



COP27 GLOBAL YOUTH STATEMENT

Declaration for Climate Justice



Opening Message

COP27, the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference, marks the beginning of the implementation era of the Paris Agreement. With the world headed towards a catastrophic 2.5°C of warming by the end of the 21st century, as confirmed by the latest UNFCCC NDC Synthesis Report, the risks of continuing 'business-as-usual', and the imperative for stronger and bolder climate action, have never been greater.

At this critical juncture, COP27 must demonstrate tangible progress in delivering on the pledges and promises made in Paris and Glasgow. First, COP27 must finally accomplish the goal on adaptation finance and commit to a dedicated finance facility for Loss & Damage, in order to enable most affected people and areas (MAPA) and climate-vulnerable countries to cope with and recover from the increasingly destructive impacts of climate change. Second, COP27 must embrace justice in the transformations ahead towards a climate-resilient future, advancing the inter-linked and inter-dependent climate and development goals in the post-pandemic context. Third, despite – or precisely because of – the deteriorating geopolitical environment, the COP27 must facilitate international cooperation and dialogue to collectively address the borderless, transnational climate crisis.

The current global energy crisis perfectly exemplifies how energy markets are built on a broken system that leaves the much-needed just energy transition up to geopolitical confrontations and short-term political gains. Therefore, it is imperative that we decisively transform our societies and economies, and finally end our toxic dependence on fossil fuels.

We urge parties and stakeholders to take the Global Stock-Take process very seriously for it will determine how far we are progressing in delivering the promises of the Paris Agreement. It is therefore important for Parties to improve on accountability and transparency with data which will be communicated through the Biennial Transparency Report. Young people can be great agents of change in this whole process through research, data collection and analysis. As we aim to improve countries' ambition and advance the urgent action needed to limit warming to 1.5°C. Throughout the negotiations, COP27 must ensure that human rights are at the core of the decisions taken, and progress is made in a transparent and inclusive way. COP27 will succeed if, and only if, youth and civil society freedom of speech and right to protest are respected, and their perspectives and proposals are meaningfully considered and incorporated in the decision-making process.

The following are the overarching demands to the COP27 Presidency and the Parties:

- We urge Parties to attend the first youth dialogue forum on the Youth and Future Generations Day as urged in Article 65 of the Glasgow Climate Pact, and to implement Article 64 and the Glasgow ACE Work Programme, ensuring more meaningful youth participation in UNFCCC negotiation processes.

- COP27 features the first ever children and youth-led pavilion in the blue zone to amplify the voices and solutions of young people, put forward policy proposals and drive action vital to safeguarding our future. We urge Parties to support the institutionalisation of the Children and Youth Pavilion in succeeding COPs.
- We continue to urge all Parties to safeguard children's environmental rights and sign the UNICEF Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action at this COP and
- We request the parties to recognise and express appreciation for the outcomes of the Seventeenth Conference of Youth, organised by the children and youth constituency held in Sharm-el Sheikh in November 2022.

From heat waves across Europe to droughts across Africa and massive flooding in Asia, the past year of extreme weather events have served as a(nother) visible wake-up call for humanity. Global Youth urges political leaders to take heed, take charge, and take action. We have no more time to lose. Our future literally depends on it.





KEY DEMANDS

KEY DEMANDS



Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)

We call on parties to acknowledge the significance of ACE as a key pillar of climate action through adopting a robust ACE Action Plan with universal metrics and attributions to each element. Additionally, parties must incorporate the appointment of national ACE youth coordinators or focal points to work in partnership with National ACE focal points and address the ACE finance gap by convening funders under one platform in the ACE action plan.

Adaptation and Resilience

The global goal of Adaptation must be defined, understood and implemented in an inclusive, systemic and transformational manner. Equitable, accessible and concessional financing mechanisms must be established to empower communities to withstand, adapt and recover from the adverse climate-related impacts. Climate adaptation plans and programs must take context-specificity and conflict-sensitivity in all ecosystems and communities into account.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

A comprehensive solid legal framework must be in place to ensure the protection of rights, and intellectual properties so we can collectively enhance climate education and broaden reach. We demand policies and frameworks to balance economic, business, and political interests to fully preserve historical sites and artefacts while promoting eco-tourism to recognize community flourishing arts, cultures, and heritage values. Youth can thoroughly realize the scope of achieving the climate goals through fully incorporating the merits of augmenting arts, cultures, and heritage as supportive climate mediums.

