

# X HOPE L

THE LIEMERS LIST

FINAL VERSION





Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

# HOPE

## ABOUT HOPE XXL

HOPE XXL wants to ensure that all people can achieve a life they can grade as 'good'. Therefore we developed a new vision on the future with young people from all over the world. This vision, called the "Liemers List", is printed in this booklet. It was presented to the United Nations in February 2015. Now we are ready to start implementing the Liemers List!

HOPE XXL started in 2009 in The Netherlands. Ten young people from the Liemers region together developed the first version of the Liemers List: a long term vision on the future. HOPE XXL has since grown into an international movement with thousands of young people joining and sharing their ideas. At the HOPE XXL Global Summit, held in January 2015 in Costa Rica, the Liemers List was finalized by young people from all over the world.

We will continue to involve people all over the world in the development and implementation of young people's vision on the future, thereby promoting wellbeing worldwide.





**2009:** Start of HOPE XXL in the Liemers region in The Netherlands. Dutch youth leaders draft the first Liemers List. It is a vision of the younger generation on the future of our society.

**2010:** The first Liemers List (version 1.0) is finalized and publicly presented as young people's vision on the future.

**January 2011:** We start our national program, visiting schools and festivals all over The Netherlands to discuss the Liemers List with young people. Thousands of young people provide their feedback to the Liemers List.

**September 2011:** The national Liemers List (version 2.0) is adopted on the basis of feedback from young people all over the country. This is done during the national HOPE XXL conference.

**December 2012:** The European HOPE XXL Conference takes place and participants from 25 European countries develop their vision on the future (Liemers List 3.0). Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan speaks at our flagship event in front of an audience of 800 young people.

**2013:** The HOPE XXL Peace Panorama takes place at the Peace Palace in The Hague. Young people from all over the world together develop their vision on peace.

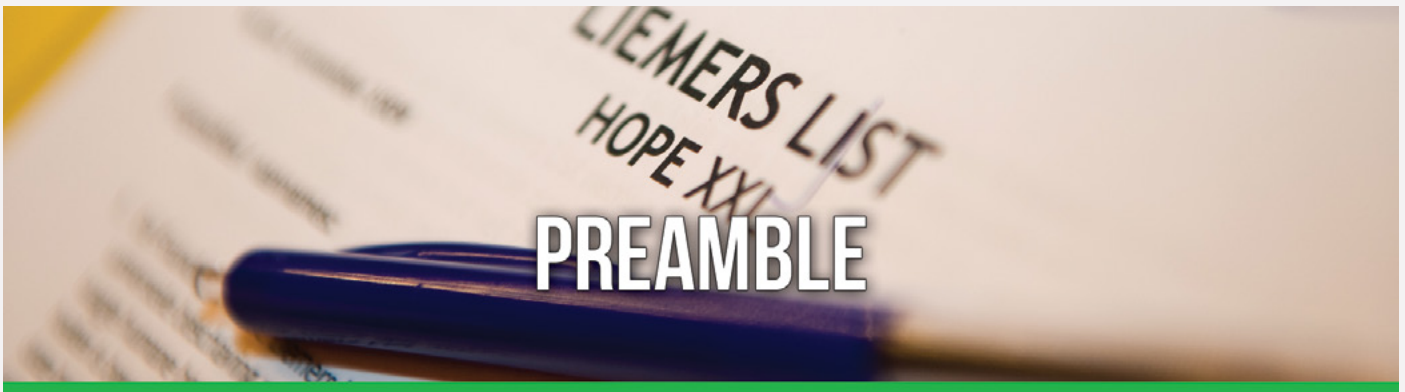
**2014:** The Triple-A Summit takes place with participants from Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Americas. Together they develop version 4.0 of the Liemers List.

**January 2015:** The HOPE XXL Global Summit takes place at the University for Peace in Costa Rica with young people from all over the world. The Liemers List is finalized here.

**February 2015:** HOPE XXL is presented to the United Nations!



*UN Youth Envoy Ahmad Alhendawi together with Yama Akbari (HOPE XXL) at the United Nations*



### **We, the young people of HOPE XXL,**

- Aspire a world in which each person grades his or her life as 'good';
- Presume the universal wish to enjoy good health, live in peace and freedom, in harmony with the environment and with a good balance between prosperity and well-being;
- Request society, united in political, religious and social associations, to jointly realize this universal wish and remove existing inequalities, with the notion that misfortune is part of life and a perfect world will remain unachievable;
- Wish to thank our ancestors for the level of civilization achieved up to the present day. We want to learn from it, keep building on it and offer a new perspective to present and future generations;
- Consider the notion that one treats others as one wants to be treated in turn a leading principle for human actions;
- Presume that people are open to reason and believe in the power of dialogue in order to reach an agreement;
- Want to build bridges between generations, religions, convictions, political movements, races and nations, and focus on what binds people instead of on what separates them;
- Aim to unite people worldwide by presenting a joint vision on the future, offering a long term perspective based on the values of dialogue, reason and empathy, and by implementing this vision on a local, national and international level.

