**Political Declaration**

**ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics**

**Board of Directors and Board of Trustees**

**The planet is on fire!**

Collapse of the ecology hits the youth most of all

The Secretary General of the United Nations/UN, António Guterres, declared on 28 February 2022 at the launch of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change/IPPC report:

"I have seen many scientific reports in my life, but none like this [...] Almost half of humanity lives in the danger zone - now. For many ecosystems there is no turning back - now. Unchecked carbon pollution is leading [...] on a forced march to ruin - now. The facts are indisputable."

**Instead of saving the climate, armament and war!**

But the UN's dramatic cry of alarm once again fell flat. On the contrary, we are forced to experience the inconceivable: After tens of thousands of protests with millions and millions of participants all over the world and 26 world climate summits, we had hoped, finally ,to save the climate and the ecology of the planet as a world community in a joint effort and with determination. Instead, the war against Ukraine, started by Russia on 24 February 2022 and which must be ended immediately, is being used as an opportunity to decide on record armament programmes worldwide, to carry out even more large-scale manoeuvres and to intensify military confrontations in every corner of the world. Including the danger of a nuclear world war.

As part of the Fridays For Future movement, which is supported by the young generation, young people all over the world have been going on school strike for their future time and again since 2019. Along with millions of adults. Luisa Neubauer, 25 at the time, called the devastating development of 2021 a "fraud on all the young people of the world!"

Greta Thunberg posed the question at UN headquarters in New York in 2019: "How dare you steal my dreams and my childhood with your empty words?"

**The future is being stolen from the youth**

The Blue Planet is on fire. A temperature rise of 1.5 degrees and more is unstoppable. The first irreversible physical tipping points of eco- and climate development are threatening to fall or have already fallen. Destroyed houses, devastated landscapes, flooded coastal regions, sinking cities, lack of food, desperate people, increasing wars, massive numbers of refugees and tens of thousands of deaths.

The future will be devastating. Especially for the youth. Most of all in the poor countries of the global south. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, 1.4 million young people will be physically and mentally handicapped by 2050 due to malnutrition.

The owners of the biggest corporations have driven the planet to the brink of world war, ecological and social catastrophe and have made it uninhabitable. They have made their profits at the expense of people and the environment. They do not care about people's rights. They are robbing the youth of their future. They profess to see no future for planet Earth and cynically recommend escape into space.

**Get serious about system change!**

"Justice is not given to us by heads of state and government or by corporations", was the call of the alliance that organised mass protests at the 26th World Climate Summit in November 2021. Since 1965, the 20 largest fossil fuel corporations have caused about one third of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. Always obligingly served by the respective governments. In favour of profits, politics unscrupulously abandons the youth.

The ethecon foundation demands: Immediate phase-out of all climate-damaging forms of energy! Immediate changeover to environmentally friendly energies! No nuclear and gas greenwashing! No money for a global arms race! All money for peace, social justice and immediate measures to save the ecology of the planet. Unreserved support for the youth in their struggles to save the climate.

The social order must be changed. Away from personal gain to an economy where people and the environment actually come before profit. The primacy of profit must be replaced by the primacy of solidarity and philanthropy. Corporations with environmentally damaging production must immediately be put under democratic control.

"Capitalism demonstrates very vividly that it is not capable of solving the most urgent problems of our time and that society therefore needs a reversal," writes ethecon donor Anders Bjerre Mikkelsen from Denmark in the climate brochure of the ethecon Foundation.

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