

Proposal to Political Decision Makers

October 4, 2010

Dear Decision Makers,

Deeply concerned by the necessity to implement and ensure sustainable development around the world with the full participation of young people across their political, socio-cultural and geographical borders, we the 64 international delegates representing 36 universities from 23 countries who attended the 3rd World Student Environmental Summit at the University of Tübingen, Germany, present this proposal to the attention of world leaders.

We ask you to take now, the necessary actions to create a global political environment for a **sustainable economy** due to your important role as a guardian of the interests of *citizens, companies, and the environment*. A sustainable economy should not only take into consideration the shareholders' interests, but pursue instead a *stake-holder approach*. This must include a shift of focus from growth and the generation of profit to generation of **value for the society**. We need you to devise and implement strict environmental laws and standards according to regional constraints which must encourage industries and businesses to adopt sustainable management practices of the natural resources and services. We need our governments to foster innovation by encouraging research and development programs and consider co-finance options as a means to boost the implementation of clean technology solutions.

We call your attention to mobilising more resources to forge towards incorporating **Education for Sustainable Development** (ESD) into our community management and both school and university curricula. Requisite support should be provided to the universities and research institutions to act as role models for the society by taking initiatives towards sustainability. This can be achieved by raising awareness among the general public to adopt eco-friendly behaviours and consumption patterns, and letting them know how they can, right now, contribute at an individual or community level in saving this planet.

We need you to work towards the more efficient use of natural resources and the establishment of a **fair technology and knowledge transfer mechanism** with open and just access to all nations, appreciating the fact that environmental problems are issues of global concern and hence need solutions on a global scale. World governments should try and achieve the maximum possible amount of renewable energy based power in their overall energy mix by developing incentive mechanisms to promote **clean energy initiatives** and establish concrete feedback and monitoring mechanisms to keep a check on 'non-green' practices. To enable the implementation of such causes at both the local and global levels it is essential for all to have a clear roadmap, consisting of short, mid, and long-term goals, defining the policies and actions needed with achievable timelines in place.

We recognise that Economy, Education, Energy, and Consumption are important issues to reform in order to achieve global sustainable development. However, the onus lies on you, the decision makers, to act now. We are aware of your capacity to influence all of these categories by working with civil society and the economy, and keeping this in mind, we call you, the world leaders, to take action without delay and ensure sustainable development around the world.

Sincerely yours,

The Delegates and Organising Team of the 2010 World Student Environmental Summit