### **And therefore we:**

- Present the Liemers List as young people's vision on the future;
- Invite all people to review the Liemers List and submit feedback;
- Present the Liemers List to the United Nations;
- Request the United Nations, together with all people, to implement the Liemers List.

### **The Liemers List contains the following chapters:**

- Values and principles
- Social Sustainability
- Economic Sustainability
- Environmental Sustainability
- Sustainable Peace and Security
- Sustainable International Cooperation



# VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

*We regard these values and principles as the foundation for the Liemers List.*

- 1.** We, the young people of HOPE XXL, aspire a world in which each person grades his or her life as 'good'. We define this by grading one's life with at least an eight out of ten. All articles in the Liemers List are designed to contribute to this goal.
- 2.** We call for a global 'People's Partnership' to achieve the goal of each person grading his or her life as good. Individuals, governments, civil society organizations and all other groups in society are encouraged to work together to achieve this goal.
- 3.** We encourage further research into the contributing factors to well-being and advise to apply the lessons learned from it in policy development, implementation and evaluation.
- 4.** We fully endorse the existing United Nations human rights treaties, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other agreed texts such as the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We attach great importance to further ratification and implementation of these treaties by all United Nations member states, and the strengthening of international monitoring and evaluation systems.
- 5.** Gender equality and equity are fundamental principles towards achieving sustainable development, peace and security and the fulfillment of human rights. All forms of gender-based violence and discrimination must end urgently. We wish to ensure that all persons regardless of gender, sexual orientation or gender identity have equal access to education, family planning, health care, financial services, participation in decision making, clean water and sanitation, receive equal pay for equal work, and have the right to own land and other assets.
- 6.** Children and young people are vital for society, and we fully endorse the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Ongoing violations of the rights of the child, including poverty, child labor, early and forced marriage and lack of access to quality health care and education have to end.
- 7.** We highly value active citizenship and encourage all persons to take up an active role in society on the basis of dialogue, reason and empathy.
- 8.** We envision an important role for local communities in the implementation of the Liemers List and encourage policy makers to develop and implement related policies at the local or national level whenever possible.
- 9.** We regard the United Nations as the primary international organization. Every state is to be a member of the United Nations. The United Nations must be strengthened and reformed where necessary, particularly with regards to peace and security issues. We recognize the primary role of states in intergovernmental organizations and call upon all to ensure democratic control over international decision making.
- 10.** We embrace the Sustainable Development Goals (the Global Agenda) and see them as supportive of the long-term vision reflected in the Liemers List. These goals provide priorities and targets for the next fifteen years. The Liemers List looks beyond this timeframe by establishing a perspective on society for the 21st century.



# SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

*We regard social sustainability as a central means to increasing well-being worldwide. The fulfilment of basic needs, good governance, active participation in society and increased interconnectedness are important in this regard.*

**11.** Each country should determine a subsistence minimum and see to it that everybody can achieve this, and if necessary, can lay claim to it. Further research and testing is to be conducted into an unconditional basic income for each person.

**12.** Governments are primarily responsible to ensure services are available and that basic needs for drinking water, sanitation, food and shelter can be met by all, regardless of location.

**13.** All persons have a right to quality education, consisting of a form of free and compulsory primary education, available and accessible secondary education, and tertiary education according to capacity. We strongly support non-formal and informal learning methods, including online and peer education, vocational training and lifelong learning as important aspects of the right to education. This human right has to be adhered to urgently and without discrimination of any kind.

**14.** We call for an education system that teaches children the values of tolerance, peace, sustainable development, empathy, dialogue and respect for diversity to foster global citizenship and mutual understanding. In addition, we call for the provision of citizenship education to encourage active participation of people in democratic governance.

**15.** Each person has a right to access affordable health care complying with the valid norms of Evidence Based Medicine and essential medicines and vaccines as described in the List of Essential Medicines of the World Health Organization. National lists may also include indigenous, traditional and herbal medications. Preventive healthcare should be an important aspect of health services and public policy.

**16.** We fully support the individual freedom of choice related to choosing partners and whether or not to marry, divorce or have children. Gender equality, marriage equality, access to quality family planning and health services and comprehensive sexuality education are important in this regard.

