UNLEASHING THE POWER OF YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATION: SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE
UNLEASHING THE POWER OF YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATION: SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER FUTURE

SPEAKERS

By order of intervention

UNESCO

Sylvie MOTARD
Acting Director, Europe Office, UN Environment Programme

UNECE

David GILES
UN Youth Delegate for Ireland 2022/23

António MARQUES PINTO
Association of Young Doctors of Portugal

Jessica GILL
UN Youth Delegate for Ireland 2022/23

Simón HERTELEER
Coordinator of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform

Diana RIZZOLIO
Coordinator, Geneva Environment Network

Emily MORRIS
The Brookings Institution, Center for Universal Education

Samia KASSID
World Future Council

Luise HEIDENREICH
Co-Head Education and Learning, Climate-KIC

Deirdre HODSON
European Commission

Bahar ÖZAY
Coordinator, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Turkey (SDSN)

Wondwosen ASNAKE KIBRET
Policy and Partnerships Coordinator, Europe Office, UN Environment Programme | Moderator

Vladislav KAIM
UN SG’s Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

Michaela KRÖMER (TBC)
Attorney-at-Law

Aravella ZACHARIOU
Chair of the UNECE Steering Committee for ESD

REGIONAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION
25 - 26 MARCH 2020 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA ONLINE
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Welcome and Introductory Remarks
- Wondwosen ASNAKE KIBRET | Policy and Partnerships Coordinator, Europe Office, UNEP | Moderator
- UNESCO
- Sylvie MOTARD | Acting Director, Europe Office, UN Environment Programme
- UNECE

Engagement of youth in SD policies (lessons from community/organizational involvement)
- António MARQUES PINTO | Association of Young Doctors of Portugal
- Jessica GILL and David GILES | UN Youth Delegates for Ireland 2022/23
- Simon HERTLEER | Coordinator of the UNECE ESD Youth Platform

Commitments to accelerate 2030 agenda
- Diana RIZZOLIO | Geneva Environment Network
- Vladislav KAIM | UN SG’s Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

Promising collaborative actions to advance the interest of young people
- Emily MORRIS | The Brookings Institution, Center for Universal Education
- Samia KASSID | World Future Council
- Michaela KROMER (TBC) | Attorney-at-Law

Good practices of youth engagement through education
- Luise HEIDENREICH | Co-Head Education and Learning, Climate-KIC
- Deirdre HODSON | European Commission
- Aravella ZACHARIOU | Chair of the UNECE Steering Committee for ESD
- Bahar OZAY | Coordinator, Sustainable Development Solutions Network Turkey (SDSN)

Q&A

Closing
Based on this assessment, the region will achieve only 21 targets (18 per cent of measurable targets) by 2030. This is down from 26 targets assessed as on track last year.

For 79 targets (up from 64 last year), progress has to accelerate, and for 15 targets (as last year), the current trend needs to be reversed.
Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet.’

It warns that “many of the SDGs are moderately to severely off track” and offers five recommendations to “rescue” the Goals by the 2030 deadline.

The report reveals that according to a preliminary assessment of around 140 targets with data, only about 12% are on track.

Nearly 50% of the targets are moderately or severely off track and approximately 30% have either stagnated or “regressed below the 2015 baseline.”
It offers **five broad recommendations** and specifies a number of actions governments could take to support each:

1. **Recommit to** “accelerated, sustained and transformative action” at the national and global level “to deliver on the promise of the SDGs”;
2. Advance “**concrete**, integrated and targeted **policies and actions** to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, and “**end the war on nature**,” while promoting the rights women and girls and empowering the most vulnerable;
3. **Improve national** and subnational **capacity**, accountability, and public institutions to accelerate SDG progress;
4. To support developing countries in their efforts to achieve the SDGs, **recommit to deliver on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)** and **mobilize the resources and investment** needed, particularly for countries in special situations and those “experiencing acute vulnerability”; and
5. **Continue strengthening the UN development system** and boost the capacity of the multilateral system to tackle emerging challenges and SDG-related gaps in the international architecture that have emerged since 2015.
The report calls on world leaders to come together at the SDG Summit and “deliver a Rescue Plan for People and Planet” around three breakthroughs:

1) **equipping governance and institutions** for sustainable and inclusive transformation;

2) **prioritizing policies and investments** that have **multiplier effects** across the Goals; and

3) **securing a surge in SDG financing** and an enabling **global environment** for developing countries.
Create and build safe **spaces** to allow meaningfully engagement of youth in projects and decision making.

Young people think not only of themselves but also their communities and future generations. We have a responsibility to **support** them to apply their agency.

Must **change** social norms attitudes towards young people (seen and not heard), (social problems not solutions).

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**UNCRC**

3Ps ➟ 3Ss

Protection ➟ Space

Provision ➟ Support

Participation ➟ System Change
The triple crisis of climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss poses the greatest threat to the health and well-being of current and future generations. These three interlinked issues reinforce each other, amplifying the threats to our health and well-being and calling for urgent action to change course and steer humankind back to safety.

1) take stock of the most recent developments in understanding the health impact of the triple environmental crisis and of major trends and current and future concerns in the Region, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic;
2) enhance the commitment of the health sector to tackle the impacts of climate change, including by making health systems more environmentally sustainable, low-carbon and climate-resilient;
3) reaffirm the need for urgent efforts to reduce the health effects of pollution, addressing both established and emerging environmental risk factors (including plastics);
4) integrate nature, biodiversity and health considerations in environment and health policies, and in the implementation of the One Health approach;
5) adopt a roadmap as an integral part of the Budapest Declaration, with a set of concrete actions and commitments to prevent and address the health effects posed by the triple crisis;
6) agree on a series of accelerators for achieving the environment and health-related Sustainable Development Goals, at the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda, and a transition towards resilient, healthy, equitable and sustainable communities; and
7) launch the EHP Partnerships as a new and flexible mechanism to support the implementation of commitments on specific topics of common interest at the national and international levels.
UN Cooperation in the UNECE Region

Issue-based Coalition on Environment and Climate Change

Issue-based Coalition on Adolescent and Youth

Issue-based Coalition on Health and Well-being
Third High-level Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries, and Nicosia Ministerial Statement on Education for Sustainable Development

adoption of the framework for the implementation of the UNECE Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030

Ministerial Declaration of the Ninth Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference

strengthening and scaling up education for sustainable development
Explanatory Note

This draft document is submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Europe Office after consultations with the Chair of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Steering Committee on Education for Sustainable Development and the secretariats of UNECE and UNESCO.

The document aims to apply the Framework for the Implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 as an accelerator to address the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

While at the mid-way point towards 2030, the current trends based on regional and global assessments of the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are moderately to severely off track.

The Framework for the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Strategy for Education for Sustainable Development from 2021 to 2030 and its four strands in focus can be used as a tool to accelerate transformative action to deliver on the promise of the SDGs, tackle the triple crises, deliver more for young people and succeeding generations, and equip and empower them to be better prepared for the challenges ahead.

This document by no means is intended to duplicate existing work but shared as a Zero Draft or a Thought Starter for elaboration of a possible product/tool/tip that could look like a guidance to address the triple crises by using the four strands of the strategy: Quality Education, Whole Institution Approach, Digital education, and Entrepreneurship.

Furthermore, the images used in the document are strictly for illustration and not meant to be a visual representation of the four strands.
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