



DEBATE ON WORLD PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Date: September 19, 2008

Context:

The International Day of Peace, September 21st of each year was first established by a United Nations resolution in 1981. In establishing this International Day, the United Nations General Assembly decided that it would be appropriate *"to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as of the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all viable ways... (The International Day of Peace) should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples."* (Quotes excerpted from the United Nations General Assembly Resolution [UN/A/RES/36/67](#))

The International Day of Peace encourages individuals, organizations and nations to use this day to highlight the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001 to 2010.

In addition to this, the Rio Declaration, presented at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, asserted in Principle 25 that "Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible". In other words, the idea of peace forms an integral part of the concept of sustainable development.

In this context, Earth Focus Foundation is organizing a debate on 'Peace and Sustainable Development'. The aim of the debate is to not only celebrate the International Day of Peace, but to better understand what are the aspects of sustainable development that could contribute to World Peace. Geneva World Association will be joining us on this day with 12 children from around the world to speak about the situation concerning peace and conflicts in their country, their point of view and experience of peace and sustainable development.

Issue of the debate:

The issue of the debate would be: 'Peace and Sustainable Development: how should the aspects of sustainable development could contribute to world peace?'

The first part of the day will consist of a roundtable discussion between the 12 children and the Geneva's students, sharing their perspective and stories about peace and sustainable development. Following the round table, on the afternoon, the students in groups will enter a debate by presenting their point of view of how the aspect of sustainable development could contribute to world peace. They will also be submitted to the questions from the other participants and from the assistance. Some experts of the issue will make a brief introduction of the subject.

At the end of the debate, a mission statement will be created.

Date and Inscription:

Debate day: the 19th of September 2008 at the ICCG (International Conference Centre of Geneva)

Time: Roundtable: 9 – 12 am; debate: 1 to 4:30 pm

Inscription: before the 30th of August 2008. Otherwise, a formula will be sent in June in order to know the interest of teachers in this event.

The conclusion of the debate will be published in the Earth Focus and Objectif Terre magazines, and on the Earth Focus Foundation and ICVolunteers websites.

Participative Conditions:

This debate is open to all schools for students of 12 – 17 y-o.

Every school and every student of the 'Suisse romande' cantons could participate in this debate.

The debate will be bilingual (English / French) and there will be interpreters present to translate.

The application form can be found on the Earth Focus website or requested from the foundation, which will be sent by email, mail or fax.

Contacts: For more information or questions, please contact any of the individuals below

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