

Annex 3 – Information on www.uniteforclimate.org

UNITE FOR CLIMATE

The evidence is clear: Climate change is with us now. The resulting deterioration of the global ecosystem is accelerating and most profoundly affects **children and young people**. Among them, the poorest and **most vulnerable** are being hit the hardest by the impact. Climate change is already having and will continue to have an overall adverse impact on children's lives, as well as on all the Millennium Development Goals relating to children, including health, survival, education and gender equality

It is essential **to involve children and young people in the solution**. More than 46 per cent of the world population is now younger than 25 years old, and many of these young people are highly motivated to contribute to a better world. Empowered by knowledge and information, they can be the greatest change agents for the protection and stewardship of the earth. And with the right opportunities and tools, children and adolescents can help to find solutions and influence policy.

The *Unite for Climate* initiative envisions a global community of youth organizations and individuals working collaboratively to address the causes of climate change. The community is an organizational neutral space that belongs to its community.

1. UNITE FOR CLIMATE ONLINE COMMUNITY

<http://my.uniteforclimate.org/>

A major component to achieve the project's vision is the establishment of an online community specifically focused on climate change youth action.

UNICEF has recently developed a collaborative group work social networking tool designed specifically for youth NGOs working in the field globally. The tool is open source, low bandwidth (easily accessible with slow internet connections) and offers most necessary tools for collaborative distant groupworking: wikis, media sharing (audio, video, pictures...), the ability to setup groups as working spaces and choose exactly which users have access to the information you post. The tool is constantly being improved through user feedback.

Youth can choose to use the site with various degrees of involvement, whether communicating and collaborating on work within their group or throughout the community with other members of the network for coordinated action. Given recent technological advances, such tools have a relatively low barrier to entry, even in developing countries, allowing young people of diverse socio-economic backgrounds to share opinions and engage in action around topics of interest. TUNZA, UNEP's youth network strong of 30,000 youth organizations is the primary partner of the community, ensuring the community a global reach.

The Unite for Climate community site will officially be launched at the **TUNZA Global Townhall Meeting** in South Korea in August (17th to 21st).

2. UNITE FOR CLIMATE WEBSITE

The www.uniteforclimate.org site (also to be officially launched at TUNZA Global Townhall) serves as the communication and advocacy part of the initiative, allowing organizations and activists inside the community space to showcase their work publicly using traditional and new media. The site serves as a clearinghouse presenting youth with a comprehensive view of ongoing campaigns and explaining how, where and when to take action. Partner organizations can submit their request to be featured on the site.

Finally, the site will explain how climate change impacts on areas of development and will therefore serve as a resource center for children and young people.

For more information:

info@uniteforclimate.org

<http://www.uniteforclimate.org>