

1 2011 Tunza International Children and Youth Conference  
2 Bandung Declaration  
3 October 1, 2011  
4

5 The Voice of Children & Youth for Rio+20  
6

7 §1 We, the delegates to the 2011 Tunza International Children and  
8 Youth Conference representing 126 different countries, are united  
9 in calling upon world leaders to move to a sustainable  
10 development pathway that safeguards the Earth and its people for  
11 our generation and generations to come. We urge governments to  
12 respond to and not ignore the demands of the children and youth.  
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14 Section 1: Rio+20 and the Promises to Our Generation  
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16 §2 Next year, our leaders will meet in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to  
17 critically assess and accelerate our progress towards sustainable  
18 development. The “Rio+20” gathering will mark a generation since  
19 the 1992 Earth Summit – the first [effective] global recognition of  
20 the environmental, social and economic costs of unrestrained  
21 development.  
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23 §3 While we were not at the Earth Summit in 1992, we know that it  
24 was transformative. As the result, sustainable development has  
25 become a critical component in the protection of the environment  
26 and the eradication of poverty. We have met the youth and  
27 children who stood there and called to the moral consciences of  
28 our leaders and citizens to act.  
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30 §4 We have also read of the promises made and that continue to be  
31 made to us, the inheriting generation, which remain unfulfilled.  
32 Our governments have promised to reduce poverty, stem  
33 environmental degradation and enhance equity. They have

34 promised to combat climate change, ensure food security, provide  
35 clean drinking water and protect our planet's biodiversity.  
36 Businesses and multi-national corporations have pledged to  
37 respect the environment, green their production, and compensate  
38 for their pollution.

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40 §5 Yet, our planet's future – our future – is in peril. Our generation has  
41 seen the warning signs in Rio 1992 become the reality that faces  
42 Rio+20: poverty, climate change, harmful pollution and depleting  
43 natural resources are all symptoms of our unsustainable  
44 development patterns. We feel, understand and know that we  
45 cannot wait another generation, until a Rio+40, before we act.

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## 48 Section 2: What We Are Going to Do

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50 §6 **We are the next generation of decision-makers and we stand for**  
51 **action and change.** Therefore, we pledge the following  
52 commitments to make the Rio+20 Earth Summit a milestone for  
53 change.

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55 §7 **1. Lobby our governments to make Rio+20 Earth Summit a top**  
56 **priority.** We will identify our governments' positions, listen to their  
57 commitments, and hold them accountable to us. We will demand  
58 that our governments, leaders of the private sector and civil society  
59 groups attend the Summit and make ambitious commitments now.  
60 We will call upon governments to formulate and implement  
61 sustainable development policies, which also address poverty  
62 eradication and are supported by strong enforcement mechanisms.

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64 §8 **2. Adopt more sustainable lifestyles and educate our local**  
65 **communities and indigenous communities sharing knowledge at**  
66 **the same level.** All action starts with the individual and we are

67 committed to reducing our personal ecological footprint. We will  
68 teach and encourage each other to be responsible consumers using  
69 all available tools. Yet, many young people remain unaware of  
70 basic environmental issues because of inadequate schooling. We  
71 will demand that environmental education and awareness raising  
72 be mandatory in each of our school's curriculum.

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74 To embrace the principles of sustainable development as a tool for  
75 poverty eradication.

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77 §9 **3. Work toward sustainable development through a green**  
78 **economy transition.** We know that young entrepreneurs are now  
79 developing the new approaches needed for this transition and we  
80 will support each other as our generation develops sustainable  
81 technologies and processes. We will ask educational institutions to  
82 invest in these activities. We will urge governments and civil  
83 society to support young entrepreneurs and innovators that work  
84 towards sustainable development. We will support businesses that  
85 are environmentally responsible. We will lobby government to pass  
86 laws and to put in place high taxes on products that don't conform  
87 to this]. We will continue to realize our vision of a sustainable  
88 world.

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90 §10 **4. Contribute to local, national, regional and global discussions on**  
91 **sustainable development.** We will demand to ensure youth  
92 participation in all decision-making processes at all levels. We will  
93 support institutions that balance development and the  
94 preservation of resources for future generations, and oppose any  
95 government or corporation that violates this principle. We will use  
96 every opportunity to convey our message to push Rio+20 leaders  
97 to take a tangible action at the end of the conference.

