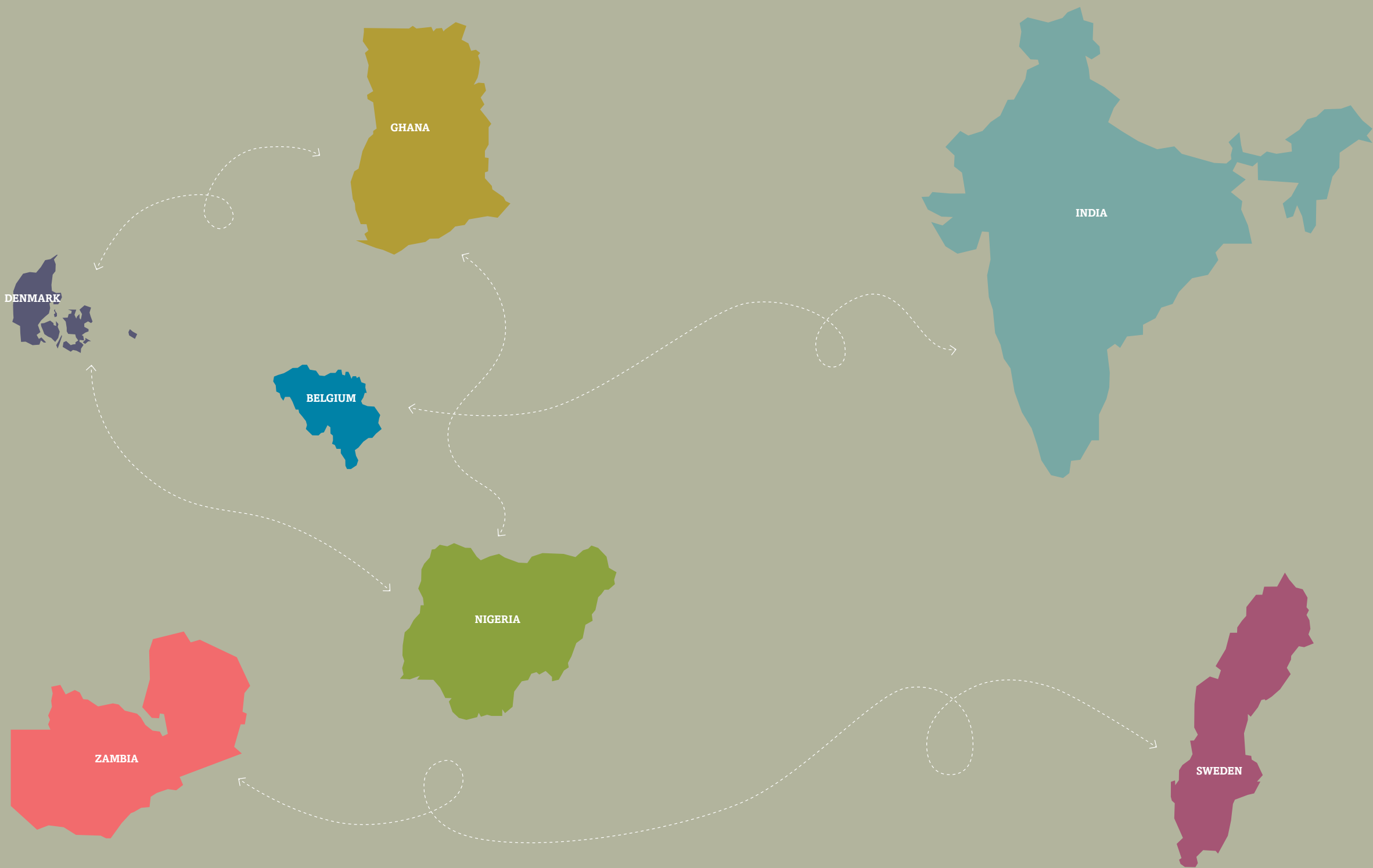


# ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

BEST PRACTICE ON INVOLVING  
CHILDREN AND YOUTHS FOR  
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



ENGAGING YOUTHS  
FOR A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE



- BELGIUM
- INDIA
- DENMARK
- GHANA
- NIGERIA
- ZAMBIA
- SWEDEN

## ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

**ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION  
Best Practice On Involving Children And  
Youth For A Sustainable Future**

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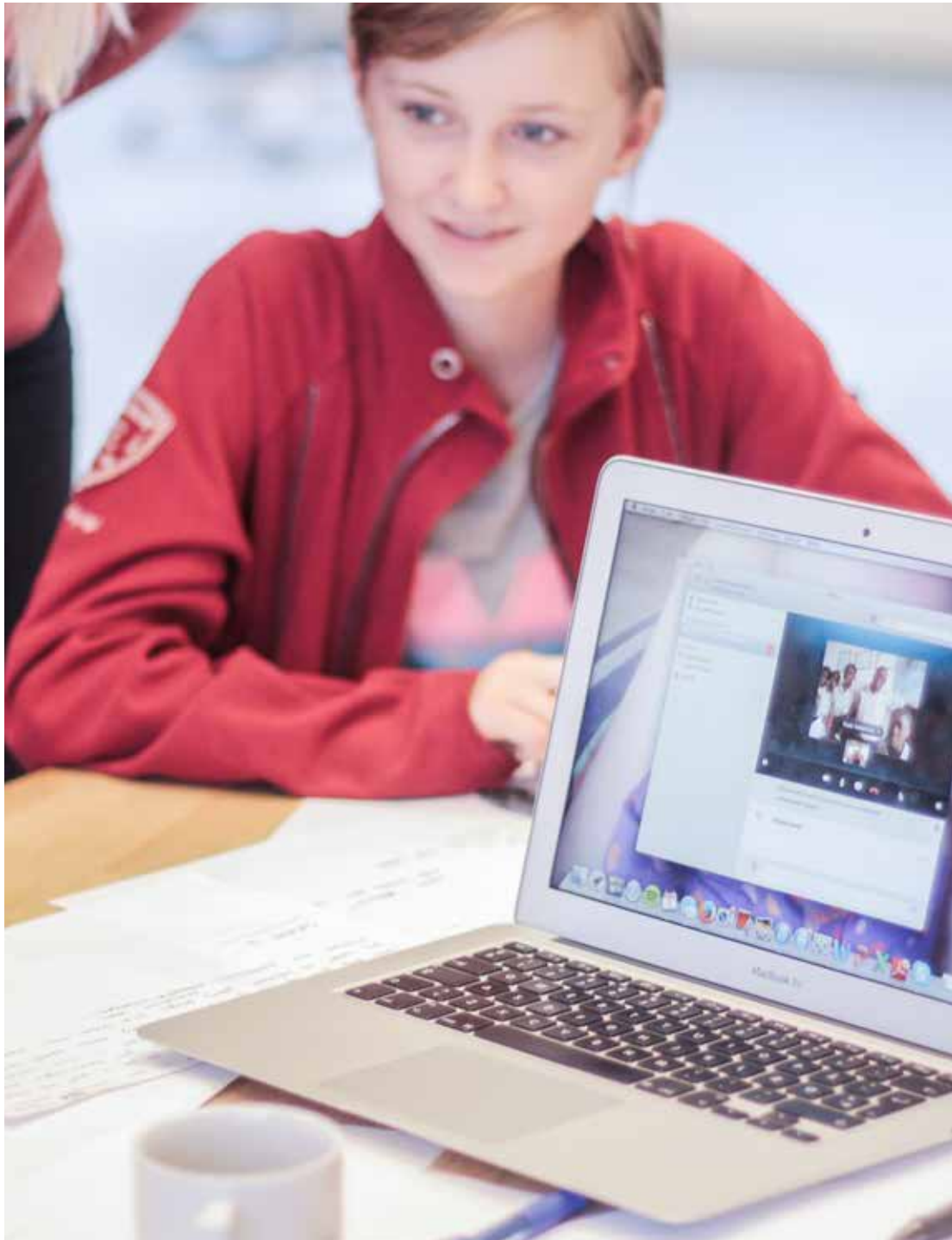


# ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

## BEST PRACTICE ON INVOLVING CHILDREN AND YOUTHS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



ENGAGING YOUTHS  
FOR A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE



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# ARE YOU READY TO PASS ON THE TORCH?

