

Declaration by Young ISES, COP 29 2024

We, the young people of the International Solar Energy Society (ISES) from around the world, call upon the leaders of COP 29 to recognize the urgency of addressing the climate crisis by accelerating the renewable energy transformation. As young representatives of nations, industries, and organizations, we hereby proclaim the following in order to secure our future and leave the world a better place for those yet to come.

The climate crisis represents one of the greatest threats facing young people worldwide. It is clear that young people bear the greatest burden from climate change, and that youth-driven strategies for advancing renewable energy must be supported to address the climate crisis. Energy transformation plays a crucial role in advancing Sustainable Development Goals by addressing environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainable development. A shift to clean and sustainable energy is essential for building a more inclusive, resilient, and environmentally responsible global society.

Solar energy stands as a crucial driver in the global effort to mitigate climate change. As the cheapest form of electricity generation, solar energy offers an accessible and economically viable solution for widespread adoption. It is a versatile, clean, renewable, and cost-effective energy source, viable for a wide range of geographical and climatic conditions, allowing for widespread deployment and accessibility not only of electricity but also heat. Therefore, enacting and enforcing policies that incentivize the adoption of solar energy must be a priority for any government and organization.

We insist that nations unite to urgently address the climate crisis and work together to end conflicts that drain resources and lives, further exacerbating the disasters we are already experiencing as a result of the climate crisis. We call upon governments, industries, and research institutions to:

1. **Invest significantly in youth-driven projects and programs** to originate more efficient, affordable, and accessible renewable technologies.
2. **Acknowledge and support young scientists and other young stakeholders** in their pivotal role to advance renewable energy solutions, mitigating climate change, and building resilience against its impacts. Scientific voices must lead the way in shaping climate policies to ensure that all efforts are grounded in robust evidence.
3. **Address energy poverty and energy sufficiency comprehensively** and ensure energy access for all, recognizing that solar technology is already available and proven. We need only strong commitments and actions to ensure it reaches every community.
4. **Engage and empower global citizens and communities** with extensive public outreach campaigns, creating jobs and opportunities within a sustainable, solar-powered economy.
5. **Drive an accountable and transparent sustainable industry transition**, holding initiatives to measurable sustainability standards and making sustainability the core focus of all efforts.
6. **Put an end to greenwashing** and make sustainability the core focus of all initiatives. **Base decisions on scientific evidence** and data, prioritizing environmental impact over short-term financial gains. **Include sustainability**

principles, energy efficiency, responsible energy use, and a circular economy in all efforts and decisions.

7. **Integrate justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) principles** into all climate efforts. We recognize that gender, racial and social equality and climate action are deeply intertwined; policies addressing the climate crisis must also address gender, racial and social disparities and promote the empowerment of all people to foster a truly resilient future.
8. **Advance education in climate, energy efficiency and renewable energy** at all levels globally, equipping young people with the knowledge and skills to participate in the energy transition and address the climate crisis.
9. **Support open-access technology innovations** and knowledge-sharing platforms to enable countries with fewer resources to access advanced renewable energy solutions, fostering equitable growth in renewable energy adoption.
10. **Establish dedicated climate financing mechanisms** that prioritize youth-led renewable energy initiatives, especially in low- and middle-income countries, to drive local solutions and empower the next generation of energy leaders.
11. **Uphold Indigenous knowledge and rights** in climate action, recognizing Indigenous communities' unique contributions to environmental stewardship and ensuring their voices and rights are integral in all energy and climate-related decisions.

We pledge to do our part to engage with youth activists in leading the change for renewable energy solutions. We aim to strengthen international cooperation and collaboration amongst young scientists, transcending geographical, political, and economic boundaries to help to develop global solutions. We call for COP 29 to have a youth presidency, encouraging young ISES and other youth organizations to actively engage and contribute to the climate agenda. Let young voices be central in driving the global energy transformation.

Let this proclamation serve as a global call to action to propel the world towards a sustainable, 100% renewable energy future, creating a peaceful, just society for all. Young people, including scientists, will face the deepening economic, social, health, and environmental consequences of climate change. We ask to be part of the solution and contribute meaningfully to the energy transformation. We hereby call for committed global action and extend an open invitation to all nations, organizations, and individuals to join us on this pivotal journey. May the sun continue to shine brightly on our path towards a peaceful world powered by 100% renewable energy.

Elaborated in August 2024, EuroSun 2024 Conference, Limassol, Cyprus.