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99 Encourage the concrete actions to be taken to conserve the  
100 environment such as the World City Forest initiated at the TUNZA  
101 International Children and Youth Conference 2011.

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### 103 Section 3: What Green Economy Means to Children and Youth

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105 §11 We believe a green economy values human well being, social  
106 equity, economic growth and environmental protection on an  
107 equal basis. It is an integrated framework for sustainability that  
108 meets the needs of the present while providing for future  
109 generations.

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111 §12 Nearly half of the world's population is under the age of 25 and  
112 most live in developing countries. It is crucial to invest in education,  
113 employment and empowerment of children and young people in  
114 the green economy. This will both enable them to live productive  
115 and worthwhile lives whilst contributing to a just green economy  
116 transition. We agree with the United Nations Secretary-General:  
117 failing to invest in youth is a false economy.

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119 §13 Every region, country and community will have its own unique  
120 green economy. Yet, we urge the Rio+20 Earth Summit to agree  
121 that all green economies should:

- 122 ○ Endeavour to enrich the well being and dignity of all people,  
123 both economically and in terms of quality of life;
- 124 ○ Protect and value natural resources and ecosystems, on  
125 which all life depends, and recognize the traditional  
126 knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and  
127 local communities;
- 128 ○ Invest in education and social entrepreneurship which  
129 engenders sustainable development values;
- 130 ○ Promote good governance, accountability and corporate  
131 social responsibility ; and



- 165           ○ Incorporate environmental and social considerations in  
166                     economic policy formation and adopt alternative  
167                     measures of development to gross domestic product.  
168           ○ Lobby media institutions to pay more attention to the  
169                     environmental reports  
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171 §15 We call upon business leaders to collectively commit to:

- 172           ○ Implementing effective corporate social and environmental  
173                     responsibility through a new economic model that  
174                     ensures sustainable resource use;  
175           ○ Being accountable for the sustainability of their supply chain  
176                     and production patterns;  
177           ○ Providing training, education and funding support for  
178                     children and youth and communities to work toward a  
179                     green economy; and  
180           ○ Increasing investment in environmentally-beneficial  
181                     scientific research and development; and  
182           ○ Raising community awareness of the damages of  
183                     unsustainable business practices.  
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#### 185           Section 5: What Governance Means to Children and Youth 186

187 §16 We know firsthand that the adoption of international Plans of  
188     Action at the 1992 Earth Summit, such as Agenda 21, did not  
189     automatically result in real change where it matters – in countries,  
190     corporations, campuses, and communities. In fact, weak  
191     implementation, corruption, and the lack of transparency and  
192     accountability have hindered much-needed progress towards a  
193     sustainable future. We know there are already hundreds of  
194     international agreements to protect the environment, but many do  
195     not deliver on the ground.  
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197 §17 At the Rio+20 Earth Summit, we need to analyze the strengths and  
198 weaknesses of the established international institutions and assess  
199 new institutional structures that guide us toward a sustainable  
200 green and fair economy. We believe such structures should:

- 201 ○ Strive always for peace and cooperation among people from  
202 all nations.
- 203 ○ Focus on implementation of existing international  
204 agreements and plans of action;
- 205 ○ Hold governments at all levels, corporations, and civil  
206 society organizations accountable to their promises and  
207 obligations on sustainable development;
- 208 ○ Strengthen and ensure effective youth participation within  
209 the United Nations system, including through the  
210 creation of an ombudsperson for future generations;
- 211 ○ Further the implementation of the precautionary principle  
212 and demand an integral reparation of the damage,  
213 including as applied to new technologies and practices;  
214 and
- 215 ○ Adopt ambitious Sustainable Development Goals and hold  
216 all governments accountable for their achievement.

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219 §18 We also know that it does not stop there. We must support  
220 national and local governance reform as well. We believe that good  
221 governance at the country, state, province and city level should:

- 222 ○ Secure public access to information and environmental  
223 justice;
- 224 ○ Meaningfully engage all stakeholders into the decision  
225 making processes, considering the views and  
226 opinions of minorities, underprivileged, illiterate,  
227 and unemployed young people;
- 228 ○ Fight corruption wherever it exists; and

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- Protect and defend the rights of young and future generations.

**§19 This is our declaration to fight for environmental justice not only for us but for all generations to come.**