## FOREWORD

We, the children from Ghana, Belgium, Nigeria, Sweden, India, Zambia and Denmark, are the Global Climate Ambassadors, and we want to talk to you about the changing climate.

Climate changes are happening right now! In the past it was a question about our future. But yesterday has passed. The climate is changing now; right now as you are reading this report. We can't stress this enough. We see it, we hear it, and some places: like in Ghana, India, and Zambia it is part of everyday life.

We worry about our future.

In India children are suffering heat strokes in the classrooms and on the street. The rising sea level has already made homes and villages disappear. In Ghana children go to bed with empty stomachs because it has become so dry that food can't grow in the fields. When the rain patterns change, farmers don't know when to sow their crops. Wildlife is going extinct. In Zambia schools are flooded and destroyed. The Zambians are thinking about making schools that floats. The threat of another natural disaster is ever present.

Climate change doesn't affect everybody, Danes, Swedes and Belgians are aware that this is happening, but they don't feel the truly horrible consequences – not yet. The countries with large industries driven by fossil fuel, the countries that are responsible for the dangerously changing climate are not the ones that suffer the most. But the future is nearby. And we have to make sure that we all contribute when it comes to fixing the problem – fixing the world. Just like the older generation shouldn't pass the mess they have made on to us – the children.

For us, the changing climate is not about numbers, graphs and difficult words. It is about our world, our future and our survival. The future we will inherit from you. We, the citizens of the world, must stop at nothing to fight climate change.

And to do that we have to put old animosities and prejudices behind us and collaborate across borders. Who better to do that than the future generation, us, the children. We are the ones with the energy. We are the ones open-minded enough to take this seriously. We are the leaders of tomorrow.

But we need you to lead the way and tell us everything you know about the climate, about governance. You still have the time to become the admirable role models on climate change. But time is running out, and at some point you will have to pass on the torch – hopefully burning bright – when time comes.

The Global Climate Ambassadors  
2014

*This foreword is an edited edition of the Global Climate Ambassadors speech held at the banquet at the Plenary Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in the Town Hall of the City of Copenhagen on October 27th 2014.*

*The speech was performed by three Danish Climate Ambassadors on behalf of the whole group of Global Climate Ambassadors from Zambia, Nigeria, Sweden, Ghana, Belgium and India who all took part in writing the speech.*



---

We represent the future and as the leaders of tomorrow, we are the ones who will have to deal with the consequences long after you are gone.

# ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

## THE EDUCATION, THE PROJECT, THE PROCESS

### THE EDUCATION

Climate Ambassador Education was introduced as part of the Children's Conference during COP15 in 2009.

The Climate Ambassador Education aims to educate the next generation to become active citizens that take part in creating a sustainable future. Coming generations will face complex challenges related to climate change. Therefore, it is important that the future generations are capable of responding to these challenges. Through practical, creative and innovative learning programs we are working on giving the children and young people the insight, skills and commitment needed to take on the fight for a brighter future. Education is part of the Department for Sustainable Development in the Children and Youth Administration in the Municipality of Copenhagen, Denmark. Until 2014 more than 200 children were trained as climate ambassadors, primarily in Copenhagen, but also secondly in Malmö, Sweden as part of a joint project.

### THE PROJECT

The project "Global Climate Ambassador Education" is an expansion of the Climate Ambassador Education from Copenhagen.

It has been the aim of this project to join selected educational initiatives for children on climate issues, going on in various

countries, across the globe, into a concerted action to leverage the voice of the future generation, so that the local project transforms to include a global dimension; not only in the understanding of the challenge, but also in the action involved. The network that has been established between the countries will continue while the climate ambassador education is simultaneously rolled out locally in some countries.

This report is the output of the "Global Climate Ambassador Education" and a collaboration between 106 10-18 year-old's from seven countries, including India, Zambia, Belgium, Nigeria, Sweden, Ghana and Denmark. The report represents the essence of numerous dialogues where experiences and reflections have been shared and discussed across countries to extract the best practice on how the coming generations can acquire the insight, skills and commitment needed for tackling climate change.

The collaborative process of mapping Best Practices has resulted in twelve central principles and a speech to be held at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Plenary Meeting Welcoming Reception in Copenhagen October 27th 2014, as the panel convenes to approve the synthesis report aimed at policymakers around the world. Each outcome is represented in

the report: The speech can be read as the foreword of this report (page 6-7), and the principles are displayed in the incerts.

### THE PROCESS

The process of collaboration has primarily taken place in parallel dialogue tracks between partnering countries from diffe-

rent parts of the world, to ensure a depth of understanding of both the similarities and differences of how climate change is experienced and contributed to across the globe.

The dialogue tracks have taken place between: Belgium & India, Zambia & Sweden, Nigeria & Denmark & Ghana.





# HOW ARE WE WORKING?

## PRESENTATION

First, each country has created an introductory film presenting who they are and how climate change is experienced locally and globally by them, and each film has been considered by their partnering country in order to grasp the global aspects of climate change.

## MAKE A MOVIE



## INVESTIGATION

The children in each country have mapped out what motivates children and youths to participate actively in combating climate change. Mapping the motivators took its point of departure in the local context and personal experiences of each group of Climate Ambassadors. One example is Belgium, where the children leveraged their experiences from participating in the EU Green Week in Brussels during the spring 2014, where they designed concepts for how to tackle environmental issues and presented them for the EU Commissioners of Climate and of Environment. In India the participants used their experiences from working as volunteers at the MY Tree Campaign of Bakul nudging youths and children to sustainable behaviors. The differences in experiences as well as conditions are expressed in the wide variety in the motivators from each country.

## WRITE A TEXT



## REFLECTION

To create a shared foundation for the conception of a joint speech and a collective catalog of Best Practices, each country has reflected and shared their deliberations on what is needed to engage the future generations in sustainable development.

## REFLECT & SHARE



## CO-CREATION

On the basis of the first three phases, all participants have met online to discuss and construct the final list of best practice principles and formulate the points they wanted to include in the speech for the IPCC. The joint session was completed by a feedback session on the speech draft and a concerted farewell.

