

**UNEP Global Youth Forum 2002**  
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**Denmark**

**Youth Action Plans Dedicated  
to Sustainable Development: Small Steps in A Long Journey**

**Education**

1. Ensure that all actions youth take to implement sustainable development education, is based on environmental justice. Youth will work to ensure that all youth have equal and fair access to a healthy environment, equal enforcement, and a movement to protect marginalized and indigenous communities from environmental hazards.
2. Support "For youth by youth" education programs that will educate and advise community, activists, leaders and businesses about youth perspective.
3. Work with school board to establish networking, promote knowledge sharing, organization of events and creation of sustainable development relevant educational materials.
4. Use the Earth Charter as an education tool and lobby our governments to adopt and endorse the document as a sustainable development framework.
5. Spread information on sustainable development training.
6. Organize high profile events such as global sustainable development day.
7. Organize scientific information centres or databases.
8. Make public information easier and understandable for youth.
9. Use already existing environmental education materials and share them with youth colleges.
10. Inform media, government and other youth organizations at home about existing youth participation and youth events related to sustainable development.
11. Contribute to the local Agenda 21 process in your home community.
12. Promote the establishment of free universities, where youth can teach others about sustainable development and other issues.
13. Integrate sustainable development into existing environmental education programs and environmental campaigns.
14. Partner with labor unions to set up a job training program in clean energy to produce a fossil free economy and stop global warming.

15. Use famous people and public figures respected by youth to incorporate consumption awareness in outreach.
16. Support a “Sustainable Schools” initiative to encourage integrated sustainable initiatives.

### **Poverty**

1. Raise awareness of environmental issues and capacity building to encourage sustainable lifestyles, including sustainable production and consumption, family planning and no discrimination of any form.
2. Create incentives and opportunities for self-sustaining poverty alleviation initiatives
3. Partner with other stakeholders to guarantee the government’s transparency, law enforcement and implementation.
4. Create job opportunities for young people through education, training, internships, and employment centres.
5. Promote youth-based income generating activities, including traditional occupations.
6. Call on governments to implement the polluter-pay-principle as an incentive for environmental sustainability.
7. Form functional youth networks between developed and developing nations, especially between young professionals, to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer and to encourage entrepreneurship acumen in developing nations.

### **Consumption**

1. Promote annual international youth “buy sustainably” and/or “buy nothing” day to promote consumer awareness starting after Johannesburg this year. Partnerships must be formed with consumers organisations, youth organisations, fair trade NGOs, universities, schools, chambers of commerce.
2. Partner with local authorities in the whole world to establish by 2002 and maintain “media-free” zones in public parks, and in schools and universities replacing billboards and advertisements with artwork created by youth and children. This campaign should be launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
3. Promote consumption reduction campaigns by youth and for everyone, such as “The BET” campaign for youth to partner with governments in reducing greenhouse gas consumption to reduce pollution and consumption and make consumption more sustainable.

4. Launch an international youth campaign before 2003 to require that product labelling include environmental and social impacts by 2005
5. Launch an international environmental campaign by 2007 to require an independent national institution to label in a transparent way products on environmental and social impacts
6. Partner youth with all peoples, particularly NGOs and indigenous people and women to raise awareness and promote the purchase of fair trade products by 2005.
7. Launch by 2006 community youth campaigns to collect labels of sustainable products, including non-sweatshop produced goods, bought by youth and show them to local stores to emphasize youth buying power.
8. Demonstrate youth purchasing power by launching community youth campaigns to collect labels of sweatshop produced products to write the producers of these products to encourage the immediate cessation of sweatshop labour-produced items. Partner with local authorities.
9. Establish partnerships with scholar management to apply cleaner technologies and do green purchasing by 2005 by partnering with universities and producers.
10. Set up national youth projects to lobby the government to improve national and international tax systems by 2006 which reflect the limits of our environment to provide us with resources as well as to serve us a sink for pollutants.
11. Press governments to phase-out unsustainable subsidies by 2005 for energy, fuel, resource exploitation, agricultural products.
12. Lobby through green groups to change the educational institutions policies on sustainable practises.
13. Make 'consumption happenings' in grade schools, showing the pupils and staff how to save energy, how much they consume and how much they can consume to live more sustainably.

