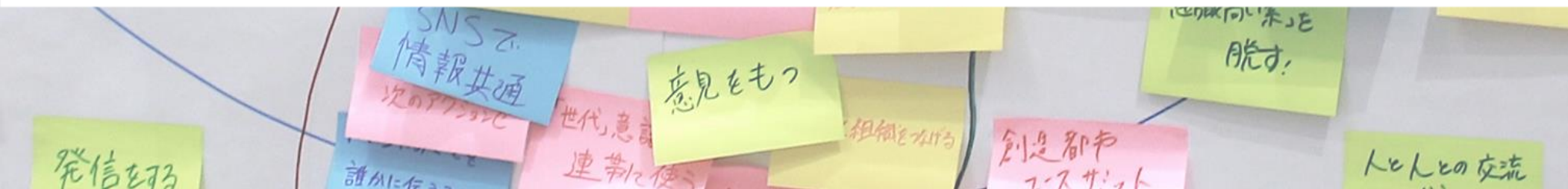


# Declaration for the Future: Cooperative Efforts between UNESCO and Japanese Youth Concerning Climate Change

The Youth Committee of Japanese National Commission for UNESCO  
and the participants of the Youth Forum, UNESCO WEEK 2024



March 4, 2024



**Declaration for the Future:  
Cooperative Efforts between UNESCO and Japanese Youth Concerning Climate Change**

Background

Since April 2023, we, the Youth Committee of Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, have engaged in discussions regarding the role and significance of youth in the future. These discussions aim to empower youth aged between 10 and 30 who bear responsibility for shaping the future of our society, encouraging them to collaborate across diverse fields and engage in addressing issues related to climate change. Throughout the year, we have collaborated with students from UNESCO-affiliated communities in high schools and universities across the country, such as Tamagawa University, Nagaoka University of Technology, Nara University of Education, and Usuki High School. We discussed activities that individuals can pursue independently or in collaboration with UNESCO while envisioning the future of Japan in relation to climate change.

On 21 January 2024, during UNESCO Week 2024, we convened at a Youth Forum held in Japan titled "Declaration for the Future by the Youth: Considering Climate Change through UNESCO Activities" to promote collaboration between youth groups engaged in UNESCO activities and experts. The forum provided a platform to address climate change and enhance and promote diverse interests of youth in the fields of education, science, and culture.

The Forum was divided into 3 different sessions that were held concurrently: "Education in Response to Climate Change Issues and Sustainable Development (ESD)" by the subcommittee for education, "Scientific Communication: Countermeasures in Response to Climate Change" by the subcommittee for science, and "The Value of 'Creative Cities' as Places to Consider Earth-friendly Lifestyles" by the subcommittee for culture. Current challenges related to climate change issues and the roles of youth and their contribution to UNESCO activities were discussed alongside experts during the panel discussions at the end of each session. The concluding workshop of the forum established a basis for a comprehensive draft outlining our "Declaration for the Future", incorporating the contents of each subcommittee's session.

This declaration not only explicitly states our commitment to addressing climate change issues collectively with UNESCO, but also reflects our aspiration for broadening engagement among youth across Japan and around the world. In the Appendix, we have outlined the procedures for replicating the workshop and summarized the opinions expressed during the Youth Forum. We urge all readers and stakeholders to formulate their own "Declaration for the Future." The Youth Committee of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO stands ready to support any initiatives related to it.

Furthermore, while this declaration was compiled by the Youth Committee of Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, it was formulated through discussions in collaboration with other participants of the Youth Forum. Therefore, this declaration represents both the Committee and the Youth Forum participants.

