

#01 Hijab Rana

Harmonies for tomorrow- crafting a blueprint for global peace and sustainability

Imagine stepping in a world where every heartbeat dances in rhythm with nature, where innovation and empathy run alongside each other, forcing each individual towards a brighter future.

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, My name is Hijab Rana and today I invite you on a journey where each step, each idea and each act of kindness binds us together and builds a blueprint for an imperfect yet peaceful and sustainable world.

But before I start, I want you to close your eyes for a moment and picture yourself in a utopian community- a community that's perfect according to you. What do you see? Perhaps, vibrant neighborhood gardens with children running around, laughing among the flowers or a bustling local market powered entirely by renewable energy. This vision is not a fantasy- it's a glimpse into the future we can make if only we dare to reimagine the world. What we have to do is, instead of defining progress by industrial output or endless consumption, we should measure it by flourishing communities, healthy environments and the bonds of empathy.

Today, let me show you a path toward something transformative. First of all, at the very core of my blueprint is the art of **mindful collaboration**. We all bring our experiences, cultures, and dreams to the table and they might not be the same as others but our greatest strength lies in our differences. Today, we all have gathered here from all around the world to talk about a common issue and certainly, we have learned from each other so if we embrace other's ideas and try to build a common connection, we can improve the world we live in.

I want you to consider the simple act of listening and you can begin right now, right here. When we truly listen beyond just the words, we begin understanding. Can you imagine a town hall meeting where instead of heated debates, there are neighbours sharing their hopes, struggles and desires. On a global scale, picture leaders preferring discussions over divisions, who treat diplomacy to its highest extent. When every voice is valued, empathy becomes a universal language, creating an effect of trust and collaboration.

There are countries that have already implemented this solution like Porto Alegre, Brazil. They have a Participatory Budgeting project, introduced in 1989

that invites local citizens to gather in community meetings to decide on what to do with the municipal funds. This project turns everyday conversations into a platform for collective decision-making and proves that every discussion can make a stronger, more inclusive community.

Next, let me turn your attention to the **environment**, the stage where our lives are impacted the most. Sustainability isn't merely a word- it's a call to action, a promise that we **must** make to our planet if we want it to survive. For a very long time, progress has often meant stripping nature from its rich resources but what if, now we could harness creativity to work with nature, instead of against it.

Look around, communities are reinventing urban landscapes. Can you picture a concrete landscape that is being transformed into a living, breathing ecosystem, and local parks are filled with renewable energy hubs. These examples aren't isolated but are the seeds for an ecological movement. These are a powerful reminder that every corner of our urban and rural landscape holds the potential for renewal.

Innovation doesn't come solely from modern technology, it originates from the wisdoms of those who lived in harmony with nature. We have learned about indigenous practices and their profound respect for nature. They teach us sustainable living and its benefits so imagine merging ancient wisdom with modern renewable energy solutions. This would restore the balance of our eco systems.

A real life example for this solution is **Singapore's "Garden by the Bay" program**. This program transforms urban spaces in sustainable environments. They integrate renewable energy features and eco-friendly designs so they can transform concrete jungles into ecosystems.

Moving on, I want to talk about our **culture of Compassion** and the need to rewrite our social contract. It's widely understood that true peace isn't merely the absence of conflict; rather, it is the presence of empathy, understanding and care for everyone. Think about the spaces where you learn, work and play. What if our school didn't just worry about our test scores but nurtured emotional intelligence, creativity and resilience. Imagine a classroom where every student is encouraged to explore not only science but the art of compassion and leadership. In such a space, success will be redefined; achievements being measured by the capacity to care, to collaborate and to lift and encourage each other.

An example of this is the **Finnish education system**. Their education system is famous for its focus on emotional well-being as well as academics. They nurture creativity, empathy and social responsibility. Due to this, Finland continues to be in the top nation with the best education. We could strive for such a system in every nation, if only we redefine our values and priorities.

Now, let's talk about how to bring this blueprint to life, we must start small and bring our way up. Allow me to share with you a story that perfectly captures the spirit of this.

A small town burdened with scars from industrial declines, their residents decided to transform an empty lot into a vibrant community park. Their shared vision made a useful and beautiful space. This park proved that anything is possible with collective effort, will and action.

Now imagine scaling this story on a global level. Picture neighborhoods worldwide, each contributing to the unique energy to sustainable practices. The blueprint for a peaceful and sustainable world isn't that far and it is unfolding right in front of our eyes.

But all of this big talk seems fun and easy but let's be real- building a world with peace and sustainability isn't easy and it comes with its challenges. But in the times of challenges is actually the time that our potential for innovation shines the brightest.

We have learned from history that every revolutionary change once met daunting challenges. All of the significant movements, from women's rights to labor rights, all began with hope within adversity so instead of viewing challenges as dead ends, begin viewing them as an opportunity to rethink, reimagine and improve.

So to conclude, I invite you to imagine a world where peace and sustainability isn't just ideal but a reality. A world with united communities, an empathic world with innovation that honors nature and institutions that uplift every individual. This is the world we can build if we reimagine our future with determined minds.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Let's build the world we deserve- one heartbeat, one idea, and one action at a time.

<https://www.participatorybudgeting.org/about-pb/#what-is-pb>

<https://www.weforum.org/stories/2018/09/10-reasons-why-finlands-education-system-is-the-best-in-the-world/>