Climate Action Plans and Global Stocktake

Nationally Determined Contributions and Global Stocktake processes must give equal emphasis to both mitigation and adaptation and loss and damage, paying especial attention to the principles of just transition and to human rights and equity, including intergenerational equity. The GST and NDC processes must develop avenues to foster youth skills and meaningfully include them in their design and implementation.

Climate Finance and Markets

We call for a transparent, grant-based and concessional financial scheme for the delivery of all previous pledges, including the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact. Additionally, climate finance must be integrated, especially in sectors and communities that do not traditionally receive adequate financing or have been recognized as central to the transition towards low carbon and climate resilient pathways including the banking sector and youth-led green enterprises.

Climate Justice and Human Rights

We urge all Parties to respect, protect, fulfil, and promote all human rights when designing their climate policies and strategies. It is imperative to recognise and urgently address the climate crisis as a humanitarian crisis while addressing the root causes of vulnerability and preventing further climate displacements, losses, damages and suffering, especially borne by underprivileged and vulnerable communities.

Energy

A dedicated negotiation track on energy must be established within the framework of UNFCCC negotiations to discuss technology transfer, procurement and financing, scientific research and development, and strategic energy connectivity policy planning through a multi-stakeholder consultation process to reform multilateral energy governance. Through this, parties to the UNFCCC must develop equitable, secure, and sustainable energy systems that are fit for present and future use.

Food and Agriculture

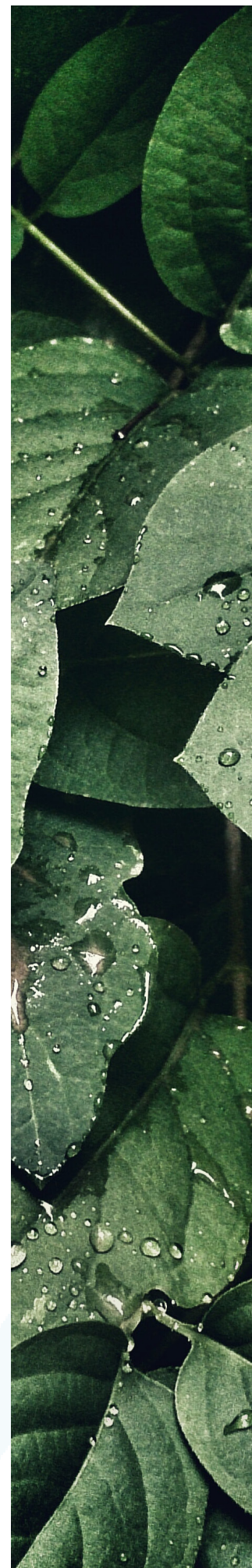
Parties must promote agroecology as a sustainable pathway to deliver a robust and resilient agri-food system, support policies, which integrate sustainable consumption and promote green jobs at global, regional, national and sub-national level. We urge parties to support policies that encourage better land governance structure for inclusive engagement of environmentally friendly stakeholders within the Food and Agriculture ecosystem.

Health

Policy development at the intersection of climate change and health must be accelerated via knowledge transfer and global research, leveraging the potential of digital technologies. This work must encompass different healthcare sectors, including infectious diseases control, food system, mental health, disaster management, and the health of vulnerable populations. Climate change adaptation and mitigation in the health system must be realised through collaboration with transport and infrastructure sectors, ensuring that health systems can support social needs while contributing to net-zero targets in their own right. Youth involvement in the development and implementation of climate policies in health systems must be enhanced and supported.

Loss and Damage

Loss and Damage must be permanently on the COP negotiation agenda. At the same time, COP must establish a Loss and Damage Financing Facility with effective, transparent and grant based resources, that are decoupled from adaptation and mitigation funding. The Santiago Network mandate must be effectively operationalised and sufficiently financed.





