WORLD EARTH DAY FOR G7

General States of the Environment for Youth

an appeal to the G7' Negotiators

Earth Day Italia

General States of the Environment for Youth for G7 Climate, Environment and Energy Closing report

In the context of the first Italian-led ministerial summit combining Climate, Energy and Environment, Italy is positioning itself as a pioneer in the ecological transition and the fight against climate change. Its primary goal is to transform international climate agreements into concrete action, going beyond the level of mere declarations of intent.

With the start of the upcoming G7, Italy intends to emphasize the importance of energy autonomy, the need to effectively address climate change, and the central role of society and politics in the energy transition. However, it was during World Earth Day on April 22, 2024, with The Youth Environment States-General, organized by Earth Day Italy in collaboration with the Piedmont Region, that the intergenerationally of responsibility for the current state of the planet emerged even more tangibly.

The green generation, represented mainly by young students and activists, proves to be a driving force toward a future free of fossil fuels and oriented toward responsible and sustainable consumption. Clearly, such a vision requires concrete support through the possibility of institutionalizing the concrete thoughts and proposals of these actors.

Environmental protection thus possesses many facets: from combating the food crisis to protecting climate refugees, from promoting a culture of responsible water use to the need for broad political awareness. In an era marked by crisis, uncertainty and high geopolitical tensions, environmental protection also takes on the significance of spreading a message of peace and social inclusion.

We therefore expect that at the G7 and subsequent international meetings, Italy will strive to promote a holistic view of environmental protection, recognizing its interconnectedness with other crucial aspects of society and global politics. Through the adoption of innovative policies, international collaboration and education also focused on environmental challenges, Italy should aspire to play a leading role in building a sustainable future for current and future generations.

To achieve the goal of “net zero greenhouse gas emissions” by 2050, it is essential to make radical changes in our lifestyle patterns. Even without waiting for regulatory frameworks to be fully activated, individuals can make a significant difference: it has been shown that it is possible to reduce one's emissions by up to 20 percent without drastic changes in daily habits. However, to achieve even more significant reductions, policy institutions need to make decisions and investments aimed at “enabling” and making such changes ordinary.

Individuals, in this context, serve as agents of climate innovation, promoting the spread of global awareness and fostering the adoption of stronger measures toward reducing emissions.

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This report will examine the proposals that, after a careful and thorough analysis of critical issues and goals, the under-30 youth of the General States of the Environment for Youth want to bring to the attention of international tables that can concretely make a difference in protecting the Planet.

Finally, strategies will be proposed, calling for immediate and effective policy actions, both nationally and internationally, to foster the structural change needed to address climate change.
During working tables and discussions with students on World Earth Day, which involved young people from all over the world, from Italy to the G7 countries and beyond, a particularly significant finding emerged: regardless of the background, traditions, and history of individual people, a commonality of purpose and common thinking on what are critical issues related to the environment and climate emerged.

The cross-disciplinary dialogue made it possible to think about common goals, highlighting that this approach could be the way forward for politics as well. In this context a chorus of young voices emerged who, united by their identities and desire to safeguard the environment, found common ground in protecting the Earth. This example demonstrates that listening to and giving voice to the multiple perspectives of young people can be critical to addressing environmental challenges effectively and inclusively. The strength of their coming together lies in the potential to turn words into action and individual visions into a global movement for sustainability.

If there is a common battle, in which we are all responsible and all must unite, it is the one for climate and Earth protection: from young people, to institutions, from digital media to journalists, all civil society must engage. The individual can no longer be just a recipient of environmental policies, but must become a co-actor for change.

Change must not only be for new generations, but with new generations, for it is only through collaboration and joint action that we can build a sustainable future for all. It is therefore time for decisive and peaceful action for the climate and our Planet.

During the working tables, the focus was on four key issues: water and water drought, renewable energy, circular economy, and climate action. They can become the pivotal topics from which to address climate challenges and to act as a stimulus for policy makers on green issues.

Global Water Crisis: Rights, Conflicts and Environmental Challenges

The water crisis plaguing the contemporary world is a direct consequence of ongoing climate change. These changes are altering weather patterns, causing uneven rainfall distribution and exacerbating weather extremes such as prolonged droughts and torrential rains. The result is a significant reduction in freshwater availability in many regions of the globe, putting a strain on existing water resources and amplifying the impacts of the crisis.

