



DUSF '22 | H-MUNEA '23



## CONCEPT NOTE

### YOUTH FOR 'ONE EARTH, ONE FUTURE:' CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.*

-- Margaret Mead

Climate change is an immediate threat affecting ecosystems, societies and economies worldwide. The climate situation worldwide is critical, and it has become imperative that we embrace sustainability in all its aspects – environmental, social and economic – to protect the planet and secure the well-being of future generations. The role that youth play is crucial to any issue that concerns our future, and it becomes manifold in addressing key global concerns, especially the future of the only planet we all inhabit. The urgency of the climate crisis and the integration of sustainable practices and sustainable development in letter and spirit necessitate that youth take up leadership roles for mitigating the climate crisis that all nations and people of the world are mired in.

Going forward, one of the methods to downsize the magnitude of the climate crisis is by empowering youth as agents of change, which starts with promoting holistic education, sustainability awareness programs and incorporation of sustainable practices from an early age. The enthusiasm, creativity and determination of young individuals place them at the forefront of climate activism and movements. Young people possess significant power to drive change and help shape the future of our planet. Their passion, ingenuity, and commitment to justice and equality make them key agents of positive transformation. They are engaged in worldwide environmental activism, leading initiatives such as educational campaigns, ecopreneurship and community-led conservation projects. Empowering young individuals to engage in sustainable practices can have a ripple effect, inspiring broader societal change.

Sustainability and sustainable practices are at the core of building a resilient future, which goes hand in hand with social equity and intergenerational justice. The concept of 'One Earth, One Future' highlights the interconnectedness and equitable existence of all living beings on our planet. It reflects the understanding that our actions and choices today have profound consequences on future generations. Addressing climate change and achieving sustainability requires collective efforts that transcend the limitations posed by age, class, sex, social background and nationality. When the youth of the world come together to work hand-in-hand, we can create a future where both the needs of people and the planet are taken care of, ensuring a sustainable and thriving planet for future generations, and a healthy and prosperous future for all. Fresh perspectives and innovative solutions offered by the youth can be powerful catalysts for transformative change. Through global solidarity and collaborative efforts, we can build a future where the well-being of the planet and the populace are harmoniously balanced, realizing the vision of 'One Earth, One Future.'

Drawing inspiration from India's G20 Presidency this year, Harithkram has decided to highlight the interconnectedness of geodiversity, biodiversity and the role of youth vis-à-vis climate change and sustainability for its youth conference. Harithkram is going to organize two flagship events, **DUSF'22 and HMUNEA'23, a three-day youth conference** on the focal theme **"Youth for 'One Earth, One Future:' Climate Change, Sustainability and Sustainable Practices"** on **October 6-8, 2023**. We are pleased to launch the youth conference on October 6, which is observed as International Geodiversity Day (IGD). Following a grassroots campaign by geoscience organisations around the world, IGD was proclaimed by UNESCO in 2021 as a worldwide celebration to bring people together for promoting the many aspects of geodiversity. We eagerly await the opportunity to host the environmentally conscious youth for this youth conference.