



“The Last20” is a platform that was born to give a voice, change the narrative, fight injustice and take action with regard to the “Last 20” countries represented. More specifically, the goal of this platform is to tackle the lack of representation of the “Last 20” countries affected the most by impoverishment, conflicts, climate change, social and gender inequalities<sup>[M2]</sup> of the international community.

The countries identified as Last 20’s are: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Repubblica Centrafricana, Ciad, Repubblica Democratica del Congo, Eritrea, Etiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Libano, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambico, Niger, Somalia, Sudan e Yemen.

The "Last20" platform was promoted by: Comune e Città metropolitana di Reggio Calabria, FEDAI - Federazione delle diaspore africane in Italia, Focsiv, Federazione Organismi Cristiani Servizio Internazionale Volontario, Fondazione Terres des Hommes Italia, ITRIA Itinerari turistico-religiosi interculturali accessibili, Mediterranean Hope, Re.Co.Sol. Rete Comuni solidali, Rete azione TerrÆ, Fondazione Casa della Carità “A. Abriani” Milano, Parco Ludico Tecnologico Ecolandia, Net Scarl; GREI250.

The three events of "Last20" took place in Reggio Calabria, Molise and Abruzzi, Rome.

The meeting in Milan was organised by Fondazione Terre des hommes Italia -ONLUS , Fondazione Casa della Carità “A. Abriani; Laudato Si’ - un’alleanza per il clima, la Terra e la giustizia sociale; Eastriver ASD APS; CICMA -Comitato Italiano Contratto Mondiale sull'Acqua.

The “Last20” platform meeting in Milan has obtained the patronage of the Municipality of Milan, Fondazione Cariplo, Fondazione di Comunità Milano, Fondazione Peppino Vismara.

During “The Last20” meeting in Milan the section **“Young people for an environmental and social rebalancing”** was linked with the Pre-COP 26 meeting dedicated to young people " Youth4Climate2021: Driving Ambition ". Representatives of the Last 20’s communities, networks and thanks to the CeSI - “Centro di Ateneo per la Solidarietà Internazionale” students from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan took part in the “Last20” meetings in Milan. In addition, organizations promoting human and environmental rights, the fight against climate change, solidarity and hospitality with

new and innovative forms of education were also present in the meetings.

All “The Last20” participants are committed to enhance and support local populations and their territories, for the defense of the ecosystem, the promotion of new lifestyles, fair trade, and resilience.

## **THE LAST 20’S OBJECTIVE**

### General objective

“The Last20” aims at contributing to give a voice to the civil societies of the Last 20 countries in the fight against impoverishment, corruption, conflicts, climate change, poverty, social and gender inequalities.

### Specific objectives

- To establish a fair network to collect proposals, initiatives, instances, needs from the representatives of civil societies, organizations of the Last 20’ s to communicate properly the reality of Last 20 countries, beyond stereotypes, with the objectives to promote a social, economic, environmental and gender rebalancing that overcomes current and growing inequalities.
- To send a document to the Pre-Cop 26 with the recommendations of the participants in the "The Last20" meeting in Milan.

### Expected results

1. To build a large network to share, to disseminate policies, actions and significant best practices and experiences with the active participation from Italy, Europe and representatives of the Last 20’s, through their local, formal and informal networks.
2. Authentic exchange of knowledge and experiences between Italian and European, and Last 20’s associations, youth movements, environmentalists, solidarity and peace, non-governmental organizations, universities.
3. To build a” The Last20” outlook , linked with SDG and UN Agenda 2030 to strengthen the tools to raise citizen awareness and governments of L20 countries, NGOs and international public opinion on the needs and potentials connected to economic and social development, cultural and rights of Last 20 countries.

### Considering that:

According to the Paris Agreement; the IPCC Reports, in particular the Special Report 1.5 Degrees; the 2030 Agenda; it has seen up to date that the previous commitments were not taken with the proper urgency, clearly warned and stated in the last IPCC report, whose repercussions are more strongly felt by the Last 20 countries populations.

Looking out not to repeat the past mistakes and failures that concluded with disappointing results from decisions taken at the end of conferences and summits.

These events, and this document drafting, have been taking place with the intention of being shared in COP 26 and G20, all events taking place in Italy.

We, “The Last20” platform, would like to highlight the intersectional dimension of climate change, which puts pressure on social injustice, conflicts, gender inequality, and human rights. For this reason, we believe that the response should prioritize the involvement of the indigenous people and youth. In addition, we deem the role of education as crucial for the development of the youth and the future of the country.

Considering that we are all on the same boat, and with the intention of acknowledging future generations, “The Last20” platform proposes a series of strong recommendations and best practices to include and engage the most vulnerable populations/members of society;

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were drafted during “The Last20” meeting section “**Young people for an environmental and social rebalancing**” in Milan with the participation of Youth International networks: Climate Social Forum, MOCK COP26; ANYL4PSD - African Network of Young Leaders for Peace and Sustainable Development, and students of the Master in International Cooperation and Development and of the Master's Degree Course in Policies for International Development Cooperation of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, organized by the University Center for International Solidarity (CeSI).

### Final Recommendations

- Each government shall commit to establish a national committee formed by national experts, activists, members of organizations and associations in charge of tackling the issue of climate change on a national level.
- Each government shall commit to include in its national curriculum starting from primary school a specific academic course on environmental education. The management of the course as well as the drafting of its curriculum shall be assigned to the national committee of environmental experts mentioned in the article above. The composition of the national committees shall be inclusive in terms of age, gender, religion and ethnic groups.
- Each government shall stress the urgency of including the status of climate refugee

in the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol in order to ensure migrants escaping the consequences of climate change the legal protection granted to the other categories of refugees.

- Ensuring rights-based approaches to nature-based solutions and conserving 30% of land, freshwater and seas by 2030.
- Ensuring rights-based approaches: guaranteeing human rights, gender equality, indigenous people, local community rights, intergenerational equity and recognition of children, youth and women and ensuring their effective participation in decision-making processes related to climate change.
- While the 2030 Agenda shall remain the basis toward sustainable development, the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) shall be redefined according to the peculiarities of different geographical regions.
- Committing adequate financial resources from all sources, and their appropriate allocation to support adaptation and mitigation measures in the most affected areas of the world including Africa. This includes greening the financial sector to support enabling conditions for resilience and transformative change.
- Directly tackling the drivers of nature loss and climate change (including unsustainable agricultural and food systems, forestry, water, infrastructures,) by securing a just and sustainable transition that halves the impact of all that society produces and consumes.
- The threats to our planet - of climate change, poverty and war - can only be overcome by nations and the global community working in cooperation. However, this will not be possible if nations continue to maintain large and expensive militaries, threatening to destroy each other. We call on each government to disinvest in nuclear and military weapons so as to increase investment in the UN Agenda 2030's SDGs.
- The issue of climate change shall be considered as a priority by all countries and therefore it shall be jointly tackled. However, we must remember that The Last 20 countries are highly affected by other urgent problems such as armed conflicts and widespread violence. This is the case of Afghanistan, for instance, where the rights of women, children and minorities are dramatically at risk. We therefore call for the international community to prioritize the protection of the citizens of these countries alongside the fight against climate change.