“VOICES OF FUTURE GENERATIONS”
A NEW SERIES OF CHILDREN’S BOOKS

Young authors share with us their visions of a green and just future

“The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible -- and achieve it, generation after generation.”
– Pearl S. Buck

Children have a clear vision on how they see their future. Giving them a voice and listening to what they have to say is beyond valuable. This is especially true today, in a world where future generations face so many challenges and impacts due to climate change, environmental degradation and increased inequalities.

Giving children and youth a platform to share their views and dreams, and accepting that they are holders of chartered rights, is not very easy. It still a challenge for adults, especially for policy makers.

2014 is a remarkable year for children and their rights. It has been 25 years since the world agreed that children have their own rights. Together, nearly all member countries of the United Nations joined to make a unique promise to the children of the world: that
their rights to survive and to grow up healthy and prosperous, to be protected, to live in a clean environment, and to be heard, will be realized.

These rights are explicitly stated in the UN *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC). November 20th 2014 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the day on which the UN General Assembly adopted this Convention in 1989. The United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* assigns a very important role to the participation of children. By exercising and enjoying their education and participation rights, children are better able to develop, to survive and to be protected. Since the Earth Summit and its further conferences, we all are aware that children and future generations are facing an unprecedented threat: climate change, biodiversity loss and the degradation of our environment, which will have unforeseen economic, political and social impacts. Children are and must be a part of the solution. As Nelson Mandela affirmed, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world".

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the World Future Council (WFC), in cooperation with the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) and invited international leaders from United Nations Environmental Programme, the United Nations Human Rights – Committee on the Rights of the Child and other institutions, will launch the new Series of Children’s Books titled “Voices of Future Generations”. Every year we will feature children’s stories inspired by the outcomes of the Earth Summit and the recent Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), and by the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) itself. Our junior authors, ages 8–18, are concerned about future justice, the global environment, education and children’s rights. Accompanied by illustrations, each book will profile creative, interesting and adventurous ideas for creating a just and greener future, in the context of children’s interests and lives. We aim to publish the books internationally in the six UN languages, raising the voices of future generations and spread their messages for a fair and sustainable tomorrow among their peers and adults, worldwide. We welcome you to join us in support of this inspiring new partnership.
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