

## UNICEF's GenU, EAA Foundation, and Silatech Accelerate Youth-Led Green Initiatives in Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan

The EAA Foundation, the State of Qatar and the UNICEF organized a high-level event at the 79th session of the UNGA during the Summit on the Future

DOHA, QATAR, September 23, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, Silatech, and UNICEF's Generation Unlimited (GenU) recently announced the signing of an agreement to train and mobilize 565,670 young people to access education, tackle climate change, and become community volunteers and entrepreneurs driving sustainable



EAA - VIEW OF THE EVENT

development efforts across Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt.

Announced against the backdrop of the Summit of the Future at UNGA, in response to urgent



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CEO of EAA Foundation

calls for a new consensus to tackle global challenges, the new three-year, US \$33 million partnership with equal contributions from UNICEF, EAA and Silatech, will support access to education and empower young volunteers and entrepreneurs with the training, resources and mentorship they need to take climate action.

In this context, a high-level roundtable was convened to discuss ways to provide educational and employment opportunities for youth in their communities through strategic and local partnerships to support the economies of their countries and empower youth with methods to

protect the environment and address climate change.

The session was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Sheikha Alya Al Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, and featured participation from Qatar's Minister of State for International Cooperation H.E. Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater, alongside numerous ministers, distinguished figures, representatives from the United Nations, youth advocates.

The session was attended by H.E. Bob Rae, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations in New York, H.E. Dr. Georges Kallas, Minister of Youth and Sports of Lebanon, H.E. Mr. Farah Abdulkadir Mohamed, Minister of Education of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and also included contributions from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in France, the Islamic Development Bank, Microsoft, the African Development Bank, UNICEF and Accenture.

During the roundtable held on the



EAA - HIGH-LEVEL EVENT



**EAA - GROUP PHOTO** 

sidelines of the "Summit of the Future," Mr. Fahad Al-Sulaiti, CEO of the Education Above All Foundation, stated, "This partnership is a testament to the power of collaborative efforts in providing quality education for children and empowering youth to develop green skills in real life. We aim to address issues in local communities and lead sustainable initiatives, in addition to presenting innovative solutions that contribute to expanding the beneficiary scope through impactful and quality projects, thus achieving sustainable development and enhancing the outcomes of the Future Summit."

Silatech CEO Hassan Al Mulla remarked, "This collaboration with Education Above All Foundation and Generation Unlimited marks a vital milestone for us all. It embeds our ambition for sustainable impact through the extension of value chain by investing in youth at an early stage to ensure their readiness for the job market and through investing in the green economy for a sustainable future for generations to come. At Silatech, we believe in the power of partnership to transform lives, and we remain committed to economically empowering young people across the Middle East and North Africa. Through this project, we are investing in their future by

providing them with the necessary skills and placing them into economic opportunities to drive positive change in their communities and beyond."

The 'Green Visions and Thriving Futures' programme reflects a growing recognition that the path to net-zero and climate resilience depends on whether today's young people gain the skills and knowledge to drive the green transition.

"Green skills and access to green opportunities at scale through holistic, integrated solutions, enabled by global public-private-youth cooperation are essential for moving towards a climate-resilient future," said UNICEF's Generation Unlimited CEO, Kevin Frey. "This new partnership is about creating actionable strategies to prepare young people for the opportunities of tomorrow – opportunities that don't just sustain economies, but also our planet."

The new programme will support 370,000 young people across Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt in greening actions to protect biodiversity, manage waste and conserve water in local communities, with 60,000 participating in a climate action curriculum in preparatory schools. Another objective of the programme is to support an additional cohort of 195,670 youth in Egypt to transition from learning to earning, through placement in jobs or self-employment in sectors such as information technology, healthcare, engineering, and agriculture. This includes 22,500 young people who will develop specific skills in climate action, participate in greening initiatives, and secure green jobs.

With a focus on equipping young people with essential green skills and connecting them to opportunities in the green economy, this new partnership will empower the next generation to confront the urgent challenges of the climate crisis. By linking environmental sustainability with job creation, the partnership aims to demonstrate that economic development and climate adaptation can work hand in hand, creating a foundation for a world that thrives both economically and environmentally.

UNICEF and <u>EAA Foundation</u> have partnered for over ten years, helping to remove barriers to education for more than five million previously out-of-school children. The activity announced today is part of the expansion of the partnership to support children and young peoples' broader developmental needs.

Silatech's support for UNICEF began in November 2022 as the main strategic partner of the One Million Opportunities (1Mio) initiative from UNICEF Brazil and Generation Unlimited, providing vulnerable young people in Brazil with opportunities to develop their skills and access decent livelihoods.

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