## MEETING



## BEST PRACTISE

## REPORT

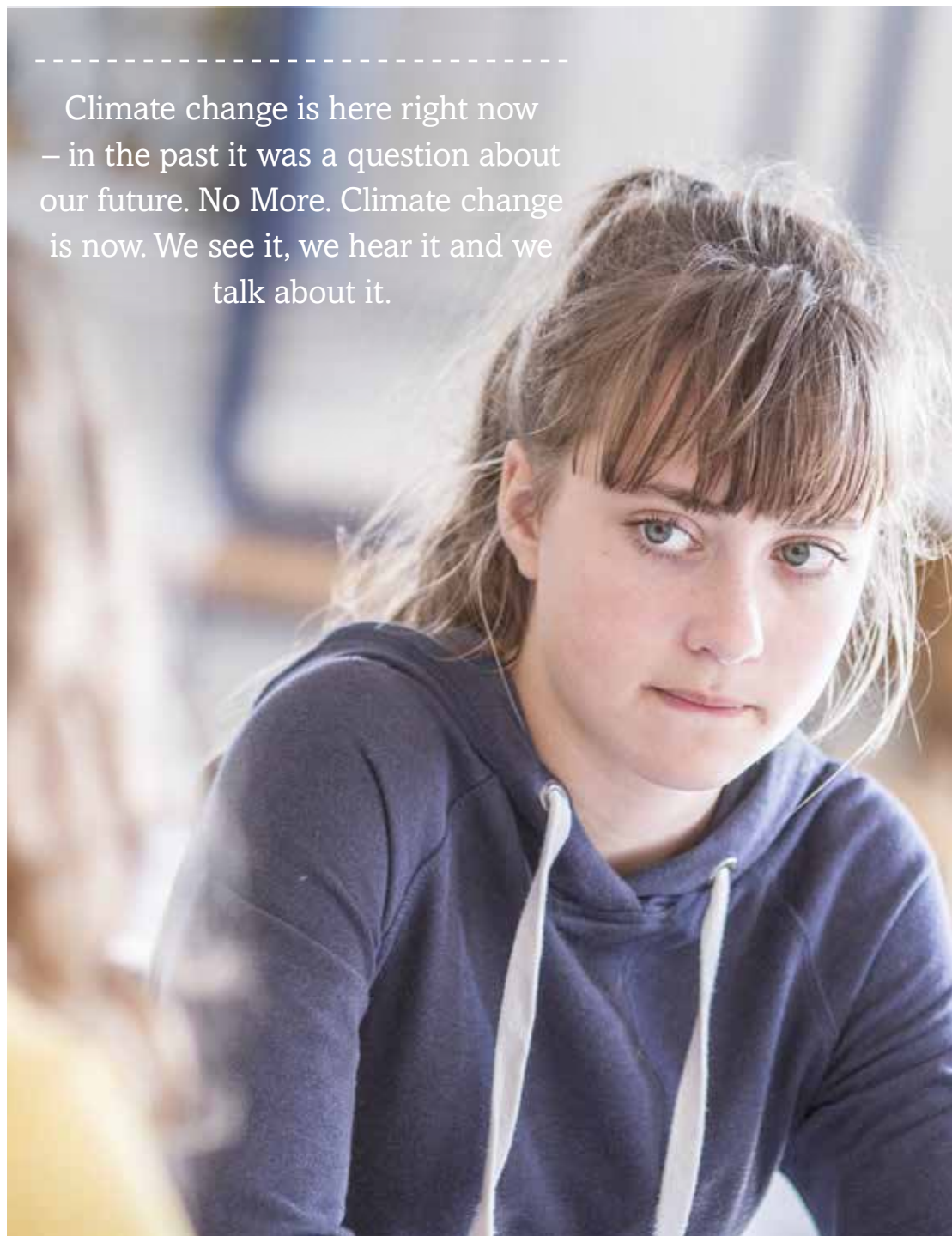
## RESULTS

## SPEECH

AT THE IPCC PLENARY MEETING,  
COPENHAGEN OCTOBER 27TH 2014

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Climate change is here right now  
– in the past it was a question about  
our future. No More. Climate change  
is now. We see it, we hear it and we  
talk about it.



# BEST PRACTICE

## INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM A COLLECTIVE PROCESS

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The following sections are divided into each participating country group of Climate Ambassadors. In each part you will find what three motivational factors each group of climate ambassadors thinks are the keys to engaging the future generations in sustainable development.

The three motivators are introduced first by a description of how children and young people experience climate change in each country, followed by reflections on climate change as a global issue as a response to the first dialogue session with the partnering country. The motivators are concluded by a call for action.

In each chapter you will also find presentation of the local organization facilitating the climate ambassadors program.

- BELGIUM
- INDIA

# WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## BELGIUM

In our video we want to show that everybody, even the children, can make a difference. In Belgium we might take the bike instead of the car, but in less fortunate countries, droughts and floods are putting people out of their homes and causing illness. We want to make everyone aware that this is everybody's problem.



### THE EUROPEAN SCHOOL BRUSSEL I.

**Purpose of the organization:** *The pupils in S2, as the future generation, will get the possibility to solve complex climate problems. By participating in Green Week in the spring of 2014 and the Global Climate Ambassador Education in the fall of 2014. They need to understand our local and global climate challenges today, so that they can be actors in the climate solutions in the future and help us getting a more sustainable world.*

**Age of the participants:** 11 to 12 year-olds

### SMILES THROUGH DISASTER IN INDIA

In our country, Belgium, the only worries are that the summers are getting longer and the snow is nowhere to be found in the winter. On the other side of the globe, in India, you can see the consequences of the changing climate just by looking out your window. Floods are destroying the crops and people's homes. A lot of poor people are basically homeless, and the province's capacity to produce food has been reduced to only 40 percent of the original state.

The children can't do the things they used to, things that are totally normal for other children in other countries; like going to school because it is too hot or too rainy. But despite all the disasters caused by

climate changes in their country, the Indians still manage to smile, and they have high hopes for the future, which we find amazing.

The climate ambassadors from India are themselves keen on changing things for the better, and that only gives us just the more reason to help take part in helping children in India and other countries where climate change has a huge impact. As children, we can only do small things, but even small things – like recycling – can make a difference. And you get to feel good about yourself too. We all need to do that, because the planet needs us to make a change. Climate changes affect everyone. Together we can help people in need and shape a better future for all of us.

## BE PROUD

**If you make a difference, you will be proud of yourself and what you have done. The climate is something we all share.**

When you are helping to mitigate climate change and helping others to adapt to the consequences of climate change, you also help yourself. If we, all of us around the globe, keep emitting CO2 and allow the climate changes to happen it will come down on us - all of us. And by trying to make a difference we might just feel a little bit better - more proud.

## SMALL THINGS MATTER

**If we want to change things everyone needs to get involved. If we want to set the climate straight, we have to convince people that even small things matter.**

If people are made aware that they are ruining a bit of the world by throwing their trash on the ground, then maybe they will put the trash in a recycle bin the next time. If we change people's attitude towards climate change, we might be able to help those in need more effectively; and help ourselves and our children.

## A WINNING CAUSE

**Everybody loves to win and be the best at stuff. That is also a motivator for working for the climate.**

Everybody likes to be acknowledged. When we get acknowledged for our work for the climate we get to feel better about ourselves. And maybe we could use that. We could make competitions which would make people aware of the climate changes. Everybody loves to win; let's make this more about winning rather than just losing the least.

### INDIA NEEDS OUR HELP

The Indians actually need help, whereas in Belgium we haven't really experienced the disastrous consequences of climate change.

Like children from all over the world we want to make a difference and contribute to a more sustainable world. But we can't do it without the help of adults – parents, teachers, politicians. Children have lots of great, creative ideas, but we need the help of grown-ups to carry them out.