Nature and Biodiversity

Any restoration measures must be designed carefully after assessing the pre-existing ecology of the target ecosystem, with outcomes being properly monitored against transparent criteria. While the present emphasis on the global target of 30% conservation is commendable, resilience of natural habitats must be taken into consideration in the global conservation agenda. Underused land must be identified and managed in line with agro-ecological principles, utilising urban agriculture and nature-based solutions.

Oceans

Ocean-related impacts must be taken into greater account in loss and damage negotiations. We urge that increased attention be directed to funding and implementing nature-based infrastructure for coastal buffers to mitigate coastal damage.

Politics, Policymaking and Governance

We urge the cooperation and involvement of all actors in the social, political, and economic transformations ahead. Parties must design effective and just NDCs, NAPs, and climate policies aligned with scientific guidance, as well as mechanisms of implementation that are coordinated with local and regional governance, inclusive of all members of society and enforceable long-term.

Reimagining and Transforming Economies

A just transition of the workforce and the creation of quality green jobs must be prioritised to ensure the development of climate-resilient, just and sustainable economies. The power of sustainable, well-planned, and responsibly managed urbanisation must be harnessed to enable countries' transition to low-carbon economies whilst reducing economic disparities.

Technology and Innovation

Earmarking of finance to support young innovators and increase technology transfer targets must be established to foster more impactful, long-lasting change in receiving countries. The UNFCCC Technology Executive Committee must also increase youth representation in its programme of work, giving youth status equal to other vulnerable groups by having a youth focal point.

Water

Local, regional, and global participation of youth must be established and institutionalized in the water and climate sector for knowledge exchange, networking, innovation and technological interventions and capacity building. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), policy and governance, Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), and water finance must be collaboratively addressed by stakeholders to ensure the inclusivity of youth across the water and climate sectors. Encourage parties to adopt the policies, programs, projects, and activities (PPPs) as proposed in the Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda (YDPA), endorsed in the Dushanbe Declaration.



THERE ARE

NO JOBS

ON A

DEAD PLANET.



JUGEND

**ACTION FOR
CLIMATE
EMPOWERMENT**

ACTION FOR CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT

ACE & the UNFCCC

Action for Climate Empowerment is a term adopted by the UNFCCC to refer to work under Article 6 of the Convention, and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement. The overarching goal of ACE is to empower all members of society to engage in climate action through six pillars; namely climate education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international collaboration on these topics. Engagement in these pillars must lead to a transition to a low-emission and climate-resilient world, the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC. The eight-year Doha Work Program on ACE concluded in 2020 and the Glasgow Work Programme of 2021 became its successor at COP26.

Glasgow Work Programme on ACE

In 2021, the Glasgow WP on ACE was adopted and outlines the path for empowering communities through 2030. It also includes suggested metrics and actions all parties could take to implement ACE as well as the mention of a need for financing ACE activities. YOUNGO's key wins are the first in-session workshop at SB56 that focused on youth-inclusion, support for an ACE action plan, support from Parties, COP Presidency, and the Secretariat on hosting an annual ACE Youth Forum, and the inclusion of young people in delegations as negotiators and/or Youth ACE Focal Points. More on the implementation of these activities under the Action Plan can be found in our submission.

Thematic Points

Noting the significance of the ACE Action Plan, we urge parties to add a column in the ACE Action Plan titled "ACE Element" and add new actions based on the elemental balance. Often, many Parties and communities associate ACE with only education, defeating the opportunity for ACE to create a transformational shift in climate action. Ensuring a balance of actions across all elements is essential for all communities to participate in achieving a zero carbon, sustainable future. We share our gratitude for hosting the 2022 ACE Dialogues on youth inclusion; however, we urge the Secretariat to provide a detailed summary to support ongoing conversations. Additionally, we urge Parties to continue discussions on youth inclusion and engagement in climate decision-making spaces at subsequent dialogues and negotiations to ensure our effective long-term participation and partnership. Reflecting on SB56, we see the main challenge with financing ACE as deciding how to acquire and distribute funding. Though we have suggested the ACE Marketplace, we urge Parties to (at the minimum) address the ACE finance gap and propose actions to work towards financing ACE activities. In the context of national action on ACE, it is vital that all Parties create and implement "ACE National Strategies" reflective of intergenerational and multi-stakeholder perspectives and needs for living in a zero carbon, sustainable world. Strategies must aim to amplify community empowerment to tackle the climate crisis and adapt to our new state under climate change from children to elderly adults as we are all impacted by the climate crisis.

