

Proposal for Climate Forum – International Community School of Addis-Ababa

We have a dream that the world we will live in the future will be sustainable, efficient and clean and we will need your help to realize our dream. As part of the generation that will take the world from your hands, I would like to ask you to make more commitment toward creating a carbon Zero world. For example, goal 7 of the open group development sustainability plan aims to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. As commendable as this goal is, it makes no reference to cutting down the use of fossil fuels, and what a country's commitment toward that could be. When the youth sees the different pipelines being built in the world to transport fossil fuels at a faster and cheaper rate, it makes it hard for us to imagine a carbon zero world. In order to prevent such actions, even though whether or not the SDG document to be developed is legally binding has not been decided on, making the reduction of the use of fossil fuels part of the goal is important.

As the African youth, finances also concern us with regard to sustainable development, cause the debate revolving around the prioritization of climate change over other issues like peace and security and poverty had and is still is part of many diplomatic discussions. I believe the solution to this problem is simple. Each year the world spends over 500 billion dollars a year on oil subsidies. If we take some of this money and subsidize the price of green technology, it will result in an increased demand for greener technology and a decreased demand for fossil fuels, as they will be more expensive.

Even though as the youth, there are many things we expect from you – the leadership, we also understand that there are things we can do in our schools and our homes to assuage the effects of climate change. Some of these things are outlined below.

1. Raising Awareness By raising awareness, we can create a deep and comprehensive understanding of the problem and provide both students and parents with simple changes they can make to their day to day lives to decrease their carbon footprint.
2. Using Energy efficient materials and recycling
3. Discourage the use of Plastic Water Bottles by either banning them, like they are in some schools, and replacing them with reusable water bottles and water dispensers.
4. Discourage the use of Disposable Containers by raising awareness on their deleterious effect on the environment and by providing them with alternatives such as using reusable containers.
5. Responsibility Disposing of Chemicals used by the science classes and chemicals used for cleaning
6. Encourage Carpooling or find alternative transportation for students and staff
7. Buy local products

These are things not only we, students, can implement to decrease our carbon footprint, but anyone with enough motivation can do these things to decrease his/her carbon footprint, and I hope you find a way to help people realize that.