

Mr. Gábor Fodor, Minister of Environment and Water, Hungary¹

Distinguished Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It proved true that the **course of development must be changed**, principles of sustainability must be taken into account. My conviction is that there is no other choice for the humankind than the sustainable way of living and development.

Actions for change should begin in the mind. **Education for Sustainable Development is a process for social change** that seeks to foster the values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and for positive societal transformation. Learn how to make decisions that balance and integrate the long-term future of the economy, the natural environment and the well-being of all communities, near and far, now and in the future.

Hungary is committed to education for sustainable development. This **life-wide and lifelong endeavour** challenges individuals, institutions and societies. The **role of formal education** is evident. Besides the content of subjects and lessons also **attitude and behaviour** of teachers and educators have determinant influence on students shaping. Since attitudes and behaviour can be the best formulated in the early childhood, parents and families bear similar responsibility giving the behavioural example to emulate. Example is better than precept as the saying goes.

The effect is similar in the case of **public administration**. We are convinced that role of administration doesn't confine to the legislation and regulation. The **everyday operation** of central and local governmental offices and institutions, also kindergartens, schools, universities, libraries should set an **example of sustainable thinking and acting**. Citizens visiting public institutions - or working there - could be best influenced and convinced by the good model they experience in practice.

In order to change behaviour, **decision makers** at all levels should be aware of the concept and principles of sustainable development and should also act accordingly. Hence, decision makers in public administration also **need education for sustainable development**. As a first step, we suggest to begin education, attitude change with ourselves, with our colleagues - civil servants and politicians, decision makers in the government and the Parliament.

I thank you for your kind attention.

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