A major critical issue is the growing demand for water, fueled by population growth and accelerated urbanization. Cities and metropolitan areas, in particular, are faced with an exponential increase in demand for water for domestic, industrial and agricultural use. This puts pressure on existing water resources and necessitates an integrated approach to water management.

In addition to growing demand, pollution of water resources is another serious concern. Industrial, agricultural, and urban activities often spill pollutants into rivers, lakes, and groundwater, compromising the quality and safety of the water supply. This vicious cycle of pollution further contributes to the crisis, creating an unsustainable environment for human and animal life.

Overuse of groundwater resources is another critical issue that requires urgent attention. The often-unsustainable overuse of groundwater is leading to declining aquifer levels, putting future water availability at risk. This phenomenon is particularly prevalent in many regions of the world, where intensive agriculture and industry are heavy consumers of groundwater.

In addition, poorer communities are particularly vulnerable to the water crisis, with serious consequences for health, food security, and economic and social stability. Rural and urban populations in arid and vulnerable regions are particularly affected, as they have limited access to water resources and adequate water infrastructure.

Again, lack of water infrastructure is another major obstacle to be addressed. Many countries, especially those in the developing world, suffer from a lack of adequate infrastructure, including drinking water supply, treatment and distribution systems. This limits access to safe and clean water for millions of people, further exacerbating the crisis.

To address these critical issues and ensure a sustainable future for the planet, clear goals and concrete actions are needed. It is essential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit climate change, thereby conserving water resources and reducing the impacts of the crisis. At the same time, it is critical to improve water efficiency by promoting sustainable water use through innovative practices and technologies in agriculture, industry, and households.

Global Water Crisis: Rights, Conflicts and Environmental Challenges 2

Protection of water ecosystems, such as rivers, lakes, and wetlands, is crucial to ensuring long-term water availability and quality. It is necessary to develop and implement integrated water resources management systems that holistically consider water supply, use, and conservation, ensuring equity, sustainability, and resilience.

Beyond that, promoting public education and awareness of the importance of water conservation is equally crucial. Actively involving local communities in the management of water resources, encouraging public participation, environmental education and the promotion of sustainable behaviors, is essential to effectively addressing the emergency.

The water crisis presents a number of critical issues that require immediate and targeted solutions. These include inequality in access to water, which sees many people around the world deprived of sufficient clean and safe water to meet their basic needs, while others enjoy privileged access to abundant water resources. This inequality in access to water, despite the fact that the UN formally declared it as a universal human right in 2010, has progressively transformed water from a universal human right to an individual need, subject to economic valuation and, in some cases, forms of privatization and commercial exploitation.

Lack of funds and resources limits the ability of governments and organizations to effectively address water resource management challenges, while exploitation and privatization of water resources increase the risk of over-exploitation and exclusion of communities from their access to water.
To overcome these critical issues, it is first necessary to ensure universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation as a basic human right, treating water as a common good and not as a commodity subject to economic interests. This requires significant investment in the construction and upgrading of water infrastructure, especially in rural and marginalized areas.

In addition, there is a need to adopt policies and regulations that protect water resources and promote sustainable water use, preventing contamination and overuse of water resources. This can be accomplished through the monitoring and control of industrial, agricultural, and urban that could have a negative impact on water resources, as well as through the implementation of local and national sustainable water management practices and systems of waste reduction for domestic use and consumption control.

In addition, it is essential to promote public participation and international cooperation in water management, recognizing that the water emergency is a global problem that requires global solutions. This can be achieved through the exchange of knowledge and technology, cooperation in transboundary water management, and assistance to the most vulnerable countries in building water capacity and infrastructure.

Global Water Crisis: Rights, Conflicts and Environmental Challenges 3

Finally, it is crucial to raise awareness of the importance of water conservation and to promote sustainable behaviors individually and collectively. Educating people about the responsible use of water, the importance of recycling and saving water, and the impact of one's actions on the environment can help change mindsets and promote a culture of sustainability and water conservation.

In addition to all this, it should not be overlooked that the increasing scarcity of water and the resulting inequality in its access and use internationally have triggered fears regarding the future of international relations. These tensions manifest themselves both between countries sharing a river basin and within a state. "Water" security has become a crucial concern, closely linked to food and energy security, influencing global political agendas.

