



TUNZA

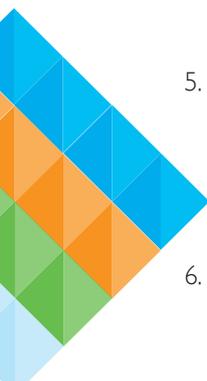
UNEP TUNZA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE *10-14 February 2013, Nairobi*

YOUTH STATEMENT TO THE FIRST UNIVERSAL SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM

18-22 February 2013

We, the UNEP Tunza Youth Advisory Council together with participants of the UNEP Tunza International Youth Conference representing over 100 countries of the world present this statement on behalf of young people of the world, to The First Universal Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum

1. We propose UNEP provides appropriate frameworks and mechanisms to measure the full costs, both environmental and social of producing products to enable consumers to make informed decisions, and to encourage fair pricing.
2. UNEP has to lead by example in encouraging financial incentives to promote entrepreneurship among young people that have strong social and sustainability goals.
3. UNEP should help to create a mechanism or a space for sharing technologies through financial incentives and funding via governments for research into new technical and social ideas.
4. This point concerns Education for Sustainable Development (ESD):
 - a. Governments should introduce ESD in formal education curriculums, as well as through informal and non-formal methods of learning, from early stages with a life-long-learning perspective.
 - b. Together with UNEP, governments and stakeholders should create a database of information on sustainable development that is open, accessible and easily available.
 - c. Programs should be launched that aims at providing professionals with the appropriate training and skills to conduct their work in a sustainable manner.
5. This point concerns participation of youth in decision making:
 - a. Leading by example, UNEP needs to encourage a system that facilitates young people in decision making structures that are not tokenistic.
 - b. UNEP also needs to provide training and enable individuals to develop and share skills for inclusive involvement in other key stakeholders group.
6. Reforms should be made in the council of youths within a country, to allow for a sector which is dedicated to the environment, aiming at involving youth in the policy making processes relating to the environment and providing proper platforms to engage in capacity building. Where such councils do not exist steps must be taken for them to be set up.



7. UNEP should encourage all stakeholders to become more transparent and accountable in their work, allowing for citizens, especially young people, to understand the different structures working towards a sustainable society.
8. Stricter environmental laws must be enforced, with a focus on the removal of negative impacts caused by institutions not adhering to the existing laws.
9. Involve indigenous people and local communities in all government processes. Promote the practice of ancestral knowledge to improve strategies on sustainable production and consumption.
10. We propose that the Governing councils of UNEP to authorize experts from W.H.O. and other relevant official institutions/entities in the sector of public health to conduct frequent checks in pharmaceutical companies which emit chemical waste affecting drinking water: Steps should be taken to ensure that companies adhere to their respective environmental policies.
11. Governments should commission a quality mapping of water sources by setting up water quality monitoring techniques (including low-cost, easy-set-up monitoring kits) as well as adopting a water source protection act, ensuring that no untreated wastewater contaminants should enter the water source.
12. In partnership with UNEP, governments should have better control over the extracting and processing of natural materials. Safer and more environmentally sound techniques should be developed for the treatment and disposal of dangerous substances.
13. We call on governments, business, cities and civil society to support the several efficient campaigns such UNEP and FAO's new **ThinkEatSave** campaign against food-waste and unsustainable consumption. We further call on governments and all sectors of society to cut back on food waste and food loss as a post 2015 development agenda target as a Sustainable Development Goal.
14. UNEP along with the governments should support and facilitate youth led campaigns (example **Unite for Water Campaign**) and projects aimed at preserving ecosystems for water security as well as efficient sustainable water use. Here, it is also requested to have the sustainable use of water be put forward as a post 2015 Sustainable Development Goal.

