The Statement of North-East Asian Youth 2022

26th, August 2022, Online

We, the participants from youth organizations in China, Japan, Korea, Mongolia and Russia, welcome the Youth Session of the 6th North-East Asian Multi-stakeholder Forum on Sustainable Development Goals. We highly appreciate the UN ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office for supporting this session.

People all over the world are suffering as a result of climate change, and the pandemic, rising militarism, and violations of human rights are exacerbating the situation. Youths today are not inheriting the future we deserve. Yet, at the same time young people are not recognized as an independent constituency and lack a voice in many places. That is why this Youth Session was held again to gather the voices of North-East Asian youth. Last year, the youth organizations called on stakeholders to promote gender equality in all fields; to require collaborative work to address climate change; as well as to expand and institutionalize opportunities for young leaders to participate in active decision-making.

This year the youth organizations discussed the progress and challenges regarding SDG 6,7,9,11,17 and presented the most efficient youth solutions in the field of sustainable urbanization, effective water and energy use and partnerships for the Goals. Given the discussions at the Youth Session, we urge all stakeholders to work together to address the major challenges in the three main sectors listed below.

1. Despite the efforts of various levels of civil society, challenges in access sustainable infrastructure are growing, as most decision-makers are focused on political gains rather than sustainable development. We advocate for allowing people who are actually affected by a lack of accessible urban environments, such as people with limited mobility, youth, and indigenous people in rural areas, to actively participate in human settlement planning.

2. Although the youth of NEA countries have increased the efficiency of water and energy use to some extent, one of the concerns for youth in addressing their opinions as a concrete action plan is a lack of industrial skills in these fields, as well as a mechanism to represent global solutions. Our request to Stakeholders is to form a working group that will organize regular workshops for young people to facilitate the exchange of technical knowledge, research, and policy recommendations related to water and energy use.

3. Finally, while the youth action for sustainable cities, water, and energy use is taking place in North-East Asia, it is frequently regarded as immature, and thus we require support and participation in this field, as with other SDG-related movements.

    In this regard, we reiterate the significance of including the viewpoint and real-world experiences of young people in the implementation of SDGs 6, 7, 11, and 17. We envision a
time in the future when young people will be better able to actively contribute to society at large and positively inspire others to join the action.

Thank you!