- INDIA
- BELGIUM



# FROM SMALL THINGS TO MAJOR CATASTROPHES IN INDIA



## INDIA

In our video we talk about the consequences of climate change. For instance, when the dams dry out in the summer we have no electricity and we can't play our video games. But actually, it is much more serious, the heat wave in 1998 killed 1,500 people. And we have been struck by three major cyclones in the last two decades, and most people don't even get a meal a day.

**BAKUL FOUNDATION**  
**Purpose of the organization:**  
*Bakul Foundation attempts to inspire individuals to be the change they want in the world and provides a platform for becoming that change. It works with volunteers and attempts to demonstrate the power of volunteerism.*  
**Age of the participants:**  
*14 to 16 year-olds*

### THE BELGIANS WORRY

We were shocked by the fact that you too are suffering from the flu. It has also affected us in Bhubaneswar, India. Unlike the Belgians, we in East and Southeast Asia experience very harsh summers. On top of this, the fact that the summers are getting longer and longer are only making it even harsher for us here. The points that you guys made about floods, "some nations have extreme floods, while others don't even have enough water for drinking," were very alarming.

What we can do, and we think we can agree on that, is to pass on the water from the floods to the countries which are facing droughts. The wild changes in the weather have affected the world globally in gigantic proportions and this underlines the fact that we should work together and find a solution

fast. This we can all agree on. You state that CO2 are being emitted from cars. We believe that although cars are one of the major contributors to this crisis, we should, and perhaps even more so, focus on the industries that spew out carbon too.

As you guys are saying in the video, the climate changes are affecting all of us, all around the globe. You mention the rising heat level. In our school life we see many people suffering heat strokes and fainting. The heat saps energy, making us tired even after just a few minutes in the sun. This reduces our work efficiency considerably. And natural disasters, heat waves and cyclones lead among other things to electricity shortage. So naturally, we are happy to hear that you guys in Europe are aware that this is a global problem that requires global action.

## UNBEARABLE WARMTH

**Because the heat is rising it gets harder and harder to be a child in India.**

In our schools a lot of people suffer heat strokes and people are fainting due to the intensity of the heat. We get tired and weary after just a few minutes in the sun. We feel the climate changes directly on our bodies. The uncontrollable changes and natural disasters we can see around us motivates us to be agents of change so that the future generations will not suffer from an environment that's running wild.

## NATURAL DISASTERS

**The massive climate changes have affected us considerably and have brought countless natural disasters to our state.**

The cyclones are destroying not only people's houses, but also the forest and the very important "green lungs" of the cities in our State. And the rising sea levels are eliminating countless small villages from the map. We see and feel it every day and it has to change.



## USEFUL, BUT POLLUTING RESOURCES

**Every day, youngsters see an oil crisis, or hear about another fossil-fuel crisis.**

These polluting fuels are only worsening the climate changes, which our world currently faces. We have to reduce these polluting-but-useful resources. The youth is known to be thinking very differently and innovative, and they can create, combine, and contribute to bringing about that change.

### STOP CUTTING DOWN THE FOREST

Even though the city has enough green cover to absorb its carbon emissions there is not enough to provide shade. We have to stop cutting down trees.

Driving on the road you can see the barren roads and even people collapsing due to the severe intensity of the heat. The rapid climatic change has brought significant change in the amount of heat that we, the youngsters, face. And cutting down trees has definitely not helped at all. It has just added another disaster to the climate changes.

### LISTEN TO THE CHILDREN

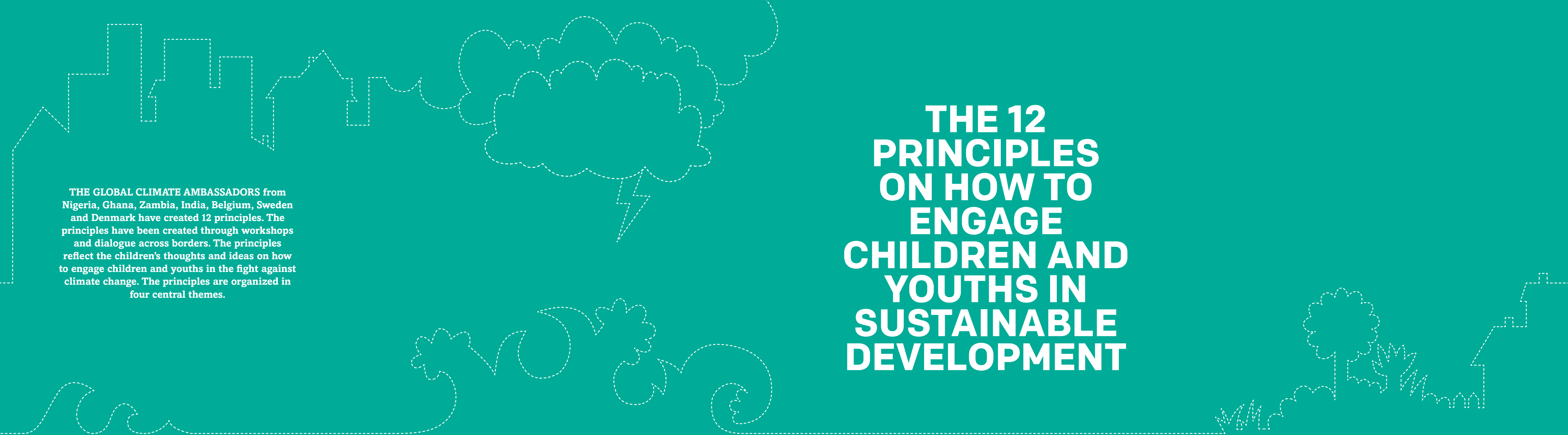
Natural disasters which can ruin people's lives and a country's infrastructure, are not happening in Belgium. You are motivated by what you have been told by the media, your parents and teachers, about the melting poles and the alarming amount of CO2 that we are emitting.

Our age is somewhat of a barrier. People are always prejudiced about children and believe that we haven't got anything to say on the issue. So we need the help of teachers, parents and other adults to pass on our message.



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Climate change does not affect everybody the same. The countries who have caused climate change are not the ones who will suffer the most.



**THE GLOBAL CLIMATE AMBASSADORS** from Nigeria, Ghana, Zambia, India, Belgium, Sweden and Denmark have created 12 principles. The principles have been created through workshops and dialogue across borders. The principles reflect the children's thoughts and ideas on how to engage children and youths in the fight against climate change. The principles are organized in four central themes.

# **THE 12 PRINCIPLES ON HOW TO ENGAGE CHILDREN AND YOUTHS IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**







### CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS SHOULD BE FUN AND ENGAGING

Listen to the children and give them a voice. Children need knowledge about climate change. This should be done in a fun and educational way. And this should already start when the children are still in the early stages of life.



### THE BIGGER PICTURE

In all countries there is a need for local solutions to local climate problems. At the same time, maintaining a global perspective by sharing knowledge with other countries. The best way to educate and engage children and youths is to do it together, thereby improving the climate.



### ADULTS, LEAD THE WAY, AND LISTEN TO US

Children need adults to take responsibility by supporting and showing children and youths the path to a brighter future.



### BE ACTIVE AND WALK THE TALK

It is one thing to have knowledge, but another thing to act on it. We need action from children, youths, adults – we need action from you.

#### 1/ IT IS FUN TO BE TAKEN SERIOUS

Even though climate change is a serious matter, we need to make sure that the future generations are ready to take on the challenges; learning needs to be engaging and fun. Being taken seriously is fun, and being playful while you learn is engaging.

