

4th Sustainable Development Goals Youth Summer Camp

**Welcome remarks by
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10 Aug 2020, 10:00 a.m. – 3 minutes

Dear young scholars, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

Welcome to the 4th edition of the *Sustainable Development Goals Youth Summer Camp*.

My name is Jean D’Aragon, Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD).

As the organizer of this summer camp, it is my great pleasure to welcome you all, and congratulate the 40 participants from 11 countries who were selected for this important event.

I would like to thank our co-organizers: Yonsei University and the Korea Environment Corporation.

UNOSD was established in 2011 to support UN Member States in their efforts for Sustainable Development and accelerate the implementation of international Sustainable Development frameworks like the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our Office organizes many activities on Capacity Development, Policy Advisory, and Research and Partnerships every year to accelerate the effective implementation of the SDGs.

We believe that engaging youth in this process over the 10 years remaining until 2030 is crucial.

Actually, UNOSD has been engaging youth in many activities for nearly a decade now.

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, UNOSD launched the *SDGs Youth Summer Camps* to empower

youth leaders by providing them with key skills to implement the 2030 Agenda at their level.

Three *SDGs Youth Summer Camps* have been organized by UNOSD with over 150 youth trained so far.

Today, there are 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10 and 24. — You are part of the largest generation of youth in history and your numbers will only continue to grow in the coming years.

As you know, we only have ten years left to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Already before the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was not on track, and we needed to accelerate our actions to deliver the Global Goals.

Today, more than ever, we need to engage and prepare all the leaders, innovators and changemakers who can accelerate progress like never before.

It is my hope that you will participate actively in all the modules of this edition of the *SDGs Youth Summer Camp*.

We look forward to assessing the ideas and solutions the different groups will develop during the next two weeks, and learning from you, in this process.

I'd like to remind you that the best-awarded group will be invited to make a presentation at the UNOSD *Sustainable Development Transformation Forum* next October.

Lastly, I hope that this *Summer Camp* will provide a platform for you to network, kickstart a project, a career, an enterprise and even more.

I extend my best wishes to you all, for a fun, valuable and memorable experience over the next two weeks, and I hope that you will all play a greater role in delivering the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in the near future.

Thank you!