Seal the Deal
Global Town Hall
Final Report

22 August, 2009

Prepared by Global Voices for the United Nations Environmental Program
**Introduction**

Young people from around the globe called on world leaders to take radical measures against climate change at the Seal the Deal Global Town Hall, the largest-ever truly global youth town hall on climate change. Some 700 young people, ranging from 10 to 24 years of age, produced a joint statement at the event that expressed their "concern and frustration that their governments are not doing enough to combat climate change," adding that "we now need more actions and less talking."

The declaration was finalized and adopted by the young participants at the Tunza Children and Youth Conference in Daejeon (Republic of Korea), as part of the global UN-wide 'Seal the Deal!' campaign spearheaded by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to galvanize political will and public support for a comprehensive global climate agreement.

Participants from more than 100 nations gathered in Daejeon and were joined by young people in 15 sites around the world, who participated through an interactive online webcast program. Global webcast sites included Cuernavaca Mexico, Bangkok Thailand, London England, Pune India, and Nairobi Kenya.

Participants in the Global Town Hall took part in facilitated, small group deliberation and used “state of the art” technology to identify shared priorities. Participants submitted ideas into laptop computers that had been generated in discussions. They then used polling keypads to vote on their priorities.

This final report incorporates all polling results and discussion themes that emerged from the Global Town Hall, including data from the webcast sites.

The Global Town Hall was organized and facilitated by Global Voices, a nonprofit organization that specializes in large scale public deliberation. The event used Global Voices’ 21st Century Town Meeting methodology to support the deliberations.

**Who Participated?**

Responses to polling questions about who participated in the event:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Global Town Hall</th>
<th>Actual Global Youth Statistics</th>
<th>New Friends from How Many Nations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>0-2 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>3-5 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6-10 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Younger than 10</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td>11-15 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>16-20 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>+20 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older than 24</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Geography**

- Africa: 16% vs 14%
- Latin America & Caribbean: 9% vs 9%
- North America: 5% vs 5%
- East Asia: 45% vs 32%
- South Central Asia: 7% vs 26%
- West Asia: 5% vs 3%
- Europe: 9% vs 11%
- Oceana: 3% vs 1%

**How Active Are You?**

- I am a leader: 22%
- I am very active: 27%
- I am somewhat active: 37%
- I am not very active: 8%
- I am not active at all: 6%

**Importance that Leaders Listen to Youth**

- Very important: 79%
- Important: 10%
- Somewhat important: 5%
- Not very important: 1%
- Not important at all: 4%
Global Youth Statement on Climate Change

Participants at the Global Town Hall reviewed a draft youth statement on climate change that had been developed by young people online prior to the event. Participants discussed the different elements of the statement, submitted additions and revisions, and then voted on the different elements of the statement. The resulting youth statement is presented below:

Listen to Our Voices
The Future Needs Strong Vision and Leadership

We, young people - 3 billion of the world population – are concerned and frustrated that our governments are not doing enough to combat climate change.

We feel that radical and holistic measures are needed urgently from us all.

We now need more actions and less talking.

Climate Change is affecting us all, and we need to find efficient ways to cope with it, adapt to it and take action to stop it.

We note that climate change is leading to loss of natural resources and makes it difficult to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Sea level rise, desert encroachment and warmer weather is affecting everyone and everything on the planet, especially small island states.

Climate change has serious consequences not only for ecosystems, but also for human health, job security and social development.

Together we CAN make a difference.

We Request Our Governments to:

• Agree on a more fair, just and action oriented post-Kyoto agreement adopted and implemented by all countries

• Have strict laws and enforcement against those who pollute and degrade the environment, coupled with education and incentives to protect the environment

• Develop and implement clearly defined carbon action plans and climate response strategies, which can be monitored and reviewed by an independent multi-national climate facility

• Transition toward a green economy based on renewable energies and offer more incentives for people to buy affordable energy efficient products

• Reduce the number of vehicles and traffic density on our roads, including improved and affordable public and pedestrian transport systems

• Make engaging environmental education mandatory in schools and universities and promote community environmental awareness - an informed public is a powerful public

• Pay attention to the conflicts that have developed throughout the world and the negative impact it has had on the environment and develop conflict resolution strategies

• Make it mandatory to include carbon and ecological footprint information in products

• Implement green energy and industry, including sustainable food production

• Support youth efforts to make a change in the world
We Appeal to All Citizens of this Planet to:

- Organize Civil Society to pressure governments to take short and medium term positive actions towards a global green economy
- Develop and promote the infrastructure and use of public transportation and eco-friendly alternatives (eco cars, carpooling, public transit, biofuels or solar energy vehicles, legal and economic incentives to promote sustainable transportation such as biking or walking)
- Use your rights, choices and awareness as consumers to pressure businesses, producers and governments to promote environmentally friendly products and eco-labeling policies (buy local seasonal products, avoid over-packaged and plastic products, purchase from eco-friendly companies)
- Enforce sustainable behaviors through the three Rs to protect natural resources from human impacts and promote environmental education
- Plant more trees that absorb carbon dioxide emissions
- Engage in environmental campaigns and education to other citizens
- Commit to sustainable lifestyles to reduce your carbon footprint

As Young People, We Will:

- Actively commit to undertaking the above actions
- Encourage our communities and as many people as possible to do the above individual actions
- Expand our networks to reach out to other youth to organizations and networks to become involved
- Take part in and/or initiate climate change rallies if capable (on 21 September, 24 October etc, locally and nationally) in run up to COP 15
- Engage in environmentally friendly activities especially planting, nurturing and protection of trees
- Exchange, connect and encourage best practices of young people on climate change
- Communicate environment and climate change through the media and social networks like Uniteforclimate.org, Facebook and Twitter, and also develop environmental websites on climate change
- Encourage schools and universities to become eco-friendly
- Support and promote the efforts of the UN Secretary General to Seal the Deal in Copenhagen
Protecting the Things We Love

Early in the program, participants were asked to share with each other the things that they love that are threatened by global climate change. Among the strongest themes that emerged from the deliberations were:

- Water sources – oceans, rivers, lakes, and their biodiversity
- Forests – prevent illegal logging (e.g. tropical forests in the Congo and Brazil)
- Ecosystems and biodiversity – animals and plants that are endangered such as the tiger and the harpy eagle
- Small island states, beaches, and coral reefs
- National monuments threatened by pollution and acid rain (e.g. Taj Mahal turning yellow)
- Glacier and arctic zones from melting
- Land and life that are nurtured by water and moisture

Commitment to Take Action

Participants were asked to brainstorm about actions that they could take in the Fall to ensure that their voices were heard by world leaders. They then used polling keypads to prioritize the most common themes from their discussions and identify what actions they would take (each participant was given up to three votes and the percentages below reflect the percentage of participants who voted at least once for each given item.)

- Lobby government (e.g. write letters, send video clips, and make phone calls to presidents and world leaders) 50%
- Plant trees 53%
- Organize and promote a blackout day 28%
- Organize a “no car / all bike” day 40%
- Use social networks (e.g. Facebook) to spread public awareness 46%
- Debate key issues in schools and universities 33%
- Other 6%

At the end of the day, participants were asked to identify how committed they were to act on the priorities that had emerged from the Global Town Hall:

- Very Committed: 67%
- Committed: 20%
- Somewhat Committed: 7%
- Not At All Committed: 6%