March 4, 2024

The Youth Committee of Japanese National Commission for UNESCO and the participants of the Youth Forum

# Declaration for the Future

## Cooperative Efforts between UNESCO and Japanese Youth

### Concerning Climate Change

**We hereby declare that in consideration for our future, we will engage in the following activities**

- Education** “To create opportunities for dialogue not only among youth but across all generations, encouraging action on climate change to foster builders of a sustainable society”
- Science** “To collaborate with researchers in academia and relevant industries, as well as stakeholders from World Natural Heritage sites, UNESCO Global Geoparks, and Biosphere Reserves, advancing dialogue on the utilization of Japan's high-tech technologies for environmental conservation and the importance there of”
- Culture** “To leverage the uniqueness and creativity of various regions in Japan to conserve, create, establish, and disseminate environmentally friendly cultural practices alongside stakeholders from the UNESCO Creative Cities Network”

(Appendix) Some of the comments we received from a discussion aimed at formulating a "Declaration for the Future" under the theme of “How I, as a Youth, envision Japan in 30 years” \*

A place where you can drink delicious Japanese green tea	Somewhere to enjoy cherry blossoms with family and friends	Where students can play the “Summer Koshien” finals without heat stroke risk	Somewhere to easily travel anywhere on an electric bike	Expertise in disaster mitigation to mentor other countries in dealing with natural disasters	Salmon that still swim upstream in the rivers of Hokkaido	A place where Edogawa ward (Tokyo) still exists
A society where humans and nature and wildlife can coexist	Somewhere to hike in the mountains full of autumn colors	To diminish death by heat stroke, which is the main cause of death for elders	A society where damage from natural disasters is lower than now.	A country capable to exert diplomatic influence and promote international cooperation	A place where wild birds can be seen everywhere	A society where concerns about infectious diseases are no greater than they are now
A place where you can eat delicious chocolate	A place where delicious fish can still be enjoyed	A place with clean air	A place to share with climate refugees	A place where you can lively comfortably without worrying about climate change	A Japan that continues to broadcast its appeal of all its regions to the world	A thriving primary industry

\*Conceived by The Youth Committee of the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, along Tamagawa University, Nagaoka University of Technology, Nara University of Education, Usuki High School during previous discussions.

## Appendix “Declaration for the Future” – Draft formulation workshop

During the Youth Forum, participants engaged with experts in panel discussions within the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural subcommittees. Following this, youth attendees exchanged ideas about their individual reflections, such as actual and future activities in the “Declaration for the Future” draft formulation workshop. To encourage further discussion in Japan and around the world, we have provided some guidelines below for replicating this workshop. We encourage all readers to consider organizing a workshop with friends or acquaintances and create their own “Declaration for the Future”!

1. Access to the archived videos\* of the panel discussions held during the Youth Forum by clicking or reading the QR codes below.  
(if working in group, create 3 teams and assign one video to each)



2. After watching the panel discussions on video reflect on the following:
  - a) What can you do as an individual to address the issue of climate change?
  - b) What actions can you take with the people around you? (e.g., family, friends, colleagues)

3. Share your thoughts with other people!

### If working alone

Access the Google Jamboard below and write your thoughts  
([Google Jamboard](#) QR code)



### If working in groups

Share your ideas with the other group members

- a) Explain what you thought/learnt from the panel discussion
- b) Share your reflections from step 2

4. Categorize the brought-up actions/ideas and locate them in the map where it may correspond (Refer to next page)

5. Finally, let's redact a “personal declaration” of a specific action that we can do to combat climate change!

**“As a member of the youth, I am committed to tackling the climate crisis by...**

# Appendix “Declaration for the Future” – Draft formulation workshop map

During the Youth Forum, participants engaged with experts in panel discussions within the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural subcommittees. Following this, youth attendees exchanged ideas about their individual reflections, such as actual and future activities in the “Declaration for the Future” draft formulation workshop. To encourage further discussion in Japan and around the world, we have provided some guidelines below for replicating this workshop. We encourage all readers to consider organizing a workshop with friends or acquaintances and create their own "Declaration for the Future"!

- Usage Guide -  : Summary of discussions in each subcommittee |       : Opinions expressed at the workshop (categorized based on the topics)

