

**Tenth special session of the Governing Council/  
Global Ministerial Environmental Forum**

Monaco, 20-22 February 2008

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## **Youth Statement**

### **I. Background**

- *Applauding* UNEP and their global partners, in particular Bayer, for widely involving children and youth in environmental activities. Such highly successful initiatives include the Tunza International Children and Youth Conferences, the Bayer Young Environmental Envoy, the Tunza Children Painting Competition and the Volvo Adventure.
- *Recognizing* that the Tunza Strategy for Children and Youth has been highly successful and has greatly enhanced involvement of children and youth in various environmental activities.
- *Thanking* UNEP for giving youth a platform through the Tunza publications and in decision making processes, where they have been able to share and formulate their ideas as well as broaden the Tunza network.
- *Concerned* that some key aspects of the Tunza Strategy for Children and Youth have not been fully implemented, such as the Global Youth Retreat, the Global 500 Youth Award, and the publication of the Tunza handbook.
- *Aware* that the six-year UNEP Tunza Strategy for Children and Youth, which was endorsed by the 22<sup>nd</sup> UNEP Governing Council in February, 2003, concludes in the year 2009.
- *Noting with deep concern* that UNEP's Medium Term Strategy 2010-2013 fails to adequately provide for youth involvement in UNEP's major decision making processes.

### **II. Proposed Action**

- *Encouraging* UNEP to further foster its partnerships for youth with more UN bodies, governmental entities, NGO's, and private sector companies.
- *Asking for* substantial representation of youth in the UNEP decision making processes – at least one youth present (per region) at all major international environmental proceedings in which UNEP participates or is involved in.

- *Requesting* UNEP to actively seek to engage youth from both rural and inner city areas across the globe in environmental programs; which seek to build awareness and improve the quality of life in the areas where they live.
- *Calling upon* UNEP and other civil society environmental organizations to actively engage youth in, but not limited to, UNEP's six major cross-cutting thematic priorities:
  1. global warming/climate change,
  2. disasters and conflicts,
  3. ecosystem management,
  4. environmental governance,
  5. harmful substances and hazardous waste,
  6. resources efficiency – sustainable consumption and production.
- *Urging* capital investment to be more equitably distributed; to include youth environmental related projects that focus on education, sustainable development, and environmental friendly technological support based on the Bali Strategy Plan of 2005.
- *Acknowledging* that the Tunza Youth Strategy is of fundamental importance to engaging youth in international, regional and local environmental issues and therefore the Tunza Youth Strategy should be more integrated into UNEP's Medium Term Strategy 2010-2013.

*Appealing for* continuous involvement of the previous Tunza Youth Advisory Council members by engaging them in further UNEP processes following the end of their two year mandate such as

1. Mentorship of the youth environmental organizations in the appropriate regions
  2. Consulting of the newly elected Tunza Youth Advisors
- *Welcomes* further positive feedback and contributions related to the engagement of youth by UNEP.