**17.** State structure has to be based on the separation of the legislative, the judiciary and the executive powers. Checks and balances prevent each of these powers from becoming supreme.

**18.** There should be separation of state and organized religion. Legislative, judiciary and executive powers in nation states, governed by the rule of law, are independent from religious organizations and vice versa.

**19.** Each individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This includes the right to manifest one's beliefs as far as it does not infringe on the rights of others. The judiciary determines where the lines are drawn. Limitations can only be set under the rule of law and if they are necessary to protect public safety or health.

**20.** We fully support freedom of speech and press freedom, and this can only be limited in accordance with the guidelines set by the 'International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights'. The media should be truthful, correct their mistakes, check facts and quotations, hear all sides and respond promptly to criticism.

**21.** Corruption should be combatted forcefully. All states are required to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and hold one another accountable regarding its implementation.

**22.** There should be freedom of information and access to information worldwide, taking into account privacy and security concerns. To support this, there should be net-neutrality.

**23.** All people are encouraged to contribute to society and work to one's ability, whether in the household, as a volunteer, as an entrepreneur, in paid employment or in any other form.

**24.** In order to contribute to the local community, we call on everyone to support other people in their immediate surroundings, according to their own capabilities and the needs of these people. We support charitable giving and especially encourage people who possess more than USD 100 million to join the Giving Pledge.

**25.** The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is to be ratified and fully adhered to by all states. People with disabilities in paid employment should be able to achieve the guaranteed subsistence level, regardless of productivity.

**26.** We want to increase the meaningful participation of children and young people in all stages of decision and policy making, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. We call upon all to support the creation, development and inclusion of youth organizations and youth-led initiatives, and to work with other generations to achieve successful youth-adult partnerships.

**27.** We recognize and embrace diversity, both on an individual level and among groups in society. We encourage practicing mutual respect, cross-cultural learning and self-expression and call for the eradication of all forms of discrimination.

**28.** We strongly value the world's cultural and natural heritage and support the conservation of both tangible and intangible heritage. We support cross-cultural learning available to everyone in order to preserve and express our cultural diversity. Sufficient funds need to become available to ensure this for future generations.

**29.** Communication between people is of the utmost importance. We suggest that all people are offered the opportunity to learn a major foreign language in order to support international dialogue. This is additional to ongoing support for multilingualism and linguistic diversity.

**30.** We appeal to all to suggest and create symbolic expressions of world unity using various art forms.

**31.** We encourage the organization of international events that foster international understanding and cooperation, and view the Olympic Games as exemplary in this regard.





# ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

*We aim to achieve a sustainable economy that supports the fulfilment of basic needs for all, contributes to well-being worldwide, provides opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship and preserves resources for future generations.*

**32.** Economic progress is to be measured in ways beyond GDP which reflect social and environmental aspects, providing insights into and awareness of its contribution to well-being worldwide.

**33.** Socially inclusive growth is to be achieved through access to quality education, promoting entrepreneurship, grassroots innovation, and decent work for all, without discrimination of any kind.

**34.** An environmentally sustainable economy is crucial for sustained and increased well-being. We call for low-carbon, resource efficient and clean economic activities that provide green jobs and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems.

**35.** Urbanization and infrastructure development is to take place in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner, paying particular attention to safe and affordable housing, air quality and waste management.

**36.** In order to achieve a sustainable economy we encourage the application of new approaches such as the circular and sharing economy.

**37.** The private sector has a crucial role to play in achieving economic sustainability. Businesses are to be held accountable by independent bodies regarding their environmental and social performance based on formal and universal indicators.

**38.** People worldwide are encouraged to develop sustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns. Education and public awareness programs are to contribute to this goal.

**39.** We regard taxation as a central means for states to provide services to the people, reduce economic inequalities and to achieve social and environmental policy goals. Taxation systems need to be transparent and democratically governed.

**40.** Governments must ensure progressive taxation, end tax competition, pursue individual and corporate tax avoiders and continue to close tax loopholes that lead to avoidance. We propose to reduce wage tax and introduce or increase a progressive tax on capital. Reducing inequalities between the richest and poorest groups in society is a priority and thus we support the use of the Palma ratio. We further encourage the use of tax measures promoting sustainable development and healthy lifestyles.

**41.** We support the introduction of measures regulating speculation on financial markets. Measures such as the Tobin tax, at least 0.1 per cent tax on trade in currency and stocks, as well as prohibition of high-frequency trading are suggested to aid in this regulation.