Recommendations and Demands

Following the ACE Dialogues and Discussions at SB56, we demand:

Youth Inclusion in ACE

- Parties to have National ACE Youth Focal Points (or Coordinators) to coordinate with and support the activities of the National ACE Focal Point(s), which Parties also must appoint if they have not done so already, to ensure strategies are reflective of the needs of young people.
- Parties and the UNFCCC to support an annual ACE Youth Forum to bring young people together to discuss the state of ACE activities in their country, while providing space for young people to connect with ACE Focal Points to improve the implementation of ACE (The ACE Youth Forum could take place at Regional Climate Weeks).

ACE Dialogues

- ACE Dialogue outcomes to be well-documented and focus on strategies for improving the implementation of ACE and integrated into UNFCCC Reports on ACE.
- ACE Dialogues to continually integrate conversations on youth inclusion.

Financing ACE

- Parties to support the development of ACE partnerships and funding streams to support the implementation of ACE at the national and subnational levels, including by providing grants to existing projects being led by civil society.
- Parties to establish a dedicated platform for ACE that includes a mechanism to facilitate the mobilization of finance from public and private sources for ACE projects, especially youth-and-children-led and supporting initiatives, at the national and local level.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Parties to work with frontline communities and key stakeholders, such as young people, universities, schools, indigenous communities, and climate-related organizations to design and implement national strategies that are inclusive of language, local, and cultural roots.
- The creation of an ACE Platform by connecting focal points, sharing best practices, discussing challenges, and networking with ACE-related organizations to foster collaboration on the implementation of ACE (e.g. Urban Sustainability Directors Network). This platform could provide a weekly newsletter on positive climate stories and ways communities are making a difference.

ACE National Strategies

- Parties to establish National ACE Task Forces, which include youth and children who are fairly compensated, to design and implement the ACE national strategy.
- Parties to commit and plan for including young people in country delegations as one of the priorities within the ACE national strategies and its implementation processes.
- Parties to translate all ACE National Strategies and output documents into all local languages.
- Parties to digitize every strategy for easy and fast information distribution or access. e.g. create an application/software that will entail every ACE strategy.

Action Points on ACE Elements

We urge Parties and UN bodies to:

- Provide universal, accessible, language-diverse, location specific, formal and informal climate justice education that is linked with the education for sustainable development agenda.
- Provide vocational education to include green entrepreneurship and impart knowledge about social and environmental impact.
- Create climate action clubs in all schools and universities.
- Launch citizen-led science and action initiatives, especially by young people, in ACE national strategies (e.g. offer funding and training to support citizen science initiatives).
- Promote public awareness campaigns through social media, traditional media, and workshops to inform all members of society of the climate crisis, the actions that can be taken to tackle it and adaptation solutions at the individual, community, national, regional and global scales.
- Incorporate climate training into all in-service training for government employees at the national and sub-national levels.
- Strengthen, monitor and evaluate the ACE activities through reporting guidelines for ACE inclusion in NDCs, national strategy reports, and national communications.
- Create climate advisory services for start-up organizations that are building technology solutions to reach zero emissions.



ADAPTATION



ADAPTATION

Introduction

Our vision is to see adaptation finance and implementation matching the level of mobilisation and ambition that characterises mitigation, with youth and broader local communities playing a key role through a systemic & holistic approach at all levels.

We seek to see adaptation policies and ideas implemented transparently and resilient at all scales, while being flexible and proactive in addressing emerging issues and uncertainties. We support well-resourced community-based adaptation that is inclusive and sustainable, with wider benefits for human well-being, biodiversity and nature. We call for increased funding and financial flows, particularly grant-based, for both incremental and transformational adaptation action.

