

Message to António Guterres, the secretary-general of the United Nations

2022. International UN-day

Your Excellency,

It is a great honour and privilege, that on behalf of the Hungarian youth we have the opportunity to address our message.

We – the youth, residing in Budapest, who are alarmed by the current status of our future – are writing you this letter hoping the United Nations will take its contents into consideration. We would like to draw your attention towards the concerns of the youth – the future of humanity – such as the instability and uncertainty caused by conflicts, the increasing threat of global warming and climate change, the youth's inadequate knowledge about the UN and due to this its low participation in major decision-making and representation of its interest.

Call for peace! We are deeply concerned about the global conflicts that surround us, spoiling our lives and opportunities, stripping so many of young people from their basic human rights. We have come to witness that during conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies, adolescent shoulders bear immense burdens. We can always be found on the frontlines of response efforts. We believe that the basis of any kind of future can only be the harmony of society, and peace within humanity, not chaos and violence that produces nothing else but destruction. Therefore we call every one of our leaders in the world to consider peace the most vital aim in decision-making, because without it, the future of our generation and the future of humankind cannot be secure. However, conflicts and violence are not the only menace to our future.

Call for sustainability! We emphasise and remind the UN that one of the greatest threats to our future is global warming and climate change that has still not been dealt with in a satisfactory manner. The youth tries to live a climate-responsible life and in harmony with the environment by managing our lives in a sustainable manner, however this is most certainly not true for most companies and key policies. We welcome aims such as the ones set by Hungary, for example the increase of its domestic energy production to 90% carbon-free by 2030 and moving towards a circular economy. However, we call for even more rapid measures in all countries around the globe.

Call for a more open UN to towards the youth! Noting with approval the Transforming Education Summit of 2022, we further invite the UN to take the youth into consideration with

supplying them with educational materials, courses, and programmes about the organisation itself, with which the younger generations can discover their opportunities in decision-making processes. We stress the need for education for all peoples in their native language, which is still a major challenge for minorities in many parts of the world. Believing that if the UN opens more for the youth, the same will happen vice-versa, we are confident in having more of the younger generation enrolled in the works of the organisation.

We are requesting new channels and opportunities to be opened for the youth, through which our voice can be constantly heard, and our ideas implemented. The future is ours, so give us more space in decision making and let us fashion our future! As Jayathma Wickramanayake, the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth phrased it: „We most sincerely hope that you decide that the youth is no longer a subsidiary agenda, but the most important agenda for ... the United Nations.” We highly endorse these words and express our hope they are heard, and the United Nations and the leaders around the globe will truly open up towards the youth. This will most certainly mean solutions to many of the acute problems of the world.

Yours Sincerely

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