

The Youth Future Manifesto

1st Version, September 18th, 2010

Preamble

In the past days, 120 young people from all continents have reflected upon the current state of our planet and realized that the basis of our future livelihoods continues to be destroyed.

Our Youth Conference is an event on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Right Livelihood Award that brought Alternative Nobel Laureates together here in Bonn. More than 30 Right Livelihood laureates have shared their knowledge and experience in workshops with young people.

As participants of the Youth Conference, we took a broad look at the current global situation. We asked ourselves what we could do to stop or even reverse current destructive developments. We also discussed what we as the young generation expect from today's decision makers in politics, society, and business.

Divided into seven main topics, the group of 120 participants has agreed upon the following Youth Future Manifesto. Furthermore, German youth delegates delivered an extended version of this manifesto to the UN Millennium Goals Conference in New York:

1. Peace, Disarmament, Conflict Resolution

What has to be achieved?

- A global understanding of respect and benevolence as well as the realization that all things are interconnected.
- The inner peace of every human being is the starting point in the struggle for a peaceful world.
- Instead of expecting security from international military treaties, security needs to be established on a local and human level.

What do we do about it?

- To promote peace, we encourage intercultural education and dialogue.
- We create neutral spaces, in which conflict parties can enter into a dialogue and achieve change.
- We condemn institutions and corporations that profit from war and exploitation.

What Politics, Business, and others need to do?

- The international community needs to outlaw weapons of war and finally enter into negotiations to condemn the production and proliferation of weapons.
- We appeal to the media and politicians to expose the true intentions behind wars and conflicts.

2. Climate, Environment, Health

What has to be achieved?

- Anthropogenic climate change has to be minimized. Humanity is adjusting and mitigating effects of climate change. We become independent from fossil fuels and nuclear energy.
- Environmental protection, especially the protection of biodiversity, is regarded as the protection of humanity. Society, culture, and the economy flourish on the basis of sustainability.
- People lead a healthy lifestyle. Preventive care, as well as medical treatment, is given a higher priority.

What do we do about it?

- We need to educate those surrounding us about processes of climate change.
- We buy local and seasonal products that are fairly traded and organically produced.
- We strive to minimize our carbon-dioxide footprint in our everyday lives.

What Politics, Business, and others need to do?

- Decision makers need to combine traditional knowledge with modern research and make it publically accessible.
- Complete transition to renewable energies.
- Preserve the diversity of life by avoiding monoculture and genetically manipulated corps in agriculture.

3. Human Rights, International Conventions, Cultural Diversity

What do we do about it?

- Conscious Consumption: We make a conscious effort not to consume products that were produced under circumstances violating human rights.
- We educate ourselves about production standards, especially about production methods violating human rights. We actively inform others about these issues.
- We influence decision-makers in politics and business by petitions and campaigns to implement fair trade policies.

What Politics, Business, and others need to do?

- Decision makers in politics and business need to sanction trade with nations that violate human rights.
- All nations of the world guarantee human rights.
- Educational institutions raise awareness for issues of human rights and international law.

4. Poverty, Hunger, Development Aid

What has to be achieved?

- Nobody on this planet has to starve.
- Regionalization of the economy: Profits need to benefit the region where production takes place.
- Establish a strong organic agriculture worldwide.
- Small farmers will be supported and included in decision processes of agriculture policy.

What do we do about it?

- Conscious consumption: We decide to buy seasonal produce, eat more vegetables and less meat, as well as fair trade products.
- We raise our awareness for global contexts and draw the necessary conclusions for the local level.
- We do everything to convince the people around us to act accordingly.

What Politics, Business, and others need to do?

- Business for the people and not just for profit.
- Decision makers in politics and business strive to mobilize farmers all over the world to promote organic agriculture, to ensure long-term sustainability.
- Create incentives for local industries to process local resources.

5. Alternative Approaches to Economics

What has to be achieved?

- Decentralization of the economy.
- A fair international framework of rules for the global economy.
- International and responsible sharing of knowledge.

What do we do about it?

- Reflect upon our own consumer behavior and act accordingly.
- Create think tanks, social enterprises, and social ventures.
- We buy local and seasonal products.

What Politics, Business, and others need to do?

- Entrepreneurs all over the world enter into a binding pledge for social responsibility of business.
- Create fair rules for the global economy.
- Companies have the obligation to cover the costs of the social and environmental effects of their activities.

6. Civil Society, Alternative Politics, Globalization

What has to be achieved?

- An empowered Civil Society has the legitimate means to directly influence policies, such as a basic income and open-source intellectual property.
- Political decision-making needs to be completely transparent
- Citizens use the existing means of direct democratic participation.

What do we do about it?

- We include friends in the debate.
- We create local and global networks.
- We reflect on our worldview.
- We learn about the world and its cultures and gather inspiration.

What Politics, Business, and others need to do?

- Political decision-making processes are made transparent.
- Educational and cultural institutions initiate and foster debates about current issues and possible solutions.

7. Values, Religion, Spirituality

What has to be achieved?

- People have a healthy space to develop and reflect on their own values.
- Society is oriented toward a ethics and morale that encourages life.
- More openness to spirituality in all spheres of life.

What do we do about it?

- We want to respect and love all people, creatures, and life.
- We always want to act mindfully and fill our acts with meaning.
- I am conscious of my own free will and take responsibility for my actions.

What Politics, Business, and others need to do?

- The sciences and spirituality open up for a mutual exchange of perspectives.
- It is generally acknowledged that thinking constructs realities.
- The religions of the world enter into a dialogue and open up to enable the solution of current problems of humanity.