We want an increase in tangible opportunities for youth to be involved in adaptation action, such as scholarships, funding opportunities, educational courses, access to high-level events, and meaningful representation in decision-making bodies.

To this end, we prioritise four key areas:

- **Visibility:** Raising the profile of systemic climate adaptation planning and implementation within policymaking at all scales, including global guidelines and support for developing adaptation plans.
- **Finance:** Highlighting and addressing the finance gap in adaptation through an economic justice and fairness lens, ensuring funds trickle down to youth and wider local groups/institutions.
- **Capacity-building:** Tackling technical and social gaps in data, knowledge, skills and tools for adaptation planning and implementation, particularly leveraging the potential of youth-led action.
- **Participation:** Ensuring meaningful involvement and engagement of youth from a variety of backgrounds and identities, paying particular attention to intersecting forms of social vulnerability & marginalisation in adaptation decision-making, policy-making and implementation.

On the Global Goal on Adaptation

Welcoming the establishment of the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) in COP26, we urge Parties and UN bodies to:

- Be mindful of the inequality and injustice between Global South and Global North countries regarding impacts, fostering mutual collaboration and support. Also, consider inequities within countries along regional, geographic, social identity and income lines.
- Engage youth and youth-led organisations in shaping the GGA at all stages, from decision-making to implementation.
- Promote a hopeful and solution-oriented narrative on resilience that empowers and encourages people, moving beyond traditional uncertainty around climate risks and impacts.

- Adopt a holistic approach to adaptation issues and action within the work programme and the GGA in itself, particularly considering the relationship between adaptation and nature/biodiversity, the economy, education, food and water security/sovereignty, social equity and inclusion, conflict and peacebuilding, technology and science.
- Strengthen the translation of climate (impacts and risks) science and research into policy and positive impact through capacity building for researchers, including young and early career researchers.
- Involve and financially support local research centres to ensure adaptation policies can be precise and tailored for specific territories and communities.
- Share knowledge, technology and data, such as satellite images, between countries at a regional level, particularly between developed and developing countries.
- Focus on building resilient infrastructure that is vulnerable to climate risks and impacts through innovation and improvement of existing ones.
- Share knowledge and raise awareness on climate impacts and adaptation action among citizens through culturally-sensitive communications and education, working with local communities and their traditions, and addressing barriers such as language.

On Adaptation Finance


Welcoming the COP26 and COP27 presidencies' efforts to increase climate finance for adaptation, as well as ongoing work under the Adaptation Fund, we urge Parties, funders and UN bodies to:

- Better fund youth-led and youth-focused climate adaptation projects, mirroring initiatives.
- Assist in the funding and support of programmes and projects aimed at developing and expanding youth participation in local, regional, and global climate adaptation action.
- Increase engagement with well-established donors in the private sector, such as philanthropic donors.
- Promote grant-based adaptation finance over high-interest and conditional loans to promote economic justice and reduce stresses caused by the global country-debt crisis.
- Carry out proper and fair funding distribution across all sectors affected by climate impacts and be involved in adaptation action, while placing human well being and welfare at the center.
- Align climate adaptation finance with national development plans and promote of green economies.
- Ensure Global North countries commit to specific loss and damage finance in addition to adaptation finance.
- Raise funding through tax mechanisms on big private sector emitters and polluters with activities that create climate risk and increase climate impacts.

On National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Adaptation Communications

Welcoming continued efforts to ensure all countries share strategies to prepare for and address climate impacts (both slow onset events and extreme weather conditions). We urge Parties to:

