February 3rd 2020

YMCA Global Climate Consultation

Dear friends,

The past year and indeed the past weeks have proved to reach an alarming point all over the world in terms of climate-related disasters. Fires ravaged Australia and the Amazon at an unprecedented scale, floods destroyed homes in West Africa and parts of Europe, new temperature records are being hit and so much more. As a global Movement supporting communities all around the world we cannot stand idle. Young people and our leaders have spoken at YMCA175 and we will listen. Climate change is a priority and we will treat it as such.

As a diverse Movement we also need to know where we stand on this issue. We need to know what are we asking from political and business leaders, what solutions we propose and indeed what we are already doing in our communities.

As such, the World YMCA will begin a collaborative process that will span the next 2 years, engaging internal and external stakeholders. We will start by designing a World YMCA Climate Position Paper, we will continue with developing it into a full-fledged Policy Paper and we will start this year the Community of Impact on Climate Change. The main keywords of this entire process will be around collaboration, co-creation, solution-focus, community added-value.

For this whole journey we will need your support and active engagement and the first step is your involvement in the YMCA Global Climate Consultation. I highly encourage you to disseminate this form widely in your Movements at a national and local level in order to gather data that will make our positions more relevant and connected with the grassroots reality.

Link: https://tinyurl.com/ymca-climate

In addition I would like to also bring to your attention the recent statement of the World YMCA on the lack of action of global leaders on climate change, which can be accessed here: https://www.ymca.int/ymca-statement-on-climate/

If you have any questions on the consultation or the statement my colleague Răzvan-Victor Sassu, Policy & Advocacy Manager, is available at razvan@ymca.int.

Warm regards,

Carlos Sanvee
Secretary General