#### 2/ CLIMATE IN A LANGUAGE WE CAN UNDERSTAND

It is important that children and youths receive knowledge about climate changes and sustainability in a manner they find exciting and is communicated to the children in a language they can understand.

#### 3/ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE SCHOOLS

Children need to get educated and engaged in climate related issues and relate to nature from a very early age. Schools are the central institution where children can share experiences and develop smarter ways to adapt and mitigate the climate changes. Therefore sustainability programs need to be implemented in schools.

#### 4/ ENGAGEMENT THROUGH YOUTH TO YOUTH CAMPAIGNS

We need more engaging ways to incorporate sustainable living in our daily lives, and youth-to-youth-learning should be a key principle in this regard. We, as young people, have the insight to create campaigns that target our peers in an engaging way, for example through the social media.

#### 5/ LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL CLIMATE PROBLEMS

We need to create different local youth-led groups with different meanings and intents in order to create local solutions on climate change. Which solutions children and youths will focus on in relation to climate change will vary between communities and will depend on their geographical position.

#### 6/ COLLABORATIONS ACROSS OCEANS AND BORDERS

Climate change is a global issue and does not affect one continent alone, thus children's leadership and will to collaborate across borders and oceans need to be cultivated. As a starting point for this collaboration for a better future we need to share our experiences with children and youths on the other continents of this, the only, world.

#### 7/ WE CAN LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

In this project we have realized that the countries responsible for the dangerously changing climate are not the ones suffering the most. So in order to truly understand what climate change is and its consequences children need to connect with children from other parts of the world. Connecting with children who experience climate change differently creates engagement by making the crisis tangible. Suddenly the children understand why a positive change is urgent. The dialogue and the collaborative process create a platform from where we, as well as the future generations, can take part in fighting climate change.

#### 8/ LISTEN TO OUR IDEAS AND BE INSPIRED

Children have many creative ideas, but they need help from adults to carry them out. All over the world children wish to contribute to a more sustainable world. But this contribution needs to be in collaboration with adults; parents, teachers and people who are in a position to make important decisions in relation to the climate.

#### 9/ ADULTS NEED TO ACT AS ROLE MODELS

Parents, teachers, and famous people are all role models for future generations, thus adults need to engage in sustainable actions in order for the children to be inspired and follow adults' behaviors.

#### 10/ ADULTS FROM ALL COUNTRIES MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN

For effective collaboration and engagement of children-and-youths-centered activities on climate change, it is important to develop mutual learning partnerships among children and youths, both in school and out of school. Furthermore, to ensure hope and prepare youths to be better positioned to deal with the future climate variability we need sustainable programs and networks such as the Climate Ambassador Education Program across countries.

#### 11/ DO NOT IGNORE THE VOICES OF THE YOUTH

Children should have the opportunity to express their views, as they too are part of organizations and communities, thus the youths have the right to be heard and participate. The youths of today have developed a mindset, which leads them to be self-sufficient and independent in many ways. When adults listen to the youths they will feel that they are not simply ignored by the world because they are young. Small changes can lead to big things; small efforts to fighting climate change encourage the children to make a difference.

#### 12/ YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Youth participation is about empowering young people and actively engaging them in decision-making processes. We need to develop young leaders who work with local, national and regional authorities to tackle issues related to climate change.

- DENMARK
- GHANA
- NIGERIA

**THE CLIMATE AMBASSADOR EDUCATION**

**Purpose of the organization:** The Climate Ambassador Education aims to educate the next generation to become active citizens who take part in creating a sustainable future. Through practical, creative and innovative learning programs we work on giving the children and young people the insight, skills and

commitment needed to face the complex challenges of climate change. The education is part of the Department for Sustainable Development in the Children and Youth Administration that works practically and strategically with leveraging education for sustainable development for all children and youths between 0-18 years in the Municipality of Copenhagen. Citizens who take part in creating a sustainable future. Through practical, creative and innovative educational and learning programs, we work on giving all the children and young people an Education for Development for Sustainable Development.

**Age of the participants:**  
12 to 13 year-olds



# THE DANISH CHILDREN WANT TO HELP

**DENMARK**

We already can, and will definitely come to feel the climate changes. The water level is rising because the poles are melting. We have already experienced floods, hurricanes and dry summers. But this is nothing compared to the rest of the world where it has proved to be ten times as deadly. In participating in the project we hope to help people from all over the world to get a better and safer life.

**WE NEED TO HELP**

In the video from Ghana and Nigeria we could see that in Denmark we are experiencing climate change in different ways than the children in Ghana and Nigeria. But two things which we, the young people in all three countries, had in common was this: We are all aware that the climate changes are happening, and we all want to make a difference. As opposed to the Danish people the Nigerians are experiencing floods which can destroy both houses and crops and cause poverty. In Nigeria and Ghana climate changes are part of their daily lives as they affect their health and create famine.

We believe that we can change the climate both locally and globally, but it requires, among other things, that we begin to prioritize differently. We can, for instance, cut back on our consumption, use more green energy, be more self-sufficient, create

more wind turbines, and make organic products more affordable.

The children in Nigeria and Ghana want to put food on the table and create a better economy for their families but also for future generations. In Ghana and Nigeria it is all about survival, thus the climate ambassadors in Ghana and Nigeria are very motivated to improve the climate. They can see how their families are affected; and that is why they want to work for change. Through campaigns we can make sure the whole world gets knowledge about climate changes. We should all be more concerned about where we buy our products, and if we really need all that we buy – the best thing would be that we buy only the products we really need locally and reuse and recycle. We must also remember that the little things, like turning off the light, also matter.

## THE SMALL THINGS

**Small actions can have a big impact. ‘Small actions’ can be a motivator in relation to making a difference for the climate.**

It can seem overwhelming what causes climate change, and how each of us can make a difference for the environment.

But we know that even small actions done by many, regardless of age, gender, status and nationality, can have a big impact. If we all start doing these small actions – like considering again what we buy, turning off the light and recycling – it will have an impact.

## BRIGHTER FUTURE

**We all have a responsibility in delivering a brighter future for the next generation. Let’s stand together and be the best generation we can be.**

The future motivates us, we would like it very much if future generations, a thousand years from now, will be able to read the history books and see what a difference our generation made. That is why we want to ensure that they can enjoy a functioning planet. This is what drives us to making the planet a better place for all of us.

## CONSEQUENCES UP CLOSE

**All around the world we are experiencing the impact of climate changes differently. And some places the effects are already deadly. Therefore, we have to change it, and we can!**

We now know that the climate changes can lead to death and destruction among all living things, and some countries experience climate change as life threatening already now.

In Denmark, we have received knowledge about the consequences of the changing climate, and every day we hear about the terrible state of the planet. This is very motivating: knowing what is needed to be done urgently. And we know that it is possible to make a difference.



### THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE

In Denmark we are noticing that the weather is changing, but we still eat, sleep, go to school and live well. In Ghana and Nigeria every day is a struggle for many.

Children everywhere need support and knowledge from adults. If they don't get it, they will not feel motivated. If children aren't introduced to the possibility of making changes they will not happen.



# IN GHANA CLIMATE CHANGES STEAL OUR DAILY BREAD

## GHANA

In Africa we are probably emitting the smallest amount of CO2, but we are the most affected. In our video we mention our worries about the wild life of Ghana, the famines caused by droughts, and the irregular rain patterns which make it impossible for the farmers to plan their harvest. Climate changes have a huge impact on food production and sustainable livelihood.

