



Globetree is an NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations



Children's Meeting Place  
in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme

President of UNEA 5  
Minister Ola Elvestuen  
Royal Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment

Stockholm 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

## Theme for UNEA 5 – suggested by Globetree

**UNEA 5 will be the last Assembly before the UN Environment 50 Years Anniversary 2022**

**Globetree suggests the following theme:**

### **Talk TOGETHER WITH children not ABOUT children**

**Children are always taking the consequences of adult decisions – what to do and not to do regarding the global environment**

- focus on children
- invite children to participate - from all walks of life
- suggest leaders to come together with a child to UNEA 5 – their own children/grand children or others
- organize dialogues between children and world leaders
- all resolutions and suggestions to be translated – so that children understand the content.  
NOTE: When children understand - everyone in the whole world understands!
- important to stop talking ABOUT children and their future. High time to talk TOGETHER WITH the children about their future – what they can expect from adults.

### **Globetree first major meeting with children about UNEP 50 Years Anniversary - 2015**

A Children's Climate Conference was organized by Tälje Energy, Sweden 2015.

Globetree invited children from 25 nations to the conference and asked them:

- Give us your ideas – how can we make the Children's Meeting Place at United Nations in Nairobi a nice place? Your ideas will be part of the planning for a 50 Years Birthday Present to United Nations Environment 2022.

The children's ideas were presented at Stockholm City Hall to the Lord Mayor, Children's Ombudsman and other leaders of the City of Stockholm and is a foundation of Globetree planning of the development of the Children's Meeting Place at UNON – to be presented on World Environment Day 2022.

### **Globetree second major meeting: Future Vessel at NMK and UNON, Nairobi 2019**

Globetree invited children from 10 nations to create a Future Vessel at the National Museums of Kenya (NMK). The Future Vessel is a unified creative process inspired by the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child.

The Future Vessel was transported from the museum to the Children's Meeting Place at UNON and became a children's program at UNEA 4.

Globetree was asked by UNEA 4 to lead the Closing Ceremony. Children from Dandora took the stage – at the High Table - and highlighted messages from the Future Vessel.

Dandora is a place outside Nairobi where you find one of the biggest dumpsites of Africa. Children living there feel the messages of the Global Goals (SDG) in their eyes, lungs and stomachs. They are affected by all neglect stated in the Global Goals.

# **The planned gift for UNEP 50 Years:**

## **THE FOUR ELEMENTS OF LIFE**

### **CIRCULAR MEETING PLACE OF STONES FROM THE WORLD**

### **THE CHILDREN'S WORLD BANNER**

#### **THE FOUR ELEMENTS OF LIFE**

##### **EARTH - the acacia tree / The Mother Tree**

At the center of the Children's Meeting Place is a big, beautiful acacia tree deeply rooted in the ground. The tree is today called The Mother Tree as many mayors in many cities around the world have inaugurated a tree near their City Hall to dialogues with children.

**Seeds from the Mother Tree** have been cared for by UNON nursery. Four of the seeds are now seedlings which were handed over to four dignitaries at the UNEA 4 Closing Ceremony:

The four seedlings secure the Mother Tree will live on and be remembered.

##### **WATER - Our Uniting Water Fountain**

A fountain will be installed next to the Mother Tree.

The fountain will be inaugurated with Our Uniting Water;

1990 Globetree initiated Our Uniting Water Ceremony. Children take a cup of water from a place they care for. They unite their cups of water in a ceremony and share their concern for their water. The ceremony has been performed at major water conferences around the world.

Today children from all nations of the world have united water in Our Uniting Water Ceremony. In between the ceremonies the united water is kept in a freezer and brought to the next ceremony.

Children wish many animals to come to the Children's Meeting Place. With a fountain birds will come and drink and take a bath.

##### **FIRE - The 7 Stones Fire Place**

At special occasions story tellers are invited to the Children's Meeting Place. At those occasions maasai leaders join and make fire in their traditional way. The 7 Stones Fireplace was inaugurated in 2004. It was removed during the building process of the new office building at UNON.

The idea is to recreate the 7 Stones Fireplace with stones from the Four Directions; NORTH: Sami land, SOUTH: aborigines land EAST: Himalaya mountains WEST: The Andes. The 3 center stones will be brought from the closest mountains: Kilimanjaro, Mount Kenya and Mount Elgon.

The Maasai elders make the fire in the middle of the three center stones and they stay until the story telling is over and the fire has ceased. In Africa it's a tradition to meet with children under a tree by the fire. This was mentioned by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in his letter at the inauguration of the Children's Meeting Place. (attached)

##### **WIND – the bird's wing**

- We want many animals!

In all meetings with children animals are at the top of their wishes. It's not possible to make a zoo at the Children's Meeting Place but animals can be present in shapes and form. To protect the meetings from hot sun and heavy rain it's planned to have a roof of strong textile material in a shape of a bird's wing and in the big wing birds from all continents of the world will be visible – printed and painted.

#### **CIRCULAR MEETING PLACE OF STONES FROM THE WORLD**

a circular meeting place in the slope area of the Children's Meeting Place with stones from all nations of the world together with smaller stones with symbols/images from children of all nations.

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## **THE CHILDREN'S WORLD BANNER**

At the Future Vessel Seminar (at the National Museums of Kenya) in February 2019 children from 10 nations loved the idea to have a Children's World Banner with symbols uniting children all over the world. The idea to engage children to come with suggestions for a Children's World Banner will be presented to NGO's accredited to UNEP Major Groups Children and Youth (MGCY).

### **Globetree contacts at UNON regarding the Children's Meeting Place:**

The idea to develop the area around the Mother Tree at UNON has been presented and received positive response from:

Mr Stephen Stannah, Chief, Central Support Services, UNON

Ms Talia Owen-Frigyik, Chief, Facilities Management & Transportation, UNON

Ms Verena Bongartz, Chief, Visitors Centre/karibUNI, UNON

Ms Bongartz mentioned about 3000 children are guided at UNON every year. She looks forward to a child friendly area where children can gather, ask questions and reflect on what they learnt during the tour.

### **Short background**

Globetree is an accredited NGO to UN Environment (Major Group Children and Youth) with ECOSOC status.

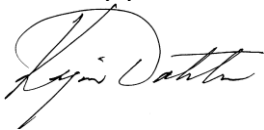
Received UNEP Global Roll of Honor Award year 2000 and was asked 2001 by UNEP Executive Director Dr. Klaus Toepfer to establish and run a Children's Meeting Place on the grounds of United Nations, Nairobi. The meeting place is around a big beautiful acacia tree in between the solar park and VIP Tree Garden at UNON. Since then many meetings has been performed under the tree.

Globetree looks forward to the response from the President of UNEA 5, Minister Ola Elvestuen, Royal Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment.

Norway was the first country to present a Children's Ombudsman and make the UN Convention of the Rights of Child to law. Norway shows the way for the theme...

### **Talk TOGETHER WITH children - not ABOUT children**

Sincerely yours,



Ms. Kajsja B. Dahlström  
President Globetree

#### Attachments:

Speech by Dr. Klaus Toepfer at the Inauguration of the Children's Meeting Place, UNON in September 2001

Letter from UN Sec. Gen. Kofi Annan to the Inauguration Children's Meeting Place

Global Evolution Children's Meeting Place

Globetree CV: Program – Projects and Highlights

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