

Junior 8 Summit 2009 – Young People’s Action Plan



9 July 2009

We, the J8 community, invite young people from all over the world to join us in promoting the following action plan. The future belongs to us. Our actions will influence our lives and our world; that is why we call upon you to act immediately.

We urge children and young people to:

CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS

- Raise awareness of the financial crisis and its effects on child survival and development through methods such as press, online media, and social networks.
- Promote and participate in volunteer work in children’s rights-focused organizations that include education on the rights of the child.
- Establish young people’s committees in local communities to regularly monitor government policy involving financial support to their education.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Raise awareness in local communities about climate change by starting discussions among peers and classmates, exchanging information on social networks and initiating child-friendly programs in schools.
- Reduce one’s own carbon footprint, we encourage self-initiated participation, involvement, volunteering at a local level and living a more environmentally friendly lifestyle, through: lessening unnecessary trash, energy conservation, and eco-friendly transportation. These opportunities should be given to young people all over the world via child-friendly forums and social networks.

POVERTY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

- When it is possible, invite our peers from all over the world to invest in “End Poverty Bonds” and other programs.
- Encourage other young people to favour fair trade products when making purchase decisions.
- Raise awareness of development in Africa, by participating in Web-based discussion platforms such as Voices of Youth.
- Support educational programmes and young people’s participation in local community organizations and social networks.

EDUCATION

- Implement peer-education, tutoring and mentorship programs such as peer counselling with other young people. These programs would motivate young people to take education seriously and build self-esteem.
- Raise awareness on education issues by participating in social network discussions, in school councils and by being active in local communities.
- Participate in evaluation processes to assess teacher’s performance and methods of education to make sure every child gets a quality education.

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CONCLUDING STATEMENT

We, the 2009 Junior 8 delegates will continue to participate as members of the J8 community and promote the Action Plan in our own communities. Next year in Canada, the 2010 J8 delegates will meet and share their experiences and monitor the implementation of this Action Plan.

ACT NOW!