### CLIMATE CHANGES ARE VISIBLE EVERYWHERE, FROM DENMARK TO NIGERIA.

In the films it was obvious that our three countries all experience climate changes in somewhat similar ways. Denmark mentioned longer heat periods during summertime, whilst in Ghana and Nigeria there are droughts, which lead to famine and loss of plant species and agricultural products. Just like in Ghana, Nigeria is also experiencing intense changes in rain patterns, which sometimes lead to flooding. Denmark mentioned how they are experiencing extreme storms, and that the sea level in time will rise and pose a threat.

The children in Denmark talked about the need to secure a sustainable future and

the fact that climate change is something that concerns all of us. The young Nigerian climate ambassadors were very much aware of the need for world leaders to protect the forests; but also to fight for the opportunity to cultivate crops in countries such as Ghana and Nigeria.

In Nigeria the children were thus motivated by the fact that the climate changes are part of their everyday lives. And they think that even the youngest pupils must be made aware of climate changes in school. In Denmark motivation comes from knowing that the world is going the wrong way, and that the need to act and secure a better future is crucial.

### CONCERN HEALTH EDUCATION PROJECT

**Purpose of the organization:** To promote environmental and health education in Ghana. Agriculture represents the most important sector of Ghana's economy. Climate change and environmental sustainability is a major challenge to farmers and thus a

*development issue for the government in Ghana. In an effort to support farmers, ensure food security and increasing the investor confidence of the private sector in the face of climate change variability as well as creating the enabling environments for increase yields and assure farmers of the ready market of their produce, the Concern Health Education Project a registered not for profit organisation assembles children from schools in Ghana as ambassadors in Climate Change*

**Age of the participants:**  
10 to 18 years

- GHANA
- NIGERIA
- DENMARK

## THE FUTURE LEADERS

**We, the children of Ghana, are the future leaders of Ghana, and that is for us a major motivator; knowing that we will one day inherit the country of Ghana.**

Children only very rarely have a say in the decision making. But we are the leaders of tomorrow, and that is a big motivator for us in Ghana. Thus the Ghanaian children are saying: Ask what we think, because our views can also help shape the future, that we in the long run will be taking care of for our children.

## BORDER CROSSING

**Climate changes calls for more collaboration across borders, and it is important to work together as children of the world. That motivates us.**

If we all come together and share knowledge and resources, we will be able to fight climate changes, but also by joining our sisters and brothers in Europe in pursuing the common goal. In our part of the world, what we can do is to keep the pressure on our leaders to fight for our climate.

## CLIMATE HUNGER

**In Ghana many children only rarely get a decent, healthy meal. And when climate changes are affecting our crops we need to do something.**

In Ghana many children come from poor homes and some can't afford healthy, balanced meals. The climate changes are affecting our crops. When the rain doesn't fall, and the fields dry out, the farmers have a hard time producing enough food. So we need to support our farmers so that they are able to produce food for future generations.

### A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

We experience the climate changes differently in our three countries, Denmark, Nigeria and Ghana. But we have one thing in common. We all know what is wrong, and we all share the responsibility.

Together we, the children of the world, whether from Denmark, Ghana or Nigeria, can change the world by sharing experiences and developing smarter ways of dealing with climate changes.





# LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

NIGERIA

In our video we talk about how we experience climate change. Of course, we have the extra warm summer month which can cause droughts and be very harmful for children and their families. But there are also floods that lead to diseases like malaria. These horrible things compel us to work for the climate, locally as well as globally.

*members for a better society and designing a comprehensive curricula on climate change for schools. To also develop multidisciplinary solutions for youths, to change their behaviors, shift societal norms and values.*

*To enable Nigerian children and young people develop the knowledge, values and requisite skill sets to participate in the decision now without damaging the planet for the future generation, to also include components of sustainability education for youths, develop good critical thinkers and systemic change agents for them to serve as effective change agents and make them a pillar for a sustainable future in an already hemorrhaged, volatile and fragile Nigeria.*

**Age of the participants:** 12 to 18 year-olds

## RCE-KANO/CREACC-NIGERIA

### Purpose of the two organizations:

*Is to reorient children's learning and practice, teaching and collaboration on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) which will cultivate knowledge, values, attitudes and skills of youths all over the world. Education for Sustainable Development support and make youths socially, economically, and environmentally responsible, and to become drivers of action for the sustainable future we want through a very rigorous training, that will prepare them to be contributing*

## FUTURE IN SIGHT

After having watched the Danish and the Ghanaian films on how climate changes affect the two countries we were equally inspired by how the videos showed our interconnectedness.

We realized that here in Nigeria we are experiencing pretty much the same things as they do in Ghana. We are both experiencing flooding, heavy rainfall, and in recent times also shortage of rain that has led to food shortages and invariably food insecurity. Ghana and Nigeria also experience the human cost of climate-associated natural disasters and a systematic, severe decrease in agricultural and farm produce. Denmark, like other countries, also experiences the

consequences of the changing climate ranging from long dry summers to changes in snowfall due to continental climate variability. In Denmark they are very much aware of the melting glaciers in the North Pole, not least because of the rising sea level. But Denmark has also experienced flooding and heavy rainfall.

All three countries believe that with the absence of concerted global actions on climate change the problem will only get bigger, and the cost of damages and reconstructions will be enormous. We must act now. Too much time has been wasted on discussions. It is now time to deal with the changes that have already happened and to act with the future in sight.

- NIGERIA
- DENMARK
- GHANA

## CLIMATE DISEASES

**Children in Nigeria realize that there are diseases that are directly related to climate change.**

After a large flood the remaining water creates a new breed of mosquitoes that causes malaria, the water also mix with the water that some communities drink. This leads to typhoid, vomiting and diarrhea. This motivates us to fight against the use of fossil fuel which equally increases the concentration of greenhouse gas levels that damage the ozone layer.

## GET TOGETHER

**The absence of joint efforts and actions to deal with climate change will undoubtedly result in catastrophic climate related ramifications.**

The children are concerned about what the climate will look like in the coming decades. The discussions about climate changes should challenge everyone, every country, to examine the underlining principles, which will shape our future, and think differently about the current system of unsustainable use of resources.

