

# **4<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Development Goals Youth Summer Camp**

**Opening remarks by  
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Dear Young Scholars, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning, and welcome to the 4th Sustainable Development Goals Youth Summer Camp, which is exceptionally taking place virtually this year.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all the participants on being selected through the strong competition and thank you for attending this virtual preliminary workshop.

I also would like to thank Yonsei University and the Korea Environment Corporation for their contribution and support for this event.

The United Nations Office for Sustainable Development, UNOSD, is part of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It was established in 2011 in Incheon, Republic of Korea to support its Member States' transformation toward Sustainable Development and to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Annually, UNOSD hosts around 20-30 activities related to Capacity development, Policy Advisory Service, Research Project, and Partnership Building. "Youth Summer Camp" is one of our flagship projects specifically targeting the youth considering their important roles in sustainable development implementation.

Today, there are 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10-24; they are the largest generation of youth in history. Accordingly, actively engaging youth and shaping their knowledge, skills, and mindsets for sustainable development is vital to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the coming decade. Many leaders today are aware of the power of youth to galvanize change, as seen when a then 15-year old climate activist Greta Thunberg started her #FridaysforFuture movement that has now spread globally.

In the previous sessions of Youth Summer Camp, we had the privilege to witness young passion, vision, and perseverance. We are very glad that all of you applied for this program because it encourages our faith in the young generation and their role in sustainable development.

Over the next few hours today and the 6 days of the main that will take place in August, you will have the opportunity to discover how to take on this role, the challenges to SDG implementation, and the ways we can move forward.

Thanks to the professors from Yonsei University, this year's camp will use design thinking methodology to develop accelerated solutions. I recommend that you take advantage of this camp as a platform to interact with each other and to find out what specific role you want to play in this crucial process for sustainable development. The best-awarded group will be invited to make a 5-minute presentation at the UNOSD Sustainable Development Transformation Forum in October 2020.

I expect this workshop today to equip you with necessary knowledge and skillsets, and I wish you all a valuable and engaging experience throughout the whole summer camp.

Thank you.