Budapest Water Youth Statement 2016

Budapest Water Youth Statement (BWYS) 2016 builds upon the BWYS 2013 and is aligned with global agendas, frameworks, and youth engagement processes and initiatives on water. In this statement we highlight the importance of cross-cutting dimensions of water-related SDGs; governance and advocacy, financing, capacity development, and critical issues. We stress the importance of integrated and inclusive implementation of the SDGs. For these reasons, we advocate for a permanent seat at all levels of decision-making processes.

Governance and advocacy
- As young people with an open perspective and multidisciplinary skills, we are key partners in the implementation of the SDGs. We connect science, policy and practice across sectors. We are agents of change in the public and private sphere.
- Youth organisations all around the world dedicate themselves to the implementation of the SDGs. Exposing and valuing these initiatives of young people will achieve a multiplier effect through replication at local, national and global levels.
- We call on states to gather age-disaggregated data on SDGs and disseminate data publicly. Civil society organisations can use this data to effectively implement, monitor and evaluate (youth) actions and progress towards the SDGs.
- Youth organizations connected locally, nationally, regionally and globally serve as powerful examples of collaborations across borders and can serve as a catalyst for transboundary cooperation. We call on states to respect the implementation of the transboundary goals.

Financing
Young people have innovation at their fingertips and need sustainable financial resources to continuously and effectively translate these ideas and networks into positive societal impacts. To achieve this, young people:
- Require an inclusive and enabling environment to access funding through more flexible conditions and support in application processes;
- Should be considered as partners in identifying and accessing existing and innovative financing instruments, such as grants, climate financing, green investment funds and challenge funds, to support the implementation of water-related SDGs;
- Can channel financing sources reserved specifically for them, such as social enterprise, youth and innovation funds. Such sources should be created, expanded and incentivised by international organizations, foundations and governments;
- Through cooperation agreements, can jointly identify and advocate for local, national, regional and global funding mechanisms by virtue of being the most connected generation.

Capacity Development
- Our generation is equipped with vital, exclusive skills to uplift human welfare. To not draw on their insights and abilities is to hold back humanity.
- Capacities of young people should be strengthened through mentorships, apprenticeships, skills development, and compulsory inclusion in projects, practices, researches and decision-making processes.
- Expansion of alliances to promote entrepreneurship, knowledge-sharing and collaboration among the youth networks, organizations and businesses at local, national, regional and global scales must be prioritized.
- Opportunities must be encouraged and facilitated to mobilise and utilise youth capacities to the fullest.

Critical issues
- We commit to have an inclusive view towards major groups and other stakeholders in the implementation of SDGs by addressing inclusion in policy processes, project development and implementation.
- Youth commit to continuing to address climate change when implementing inclusive and equitable solutions on the ground to achieve the SDG targets.
- Youth can communicate and transfer sustainable and innovative research, policies and technologies for a stronger societal impact and avoid business as usual.
- Living sustainably is a responsibility governed by youth because they shape the future. Their worldview affects everyone.
- Youth lay the groundwork for adaptive system-wide solutions to manage issues such as population growth and migration.

Our generation empowers people across borders and cultures. They advance sustainable development using creative and inclusive approaches. We collaborate across disciplines to understand, innovate and adapt our actions to the ever-changing nature of water and climate. It is vital to explore avenues for improving the condition of Earth and its people by collaborating with our impactful changemakers. The attention the broader youth community receives, including quality education, resources, and genuine support can’t be compromised for a less promising global society.

Thank you for reading our statement.