Projects to build dams, hydropower plants or divert waterways for irrigation purposes can generate tensions over the right to access and use water resources between neighboring countries. In addition, water has deep historical and symbolic significance for many human communities, potentially fueling disputes that can escalate into armed conflicts.

To address this complex situation, cooperative approaches and shared solutions are needed to ensure equitable and sustainable water management. Hydro-geopolitical tensions focus on two main sub-themes: water geopolitics and global water challenges. Water geopolitics highlights the strategic importance of water resources and the risk of conflict arising from their scarcity or unequal access, while global water challenges include water scarcity, water pollution, climate change, and lack of infrastructure for sustainable resource management.

These problems threaten not only national water security but also regional and global stability, contributing to forced migration, political and economic instability, and environmental damage. Hydro-geopolitical tensions have profound implications for peace, international stability, and sustainable development, with inefficient management of water resources that can cause serious social, economic, and environmental consequences, amplifying existing inequalities and fueling cycles of poverty and conflict.

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Many conflicts arise in already problematic areas, where attempts at resource appropriation add to other geopolitical factors. Such is the case in the historic Darfur region of Sudan. For more than two decades, this entire region has been the scene of bloody conflicts of ethnic and political origin, but the gradual desertification of the area due to prolonged drought has exacerbated disputes from which have arisen multiple episodes of violence related to the management of water resources between farmers and nomadic herders. High tensions in the area continue to this day and have resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of people and untold numbers of refugees and displaced persons.

For several years, a 15-20% decrease in the amount of rainfall has been leading to the gradual advance of the Sahara Desert southward, increasingly reducing the area of productive land available for agricultural and livestock activities. The case of Darfur is a blatant demonstration of how climate change can affect already existing disputes while generating humanitarian and ecological crises.

Water alone rarely constitutes the root cause of a conflict, the incidence of political, economic, cultural and religious reasons, often interconnected, being more common. However, water issues have helped stimulate the emergence or development of conflict between one or more countries or within the same state. In some cases, water is the direct cause of the conflict, while in others it may be an ancillary factor or incident to a conflict that originated from other motivations (as in the case of the Arab-Israeli conflict, where water management was one of the key issues).

The complexity of hydro-geopolitical tensions requires multidimensional approaches and solutions on multiple levels, including bilateral or multilateral agreements, regional cooperation, international norms, and action to address the deep roots of water-related inequalities and conflicts.

Also not to be overlooked is the issue of waste pollution in water, a problem of global proportions that requires a holistic and challenging approach. The inordinate production and use of plastics, especially single-use plastics, is a major source of this pollution.

Plastic, once dispersed in the environment, breaks down into smaller and smaller fragments, the microplastics, which can persist in the marine environment for decades or even centuries. These microplastics can be ingested by marine organisms, entering the food chain and threatening the biodiversity of ecosystems.

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Lack of regulation in the plastics industry is another major cause of plastic pollution. In many countries, regulations on plastic use and production are insufficient or poorly enforced, allowing excessive production and dissemination of non-biodegradable plastics.

This pattern of production and consumption is often fueled by a lack of incentives for innovation. Companies may be reluctant to invest in more sustainable alternatives to plastics, as virgin plastic production often turns out to be cheaper and more profitable than recycling or adopting alternative materials. For this reason, an incentive to use alternative materials to plastics, including through tax breaks and tax credits, must start from institutions, and at the same time, disincentivize through stricter penalties and taxation, the disproportionate use of plastics.

Another significant challenge is the low percentage of plastic that is actually recycled. Although recycling systems exist, most of the plastic produced still ends up in landfills or is dispersed into the environment, contributing to pollution. In addition, the plastic recycling process can be expensive and unprofitable, which reduces the incentive for companies to invest in such infrastructure. All of this is coupled with a lack of awareness about the environmental harms of plastics.

Many people may not be fully informed about the negative impacts of plastic on the marine environment and wildlife. As a result, they may not adopt more sustainable behaviors, such as recycling or reducing the use of single-use plastics.

Effectively tackling plastic pollution requires coordinated, multi-pronged action. Stricter regulations on plastic use and incentives for innovation in the sector are needed. Plastic recycling must become more efficient and affordable, avoiding instances of socioeconomic inequality in access to sustainable alternatives, through investment in recycling infrastructure and technologies.

