

RE: APPLICATION FOR NORTHERN EUROPE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
POSITION

Dear IFSA,

My name is Vincent Ochieng' Ogolla, I am 29 years old and currently based in Germany. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Forestry and am currently pursuing a Master of Science in Tropical Forestry. I am affiliated with Technische Universität Dresden, where I am also an active member of Tharandt, which serves as my Local Committee (LC) within IFSA.

My background includes over six years of professional experience in environmental restoration, climate justice advocacy, agroforestry, and sustainable land management. My most recent role was as a Field Coordinator at Kijani Forestry, where I led community-based projects that promoted forest conservation and climate resilience among smallholder farmers in Kenya and Uganda. This professional foundation, combined with my academic training, has positioned me well for leadership roles within IFSA and broader environmental platforms.

At the international level, I have had the privilege of representing youth in several key forums. Notably, I participated in the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (CBD COP14) in Egypt (2018) under the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, where we discussed strategies to prevent the extinction of threatened tree and animal species. I also took part in the United Nations Forum on Forests through the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) initiative, where we explored how to amplify youth voices in international forest policy. More recently, I served as the Head of the Delegation for Kenya during the COP28 simulation model, contributing to capacity building sessions and making national submissions on forest-based solutions and youth inclusion.

Regionally, I served as the Secretary General of KIUESA from 2016 to 2018. This body unites students from across Kenyan universities pursuing environmental studies. During my term, we petitioned for progressive environmental policies aligned with increasing forest cover to 10%, reducing emissions, and improving solid waste management. I was also actively involved in organizing local cleanups, awareness campaigns, and reforestation activities in schools and community forests—activities that deeply grounded me in grassroots environmental engagement.

I am applying for the Regional Representative for Northern Europe position at IFSA because I believe it offers a unique platform to connect student voices from diverse regions and bridge local action with global forestry policy. I see this opportunity not just as a continuation of my personal growth, but as a chance to support fellow students in shaping inclusive, knowledge-driven, and action-oriented forestry futures.

From my understanding, the position I am applying for as a Regional Representative for Northern Europe requires both strategic coordination and people-centered leadership. The role demands that one serves as a bridge between the IFSA Board and Northern Europe regional,

and the Local Committees, facilitating communication, collaboration, and support. The tasks range from organizing and documenting meetings, supporting event planning and fundraising, representing IFSA at key events, and fostering engagement among members. Within the region, the position is also about teamwork, coordination of regional activities, and reporting, ensuring that IFSA's global objectives are aligned with local member needs.

If elected, my plans for the term include:

- Strengthening regional networking by initiating monthly regional LCs engagement forums to share project updates and peer learning.
- Enhancing participation of Northern Europe youth in international forest-related platforms through mentorship, proposal writing, and capacity-building sessions.
- Developing resource materials or toolkits for LC event planning, tree planting, and forest advocacy to standardize knowledge sharing across Northern Europe.
- Supporting IFSA's strategic goals on forest education, climate justice, and sustainable livelihoods, particularly in Northern Europe.

I believe I bring the required skills for this position:

- Strong organizational and communication abilities gained from coordinating multi-stakeholder Projects.
- Policy literacy and advocacy experience, with participation in high-level international meetings.
- Collaborative mindset and proven leadership, shown in my roles with KIUESA and current community-based work.

Commitment and reliability, are essential for keeping up with IFSA's internal coordination and external representation. I am passionate about forest conservation, youth empowerment, and environmental justice. I see IFSA as a critical space for shaping the future of global forestry, and I am eager to serve and contribute meaningfully to its mission. I would be honored to bring my skills, experience, and energy to this role.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Vincent Ochieng' Ogolla