

# Statement from the Stockholm Junior Water Prize winners 2019 to the United Nations General Assembly

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FIRST PRESENTED AT THE “MALIN FALKENMARK – YOUNG SCIENTIST SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE” DURING WORLD WATER WEEK 2019

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As the voice of young water scientists, we will take to the stage in front of the water experts gathered in Stockholm for the World Water Week, to share our observations, our concerns and solutions to water related climate effects that we see as being the realities in our countries. Water affects our health, educational system, livelihoods, vulnerable populations, peace and also our future. Access is privilege.

When we pool our observations and reflections on the most pressing climate issues in our 35 respective countries, we find they range from desertification and water scarcity in Israel, to air and water pollution in Bangladesh and Mexico and repeated flooding in cities across Latvia, for example.

Many of us can attest to hotter weather (during our lifetime), crop failures and melting ice caps. Each one of us has raised issues which can be summarized as “Too much, too little, too dirty water”. Given the range of issues we all experience, you might ask what is our biggest concern?

What concerns us most is not only the inability of our individual countries to act, but how we will manage to summon global awareness, global engagement and global action. We believe there is little that can be done if all of us fail to come together to engage around the issues of water and the climate crisis, and that the burden is shared by both low- and high-income countries and by low- and high-income groups.

We believe that the time for 'raising awareness' is over. Inspirational speeches, teenage climate strikes and even events like World Water Week are ineffective in their own right. We fear that without the combined actions of individuals, corporations, and governments the climate crisis will overthrow humanity and our surrounding environment.

We want to see theory being put into practice. We want to see ourselves realizing our projects which have brought us to World Water Week and the Stockholm Junior Water Prize International Final. We want to see science-based targets in public and private policies. We want interdisciplinary curriculums in schools to increase educational efforts on climate-change related knowledge to the general public and instill this knowledge bringing it to the core of the young generation.

Investments in education and research are paramount to bringing the necessary innovations to reality in order to overcome today's and tomorrow's challenges. We must focus on sustainability and encourage climate sciences to break into the classical subjects of mathematics, chemistry, physics and social science, that are taught in schools, but are often taught separately and isolated without including or considering the impacts of climate change. So, whether we become an entrepreneur, politician, scientist, shopkeeper or farmer, we all know we have a responsibility, we all know we have a role to play.

Climate change is a people problem. Governments, decision makers and institutions influence our behavior and, together or alone, institutions and individuals must be held accountable and responsible for a sustainable planet. If we don't change nothing will.

We must cast away short-term perspectives and instead focus and act on long-term strategies. Politics cannot be governed by the election cycle and businesses cannot focus on quarterly profits if we are to realize a process of climate mitigation and adaptation. In the long term, we will all lose.

We desperately need true public-minded leaders, both political and influencers, to embrace scientific thinking, not as an ideology, but as an effective platform to drive constructive discourse. We need increased use of data in scientific debates as it is environmental data that informs good decision-making. This can lead to decisive and fruitful government actions to avoid, adapt and succeed in tackling climate change. And our generation is the next generation of leaders.

## **THE NATIONAL WINNERS OF THE STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE 2019:**

<b>ARGENTINA</b>	Valentin Maiolo	<b>JAPAN</b>	Hayato Matsumoto
<b>ARGENTINA</b>	Ariana Terenzi	<b>LATVIA</b>	Ineta Gritane
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	Macinley Butson	<b>MALAYSIA</b>	Nur Uyuni Shammimie Mohd Fisol
<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Didarul Islam	<b>MALAYSIA</b>	Balqis Binti Mustapha Kamil
<b>BANGLADESH</b>	Md. Shahriar Hasan	<b>MEXICO</b>	Andrés Orozco Grajales
<b>BELARUS</b>	Aleksandra Khankevich	<b>MEXICO</b>	Mario Rodríguez Esposito
<b>BELARUS</b>	Egor Sokol	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Thomas Velders
<b>BRAZIL</b>	Lívia Pinaso	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	Lucas Timmerman
<b>BRAZIL</b>	Victor Marotta	<b>NIGERIA</b>	Naheem Opeyemi Hassan
<b>CANADA</b>	Emily Mah	<b>NIGERIA</b>	Amir Sanusi
<b>CANADA</b>	Jazlyn McGuinty	<b>NORWAY</b>	Ann Rebekka Undheim
<b>CHILE</b>	Antonia Gallardo Escandón	<b>NORWAY</b>	Andreas Aukland
<b>CHILE</b>	Diego Oyarzún Muñoz	<b>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</b>	Jaihyun Kim
<b>CHINA</b>	Pan Bole	<b>REPUBLIC OF KOREA</b>	Minseok (Joseph) Kim
<b>CYPRUS</b>	Anna Koumi	<b>RUSSIA FEDERATION</b>	Eleonora Taranina
<b>CYPRUS</b>	Eirini Iskandar	<b>SINGAPORE</b>	Haiyi Wang
<b>DENMARK</b>	Sebastian Lykke Dalsgaard	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	Calden Gounden
<b>DENMARK</b>	Kristian Katholm Nielsen	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	Kiaran Kumarasan Chetty
<b>ECUADOR</b>	Avelina de La Torre	<b>SPAIN</b>	Ariadna González Navarro
<b>FRANCE</b>	Floriane Caillieret	<b>SWEDEN</b>	Jonatan Persson
<b>FRANCE</b>	Nils Donk	<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	Zamir Borojevic
<b>GERMANY</b>	Jonas Grajetzki	<b>THAILAND</b>	Palida Yongpisanpop
<b>GERMANY</b>	Theo Sonnenberg	<b>THAILAND</b>	Suphaphich Ongphan
<b>HUNGARY</b>	Eszter Kún	<b>TURKEY</b>	Birsen Beril Bildirici
<b>ISRAEL</b>	Marva Pistinner	<b>TURKEY</b>	Elifnaz Saatci
<b>ITALY</b>	Mariam Mahmoud	<b>UKRAINE</b>	Vitalii Mykhailichenko
<b>ITALY</b>	Fabio Luca Guzzi	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	Diana Virgovicova
<b>JAPAN</b>	Hisato Kizu	<b>USA</b>	Sonja Michaluk