Renewable Energy
Global Policies, and Community Engagement, for an Equitable and Resilient Energy Transition

The transition to an energy system based on renewable energy is a necessity, but it faces a number of critical issues that require an integrated approach and pragmatic solutions. We asked ourselves what still stands in the way of an energy system based on renewable resources taking off renewables, given that public interest appears high.
At regular intervals there is renewed talk of nuclear energy, when in reality we are witnessing a weight increasing assumed by fossil sources and the transition to renewable energies such as solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal and biomass remains at the declarations of principle of governments and international forums, accompanied by a still too great power of lobbies and a delay of politics in concretely implementing thoughts and choices inspired by the logic of the collective interest.

One of the main challenges is the factual persistent dependence on traditional hydrocarbons, such as oil and natural gas. This dependence not only leads to serious impacts on the environment, contributing to climate change and air pollution, but is also an obstacle to the full adoption of renewable energy. Gradually reducing fossil fuel consumption and incentivizing the adoption of clean and sustainable energy sources therefore becomes imperative to ensure the sustainability of our planet and future generations.

In order to achieve this, it is not enough to implement the Paris Agreement and what was decided at COP 28 in Dubai, but it is also necessary to unhinge a mental obstacle is that is, on the one hand, the idea that the exploitable potential of renewable energies would not be sufficient to be able to give up nuclear and fossil energies and, on the other hand, that the activation of renewable energies on a large scale is a long-term process and therefore it is currently necessary to persevere in mass investments on conventional energies, without which it is still believed that the energy needs of humanity cannot be met.

In addition to dependence on hydrocarbons, another significant criticism concerns the lack of information and awareness among communities. Often, citizens are not fully aware of the benefits of renewable energy and the implications of their energy intensive lifestyles. It is therefore essential to implement educational programs, trainings, workshops and awareness campaigns aimed at informing and engaging the citizenry on sustainable energy and climate change mitigation issues.

This would create a solid knowledge base and foster a cultural shift toward more responsible energy practices. This should be accompanied by increased investment in research to develop green technologies and environmentally sustainable materials. This could include developing new energy storage technologies, optimizing energy efficiency, and expanding renewable energy infrastructure.

Renewable Energy Global Policies, and Community Engagement, for an Equitable and Resilient Energy Transition

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Another crucial issue is definitely to simplify bureaucratic processes and increase government incentives for businesses and citizens to adopt sustainable energy solutions. This could include implementing tax policies that penalize the use of fossil fuels and instead reward the adoption of clean and sustainable energy.

Certainly then complex and fragmented regulation is another significant barrier.

The lack of clear and uniform regulations creates confusion and unevenness among territories seeking to promote the transition. Long delays in obtaining the necessary permits for energy projects delay the implementation of sustainable solutions, slowing the pace toward a greener future. In addition, there is a clear gap between policy and citizens, especially among young people eager to contribute to change.

This gap hinders everyone's effective participation in the energy transition. It is therefore necessary to foster integration between politics and young citizens to ensure active and informed participation of all in energy policy making. It is equally important to create tools and initiatives that help citizens understand and monitor their personal energy consumption, promoting greater individual awareness and responsibility.

Finally, it is crucial to promote public participation and collective action in promoting renewable energy and in the fight against climate change. This could be accomplished through the creation of citizen engagement platforms and support for community projects of sustainable energy production. This is particularly important as there are still reluctant adopters of more sustainable practices due to fear of change or distrust of new technologies and consumption patterns.

Therefore, it seems essential first and foremost on the part of institutions to promote trust and acceptanceof change through education, public participation and the uplifting example of institutions and businesses. To foster these synergies, world governments should start by promotion of cooperation among institutions, businesses, local communities and citizens in inclusive and participatory. Ministerial coordination could be initiated for example purposes. Ministries of the environment should work together, leaving aside purely state and special interests, to develop policies and regulations that promote harmonious and cross-cutting. This requires sincere commitment to common goals and effective cooperation among the various national and international governmental institutions.

Continuing by providing a broader perspective, it is crucial to promote regulation at the European level to foster the development of renewable energy. Clear and uniform regulation at the European level would create a favorable environment for investment in the clean energy sector. This would provide companies with a stable framework and encourage the growth of the renewable energy sector, thus contributing to the transition to a more sustainable economy.

