



Our demands on global politics

Demands and critics by the group of young people in Germany discussing the challenges for a sustainable future of our world with Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on the 30th of January 2014 in Berlin, invited by the United Nations Association of Germany (DGVN)

Design sustainability as a holistic concept and emphasize the interdependence of its elements!

Foster transnational thinking in order to reach material and immaterial justice, through:

Social Sustainability

- Ensure a genuine structural participation of women, young people and minorities and other vulnerable groups regardless of their financial or social background at the United Nations. Foster such participation at a national level as well. Guarantee a stable participation of such groups through democratically legitimated representatives, inter alia through funding such representatives to attend international meetings.”
- Promote the UN Permanent Forum on Youth based on the ideas of the European Youth Forum (YFJ) together with ICMYO.
- Establish an "Education for Sustainable Development Programme" based on the experiences of the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development to reach the following goals:

- 1. Establish "Global learning" as a school subject to foster self-reflection and enable children and youth to self-empowerment.
 - 2. Support non-formal, informal and civic education to ensure the translation of the idea of sustainability into a common sense.
 - 3. Empower citizens of the world to take sustainable life style choices, e.g. by labelling sustainable products as well as rewarding people for recycling and consuming regional products.
- Ensure that climate change and ecocide are accepted as legitimate reasons for asylum, as e.g. recently demanded by Kiribati national Ioane Teitiota at a New Zealand court and grant legal support to 'climate refugees'.
 - Promote disarmament as inherent to ensuring sustainable peace.

Ecological Sustainability

We, as cosmopolitans and human beings, are very concerned and highly disillusioned with the past outcomes of the negotiations on environment and development! Therefore, we urge global political leaders to:

- Acknowledge that extensive environmental damage or destruction is a crime towards future generations and triggers the responsibility of the international community as a whole.
- Reinforce and expand international rule of law mechanisms to effectively sanction damage to the environment, regardless of whether such damage is caused by individuals, other private actors, states or international organizations.
- Foster Renewable Energy: Invest in modern technology to increase renewable energy sources and share expertise regarding renewable energy among countries.
- Finance research about new sustainable technology (e.g. to act on water shortages) and the reorganisation of the worldwide production of energy, e.g. through sanctions, world wide emission trading, etc.
- Ensure financial support for economically and ecologically highly vulnerable states that suffer from climate change already at present, e.g. during the 'International Year of Small Island Developing States'.
- Practice what you preach! The UN buildings and other public service institutions are often not sustainable, e.g. the plastic cutlery at the UN Headquarter canteen.

Economic Sustainability

Today's economic system is designed to reach stable growth. Nowadays, the world is divided into a small minority that is living prosperous lives and a large majority of people who are fighting poverty day after day. To reach a sustainable world, where material and immaterial justice is present, we need to rethink our economic system since there are enough resources for everyone, but not enough resources to satisfy the need for further expansive growth. Without a change in the way of thinking and acting, sustainability will remain as a meaningless term in our vocabulary! Hence, we demand the following:

- Rethink the economic system with special focus on alternative welfare indicators and a critique of growth.
- Sustain public goods. Protect them from privatization, e.g. through fostering local energy production.
- Offer a system of "sticks and carrots" to ensure transnational companies rebuild their production and make it sustainable.
- Raise awareness for critical consumption and develop strategies against planned obsolescence.