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# iChange School! Summit 2020

*The climate crisis as a driving force  
for future-ready schools*

*October 01-02 2020 in Cologne, Germany*





## Goals and topics of the Summit

Only a year ago, high-school students organized one of the largest demonstrations in recent history, **mobilizing 1.4 million people** – an incredible success. However, in light of the relentless pace of climate change, the measures being taken **still fall short of what is necessary** to effect a consensus-based societal shift towards more sustainability. This applies to the contributions made by schools as well. The children and young adults' crucial appeal for a future worth living is the **starting point** for the **;Change School! Summit**.

The **UN Programme Education for Sustainable Development 2030** particularly calls on schools to become places of **social change, facilitating appropriate reaction** to the challenges of the climate crisis:

- **How do our schools deal with uncertainty** when it comes to responding to the imminent climate upheaval as well as the **conflicting interests** and **demands placed on schools?**
- **What new knowledge and methods** do teachers, students and parents need so as to jointly initiate the learning processes needed **to shape a desirable future?**
- **How do we create decision-making structures and action areas** that include all stakeholders and encourage them to advance the shift **towards more sustainability** at their own school?

The ;Change School! Summit is a summit meeting of schools that accept the challenges of the climate crisis and **aim to become empowered to implement the Global Sustainability Goals 2030**.

We will invite **ten schools from Germany** to participate and make a difference, guiding **teachers, students and parents** to join forces. In addition, two schools from the Global South will be able to participate by video conference.

Ideally, **five members of each school community** will participate in the Summit as a peer group.



## Together we will set an example by exploring what courses of action are available to school communities:

- **Deepening our knowledge of global interdependencies** in the climate crisis and the contradictions of social change – while involving the schools of the Global South.
- **Turning knowledge into skills:** Applying methodological know-how to fully comprehend the Sustainability Goals and fill them with meaning.
- **Applying a participative, independent approach to learning processes** – in learning labs and with topics proposed by the participants.
- **Enabling interaction and reflection** among the participants and the peer groups by alternating between plenary sessions, workshops and focus groups.
- **Empowering and training participants** to initiate sustainable change at their own school.



## Experiences and results

Experiences and results of the Summit will be **actively shared with other schools as an impulse**, model and incentive for more climate justice – ideally **in cooperation with schools from the Global South**.

After the summit, all participating schools will receive a results brochure.



## Invitation to workshops in cooperation between schools from Germany, Columbia, Nigeria and other countries:

Workshops for and with teachers, students and parents are an important part of the ¡Change School! Summit 2020: *Learning from each other – promoting personal (digital) encounters at school and in class*

How can German schools and those from the Global South successfully learn together?

We are creating *a specific learning context* on the effects of the climate crisis in the participating countries.

*Subtopics include:*

- *Poverty and inequality*
- *Education justice and participation*
- *Economic growth and environmental protection*

The concrete questions to be discussed will be prepared *in a participative manner by the participants* and are a part of the preparations and the moderated workshops.



The languages of communication will be *German and English*. We will also use photos and drawings of the participants, school life and school projects to facilitate communication.

*Please reach out to us to participate in the joint preparations or to clarify any questions or concerns:*

*summit@esd2030.part-o.de*

If your school has a website, please let us know, and we will be happy to link to it.



## Cooperation partners and sponsors

Cologne: **parto gUG – Academy for Participation, Power of Imagination Studio**

Cologne: **Teachers 4 Future** – Independent coalition of teachers and supporters

Dortmund: **FESCH Forum Eltern und Schule** – Accredited political education institute

Wuppertal: **Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie gGmbH** – Research institute

Bonn: **Germanwatch e. V.** – Development and environmental nongovernmental organization

Bonn: **Engagement Global gGmbH** – Service for development initiatives

Berlin: **German Federal Ministry of Economic Collaboration and Development**



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Photos: Robbie Ian Morrison, Bluecloud9, Leonhard Lenz, Stefan Müller

Translation: Ines Little, DipTrans IoLET International Communication [www.ineslittle.de](http://www.ineslittle.de)

Layout: Jonas Heidebrecht, [www.jonasheidebrecht.com](http://www.jonasheidebrecht.com)

