



Peace Child International  
empowering young people

# Songs for Survival

U N D a y Y o u t h S t a t e o f t h e P l a n e t F e s t i v a l  
*[working title]*

– 60-minute State of the Planet report framed in a youth concert of Songs, Statements & UN-verified Statistics distributed in different versions for every UN member State, and updated every year on October 24<sup>th</sup> (UN Day) –

**Context & Rationale:** This initiative builds on the success of the UN75 Concert produced by Peace Child Intl. (PCI) and LASER/UNA-UK in October 2020. It also builds on our shock at finding how many young people knew nothing of the UN. (*"I thought we'd left that..." said one in the UK - confusing the UN for the EU!*) Equally surprising is that the UN itself has no public-facing event on its annual UN Day to draw attention to its achievements and work in progress. This event, targeted at, & co-created by, youth, is designed to change that and promote the UN as the go-to source for accurate data on, and the most effective solutions to, the world's most pressing problems

**Framing:** An animated story of Spaceship Planet Earth trying to navigate its own dark corner of the Universe while carrying on board an unruly family of some 8 billion humans all of whom think they know what's best for it. A Google Earth dive from space takes the audience down to New York and up the East River to the UN Building – inside which is a sleek and startlingly modern Planet Dashboard showing key indicators on the State of the Planet. The Animated Planet coughs, bucks and convulses as Key Indicators reveal the threats to its survival but, by the end, after the UN and its agencies outline solutions to those threats, and young people from around the world sing and make statements about their commitment to implement those solutions, it floats on more serenely through space. Each year, our show will 'accentuate the positive,' inspiring young people to be confident that these problems will be solved – *IF* – we unite as a family across nations and generations to work on them.

**Content:** 10 x Key Indicator chapters will be introduced by *Songs for Survival* contest-winning youth-written songs and statements followed by UN officers and others outlining solutions to each problem. The 10 x Indicator sections will be linked to the SDGs but to ensure accessibility to the widest possible audience, the production team will select indicators that resonate with the traditional PCI target audience: the 'bright 14/15-year old.'

The proposed 10 chapters, to be linked by the animated story and different young Spaceship "Pilots," are:

1. **Population** (UNFPA) – World Total; national total; Rate of Increase – globally and nationally;
2. **Climate** (UNFCCC) – Carbon ppm/Keeling Curve; Global Heating levels; Combined impact of Latest NDCs;
3. **Peace** (UNDPO) – No. of wars (civil & Intl.); people killed in wars; Military Exp.; Closed Borders; Nuclear Arsenals
4. **Health** (WHO) – No. of Doctors per 100K; for 2021 – pandemic rates and future pandemic preparedness;
5. **Quality Education** (UNESCO) – Primary & Secondary Enrolment (EFA); Levels of Literacy upon graduation;
6. **Communication** (UN DSC) – No. of people connected to Internet; No. of cell phones; Digital Rights progress
7. **Poverty & Inequality** (UNDP) – HDR Indices + Champagne Glass update;
8. **Good Governance & Human Rights** (UN OHCHR) – Reported Human Rights abuses; Prison & Execution stats.;
9. **Biodiversity & Wild Spaces** (UNEP) – Biodiversity losses; acreage of wild space remaining;
10. **Jobs & Energy** (ILO & UN Energy) – Youth Unemployment; Fossil Fuel vs. Renewable Energy statistics;

**Distribution:** The online programme will be edited into 60-minute & 15-minute versions + 3 & 1.5-minute Newscast Items. Each will be distributed in different national versions – giving national broadcasters the chance to add their own commentary and sub-titles in their national language(s) with their own host(s). They can also include more of their own young people's songs and statements. In this way, each UN Member state will feel national ownership of the programme as well as part of the international programme. Each version will be freely available to all via a global platform, the 3-min. & 90-second News items providing a trailer for the other editions. Each will be hosted on a website with links to background documents, other websites, academic papers and book

lists for all who want to dive deeper into the issues raised in the programme. In 2021, we will pilot the programme in 5-10 UN Member states, rising to universal coverage of all UN Member states within five years.

**ANIMATION:** PCI uses cartoons & animation as a fun way to introduce serious matters to wide audiences: the company that made [this animation](#) for UN75 will work with us to create Songs for Survival animations.



**SONGS:** For 40 years, PCI has empowered young people to express themselves movingly in song and rap;

**We want this World to Survive forever**

*I know this world could die for ever – And people are the reason why  
 Children and parents, lovers and poets – They just can't hear our planet cry -  
 We want this world to survive for ever – And all the people join their hands together  
 In a bond of love, kindness and friendship – We'll make peace here with the earth*



**STATEMENTS:** On every continent, there are youth who steal the limelight speaking truth to power;



**Greta Thunberg**

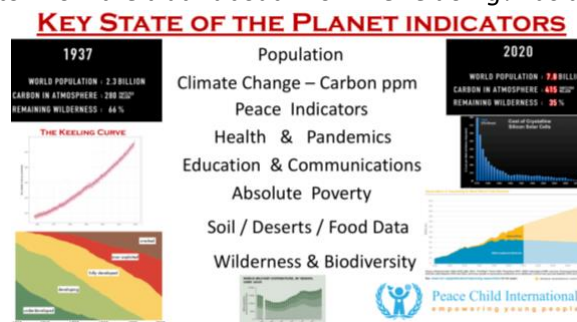
"To have a 67% chance of staying below a 1.5 degree rise – the world had a carbon budget of 420 gigatons of CO2 left to emit back in January 2018. Now it's down to less than 350 gigatons. With today's emissions levels, that remaining CO2 budget will be entirely gone in less than 8 1/2 years. Because these numbers are too uncomfortable, you are still not mature enough to tell it like it is. How dare you pretend that this can be solved with just 'business as usual'. You are failing us. But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. We will not let you get away with this."



**Angela Gorman**

We close the divide because we know,  
 We must first put our differences aside.  
 We lay down our arms  
 So we can reach out our arms to one another.  
 We seek harm to none and harmony for all.  
 Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:  
 That even as we grieved, we grew.  
 That even as we hurt, we hoped.  
 That even as we tired, we tried  
 That we will forever be tied together victorious.  
 Not because we will never again know defeat,  
 but because we will never again sow division

**STATISTICS:** We all want to know the truth about "How we're doing?" as a Planet. This event will tell them.



*These are all issues on which the UN leads: the programme will thus champion UN leadership on creating the future that young people want – the future we all NEED to survive and prosper*