### **Conflicts, War and effects on the development and environment Youth Actions**

1. Local level/NGOs: Help refugees and people affected by the war
  - a. Collect donations and medical aids
  - b. Voluntary Social work (Schools, Medical centres, Building houses, reports as observers)
  - c. Declare the year 2003 to be the year of Voluntary to work for refugees.
2. International/National Youth Action Day Calling for peace and stopping the war. Examples: Marches, TV cooperation, petitions.

3. Create and support International Youth Programmes calling for peace, stopping the war and help the refugees. Examples: Euro-Med projects.
4. Call international community to provide a sustainable life style for refugees until they gain their rights.
5. Link youth groups regionally and internationally to promote understanding, support one another and achieve goals.
6. Lobby for restriction distribution and trade of weapons to conflicted regions.
7. Lobby on governments to reduce any investment in military and conflict structures.

### **HIV/AIDS**

1. Build capacity, particularly for young women, and increase awareness of all HIV/AIDS issues to help reduce the spread of the disease and to cope with the disease
2. Demand free access to preventative measures
3. Lobby for national policies to take into consideration the rights and needs of all those infected and affected, including issues such as mother to child infections, voluntary testing, and easy access to anti-retroviral drugs by targeting pharmaceutical enterprises.
4. Call for the accelerated commitment to the Global HIV Fund in order to begin a global program of action before the end of 2003.
5. Lobby for more intensive research of HIV/AIDS , and support and be involved in the process.

### **Water Management**

1. Create awareness campaigns:
  - a. Schools
  - b. Competitions
  - c. Media Campaigns and advertising
  - d. Lobby for legislations focusing on consumption and protecting water resources
2. Promote World Water Day
3. Commit to practising water-preserving individual initiatives.
4. Include global warming education in water management campaigns.

5. Build capacity to involve women in integrated water resources management, particularly through empowerment and awareness campaigns at all levels of the society.
6. Create community based water management.
7. Create programs educating schools and voluntary stream watch test water contamination.
8. Lobby and campaign for more efficient agricultural practises and clean technology transfer.
9. Implement separate bills for payment of water where applicable.
10. Collect and use rain water for practical uses such as washing.
11. Take part and lead water resource investigation and protection programs involving communities similar to those run be "streamwatch" around the world.
12. Participate in and promote world water day in their communities, to raise awareness on the lack of water in the world and to fundraise to support water supply projects in the developing world.

### **Youth empowerment: coordination, strengthening and institutionalization**

1. Establish partnerships with other multi-stakeholders to mobilize and encourage meaningful participation in the decision-making process at the local, national and international levels.
2. Promote the creation of a legal framework that promotes the well-being and development of youth.
3. Create a General Plan toward Rio+10 and beyond
4. Hold regional and international meeting to follow up and evaluate outcomes of the process of Rio+10
5. Establish permanent communication (bulletin, email) and other kinds of alternative communication.
6. Liaise and empower the national environmental youth networks.
7. Coordinate and implement actions and projects of the regional youth network with the support of international organizations including UNEP.
8. Exchange of best practices among countries about sustainable development in order to increase awareness.
9. Transfer and exchange of clean technology.

## **Mechanisms for action**

1. Youth Activity at WSSD. Currently, youth are planning to have a large presence on the ground before and during the WSSD. These plans include:
  - a. Funnel youth participation during the WSSD through an organisation based in South Africa.
  - b. Create and continue partnerships with the eight other major groups, through dialogue.
  - c. Create and/or further develop partnerships with clear commitments that include a financial plan of project implementation.
  - d. Create and support Sustainable Development Demonstration Projects (example: The Midrand Eco-City Project as a showcase)
  - e. Hold National Summits and an International Youth Summit before and during the WSSD.
  - f. Erect International Youth Tent outside the main venue.