## WAKE UP, NIGERIA

**The children are motivated by the fact that there doesn't exist any real climate policy in Nigeria.**

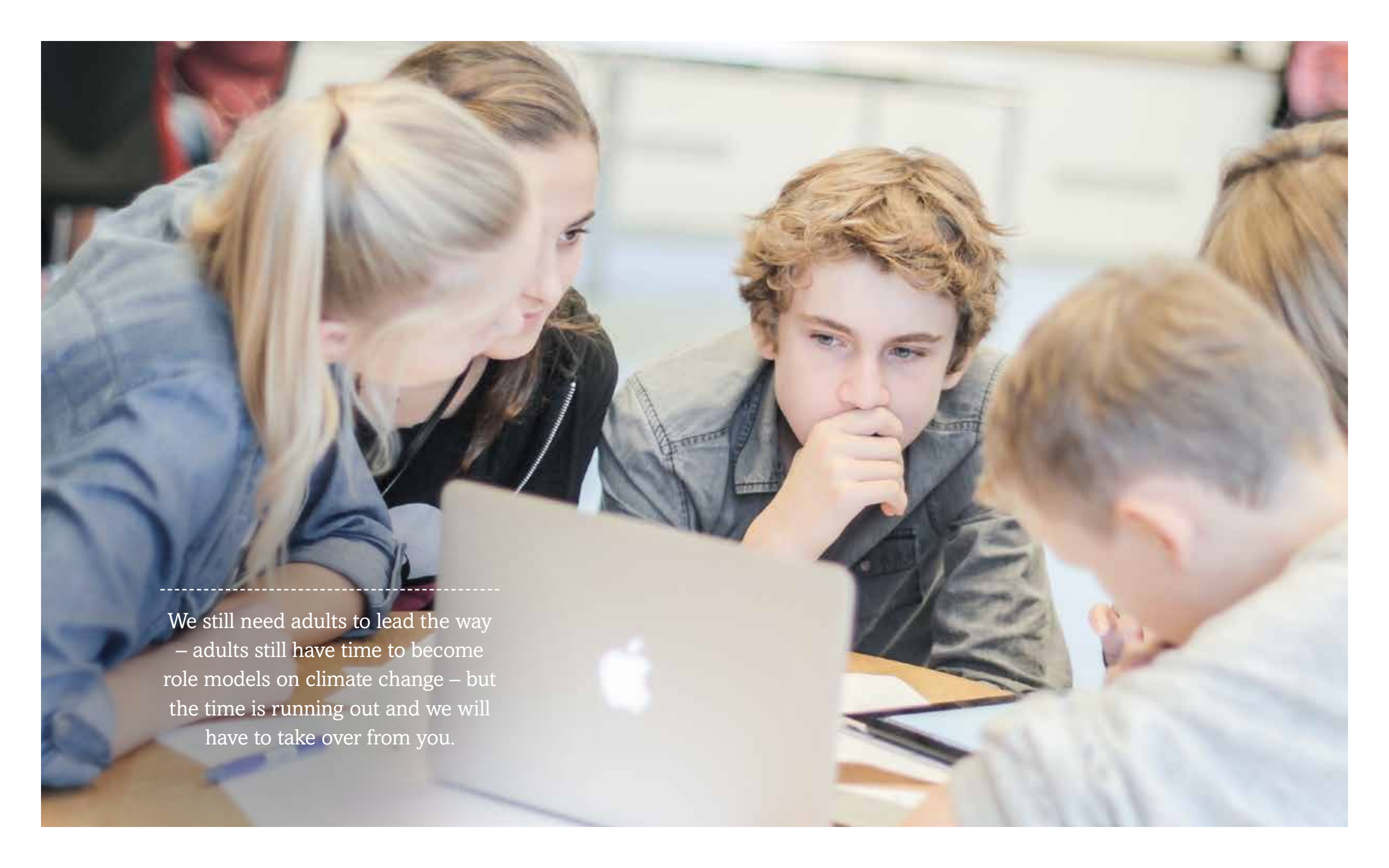
Because of the lack of policies on the subject the Nigerian children want to learn about climate change. Active participation from both children and adults can help Nigeria developing a low carbon economy. Policy makers should come up with strategic policies on climate change action in the country.



### LISTEN TO THE CHILDREN!

The children of Nigeria and Ghana are inspired to act because the adults aren't doing enough. They have witnessed the consequences in their own communities, and this has made them wonder. In Denmark it is pretty much the same thing.

The fact that we are children is definitely a barrier. We aren't the ones being interviewed on TV, despite the fact that we are going to inherit the planet.

A photograph of a group of young people, likely students, sitting around a table in a classroom or meeting room. They are gathered around a laptop computer, looking at the screen with interest. The scene is brightly lit, and the background shows a whiteboard and other people, suggesting a collaborative learning environment.

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We still need adults to lead the way  
– adults still have time to become  
role models on climate change – but  
the time is running out and we will  
have to take over from you.



- ZAMBIA
- SWEDEN



**UNITE4CLIMATE  
ZAMBIA PROGRAM.**

**Purpose of the organization:**  
Unite4Climate Zambia is one of UNICEF Zambia's child-led signature programs. Under the coordination of the Wildlife & Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia (WECSZ), Unite4Climate Zambia empowers young people with tools, leadership skills, and knowledge on climate change and HIV/AIDS. The knowledge and skills gained from this program are used by the climate ambassadors in their communities to raise

awareness about climate change and present them with possible alternatives to adapt and mitigate its impacts. Unite4Climate aims to create climate change awareness throughout the 10 provinces of Zambia, and also greater HIV & AIDS prevention through ambassador-led advocacy. Its launch, which occurred in April 2010 during the first *Zambian Children Climate Conference (ZCCC)*, saw 164 delegates appointed as Climate Ambassadors with the mandate to spread the message of climate friendly practices in their respective provinces. Reaching up to 200 new child climate ambassadors through annual climate change conferences, the program has so far trained more than 950 children as climate ambassadors.

**Age of the participants:**  
11 to 18 year-olds

# AN AWARE FUTURE



**ZAMBIA**

In our villages women and children suffer the worst consequences of the changing climate, droughts and floods for instance. And it is frustrating that we, who suffer the most from the changing climate, are the ones who contribute the least. We want people to know about the causes and the effects of climate changes. But we are generally optimistic about a greener and much more aware future. We want to see a future that stops at nothing to turn things around.

**HEALTHIER FUTURE**

In Sweden the ice melts, everything seems to be heating up. This could eventually lead to extinction of some animal species such as polar bears, whilst in Zambia climate change brings about droughts. Both countries have experienced floods during certain periods. Both countries are experiencing the effects of climate change in one way or another. And both countries are talking about the changing climate and its consequences. We contribute to the negative effects of climate changes simply by throwing our

trash, not in the trash can but in nature. And by continuing to do business as usual and not caring about greenhouse gases and ignoring the changes that are happening. The Swedes were highly motivated. They have a passion for the environment and a strong desire to help others. They want to have a safe place to live when they grow up as well as a healthier future. Generally, they find the thinning of the ice cap and the floods that they are experiencing quite alarming.

## DEFORESTATION

**The passion that we have for creating a difference has led us to engage our communities and schools in anti-deforestation campaigns.**

Realizing that Zambia is among the world's most deforested countries in the world, the climate ambassadors have taken it upon themselves to carry out massive tree planting activities in schools and communities where they live. The climate ambassadors grow their own seedlings in their schools and backyards which are later planted during the national tree planting campaign.

## WASTE REDUCTION

**The children of Zambia have worked on ways to reduce the amount of waste in their respective communities.**

One of the easiest ways to help the climate and environment is simply to pick up the trash, put it in a trash can or, if possible, recycle it. This motivated us to embark on a massive recycling campaign dubbed, 'my waste, my treasure,' in which old non-biodegradable plastics were put to new use by making different artifacts as well as making school bags.

## HYGIENE AND WATER CONSERVATION

**Because of droughts and problems we worked effortlessly in our small communities to try and promote and practice water conservation.**

Ambassadors have carried out community-based water conservation projects and initiatives. Others have embarked on projects that aim to train other children on how to wash their hands properly. This is done in an attempt to help children uphold the highest standards of hygiene while conserving the water since Zambia is prone to unprecedented droughts which threatens water and food security.

### EMPOWERED AND INSPIRED

One notable similarity is that both Zambian and Swedish young people are passionate about their cause and they want to make a

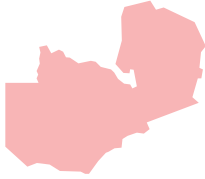
difference for the climate. Sweden has brilliant ideas that can make a huge difference. Zambia has however already begun doing hands-on climate change initiatives that aim to fight and adapt to the consequences of climate change.

