

**16<sup>TH</sup> MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE**  
**“YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: OUR FUTURE, OUR CARE”**  
**26-30 JUNE 2016**  
**KINGS GREEN HOTEL, MELAKA, MALAYSIA**

**DECLARATION**

**1 PREAMBLE**

1.1 We, the 160 young people from 56 countries around the world, attended the 16<sup>th</sup> Melaka International Youth Dialogue (MIYD), convened in Melaka from 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 for an annual program organised by the World Assembly of Youth (WAY).

1.2 Recognising the vital role of young people on environment, and following the recent adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Agreement, WAY has made an obligation to encompass the sustainability of environment as an enduring concern faced by the youth and themed the 16<sup>th</sup> Melaka International Youth Dialogue “ Youth for Environmental Sustainability: Our Future, Our Care”.

1.3 This theme has emphasised on the actions that young people and other stakeholders should take towards combating environmental deterioration and attaining environmental sustainability. This dialogue has identified the roles and concerns of all stakeholders towards environmental issues, and declared that now is the right time and opportunity to act in partnership.

The guiding principles for this declaration were based on the following objectives:

- To promote awareness and empower young people in advocating towards environmental sustainability;
- To advance the role of youth and actively involve them in the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and social development;
- To foster action towards implementation of ideas brought forward by the young people for the benefit of the environment, as well as the society;
- To address the determinants of environmental deterioration and its impact to the society, young people inclusive;
- To identify the roles and contribution of different sectors i.e. public sector, private sector, NGOs and others, in supporting young people’s effort towards environmental sustainability;
- To identify and gather good practices, challenges, experiences, and lessons learned from the national youth councils towards improving or amending the current policies in order to preserve the environment and promote sustainable living;

- To form and advance the national, regional and international policies governing the preservation of the environment;
- To foster networking, collaboration and partnership among youth and all stakeholders in order to address the issue of environmental sustainability;

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 Participants have identified key recommendations for implementation by stakeholders including: public sector, private sector, NGOs/IGOs, media, and young people alike. In addition, participants also established commitments and outcomes in pursuit of a sustainable environment globally.

### **2.1 PUBLIC SECTOR**

- 2.1.1. To create, implement and enforce local, national and trans-national eco-policies related to biodiversity, eco-system, aquaculture, heritage, rainforest, green-living, flora and fauna, etc.
- 2.1.2. To strengthen existing environmental laws in line with global agreements, communicate and resolutions.
- 2.1.3. To support environment friendly projects by subsidising investment in green and social initiatives.
- 2.1.4. To provide resources for youth-based programmes and initiatives, including youth organizations geared towards the attainment of environmental sustainability.
- 2.1.5. To impose Taxes on non-recyclable commodities in order to prompt relevant stakeholders in finding eco-friendly alternatives.
- 2.1.6. To provide for an equalisation fund that would preserve biotope and avoid further deterioration of environment.
- 2.1.7. To include theoretical and practical programmes on environmental sustainability in the curriculum, at all levels of formal, informal and non-formal education.
- 2.1.8. To provide adequate resources for environmental regulatory agencies, and promote severe penalties on violators of environmental laws.
- 2.1.9. To ensure that relevant stakeholders comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in order to mitigate the negative impact of their activities on the environment.

### **2.2 PRIVATE SECTOR**

- 2.2.1 To promote market research that would consider environmental protection at every stage of business development.
- 2.2.2 To invest adequate amount of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) resources for the pursuit of related environmental sustainability programmes.
- 2.2.3 To encourage eco-friendly behaviour by applying the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) in and out of the work place.
- 2.2.4 To offer affordable and accessible eco-friendly products and services through innovation in order to conserve the natural environment.

- 2.2.5 To take initiative, ownership and responsibility for effective waste management and design innovative solutions for waste disposal in an eco-friendly manner.
- 2.2.6 To pledge not to discharge hazardous materials into water bodies.
- 2.2.7 To create a linkage between economic and social development in order to achieve environmental sustainability.
- 2.2.8 To encourage partnership with relevant stakeholders, youth inclusive, using directed environmental awareness campaigns.

### **2.3 NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS**

- 2.3.1 To design, support and carry out environmental programmes, projects and activities for the betterment of society.
- 2.3.2 To intensify community based engagement in environmental protection and preservation.
- 2.3.3 To research, monitor and form independent, grass-root based reports on the current status of environment.
- 2.3.4 To develop impactful and content-oriented awareness campaigns, using the latest tools: social media, crowdfunding services, etc.
- 2.3.5 To streamline focus of NGOs and not to stray from the original path and goal towards the protection of environment.
- 2.3.6 To create training and capacity building programmes designed to empower the youth in the field of environment advocacy to the decision makers.
- 2.3.7 To appoint youth green-ambassadors who would propagate their efforts to the relevant stakeholders in order to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration.

### **2.4 MEDIA**

- 2.4.1 To dedicate space in all media outlets that would promote environmentally related issues on a daily basis, to constantly remind readers on the danger of environmental degradation and deterioration.
- 2.4.2 To periodically share impactful environmental news, good practices, and green innovations to the broader public through public and private media.
- 2.4.3 To create educational programmes for young people in order to teach them about protection, preservation and methods of advocating for environmental sustainability.
- 2.4.4 To encourage the general public in taking an active role in the production of media content related to environmental issues.
- 2.4.5 To influence all stakeholders in developing and implementing vital policies for achieving environmental sustainability.

### **2.5 YOUTH**

- 2.5.1 To create and implement environmental awareness programmes and activities to be carried out by the youth for the youth.

- 2.5.2 To engage in meaningful activities that promote environmental sustainability and development for all.
- 2.5.3 To create trends that promote environmental sustainability via social media and other avenues.
- 2.5.4 To establish platforms that would strengthen the role of young people in the decision making process and implementation on environmental sustainability at the local, national, regional and international level.
- 2.5.5 To nurture positive values within their communities by continually applying the principles of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) in their daily lives.

### **3 CONCLUSION**

We, the participants of the 16<sup>th</sup> Melaka International Youth Dialogue, recognise the importance of empowering and equipping the young people with the right knowledge, skills and proper attitude to protect and preserve the environment for the current and future generations. Recognising that in line with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Agreement we, the young people should be at the forefront of universal transformation taking actions in order to save our Mother Earth. Hence, we believe that with the continuous support of all the stakeholders, we should reach our desired goal which is the environmental sustainability for all.



World Assembly of Youth  
Asamblea Mundial de la Juventud  
Assemblée Mondiale de la Jeunesse



Youth for Environmental Sustainability:  
Our future, Our care



Albania  
Algeria  
Australia  
Azerbaijan  
Bangladesh  
Botswana  
Cambodia  
Chad  
China  
Colombia  
Czech Republic  
Djibouti  
Egypt  
Ethiopia  
Fiji  
Gabon  
Germany  
Ghana  
India  
Indonesia  
Iran  
Iraq  
Jordan  
Libya  
Malaysia  
Mongolia  
Myanmar  
Namibia  
Nepal  
New Zealand  
Nigeria

Pakistan  
Papua New Guinea  
Philippines  
Poland  
Romania  
Rwanda  
Saudi Arabia  
Senegal  
Singapore  
Somalia  
Sudan  
Switzerland  
Syria  
Tanzania  
Thailand  
Togo  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
Uganda  
United Emirates Arab  
United Kingdom  
United States of America  
Venezuela  
Yemen  
Zimbabwe