



YOUTH STATEMENT

We believe that youth can effectively self-organize and create environmental groups and communities. This work is only possible with the state support. We believe youth have the tools and skills to be role models to raise awareness, engage and motivate their peers to take action on climate change issues. But we want governments to be more active in adopting environmental policies and pay more attention to environmental education for children in schools and adults.

We want our authorities to openly acknowledge environmental problems, invest in and support environmental projects and non-governmental organizations. Policies should focus on creating an atmosphere of trust and hope, organizing environmental festivals and conferences, providing youth with trainers, resources, and combating the brain drain of talented young people abroad. We also consider it important for the private sector to be socially responsible and start financing environmental projects.

More attention needs to be paid to facts, statistics, and scientific data. We need support from society and governments with scholarships and internships abroad. Continuous environmental education is needed from primary school to university. It is necessary to establish an institute which will prognose catastrophes, a crisis fund, and predict environmental problems before they occur. It is important to listen to the signals of society and allow youth to participate in the development and adoption of laws and policies.

Motivating youth is important even after they have taken their first steps in business. It is necessary to create a hub where young entrepreneurs from Central Asia can collaborate on joint business projects and provide a platform for pitching business ideas. Special attention should be given to female leadership, vulnerable groups, and rural regions. No one should be forgotten.

We are confident that the youth of Central Asia can collaborate effectively. This requires the development of appropriate programs, projects, and allocation of regional funding. Regional ecological Olympiads need to be held. Exchange programs should be established, joint trips and expeditions should be organized, and sustainable platforms for sharing experiences should be implemented along with grant programs.

Countries should conduct joint research **involving students from different countries**. Central Asia should have a university exchange program between countries of the region. An annual Central Asian Youth Conference should be established.

We call on the governments of Central Asian countries to prioritize promoting connections and **building networking among young people** of our countries as a priority of intergovernmental policies. The youth of Central Asia is responsible for the future of the region. We are active, full of energy, and can collectively solve common environmental problems!

