



To: Ms. Mirela Kumbaro
Minister, Ministry of Tourism and Environment

YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Honorable Ms. Kumbaro,

We are a group of young people from Shkodra, Tirana, Elbasan, Berati and Pogradec committed to giving our contribution and supporting the improvement of air quality and reducing the effects of climate change in the country.

We want to address You through this youth designed manifesto to present our proposals on alternative solutions to problems leading to air pollution and environmental degradation and to present how we see our role and contribution, so that together with Your institution, we can implement these alternatives.

We are a group representing 225 young people organized in the group "Youth for air and climate!". We are networked within the project #Youth Movement for Air&Climate implemented by EDEN environmental center and financially supported by UNICEF Albania. Thanks to this project, we have increased our capacities in addressing the topics of air quality, climate change and environmental activism, and we aim to organize ourselves to be an environmentally vigilant young community, pro-active in addressing and communicating these issues.

Communication with decision makers in our cities and this manifesto addressed to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment are our first step towards pro-activism.

Air pollution directly affects our health and life activity, so we want to pay maximum attention



and address causes leading to it and consequences. The effects of climate change affect us every day and affect the security of our future. Deforestation, unsustainable transportation, and waste of water resources are some of the factors we have identified that directly affect air quality and climate change.

We have considered the alternatives in support of national policies for forest conservation and management, air quality, water resource management and climate change; as well as in support of some of the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals such as: 3. Good health and well-being; 6. Clean water and public hygiene; 11. Sustainable cities and communities; 13. Climate action; 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions, etc.

To improve air quality and mitigate the effects of climate change, we propose to:

REDUCT DEFORESTATION:

- ✓ Regular and strict monitoring of forest areas to prevent logging and arson to preserve forest areas and fully implement the Forest Moratorium;
- ✓ Strict punishment of the illegal activity of cutting forests, especially in protected areas considering the environmental crime law;
- ✓ Mapping of areas where the phenomenon of cutting and arson occurs more often and strengthening the implementation of laws on forest protection and environmental protection;
- ✓ Raising and increasing funds for the implementation of Albanian legislation on forest protection through the creation of a special structure of human resources for the absorption of funds for forest protection;
- ✓ Concrete commitment to increase forest areas with native plants.

GREENER TRANSPORT

- ✓ Stronger and stricter policies to ensure urban, intra-city and inter-city transport service as green as possible, frequent and physically and financially accessible to all. This helps reduce the use of personal cars;
- ✓ Encouraging the drafting of social policies to increase the number of people who benefit from facilitation methods and subscribe to public transport;
- ✓ Encouraging the construction and provision of rail transport service inside and outside the country, thus reducing the costs of individuals and the amount of emitted gases, as well as promoting economic development;
- ✓ Setting up a strategy for subsidizing green vehicles for citizens, with the aim of reducing the number of diesel vehicles, mainly an example benefited from the countries of Central Europe;
- ✓ Increase of urban green surfaces;
- ✓ Infrastructure for bicycle lanes in every city.



PRESERVATION OF WATER RESOURCES

- ✓ Identification of illegal users and imposition of fines on them for unauthorized and non-standard use of water resources
- ✓ Revision of water usage fees by entities that have economic benefits from the use of water resources and are simultaneously water polluters.
- ✓ Encouraging investments in the water supply network to minimize losses and the transfer to Albania of biological techniques for filtering wastewater and thus recycling it;
- ✓ Monitoring of water use by every citizen and public and private entity.

OTHER MEASURES FOR AIR QUALITY AND REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

- ✓ Promotion and implementation of the law on energy efficiency in buildings. Thermally insulated buildings will help improve quality of life and reduce household emissions. Support for the creation of energy communities should be encouraged.
- ✓ Regular and double monitoring of emissions of harmful gases into the air from industrial activities that take place both in urban areas and in rural areas in the municipalities of our country.
- ✓ Supporting local communities to promote their products and ecotourism attraction as a more sustainable alternative for the communities' economy.
- ✓ Education, information and awareness campaigns on the responsible use and conservation of natural resources as the only means to improve air quality and protection against climate change. A field that targets all citizens and interest groups by placing the activity and behavior of each in the focus of any information distributed.

We are aware that the implementation of the proposed alternatives does not depend only on your Ministry, but we are convinced that the Ministry of Tourism and Environment is the most important actor that can move the work forward.

WHAT WE REQUEST FROM THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT:

- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the performance of the persons responsible in its structure for air quality, preservation of the forest fund, water resources and for climate change;
- Drafting of stronger and more applicable laws for environmental protection;
- To be a leader and encourage all ministries and other institutions to act and respond to the preservation of the environment;
- To be the first institution to serve as a good example for us young people;
- To organize as many interactive activities as possible with citizens and us young people to communicate, report on the environment and make our voice heard;



- To create conditions and opportunities for us young people and active citizens to be part of the system of conservation, management and monitoring of the environment in Albania.

WHAT WE COMMIT TO DO AS A YOUTH GROUP:

- To transfer all our knowledge to other young people of the communities where we live;
- To organize information and awareness activities about air quality, climate change and civic activism;
- Collaborate with the media and discuss and share our perspective on the importance of conserving natural resources for cleaner air and protection against climate change;
- To monitor and address the problems in the relevant institutions;
- To raise our voice unconditionally for the preservation of the environment;
- To include in our daily life all the advice we received and promoted during the project program;
- To volunteer where necessary for the environment in our community and to be the first to follow the good initiatives that will be proposed;
- To raise funds for planting trees with our families and friends.

We want to be the positive change we want to see in our country and we are grateful for the commitment and pure cooperation of our group with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

