

## **FELF Statement 2018**

### **Tahani Sabih of Azm University and Hiba Abdulrahim of AUS.**

#### How the Youth Could Adopt to the SDGs

I am honored to be here at AFED annual conference, to talk about a very important topic, which is the role of youth in improving a sustainable environment. In fact, no poverty, zero hunger, affordable and sustainable energy and natural resources define the global priorities for us as young people for the next 12 years.

There is so much the youth could do to be involved in achieving sustainability. We could start with the smallest things, such as spreading awareness through our chief weapon, social media. Our generation has the biggest platform to spread the word about absolutely anything, but this is not enough.

We are the future of creativity and innovation; we have made the impossible possible. The split between nationalities and religions is there but compared to how it was before, we have made huge progress. This helps diversify our thoughts, our ideas and creativity. This ingenuity would help us figure out new ways to reach our target in 2030.

The next step the youth could do is to use their strength and high voices. The youth are diverting towards equality for all races, ideas and opinions. We have the right to be educated properly, in a highest standard possible in a free environment and without discrimination in a multi-disciplinary field. To be able to spread our wings and soar in limitless skies reaching far away horizons. We as leaders of tomorrow, must step out of the shadows of the older generations, to decide how we want to live tomorrow.

The most important thing after getting involved is monitoring the progress. Assuring the implementation of action plans by governments, private and public sectors, reports, in their universities, in conferences, and all other official places are being met and are not all empty.

At the same time, every change has to start with oneself. Start with small changes in your day to day life; be responsible of domestic use of electricity as individuals, recycling, buying only what you need and freezing leftovers, to avoid food waste. These actions may be small, and you might think that one person doing it is not enough, but if one person does and they spread the word then one person becomes a hundred then a thousand and then millions doing them.

In some Arab countries we lack of having Research & Development centers in which youth can express themselves and solve their own problems. Many universities encourage their students in research that may lead to useful innovations. To increase the degree to which university research leads to commercial innovation, many universities have established technology transfer offices. Offices designed to facilitate the transfer of technology developed in a research environment to an environment where it can be commercially applied. In fact, successful entrepreneurs start finding solutions for their own problems. Therefore, a lot of

students can have many opportunities when Research and development centers are available at their universities. Moreover, governments of many

countries actively invest in research through their own laboratories, the formation of Science Parks and Incubators. Science parks are usually regional districts, typically set up by government, to foster R&D collaboration between government, universities, and private firms. Whereas, incubators are institutions designed to nurture the development of new businesses that might otherwise lack access to adequate funding or advice.

Finally, for brighter future and to achieve sustainable development goals in 2030 we should increase youth participation in governance. In fact, youth are often victims of multiple and interlocked forms of discrimination and face significant barriers to full participation in public life. Finally, our message is Daily Action, Continuous Commitment, and Voice our Ideas Whenever we can. So leave with the passion to make a difference and better future.