



Young Citizens Conferences



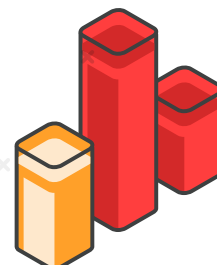
# INVENTING A NEW WORLD



**Globalization Science and Medicine**  
**Space Environment Digital lifestyle**



Official programme of The International Movement for  
Leisure Activities in Science and Technology



## Interested? Organise a conference and encourage the voice of youth!

### MILSET

The International Movement for Leisure Activities in Science & Technology (MILSET) is a non-governmental, non-profit and politically independent youth organization that aims to develop scientific culture among young people through high quality science, technology, engineering, mathematics and arts (STEAM) programs, including science fairs, youth congresses, science camps, science contests and experimental activities, as well as training programs, workshops and knowledge transfer between organisations.

Founded in 1987, MILSET has grown to over 130 organisations in 90 countries focused on informal and/or extra-curricular STEAM education. MILSET has six regional offices: Africa, Amlat (Latin America), Asia, Europe, Noram (North America), and Vostok.

### What is YCC?

MILSET Young Citizens Conferences (YCC) are dedicated to the views and concerns of youth regarding the social impact of science and technology on the modern world, gathering their voices from every part of the globe and encouraging them to actively enter the discussion.

The exponential growth of new technologies and scientific knowledge has generated new and exciting possibilities; however, this has also raised new ethical, social and ecological issues. We believe that the open-mindedness of young scientists combined with their sense of social responsibility can yield important contributions to the dialogue.

The primary goals of these conferences are achieved through a three-step methodology: Concerns, Discussion and Actions.

### YCC goals

- Create a space where youth can express their views on the topic;
- Engage youth in discussion and debate concerning their future;
- Enable youth to discover their personal responsibilities;
- Encourage youth to express their concerns about the topic through participation in an open global discussion;
- Present the voice of youth through short video presentations which will be posted on the MILSET website and other internet platforms.

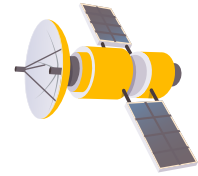
### How to organise them?

NGO's, universities, schools, or any group of youth can organise a YCC and then submit their conclusions to the YCC report form: <https://form.jotform.com/201621252481849>.

The YCCs could be also held in online format using one of the video conferencing services.

MILSET defines youth as people between 13 and 25 years of age.

We advise you to follow the YCC methodology to integrate the results with others from around the world. Furthermore, it is important to follow carefully the instructions for submitting results for your contribution to be accepted.



### What are the requirements?

To keep the conference discussions as efficient and fruitful as possible we encourage you to follow this three-part methodology:

- **Concerns:** Introduce participants to the issue. Start by asking them thought-provoking questions about the topic and their recent related observations and experiences. What changes have they noticed? Which changes are having the greatest impact on society? What could be the social consequences of those changes in the near future? Participants can be also shown short videos on the topic, or guest speakers can present various opinions.
- **Discussion:** In small groups, participants discuss ideas, issues and concerns related to the topic from the first part of the conference or from their own experience. Encourage them to identify possible future benefits and risks for each concern.
- **Actions:** Participants explore and list possible actions to solve or reduce the concerns they identified. What should be done to reduce the risks and apply the benefits in the best possible way? Who should be responsible for accomplishing these actions? What can participants do to have an impact – at home, at school, in their community, and in the world? How should we behave in our everyday life? As teams, participants prepare short presentations or videos to communicate the results of their discussion and their recommendations.

### 2020-2021 Topic: Inventing a new world

In a hyper-connected planet, the dreaded fear of a pandemic caused by a new hyper contagious virus has been confirmed. COVID-19 confined several billion people for several weeks and shut down the economy. The planet is breathing with difficulty. It's time to think and possibly... reinvent a new world!

The pandemic has drastically modified our familiar lifestyle. Changes are happening in every sphere of life. Almost all social institutions - education, employment, health care, family - are now transformed. How can we adapt to these changes? Will they be irreversible or not? Can we somehow influence them?

Here are some questions we invite you to think about:

\*there are many more that you can propose for discussion

- **Globalization:** Quarantine created obstacles for the free movement of people, goods, and capital. Will this ultimately lead to a rejection of globalization? Is it right to unite and cooperate in this situation? Or should each country do everything possible to provide for its own needs? Should all countries help each other to deal with the pandemic and overcome its aftermath?

- **Digital lifestyle:** We are now mainly confined to our homes. Work and education, participation in conferences and fairs, visits to cultural events are all going on online. Shops and restaurants have switched to delivery mode. Will we ultimately return to the lifestyle we were used to? Which spheres would benefit from staying in an online format, and which would not? What could be the risks of this new way of life?
- **Role of science and medicine:** Thanks to the efforts of doctors and scientists, we hope to contain the pandemic. Which tasks should be addressed by science to cope with the virus, and to prevent similar situations in the future? Do we have enough reliable information from scientists and doctors about the virus now? Will governments and societies treat scientists with the same respect and listen to their advice equally attentively after the pandemic?
- **Environment:** Today we may say that, on the one hand, the pandemic has led to a certain positive environmental impact. We have stopped flying and reduced our use of vehicles. Most industries stopped for a while and we have reduced consumption. All the major events of 2020 have been cancelled. These changes have definitely decreased the pressure on the environment. On the other hand, when the pause ends the economy will restart and focus will shift to the economic impact. Will we abandon green technologies and renewable energy to accelerate the economic recovery? How can we avoid the environmental problems that might come after the pandemic? What is the role of the green economy in the post-pandemic world?
- **Space:** Because of the pandemic, many space programs have been cancelled or postponed. Indeed, we now have so many problems on Earth, does it make sense to continue investing in space exploration? Do we still have a future in space? Or could new space expedition and space related discoveries bring new technologies that might help us to improve our current situation?

**Let's share your ideas with the world!**

As a YCC organiser sum-up the results of the discussion and fill in the report form:  
<https://form.jotform.com/201621252481849>

Make short videos of participants during the activity, and send the best one to [ycc@milset.org](mailto:ycc@milset.org), which will be posted on the MILSET website and MILSET Facebook.

If you are going to send a video, please consider the following information:

- The Video Format should be MP4 from 24 to 29fps
- The resolution should be 1080 x 1080 px
- It must be short and include the topic or subtopic, the discussion and the actions to be taken

