

SPEECH BY MISS EDIOLA PASHOLLARI
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“The Role of Youth on Climate Change and Green Growth”

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“Climate Change and Green Growth”
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Distinguished guests,

Participants of the 20th International Youth Forum,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning/afternoon and thank you once again for the opportunity to bring forth such an important issue in our lifetime right now and especially so for the Youths who are our present and future.

Firstly we need to see what is happening to our climate. And we also need to see how we as youth can contribute to slow down this process as it is impossible to completely stop the changes.

The climate is changing. The earth is warming up, and there is now overwhelming scientific consensus that it is happening, and human-induced. With global warming on the increase and species and their habitats on the decrease, chances for ecosystems to adapt naturally are diminishing.

Many have agreed that climate change may be one of the greatest threats facing the planet. Recent years show increasing temperatures in various regions, and/or increasing extremities in weather patterns.

The poor suffer most from Climate Change - and will suffer more: Given that 2.6 billion live in poverty, unable to meet their basic needs, these people are likely to be the first to face the impacts of dangerous climate change and suffer human development reversals. The Report from UNDP tells that the poor are already suffering, and will suffer more, as a result of climate change. But we will all suffer later.

In fact, some countries are already seeing the impacts of climate change and are dealing with its consequences. If we do not avoid dangerous climate change, the consequences will be more severe and widespread. The causes of climate change can be divided into two categories - those that are due to natural causes and those that are created by man.

There are a number of natural factors responsible for climate change. Some of the more prominent ones are continental drift, volcanoes, ocean currents, the earth's tilt, and comets and meteorites. All of us in our daily lives contribute our bit to this change in the climate. Give these points a good, serious thought:

- Electricity is the main source of power in urban areas. All our gadgets run on electricity generated mainly from thermal power plants. These thermal power plants are run on fossil fuels (mostly coal) and are responsible for the emission of huge amounts of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

- Cars, buses, and trucks are the principal ways by which goods and people are transported in most of our cities. These are run mainly on petrol or diesel, both fossil fuels.

- We generate large quantities of waste in the form of plastics that remain in the environment for many years and cause damage.

- We use a huge quantity of paper in our work at schools and in offices. Have we ever thought about the number of trees that we use in a day?

- Timber is used in large quantities for construction of houses, which means that large areas of forest have to be cut down.

- A growing population has meant more and more mouths to feed. Because the land area available for agriculture is limited (and in fact, is actually shrinking as a result of ecological degradation!), high-yielding varieties of crop are being grown to increase the agricultural output from a given area of land. However, such high-yielding varieties of crops require large quantities of fertilizers; and more fertilizer means more emissions of nitrous oxide, both from the field into which it is put and the fertilizer industry that makes it. Pollution also results from the run-off of fertilizer into water bodies.

As we look around us and not only see but experienced the effects of climate change what can we as Youth do about it. What role can we take to make this world a safer place to live?

ROLES YOUTH CAN PLAY

- Aim to transform public attitudes to climate change. Spread the campaign by providing ideas, resources and information to help students and teachers in schools, colleges and universities to run projects and promote practical solutions to climate change in their own communities.
- To quote Mahatma *Gandhi* ***“You must be the change you wish to see in the world”***
- There are so many ways we can change ourselves and here are three simple ways if all of us practice it everyday we have done justice to the climate:

1. Replace all your light bulbs with low energy bulbs. Reduce your carbon dioxide emissions as much as possible. This can be done by using energy efficient light bulbs, insulating your home, turning down.

2. Only boil as much water as you need.

3. Recycle your paper and cardboard

Recycle as much of your waste as possible. Think about what you put into an ordinary bin. Make it easy to recycle - keep small containers or bags in convenient places in your home to collect items to recycle.

Reuse or repair something instead of throwing it away.

Borrow or rent something instead of buying new stuff, or consider buying used items.

Recycling includes buying recycled items - in fact it's one the most important parts of the recycling process...

Stop using disposable plastic bags. Take re-usable shopping bags with you.

- Get help from supermarkets, established companies and NGO to help promote this idea.
- Get private companies to help promote the campaign and sponsor the events in schools and colleges.
- Do Drama, skits and role plays to reenact the climate changes process.
- Get videos from Eco agencies and shows them in community centers and schools.

The climate change has caused many jobs to cease and here are few examples:

SECTOR	IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE	
Livestock Industry	Large areas will experience lower rainfall and more drought events to reduce pasture growth.	
Fruit and Vegetable crops	Climate change will adversely affect the viability of the fruit and vegetable industry.	

Perennial Horticulture	Higher water demand and costs. Regions to be affected economically;	
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Youths that lived in the countries where their income comes from rearing live stocks and farming will have great difficulty.

GREEN GROWTH

As youths we need to be pro-active, we must be involve in educating and help to implement more 'green technology'. In promoting Green technology development, the youths can help in reaching their own generations and achieve greater results than the adults of present time.

Some of the things that the youth can do and even in the process provide jobs for others.

- Organize a recycle drive near where they lived
- Arrange to give out free eco shopping bags to shoppers
- Help to replant new trees
- Help to create community garden and plant vegetables and fruits that do not need to be sprayed with pesticide.
- Get NGO and youth leaders to work with contractors and builders and encourage them to green building and modeling. Promoting green building as a standard of development.

- Create garbage and recycling program in the community. Get NGOs' to come and teach how to compost food and yard debris. This can then be used as fertilizer.

CONCLUSION

Indeed, there is much that Youths can do and be involved in to help reduce the climate change in the world, starting with their community first and at the grassroots level.

Using the green development programs that are available and spreading the campaign of implementing the green program, we can make the impact needed.

This program will then help to provide jobs for those in need as they run a recycling center, compost center, and training center to assist the community in saving the earth.

Thank you,