



student action on world poverty and the environment

## General Proposal for the Forum 2009

Deadline for proposals: 8 December 2008

[peopleandplanet.org/forum](http://peopleandplanet.org/forum)

**Categories for proposals:** finance and fundraising, present campaign, group support, communications, democracy, network, other, events

### Your details

Please provide the details of those putting forward the proposal. More than one proposer is optional.

#### Proposer 1

Name	Alex Wood (MC)
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Address	
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People & Planet group	Aston Uni

#### Proposer 2 (optional)

Name	
Email	
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Phone	
People & Planet group	

### Your proposal

Total word limit for this section: **500 words**.

Which category does your proposal best fit into?	Democracy
Title	Making sure the MC is representative.
Summary of your proposal (no more than 30 words).  For example, a topic for discussion, a position to debate or suggested course of action (like a motion).	Ensuring that the MC has female and ethnic minority representation. As at the last two Forums no women or ethnic minorities have been elected on to the MC.
<i>What is the proposed agenda item? (Write about your proposal in more detail here.)</i>	
P&P's highest body is the Management Committee (MC). It is of vital importance that P&P is representative of the broad and heterogeneous nature of the Network.	

Yet at the last two Forums no women or ethnic minorities have been elected on to the MC. There are many ways that both women and ethnic minorities are held back by the current system. Therefore sensible affirmative action is necessary to counter-act hundreds of years of oppression and the invisible barriers which both women and ethnic minorities must overcome to be successful.

Both a female and ethnic minority member of the MC should be insured by a process of safe guarding 1 of the 6 seats on the MC for both a female and a self-defining student from an ethnic minority. This will mean that if all the female or ethnic minority MC members' 2 year terms are ending then the female and / or ethnic minority student with the highest votes in the MC election at the Forum will respectively be elected. The remaining MC places will then be distributed respectively by process of elimination using Single Transferable Vote.

If no female or ethnic minority students stand for election or if the only female or ethnic minority students are ROned then the respective seat will not be filled at the Forum and the MC will co-opt a suitable candidate to fill the role until the next Forum.

*Why is this important for People & Planet? For example, why is it valuable to discuss or if implemented, how will it make P&P more effective?*

The main way that P&P is student led is through the election of students on to the MC. If P&P is to be representative and empower a generation of students it needs to be representative of all students not just white male students who have been elected for the last two years.

If implemented it will ensure that we do not face the embarrassing situation of an all white all male MC which we were faced with after the Forum last year.

*How could it be implemented? (if applicable)*

The MC shall write the above process into the MC Charter and the above process shall come into force at the next Forum in 2010.

**If you need any help or advice relating to completing this form,  
please contact Harry: [forum@peopleandplanet.org](mailto:forum@peopleandplanet.org) or call 01865 245 678**

**When completed, please return by email to [forum@peopleandplanet.org](mailto:forum@peopleandplanet.org)**