

## Securing a World of Climate Resilience, Prosperity and Peace

### *The World Future Council's Call to Action*

*Sekem, Egypt, 15 September 2019*

The World Future Council calls for

- Immediate measures to cut carbon emissions in half by 2030 to avoid climate catastrophe and to achieve 100 per cent renewable energy by 2050;
- Elimination of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction;
- Diversion of a substantial proportion of the USD 1.7 trillion military budget to sustainable development;
- Urgent action to accelerate the transition towards a green new deal while mainstreaming circular, regenerative economies;
- Eradication of hunger by adopting 100 per cent agroecology;
- Protection of at least 30 per cent of the world's oceans by 2030;
- Transformation of all curricula to education for sustainable development; and
- The appointment of guardians for future generations at all levels of decision-making.

The World Future Council convened this meeting upon the generous invitation of Sekem, a recipient of a Right Livelihood Award and a global leader in the development of agro-ecology. We thank the people of Sekem for their heart-warming hospitality. As Councillors we were inspired by the living example of a community built on principles, policy, and the practices of regenerative agroecology.

Across the world, a new awareness is growing that humanity faces an acute emergency, endangering the Earth's life support systems and the lives of billions of people – today and in the future. The damage being done to the Earth is approaching irreversible tipping points, potentially overwhelming the resilience of the natural environment. The decisions we take now have greater and longer-term consequences than any decisions taken ever before. We call upon the world community to act urgently to implement far reaching, appropriate measures to reverse current trends, out of deep respect for all life.

### ***Urgent action is required at all levels***

#### **1. Decarbonize the world's energy systems**

We call for a cut of carbon emissions in half by 2030 to avoid climate catastrophe.

We support actions to end subsidies and new investments in fossil fuels.

We call for the implementation of climate policies based on scientific evidence and new technological opportunities.

We demand investments that make 100 per cent renewable energy a reality across the world.

## **2. Build a vigorous approach to peace and common security**

We call on governments to revise their outdated security policies, and honour their obligations under the UN Charter to resolve international conflicts through diplomacy, mediation, arbitration and adjudication.

We recognize that as the future of Life on Earth is at stake, the world community needs to refocus its security priorities. Weapons are not the route to security.

We call for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and the diversion of the USD 1.7 trillion military budget to sustainable development. With this budget, we seek to secure the health of our planet and regenerate the very foundations of life – forests, soils, oceans, and the atmosphere.

## **3. Advance socially responsible investment**

We call for the creation of economies that are compatible with the Earth's ecosystems – acknowledging that perpetual economic growth is impossible in a finite world.

We insist that the hidden, unpaid costs of economic activities are fully quantified.

We call for an end to investments in fossil fuels and nuclear weapons, and we call for sufficient funding to accelerate the transition towards a green new deal, creating millions of jobs, while mainstreaming circular economies.

In an urbanizing world, we call for cities to become more self-reliant and resilient in the face of the climate threat, scaling their ecological footprints, while assuring urban biodiversity, beautiful green spaces, and thus improving the general wellbeing of their residents.

## **4. Enhance livelihoods through adopting agroecology**

We recognize that across the world, millions of people are still going hungry.

We need to eradicate hunger without causing degradation of landscapes and soils, and to challenge unsustainable food consumption and waste.

We call for the adoption and implementation of visionary policies that promote agroecology, including the protection of smallholder farming and community supported agriculture.

We call for biodiverse and healthy farming systems, enhancement of carbon storage in soils, creation of more forest reserves, a substantial worldwide increase in forest cover, and restoration of degraded lands.

## **5. Protect the oceans**

We recognize that the oceans are under immense pressure from overfishing, pollution and acidification and that a wide range of transformative measures is needed.

We call for the conservation of oceans by protecting at least 30 percent of the oceans by 2030.

## **6. Educate for sustainable development**

We applaud the children and youth of today for their creativity, courage, and commitment in demanding climate action.

We call for education for sustainable development to be widely implemented.

We recognize that all daily decisions can have severe global impacts. At all ages, we need to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and values to foster behaviour and lifestyles that are compatible with the living Earth.

## **7. Safeguard and promote the rights of present and future generations**

We call for effective institutions to safeguard the rights of present and future generations at all levels of government decision making across the world, to strengthen the voice of children and young people in keeping with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

We also call for the recognition of our collective responsibility to recognize that all decisions have long-term implications for the wellbeing of people and the planet.

### **The World Future Council acts as a voice and advocate for future generations.**

We strongly support the campaigns of young people who are demanding that today's leaders take appropriate measures to protect the future of the living Earth. Children and youth demand rapid, appropriate action on the basis of evidence being presented by scientists. And they rightly insist on being actively involved in key decisions that will affect future generations.

We work with policy makers to bring the interests of present and future generations to the centre of policy-making, promoting the spread of best policies across the world. We call for decision makers to implement commitments such as the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030, while promoting far more rigorous measures which are desperately needed to counter the global threats we face.