**42.** Central banks and financial agencies should adhere to the Code of Good Practices on Transparency in Monetary and Financial Policies, as developed by the International Monetary Fund.

**43.** Free movement of persons, goods, services and capital between countries should be promoted. Trade regulations must support sustainable and inclusive economic development and thus include appropriate market access, the abolishment of market distorting subsidies and the promotion of sustainable production and consumption.

**44.** We encourage further regulation of informal sectors within the economy in order to protect the rights of employees and reduce inequalities between formal and informal sectors.

**45.** We advise to explore the possibility of abolishing patents and stimulating research and development by other means, especially in the case of basic necessities such as medical and agricultural products.





# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

*For current and future generations to achieve a life they can grade as good, we urgently need to achieve environmental sustainability. Ensuring sustainable rates of renewable resource harvest, pollution creation, and non-renewable resource depletion are important in this regard.*

**46.** The international community is to achieve and implement a universal and legally binding agreement on climate change, including a decisive shift toward the efficient use of clean energy, climate change adaptation measures and the required financial commitments from all.

**47.** Raw materials should be used in such a manner that they can be reused with as little loss of quality as possible, and without polluting the natural environment at any stage of extraction, production and consumption.

**48.** We urge the international community to draft a quality norm for surface and ground water and to draw up conditions for managing the areas through which rivers flow, whereby all interests within the area are considered and marine life is protected.

**49.** We call upon the relevant authorities to improve air quality by controlling emissions of harmful substances into the atmosphere and by implementing environmental protection requirements for the transport, agriculture and energy sectors.

**50.** The alarming decrease of biodiversity is to be stopped. The treaty drawn up to this end, the Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be strictly adhered to. We especially call on the protection of species which are vital for ecosystems, including pollinators such as bees.

**51.** All technological possibilities must be examined in order to increase sustainable and fair food production, while ensuring that all products are safe for human and animal consumption.

**52.** We promote food security and we suggest that relevant factors such as food speculation, production of biofuels, climate change adaptation and environmental factors are governed nationally and, where necessary, internationally, to ensure sustainable food production.

**53.** Global agreements are to be made to regulate the use of antibiotics and pesticides.

**54.** The consumption of meat and other animal products is to be cut back through the abolishment of market distorting subsidies. The fishing industry and all types of commercial animal husbandry will have to adhere to international environmental and animal welfare norms, and factory farming should be phased out by 2030.

**55.** Animals cannot be used for entertainment if it is known, or can be reasonably suspected beforehand, that the animal's well-being will suffer from it. We also state that catching endangered species be stopped immediately and that killing animals, when the main objective is using hides, fur or for human entertainment, be prohibited. Animal testing should be avoided as much as possible.

**56.** Ecosystems are to be protected and, where needed, restored. The sustainable use of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems is to become the norm.

# PEACE

## SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND SECURITY

*We regard sustainable peace and security as important preconditions for the realization of human development and increased well-being.*

**57.** States are primarily responsible for guaranteeing human security and upholding human rights. The international community, including non-state actors, can assist states in this. In case of conflict situations peaceful means of conflict resolution shall take a leading role.

**58.** States have the monopoly on exercising force within their borders if the political rights of all are respected and if government agencies can be trusted to keep people safe. We strive for a gradual abolishment of privately owned fire arms.

**59.** We strongly oppose the death penalty and we suggest adjusting existing penal codes accordingly.

**60.** National defense spending should not be higher than the national budget for education and countries are to be held accountable if they do not meet this criterion.

**61.** Production, possession and proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, mines and cluster bombs shall be prohibited. Existing stocks are to be dismantled. All existing mine fields are to be rendered harmless by the relevant authorities, if needed with financial and technological support from the international community.

**62.** We propose the eventual abolishment of conscription in each country and the introduction of a form of civilian service instead.



**63.** All states are accountable to international law. National laws are to be adjusted by legislators to match any international treaties and conventions signed and ratified by that state. International treaties and conventions shall be adhered to by all signatory state parties.

**64.** We suggest to adjust the United Nations charter and establish a Security Council reform. The Council shall consist of eighteen member states, including the current five permanent members, eight non-permanent members and five non-permanent members representing their region. Decisions of the Security Council shall be made by an affirmative vote of twelve members. Non-permanent members representing their region have a responsibility to consult with their group in cases when regional matters are brought to the attention of the Security Council.

**65.** In cases where the United Nations Security Council fails to act as required to maintain or restore international peace and security, the General Assembly shall consider the matter immediately and may issue any binding resolutions it deems necessary in order to restore international peace and security.

