

Zero Waste Living - Living Without Waste: Personal as Social

Youth are redefining what it means to live without waste. As part of the UNEP IETC Global Dialogue, a biennial flagship event addressing critical environmental challenges, young people convened during the Youth Day in Osaka, Japan, to develop the Mottainai Youth Declaration on Zero Waste and Circularity, the first global youth declaration advancing a just, inclusive, and circular future led by the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP.

Rooted in the Japanese philosophy Mottainai (もったいない), which expresses regret over waste and reverence for resources, the declaration reflects a shared global commitment to responsible consumption and production. From Japan to the world, this youth movement is now regionalizing the declaration's principles and fostering youth-led action worldwide.

This keynote will explore how youth are bridging generations to co-create the Reuse Era 2.0, showing that zero waste living is a shared intergenerational mission, where personal habits evolve into collective systems for change.

This session will ask:

- How can youth-led initiatives accelerate the shift from individual action to systemic change?
- What lessons emerge from the Mottainai Declaration? From Japan to the world
- How can intergenerational collaboration advance the transition to a just and circular society?

° 13:30 - 14:30 °

° Monday, October 19, 2025 °

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