



June 2nd 2019

IAPS Statement on climate change and School Strike for Climate

Climate change is happening. It is, in fact, an increasingly present and visible reality, most dramatically in the daily lives of thousands of people across the world who have been affected by extreme weather phenomena and conditions most likely exacerbated by the increasing average temperature at the Earth's surface and resulting climate irregularities, which are, according to the overwhelming majority of studies, due to the accumulation of greenhouse gases, massively produced by human activity, in the atmosphere of the planet we inhabit.

Considering the role of Humanity in climate change, it is clear that, in order to prevent an irreversible increase in temperature that would cause catastrophic destruction to societies, peoples, animals and other living beings and ecosystems all over Earth, action must be taken by public decision-makers, governments in an international effort to tackle a problem that has the potential of affecting, directly or indirectly, every community in the world.

Although the recent Paris Climate Agreement is a step forward, the most recent studies have shown that more ambitious goals must be set to solve this all-too-serious issue. Yet, it is evident that many countries are on a track to fail even the timid goals of the PCA.

So, we see it as reasonable to conclude that public pressure not only from scientific authorities but also from the general public is of utmost importance to hold governments accountable for reducing carbon emissions. In this sense, the Student Strike for Climate, which first mobilized more than a million students in various countries across the world on March 15th to protest inaction on climate change, with a second like initiative having been held on May 24th, offers an important opportunity for many students around the world to show they are engaged in the issue of climate change and are paying attention to what is being done, or not, to fix it.

As Physics students, we have the right and the responsibility to use what we learn to make sure the public is paying attention to this very pressing issue. Whether by striking, talking to others, holding informative conferences or contacting decision-makers, we, as part of the future of societies everywhere, must be involved in the efforts to tackle climate change.

The Executive Committee of the International Association of Physics Students

The International Association of Physics Students (IAPS), as its Charter states, is an international, student-run educational association, which aims to encourage physics students in their academic and professional growth by developing an ever-growing worldwide community within which peaceful relations are established in a collaborative, diverse and friendly social environment.