Young people feel empowered and inspired when they take the lead in any climate initiatives, so adult influences should basically only be of the guiding kind.





# EXTREME WEATHER AND FLOODING



## SWEDEN

We are experiencing climate changes, for instance as heavy rainfalls and the flood that struck Malmö, our home town, recently. We know that the ice around the poles is melting, and thus the water level is rising, which will affect a lot of animals and people globally.

In this project we hope to meet new friends who are as keen as us to combat climate change. And if everyone makes small changes, together we can make a big difference. If everyone is willing to help, we can make the world a better place.

### CLIMATE AMBASSADORS PROGRAM, MALMÖ, ÖRESUNDSKLASSRUMMET

**Purpose of the organization:** Through Öresundsklassrummet the City of Malmö and the City of Copenhagen aim to increase and facilitate Education for Sustainable Development in the region of Öresund. The Climate Ambassadors Program aims to increase youth participation in society; for a sustainable development. Öresundsklassrummet is partly funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg IVA Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak program.

**Age of the participants:** 12 to 14 year-olds

### CLIMATE CHANGE IS EVERYDAY LIFE IN ZAMBIA

In Sweden we don't experience the consequences of the changing climate to the same degree as the countries more southern, such as Zambia. When it doesn't rain and the sun is drying out everything in Zambia the food is being destroyed, while in Sweden we just jump into our cars, put on the air-condition and drive to the store, which is not very thoughtful. The similarities are the heavy rainfalls that affect both countries.

In Sweden we drive cars, we fly and drive motorcycles. But it is Africa and Asia that

suffer the consequences. Instead of taking the car we can go by bike or walk. Locally we recycle, but globally we have big industries, use motorcycles and cars when we don't have to.

Children in Zambia don't want to make the same mistakes as the generations before them. The climate changes affect them daily, and they want as many people as possible to care. They want people to get motivated to help. They want the children to believe in the opportunity for a better future. They live in a part of the world that is very affected by climate changes. And they don't have a choice.

## CLIMATE SMART FOOTBALL

**We'll host a football tournament with famous role models who inspire children to be climate smart, to be conscious and aware of what is going on around them, all around the globe.**

It would motivate children if famous football players take part in a tournament, and then more people will come to watch and make donations to climate friendly organizations. Then Zlatan Ibrahimovic, for example, can tell everybody why they should be climate smart and why it is so important.

## THE CHAMPION OF RECYCLING

**Everyone likes to win! We'll make an app where people can play together and compete: Who is the master of climate smartness?**

We will make a gaming app about recycling that will find the climate master. The winners might end up in the newspaper. This is a huge motivator; who does not want to have their face displayed in a newspaper and be "famous" and be crowned as The Super Recycler, The master of Recycling or The Champion of Recycling!?

## SOCIAL MEDIA PERSUADES

**A lot of young people use social media every day, and we can use that to make the children aware of the larger benefits of recycling.**

Our idea is to invite people, children especially, to snap a selfie when they are standing beside a trash can ready to recycle. They should tag two friends and place a hash-tag #reproduce14 under the photo. In that way they pass on the assignment like a chain letter. It is not only great fun, it will also give you the chance to win a bicycle.

### DON'T BE LAZY

The children from both Sweden and Zambia want to recycle. We are only thinking about it. The Zambians are actually doing it.

Lack of time and laziness are two major obstacles for especially young people's engagement in the climate debate. This is why young people must understand what is going to happen with the earth if we don't do something now. And famous people can work as role models for the climate.



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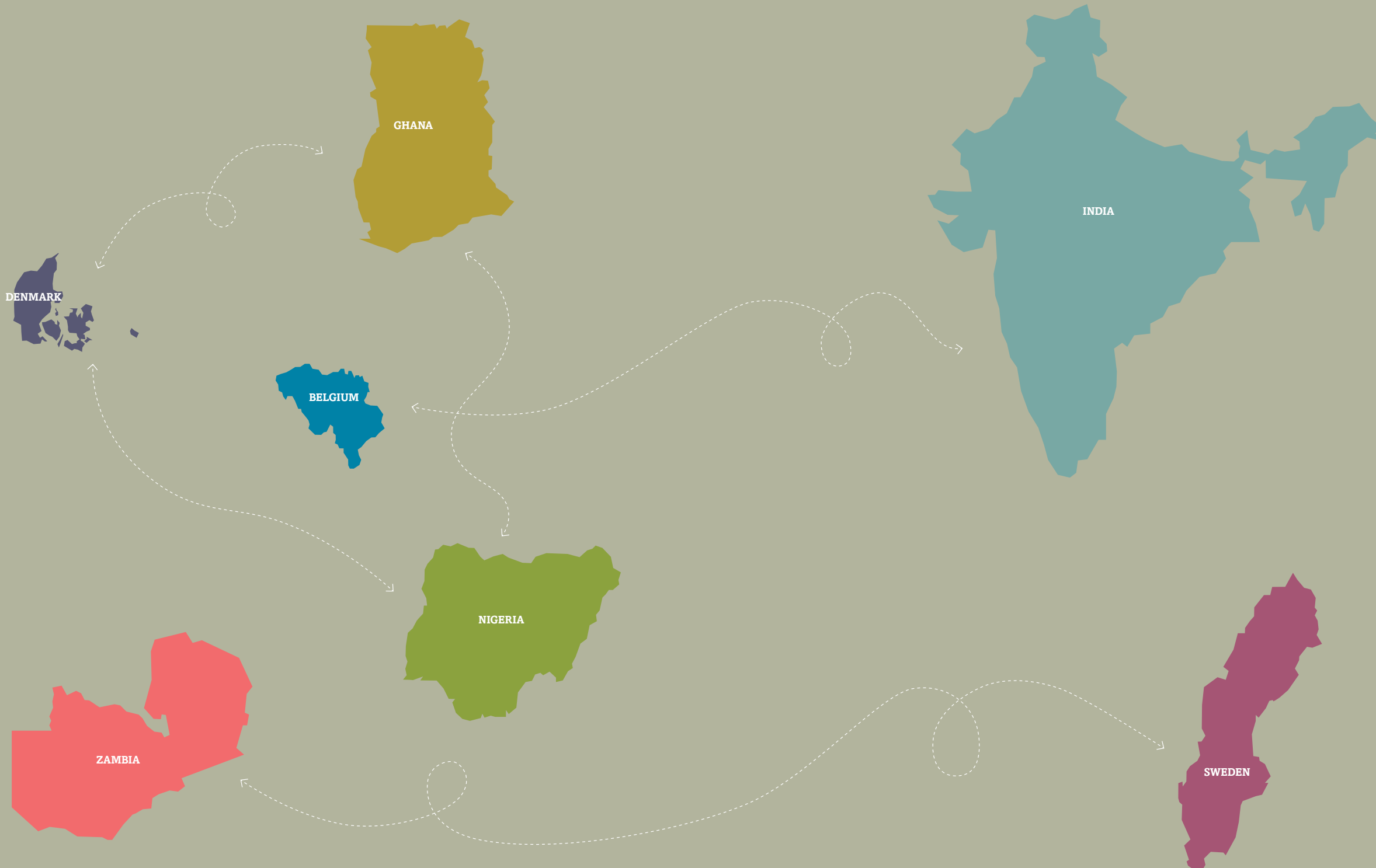
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We know that fighting climate change CAN be fun and engaging. It does not need to be long reports, graphs and numbers from serious men in suits.

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ENGAGING YOUTHS  
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