



## Youth Council in Action for Nation (YOUTH CAN)

### राष्ट्रिय कार्यमा युवा समिति (युथ क्यान)

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Officially accredited to UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

#### STATEMENTS/INPUTS TO THE UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

We the youth-led NGO Youth Council in Action for Nation (Youth CAN); thank the United Nations for organizing the UN 2023 Water Conference. This event is crucial in addressing the challenges that the world faces especially in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss, and disaster risk reduction. As young people, we recognize that water is a vital resource that underpins the sustainable development of our planet. Water scarcity is one of the biggest challenges facing our generation. We call on world leaders to take bold action to ensure access to clean and safe water for all.

1. Water is a human right. We demand that governments and corporations prioritize the needs of communities and ensure that water resources are managed sustainably and equitably. We also urge the international community to recognize the role of indigenous communities as stewards of water resources and to respect their rights and traditional knowledge.
2. As young people, we are committed to finding innovative solutions to water challenges. We believe that technology can play a critical role in improving water management and increasing access to safe drinking water. We call on governments and industry leaders to invest in research and development to create sustainable, low-cost solutions that can be deployed at scale.
3. Education is key to addressing water challenges. We call on governments to prioritize water education in schools and universities, and to support programs that increase awareness of the importance of water conservation and sustainability. We also encourage the private sector to invest in educational programs that promote sustainable water use practices among their employees and customers.

Next, we would like to draw your attention towards the need to engage the youth in water management at the local level. As we all know, water is a precious resource and its management is critical to the survival of our planet. However, the youth are often overlooked in the decision-making processes related to water management. It is essential that the youth are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to tackle the challenges of water management. Involving them in decision-making processes, it will not only benefit the youth but also contribute to the overall development and sustainability of our planet. Some of our inputs are as follow:



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- 1. Develop and implement youth-friendly programs:** The United Nations should work with local organizations and governments to develop and implement youth-friendly programs at local level that focus on water management and conservation. These programs should be designed to engage the youth and provide them with the necessary knowledge and skills.
- 2. Opportunity:** The United Nations should create a safe/common space where the voices of the youth can be heard and their ideas can be addressed. The great ideas could only be nurtured and implemented in real life, if they have an access to a platform or mentorship.
- 3. Provide financial support:** The United Nations should provide financial support to local organizations and governments to implement youth-friendly programs and create a much accessible space for youth participation.
- 4. Foster partnerships:** The United Nations should foster partnerships between youth-led organizations, local organizations, and governments to ensure that youth voices are heard in decision-making processes related to water management at every level. These days, ensuring youth engagement has been an expensive approach so we urge UN to localize/decentralize their activities so that no any youth will be deprived of securing their participation.
- 5. Empower the youth:** The United Nations should empower the youth by providing them with the necessary resources and tools to take ownership of water management and conservation issues in their communities. This could be in the form of training, mentorship, or access to funding opportunities.

In conclusion, we believe that the UN 2023 Water Conference provides a unique opportunity for the global community to take concrete actions towards achieving water security for all. We call on the United Nations to ensure meaningful youth participation at every level and to prioritize the key themes and inputs outlined above in its discussions and outcomes. Together, we can build a sustainable future where water is accessible, equitable, and resilient.

*Regards,*

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Designation: Founder / President