Renewable Energy Global Policies, and Community Engagement, for an Equitable and Resilient Energy Transition

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Finally, reformulating the carbon tax is another key component. Revising the carbon tax to target multinational corporations that do not adopt sustainable practices would be a significant incentive for these companies to reduce carbon emissions and invest in low-impact solutions. This can help direct large companies' efforts toward more sustainable practices and align economic interests with environmental and social ones.

In summary, inter-ministerial cooperation, favorable European regulation of renewable energy, and a reformulation of the carbon tax are three key pillars for promoting environmental and social sustainability. In fact, at the international level, this issue must be approached not only from an economic and engineering perspective but also from a human and social perspective, because transition implies the grafting of social life patterns, representations, organizational models and relational structures.

In order to generate the social preconditions for the transition to a low-emission society, centered on increasing energy production from renewable sources and greater sustainability of consumption, it seems to us urgent to reaffirm the centrality of a sociological approach to energy as well: we need to start from resolving conflicts over the construction and location of renewable energy production facilities, to energy conservation in household consumption, to forms of collective and economic-industrial action on renewables that promote a new model of energy system in which all consumers are also producers.

Circular Economy
Public-private alliance to meet the challenge

The circular economy presents itself as a revolutionary solution to address the environmental and social challenges of our time, shifting the focus from a linear model of production and consumption to one that values resource regeneration and waste minimization.
Certainly our current linear model of production and consumption, although efficient in terms of producing goods, is extremely harmful to ecosystems, rapidly consuming limited natural resources, generating massive amounts of waste and contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions.
This transition requires a radical shift in economic and behavioral paradigms, but it also offers unprecedented opportunities to innovate and create value in sustainable and equitable practices.
The goal is therefore to bend the linear economic model and a mindset so that instead of using new resources, we can continue to reuse them.
This must take place in two distinct cycles, one for biological materials, which regenerate naturally- this is the work of the Earth-and a similar one for technical materials, such as plastic, metal and many other materials for which it is necessary to restore, repair, reuse and only eventually recycle.

For the circular model to function as an ecosystem within an ecosystem it must be based on free sources and free materials. In this way it does not try to stay within the limits of one company but becomes an industrial-scale system so that many companies are involved at once. One of the main benefits in adopting large-scale circular economy models would be to achieve economic self-sufficiency more quickly. The dominant culture of consumerism drives rapid consumption and disposal of products, discouraging reuse and recycling and promoting environmental individualism. There is an urgent need to promote a culture of conscious and responsible consumption, autonomous but collective at the same time, through education and public awareness. However, behind this optimistic vision, lie a number of issues that require attention and innovative solutions to ensure a successful transition to a more sustainable and circular economy.

One of the main critical issues concerns the initial investments needed to initiate and sustain the transition to a circular economy. These investments involve research and development of new technologies, upgrading existing infrastructure, and training staff to adopt circular practices. In addition, The circular economy value chain involves a wide range of actors, including manufacturers, material suppliers, distributors, consumers, recycling operators, and regulators. Coordinating the actions of these actors can be a challenge, given the diversity of their interests and goals. What's more, the value chain can be fragmented on a global scale, with companies operating in different countries with different regulations and business cultures.

Large companies often prioritize short-term profits over long-term environmental impacts, creating a tension between economic interests and environmental sustainability. What is needed is a paradigm shift that integrates sustainability into the heart of business strategies, and this can only happen through appropriate financial and policy support.

Circular Economy
Public-private alliance to meet the challenge

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To deal with this complexity, it is crucial to promote collaboration and dialogue among stakeholders along the production value chain. Public-private partnerships can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and resources among governments, businesses and civil society organizations. In addition, the adoption of digital platforms and emerging technologies can improve transparency and traceability along the value chain, enabling better resource management, greater accountability and better exchange between enterprises.

Certainly, however, it cannot be overlooked that bureaucratic complexity and the lack of a clear and uniform regulations are significant obstacles to the adoption of circular practices. Procedures need to be simplified and made uniform by establishing environmental international standards to guide action and ensure compliance, instead of opting to relocate of production activities to countries with weaker regulations, leading to labor exploitation and exacerbating global inequalities. It is essential to promote an value chain that is fair and sustainable and respects human and environmental rights at all stages of production.

