

Youth Day of the 10th Nevsky International Ecological Congress DECLARATION

We, the participants of the Youth Day of the 10th Nevsky International Ecological Congress, which took place on 24 May 2023 in St. Petersburg, issue the following declaration.

We recognize the relevance of the environmental agenda in today's geopolitical realities.

We confirm our commitment to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals enshrined in the UN Agenda 2030.

We prioritize the national development goals of the Russian Federation through 2030 approved by the President of the Russian Federation.

We build our work based on the goal of the National Project “Ecology” that is to drastically improve the environmental situation and positively affect the health of the Russian citizens.

We emphasize the priority of actions to combat climate change and measures to respond to climate-related challenges, approved by the Strategy of Socio-Economic Development of the Russian Federation with Low Level of Greenhouse Gas Emissions until 2050.

We highlight the need for high-quality training of the environmental personnel, building of promising career paths and popularization of environmental culture.

We consider the formation of a culture of environmentally responsible behavior, creation of the most comfortable conditions for living in cities, spaces for the development of talents and personal growth to be of great importance.

We stress the need to involve children and school students up to the age of 14 years in environmental projects, their focus on the preservation of natural resources, reducing the carbon footprint and minimizing the negative anthropogenic impact on the environment.

We point out the need to consolidate the efforts of the global community to jointly address the environmental issues, including those related to climate change, and to create environmentally friendly and comfortable living conditions for the population in Russian cities.

We welcome the integrated development of environmental entrepreneurship in various directions and formats.

We consider the need to promote ideas for running a business of environmental orientation, taking into account the prospects of this area.

We stress the importance of the support of volunteer movements by public and commercial institutions.

We confirm the expediency and timeliness of establishing the All-Russian Environmental Social Movement “Ecosystem”.

We recognize the special role of environmental activities in the formation of the idea of patriotism.

We consider it important to carry out the following activities:

As part of the educational and training process:

- integrate the environmental agenda into the preschool education system;
- integrate a general course on ecology into the basic curriculum of key institutions of higher and secondary education for all specialties;
- conduct regular research on environmental issues;
- create an atlas of Russian eco-professions of the future;
- increase the prestige of the profession of environmentalist and ecology as an area of expertise.

Recommendations for the representatives of business, development corporations and other concerned organizations, including authorized regional executive bodies and federal executive bodies:

- implement a system to support public environmental activities and projects involving schoolchildren, students and residents of the regions in which it operates;
- initiate the development of a mentoring institute by large companies to identify and support promising start-ups in the field of ecology;
- popularize the practice of creating multi-profile environmental centers in large municipalities of the Russian Federation that are points of attraction for environmental activists as well as promising sites for local economic development;
- provide support measures for SMEs and scientific institutions that implement projects and develop solutions aimed at reducing the anthropogenic impact on the environment;
- support the implementation of initiatives related to the development of eco-standards for Russian cities and the introduction of best sustainable practices in urban management and urban environment development, and to consider the introduction of support measures for regions and organizations that integrate green practices.

As part of international activities:

- establish a working group to develop international cooperation and joint initiatives in the environmental agenda;
- develop the concept of the International Youth Environmental Festival, as well as provide for the possibility of a thematic conference within the framework of the World Festival of Youth and Students.

As part of the development of environmental initiatives of public organizations:

- inform the relevant authorities, public organizations and other concerned parties in order to implement the road map of the All-Russian Environmental Social Movement “Ecosystem”;

- encourage public environmental authorities, eco-volunteers and eco-activists to join the activities of the All-Russian Environmental Social Movement “Ecosystem”;
- in order to popularize environmental professions, organize an exhibition “The Female Face of Ecology”, dedicated to the Ecologist’s Day (June 5).