

World Future Council youth delegation and Bianca Jagger present G8 appeal to German and Japanese governments

“Kids pledge to do everything they can to save the planet – and expect nothing less from the G8 leaders.”

Hamburg/Berlin, July 2, 2008: Bianca Jagger and some 30 youngsters representing the World Future Council’s (WFC) youth campaign on climate change personally called for action in talks with the German chancellor’s special commissioner to the G8 Summit and the Japanese ambassador in Berlin.

The youths and WFC Chair Bianca Jagger presented German State Secretary Bernd Pfaffenbach and Ambassador Toshiyuki Takano with samples of thousands of appeals from children in 45 countries. The letters, drawings and quotes were printed on 30-foot-long scrolls the youngsters unrolled in front of the government representatives. They call on the G8+5 heads-of-state to take active steps to prevent climate change and protect the environment. Talks about climate issues are scheduled for the second day of the G8 Summit on July 8 in Japan.

“I can say that not only I but the whole German government supports your efforts. I made a promise to Ms Jagger that I will report to the chancellor today about our meeting,” said State Secretary Bernd Pfaffenbach. He also told his visitors he doesn’t own a car, rides a bus on weekends and uses renewable energy at home. “I will also inform the G8 presidency in Japan about this great project you’ve done,” he said.

“This is a rare opportunity for the children to address their concerns directly to a senior politician,” said KidsCall patron Bianca Jagger. “The WFC is delighted that its youth delegation had its questions answered and its concerns taken seriously. Future generations will have to pay the price for climate change – that is why we have to listen to the youth of today.”

After the lively discussion at the German Federal Ministry of Economics, the delegation proceeded to the Japanese Embassy. “I am very pleased that these young leaders understand the issues, and are contributing to solidifying the solutions,” said Ambassador Toshiyuki Takano. “Movements like this influence our debates for the better.”

“I think that it’s great that these politicians took so much time out for our discussions,” said Luisa Wellhausen (17) from Hamburg. “I hope that they’ll take us seriously and remember our questions.” “...and that they’ll pass them on to the other politicians so they’ll do something about climate change,” added 15-year-old Tim Hamester.

“Young people want assurances that politicians are committed to solving the climate crisis,” said Bianca Jagger. “They are genuinely worried that the rainforests are about to disappear, that there will be no more fish in a few years, and that soon the only water will be polluted water.”

The WFC initiated the KidsCall campaign last May during the Live Earth concert in Hamburg, Germany. During the G8 summit, world leaders will continue talks about the road to an emissions agreement at Copenhagen in 2009.

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The World Future Council is a global forum to protect the interests and rights of future generations. Consisting of 50 prominent personalities from the worlds of governments, parliaments, business, civil society, science and the arts, the World Future Council works with policy-makers and citizens worldwide to identify and implement the best policies for a sustainable future.

For more information on the World Future Council, please visit our website, www.worldfuturecouncil.org. Photos and interview partners are available on request.