

Youth Perspective on the Conference

By Jacob Blasius, International Officer, DSF - National Union of Students in Denmark

The conference was very exciting to take part in. Young people and students are increasingly engaged in making the world more sustainable. It was great to hear the minister's commitment to creating a more sustainable region. I learned that young people and governments agree that action is needed, and how much is possible with Nordics collaboration. As a young person, it means a lot to see that taking part in the public debate has an impact on politicians. Now the question becomes, how do we take it from here? How do we go beyond words and good intentions? How can young people take an active role in the initiatives and continue to help politicians focus their commitment?

I believe that there is an enormous potential in utilizing the engagement of young people and students. We have been protesting in the streets, now we need to come inside and take part in the change. For this to be possible, we need a focus on accessibility, transparency, and impact. This latter point is especially pivotal to success. The worst thing that can happen is that the inclusion of young people becomes only for show. Young people need to see how their engagement has a real impact. I do not think we should be afraid to recognize the limitations of our current structures and seek to improve them.

I look forward to seeing the work of the Nordics Youth Council operationalized and see what impact it will have. I believe we need to find new ways to allow young people to engage beyond the structures of political parties. As someone who does not identify with a specific political party, how can I be part of the change? For me, Inclusion of youth in decision-making must be measured by the degree to which it allows accessibility, transparency, and impact by young people and students.