory programs of organic waste recycling and re-using, which would be easily feasible thanks to the collection system already in use, allowing both private and legal entities to receive an incentive in relation to the
FOOD SECURITY & WASTE

weight of the waste collected. Governments should also provide for control measures to monitor the correct use of the incentives given to citizens and avoid episodes of corruption, with an important focus in developing countries. There should be an international collaboration among Countries to make this initiative possible also where there are not enough funds for the economic incentives intended for citizens following the program. Finally, every Government should consider the level of production of its own agricultural sector and model the program accordingly.

7. Suggest Governments to limit food waste at its root by intervening on the food chain.

Most food waste happens in the process of producing, growing, and choosing the agricultural goods that will access the food market, as it is a very selective process. It is fundamental for Governments to increase their involvement in the improvement of waste management in this sector. Governments must put forward a stricter control system on the quantity of raw materials used during the production of agricultural goods, imposing a threshold on how much waste shall be produced in this phase, in order to reduce the loss of edible goods. Ultimately, Governments should impose sanctions on companies that do not respect the waste limit, in the effort of discouraging wastage of both food and economic resources.

8. Urge Governments to educate young students and adults about food security and waste.

Governments should include, at all educational levels, classes on the matter of food security and waste, in order to give students a proper understanding of how agricultural products are produced, which factors lead to food waste and how it can be avoided. Educating citizens is the first step to increase awareness and bring up responsible consumers. Governments should quickly find the most efficient way to provide proper information and training also to adults. It is important to start acting immediately on adult generations too, in order to start changing right now and not wait for next generations to be left with scarce resources.
AIR POLLUTION & SUSTAINABLE CITIES

We, the Global Youth,

1. Suggest Governments to promote sustainable energy production in companies, encourage local labor and foster zero-kilometer food shopping.

Intensive agriculture has become the greatest threat to the environment. By performing it through the use of clean energy such as the one produced by solar panels and compostable materials and encouraging local consumption and work, States would obtain cleaner productions while safeguarding the environment and reducing CO2 emissions due to long-distance transportations.

2. Urge Governments to promote means of transport powered by electric or hybrid motors to limit air pollution and discourage the use of non-renewable energies such as, but not limited to, coal and oil.

Governments should encourage citizens to use public transports with the aim of reducing traffic jam and pollution created by CO2 emissions. This can be effectively achieved only by developing transport systems that are safe and accessible to everyone. Furthermore, by boosting benefits for electric motor users and facilitating the green transition, States would have greater impact on SDG 11.

3. Urge Governments to prioritise and fairly distribute infrastructure investments according to the needs of both cities and rural areas.

Increasing investments in infrastructure would include, above all, rehabilitating buildings, especially those in high earthquake risk category. Furthermore, it would require preserving green spaces, electrifying the public transportation system, and ensuring safer streets by reconstructing pavements, transitioning to greener lighting systems, and introducing better cycling tracks. By better managing and distributing funds in a fair way between urban and rural areas, overcrowding, air pollution, and poverty would diminish, ameliorating people’s overall life quality and allowing citizens to be more aware of their impact on the environment. Finally, Governments
should listen to citizens’ opinions, in order to understand their needs and act accordingly.

4. Request Governments to invest in sustainable cities and give priority to people in need, thus avoiding social exclusion.
Investing in sustainable cities means to help all citizens and leave no one behind. It is important to educate people to respect the others and give voice to people’s different points of view. It is vital for Governments to develop policies based on a balance between modern social demands and environmental concerns. Such as equilibrium could be reached through a correct allocation of funds and wise investments.

5. Urge Governments to have constant interaction and dialogue with all the stakeholders at stake in any project, giving them the chance to access platforms through which they can monitor the way their money is spent and raising the level of accountability inside the society.
Accountability and participation represent paramounts to generate reciprocal trust between Governments and people. Nevertheless, they should not be seen as a mere functional requirement. The usefulness of accountability and participation hinges on improving governance, confidence, and active participation, thus creating a very well-structured mechanism of interaction and dialogue between stakeholders and Governments.

6. Urge Governments to spread awareness on the current global environmental problems, promoting awareness campaigns even in schools by teaching to the young children the importance of ecology and making them citizens willing to take action in the sustainable transition.
Environmental threats can be fought only through a conscious support. To assure the engagement of citizens, awareness concerning environmental issues must be spread.
AIR POLLUTION & SUSTAINABLE CITIES

Given that people tend to be hesitant to take action in unfamiliar situations, the implementation of pilot programs on ecology would overcome such insecurity. Awareness should be raised in easy and enjoyable ways, by using positive messages, social channels, and group activities. Similarly, rewards could also be used, but carefully: virtuous conduct needs internalization to be long-lasting.

7. Call upon Governments to create specific financial inclusion programs to tackle air pollution relying on the use of renewable energies and the construction of sustainable facilities.

In order to prevent air pollution, Governments should promote new programs about the electricity distribution based on renewable sources and the construction of sustainable infrastructures. Monetary aids to facilitate the above-mentioned measures could be allocated by using, for example, the UN Scales of Assessment.

8. Urge Governments to take action towards the establishment of a new efficient system of air quality laws.

New international laws and standards should be established to make both public and private businesses modifying their production processes, thus promoting the use of nontoxic or less toxic substances, implementing conservation techniques, and recycling the used materials. Such rules should also ban the extra-taxes that are currently established for the eco-friendly products available on market.