**66.** We support the strengthening of United Nations peacekeeping operations. We call upon member states to earmark a fixed percentage of their defense forces and materials for United Nations peacekeeping missions. These are always available except for cases of national emergencies. Peacekeeping forces have to be accountable to international rules of conduct.

**67.** Interventions by United Nations peacekeeping operations shall take place on the basis of the charter of the United Nations. We encourage further development and eventual application of the Responsibility to Protect doctrine.

**68.** In case of a United Nations intervention, sufficient funds shall be set aside for the immediate realization of civil damage repairs, reconstruction and reconciliation. All peacekeeping forces within the mission are to contribute to these repairs.

**69.** We encourage the organization of activities and commemorations that contribute to dialogue and understanding, especially for young people and people in post-conflict situations.

**70.** Marginalized and vulnerable groups in a country shall have the same rights as the rest of the population. Ethnic groups may be given autonomy within the realm of the state.

**71.** The rights and well-being of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDP's) and stateless persons have to be safeguarded. The root causes of refugee and IDP problems have to be addressed by the states concerned and the international community is to assist states in this whenever needed.





# SUSTAINABLE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

*International cooperation is an essential means to achieve a world in which each person grades his or her life as 'good'. In this chapter we introduce the People's Partnership as the primary form of international cooperation, encouraging communities worldwide to contribute to increased well-being.*

**72.** We propose a People's Partnership in which we link countries in pairs in order to realize our goal of all persons grading their lives as good, or with at least an eight out of ten. Both countries support each other in realizing the articles in the Liemers List. A list of proposed pairs is available as an annex to the Liemers List.

**73.** The People's Partnership is to become the primary form of bilateral cooperation. The two partner countries focus all efforts in the field of bilateral cooperation onto each other. Multilateral cooperation continues to exist and supports the goals of the People's Partnership.

**74.** The People's Partnership is designed to create friendship and foster understanding between two countries. We call on all segments of society, including governments, non-governmental organizations, companies, associations and individuals, to establish linkages with similar actors in their partner country for exchange, cooperation and mutual support.



**75.** We recommend partner countries to eventually invest four percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) annually in a shared People's Partnership Fund. This fund is used on projects that lead to the realization of the articles in the Liemers List and to people in both countries grading their lives as good. Together the stakeholders in partner countries determine, in a transparent manner and under the rule of law, how the money is spent.

**76.** We call upon partner countries to reserve one percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to level the income disparities between the various pairs of countries.

**77.** We call upon the United Nations to establish a framework that provides binding guidelines for partner countries related to project development, monitoring and evaluation, and financial accounting. An independent committee set up by the United Nations will be responsible for external controls on monitoring and evaluation and financial accounting. A fixed percentage of the People's Partnership Fund is to be used for this purpose.

**78.** The People's Partnership budgets will remain available to partner countries for a period of five years. If not spent or no action plan has been developed within these five years, funds can be spent by other pairs of countries.

**79.** We encourage partner countries to move more rapidly towards free movement of persons, goods, services and capital.

**80.** If a partnership is successful, a pair of countries can start cooperating with another pair to help this pair achieve its goals. Additionally, all pairs of countries form a group of four with one other pair for the purpose of knowledge exchange. Four of these groups form a group of sixteen. Six groups of sixteen form half the world. All groups together form the United Nations.

Every five years a conference is to be held where the Liemers List will be evaluated and adjusted, and implementation of both the Sustainable Development Goals (the Global Agenda) and the Liemers List is monitored.



## **Presentation to the United Nations**

*Ever since the start of HOPE XXL in 2009 we have had one thing in mind: To present the global Liemers List to the United Nations. And it happened in February 2015! Directly after the HOPE XXL Global Summit a small delegation traveled to the United Nations in New York. There, at the ECOSOC Youth Forum, HOPE XXL was presented to the UN.*

*Yama grew up in the Liemers region and is one of the people who have been involved from the beginning. He was given the honor of presenting HOPE XXL to the United Nations. In a powerful speech he shared our vision on the future with young people and policy makers from all over the world. "We have always wanted to present the Liemers List to the United Nations. I'm thrilled that we have now achieved this."*





Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



Follow us on  
 **twitter**  
[TWITTER.COM/HOPEXXL](https://twitter.com/HOPEXXL)

Find us on  
 **Facebook**  
[FACEBOOK.COM/HOPEXXL](https://facebook.com/HOPEXXL)

X  
**HOPE**  
L

[WWW.HOPE-XXL.COM](http://WWW.HOPE-XXL.COM)