

TEPEBAŞI CHILDREN’S SUMMIT JOINT DECLARATION: WE ARE THE BRANCHES OF THE SAME ROOT

We are the children of Eskişehir—those who think, question, and strive to build tomorrow starting today. This year, as we set out under the theme of “Climate Change,” when we planted saplings in the soil, we did not only grow trees; we nurtured hope, patience, and life. Yet, while one side of our hearts blossoms, the other trembles with the pain of our peers in different parts of the world who are being silenced. We, as children, know that the fire that harms nature and the fire of war that reduces humanity to ashes are, in fact, the same. One destroys forests; the other destroys our conscience.

We know that in wars, not only buildings but also children’s games and dreams are buried under the rubble. We know that setting a forest on fire and taking a child’s school bag away are the same crime, because both acts steal the future of humanity. And we also know that what is being depleted is not only the water or oil beneath the earth, but also the ancient spring of trust and tolerance we hold for one another.

Our Call to Adults and to the Future: We do not want a future equipped only with technology, but a world woven with compassion. We must unite the speed of artificial intelligence with the kindness of the human heart. From Gaza to Sudan, from Kyiv to Tehran, the fact that hands which should be holding pens are now merely trying to hold on to life is not a cold statistic for us—it is a fallen leaf from the tree of humanity, a wound that aches deep within our souls.

We Declare: The struggle we carry out to protect our “Green Homeland” will grow stronger next year with the steps we will take for “World Peace.” Because in a land without peace, saplings do not grow; under a sky where rights are restricted, the sun does not shine.

We, the children, are determined to connect the world not with the rusty chains of war, but with the unbreakable bonds of peace. Our roots are in this land, and our branches extend into the brotherhood and sisterhood of all the world’s children.

Next year, let us meet stronger in the “Climate of Peace,” under the shade of justice and compassion... Because if there is peace, we all exist.