The lack of clear and consistent regulations can slow the adoption of the circular economy and create uncertainty for businesses. It is critical for governments to develop policies focused on the circular economy, offering tax incentives, regulatory relief and support programs for businesses that embrace circular practices. One example may be to start by promoting tax measures and economic incentives, as well as with regulatory reform, including through increased sharing, leasing and rental activities.

Misinformation is a significant challenge in the adoption of the circular economy, as many people, both young people and adults, may be unaware of its principles and benefits. To overcome this barrier, it is critical to invest in educational and awareness programs that disseminate accurate knowledge about the circular economy and promote its widespread adoption.

This can be achieved through a number of integrated initiatives, such as offering courses specialized and vocational training at institutions of higher education and vocational schools, covering a wide range of topics, from ecological design to waste management and sustainable business models.

Organizing corporate workshops and training sessions to raise employees' awareness of circular economy principles and provide them with the skills needed to integrate circular practices into their daily work, or promote events and initiatives public and local, such as circular economy fairs and workshops, to engage the community and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

Circular Economy
Public-private alliance to meet the challenge 3

Since the concept of the circular economy is based on giving back resources, as well as on the relationships between institutions, businesses and citizens, the focus must also be on the product, first of all by improving regulations on guarantees for the durability and reparability of products and implementing regulations that establish the contents of proper and effective communication and labeling on the circularity characteristics of used products, including by implementing centers for product repair and reuse.

Inescapable then is the issue of food sustainability, where it is necessary to understand and address the multiple structural and social variables that influence our global food system. The responsibility for ensuring food sustainability cannot be dumped solely on the consumer, as such an approach neglects the deep systemic-structural issues that undermine food security and compromise equity and the ecosystem.

Unequal access to resources, mismanagement of agricultural land, and the presence of criminal activities such as illegal disposal of toxic waste are just some of the multiple challenges that threaten food sustainability. Inefficient land use and associated environmental degradation not only jeopardize food security, but also threaten human health and the ecosystem as a whole. Intensive agricultural practices, often characterized by monocultures, contribute to the loss of biodiversity and soil depletion, while climate change further exacerbates the situation, putting food production and the food security of entire communities at risk.

In addition, social and economic inequalities play a key role in determining access to nutritious and sustainable foods. Public policies, which are not always oriented toward sustainability, sometimes prioritize short-term economic interests at the expense of long-term impacts on human health and the environment, and the lack of information and awareness about food sustainability issues is another obstacle to promoting more sustainable food behaviors.

To effectively address these challenges, it is necessary to engage public policy, promote strategic investments and involve the community more. Stricter regulations for the management soil, promotion of sustainable agricultural practices such as vertical farming, and economic incentives for sustainable production and consumption, as well as the promotion of local short supply chains and more affordable prices for food from sustainable supply chains are just some of the actions needed to promote a equitable and sustainable food system.

In addition, it is critical to educate and raise awareness among both consumers and producers about the importance of sustainable food practices, encouraging equitable distribution of resources and promoting greater awareness of the environmental implications of food choices. Collaboration among all actors in the food value chain, including governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and consumers, is essential to develop innovative and sustainable solutions to address food sustainability challenges.

Climate Action
Global Challenge for a Sustainable Future

The current global environmental landscape presents a number of critical issues that require immediate and concerted action by the international community. These challenges are complex and interconnected, requiring an integrated and multifactorial approach to be addressed effectively.

A major critical issue is the lack of unity and coherence in addressing climate challenges. Ideological divergences, geopolitical rivalries, and a lack of collaboration among various actors, including governments, international organizations, businesses, and civil society, often prevent meaningful progress. This lack of cohesion slows down efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect vulnerable ecosystems, and adapt to ongoing climate change.

To overcome this obstacle, it is inescapable to promote open and constructive dialogue among different stakeholders. This means creating spaces for discussion and collaboration where ideological differences can be overcome in favor of common goals. One tangible example would be the adoption of an International Green Deal, a global agreement that would set ambitious targets for reducing emissions and transitioning to a low-carbon economy. However, such an agreement should be flexible enough to allow for adaptation to local and national specificities.

Another major challenge is the ineffectiveness of policy incentives in promoting sustainable behaviors and practices. Too often, government policies and incentives fail to achieve the desired results due to inadequate design, lack of sufficient funding, or resistance from established business interests. To address this critical issue, incentive policies need to be reviewed and strengthened, ensuring that they are targeted, evidence-based, and adequately funded. In addition, it is essential to actively involve civil society and local communities in decision-making to ensure that policies are truly responsive to the needs and aspirations of the population.

A third challenge is symbolized by the lack of concrete and measurable targets for emission reduction and environmental protection. Although many countries have set environmental goals, they are often lacking or policies are adopted that run counter to these goals. This is often the result of a lack of political will, economic pressures or opposing sectoral interests. Clear, measurable and binding targets should therefore be established at the international, national and local levels.

These targets should be based on science and empirical evidence and should be periodically monitored and evaluated to ensure progress toward a more sustainable and climate-resilient society.

Climate Action
Global Challenge for a Sustainable Future

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A fourth challenge is embodied in the spread of misinformation and fake news on the climate issue. Misinformation can undermine public understanding of environmental problems and undermine social consensus for action. To counter this phenomenon, it is crucial to ensure fair and universal access to accurate scientific information and to promote media and science literacy among the population. In addition, it is essential to create spaces for discussion and debate based on scientific evidence and rational arguments in order to counter the spread of misinformation and promote informed understanding of environmental issues.

A fifth challenge is manifested by the need to incentivize lifestyle changes toward more sustainable practices. Individual habits and behaviors play a crucial role in determining the overall environmental impact of a society. However, the shift to more sustainable lifestyles can be difficult due to a lack of affordable alternatives, resistance to change, and social and cultural pressures. To address this challenge, concrete and practical solutions need to be promoted that make it easier and more affordable for people to adopt sustainable behaviors. This could include economic incentives, better infrastructure and public services, environmental awareness and education campaigns, and the promotion of more responsible and inclusive consumption patterns.

Linked to the theme of climate action, the proposal also wants to give attention to the issue of climate refugees: the climate crisis, outlined in the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, has reached a tipping point that requires immediate and decisive action to mitigate its devastating effects. There is an increase in extreme weather events, with dramatic consequences for millions of people around the world. These impacts not only include drought and water scarcity, but also extend to the growth of climate migration, known as environmental migration or climate refugees.

Climate migration is the result of a complex interaction between environmental change, armed conflict, poverty and human rights violations. While climate change is not generally accepted as a valid reason to seek asylum, there is a clear correlation between crisis climate and forced population movements. These migratory movements are no longer solely related to individual factors, but extend to a range of environmental, social and economic factors. The increasing frequency of natural disasters, such as storms, floods and droughts, is prompting more and more people to migrate in search of safer and more sustainable living conditions.

These climate refugees often find themselves in extremely vulnerable situations, facing not only environmental insecurity but also problems related to access to essential services, legal protection and discrimination.

Climate Action
Global Challenge for a Sustainable Future

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Adaptation policies need to address climate migration more comprehensively, ensuring the protection of the most vulnerable and promoting international cooperation to address the root causes of the climate crisis. An approach based on solidarity and inclusion is essential to ensure a sustainable and just future for all, taking into account the complexity and urgency of the situation.

Key critical issues include a lack of awareness and preparedness regarding the climate crisis and environmental migration, fragile international agreements that do not provide a solid basis for addressing these challenges in an effective and coordinated manner, and socioeconomic inequalities that exacerbate the effects of the crisis and migration.

In addition, there is a lack of sufficient financial resources to address the climate crisis and assist climate refugees, as well as the presence of armed conflict and political instability that can be fueled by competition for scarce resources. Poor governance can hinder efforts to address the crisis effectively, undermining trust in institutions and undermining planning and implementation of policies and projects, not to mention the climate trap, where displaced populations often find themselves in settlements exposed to climate hazards, creating ongoing insecurity even after displacement.

Therefore, the need to protect human lives, who for dramatic reasons are forced to flee their land, must be put first. International cooperation must be multidimensional, cross-cutting and specific, including a focus on investment in resilient infrastructure, education and awareness raising, and legal protection of climate refugees, to affirm a fundamental principle, namely justice, including climate justice.