- Be sensitive to underlying social vulnerabilities, considering the specific adaptation needs of those most vulnerable, such as migrants and displaced populations, people with disabilities, rural communities, poor urban areas, elderly people and youth.
- Develop gender-sensitive climate adaptation strategies, particularly considering the needs of women and girls.
- Adopt conflict-sensitive lenses for adaptation interventions at regional, national and local level. In particular, young people play a crucial role in conflict-affected and fragile settings, being both the most vulnerable to and critical agents for peacebuilding.
- Create and implement sub-strategies for crucial sectors, such as health national adaptation plans.
- Consider the specificity of each context, local community and local dynamics. In particular, top-down approaches from big international organisations might not be sufficient, and empowering local action can be progressive.
- Include traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices in local, national and regional adaptation strategies alongside evidence-based policies and academic science.
- Take both extreme weather and slow onset events into consideration when addressing climate-induced migration and displacement.
- Efficiently employ early warning systems and contingency plans to minimise losses to critical sectors, such as agriculture, working with local businesses and workers. In particular, disseminating information in an accessible manner is essential, involving workers, meteorological departments and local representatives.
- Integrate ecosystem-based adaptation approaches and socially-minded solutions in plans, going beyond the focus on technology.
- Involve various stakeholder and ensure alignment with other national plans and strategies, such as national development plans and budgets.
- Establish local resilience funds to safeguard access to climate-sensitive costly necessities such as food and water, ensuring household welfare and uplifting lives during disasters and adverse events.

A top-down view of various painting tools on a dark blue, textured carpet. In the upper center is a white cup with an orange base, filled with green paint, with a wooden-handled brush resting inside. To the left and bottom are several other brushes with wooden handles and dark bristles, some showing signs of use. In the lower right, a piece of orange paper or cardstock is propped up, featuring the text "DON'T WAIT LIFE GOES FASTER THAN YOU THINK" in a bold, distressed, black font. The word "FASTER" is highlighted in a light blue rectangular box.

**DON'T
WAIT
LIFE GOES
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THAN YOU
THINK**

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE



Arts, Culture and Heritage

Introduction to the importance of arts, cultures and heritage to climate actions and promoting climate goals

Intersections between arts, cultures and heritage can be built with all the 17 SDGs owing to its close connection to the empowerment of indigenous communities that create and live in accordance with cultural and natural heritage as well as modern day art that revives mental vitality. Sustainable practices are intrinsically local and thus create harmony between nature and people. Locally adapted practices became a part of arts, culture and heritage and were followed as a way of life before the effects of colonization, capitalization and a focus on cultures and things represented most by media became the way of life. This led to what is not harmonious or known by the people of a particular place to replace what is naturally harmonious and in accordance with local knowledge established since the start of civilization in the place.

Considering arts, cultures and heritage as a facet of climate action can thus play an important role in reducing embodied energy values of materials because of lower transport distances, creating opportunities that can be advantageous to local communities in terms of health, social welfare and economic growth, increasing representation of tangible and intangible heritage of indigenous communities to the level of popular/globalized culture for overcoming unethical capitalization, promoting food, material and agricultural practices understood most by local communities and that are most suitable to their soil.

To understand this we can take the production of cotton as an example. Cotton clothes are a really popularized material even in areas where cotton is not native. This leads to the use of chemical fertilizers to grow cotton for the clothes. Whereas if something that was culturally worn and naturally available in that place eg: clothes made up of bamboo fiber was promoted, it would automatically be better for the soil of that place as well as it would not require so much chemicals to grow.

Arts; as a way to overcome information overload

In the modern day and age, there is a lot of information available about every subject, just a click away. This leads us to wonder why subjects like climate change that have so much relevance to humanity are misunderstood. Information overload is the difficulty of understanding an issue when the brain is bombarded with huge amounts of information. It is a scientific phenomenon that is related to the amygdala of the brain. This part of the brain categorizes information that is not relevant to the here and now to be a cause for flight, fight or freeze, when it is bombarded with too much information (in terms of noises, visual pollution, digital information, etc.)

The concept of art as medicine dates back to ancient civilizations. A lot of parts of ancient spaces are decorated by art. The spaces themselves are meant for healing, worship, performances, theatrics, crafts, etc. Art was one of the oldest means of communication as portrayed by the early cave paintings that seem to show that some things that could not have been expressed by just language needed expression of the subconscious. Art has

been studied by modern medicine for its healing effects and is used as therapy too. Thus, the promotion of art and artists in digital and physical arenas to express and understand climate change without the effects of information overload is necessary to take effective climate action.

Demands and Actions Forward

- Tackling the climate crisis requires all societies to address challenges and promote a sustainable, livable, and healthy future. As we create an inclusive platform for climate actions and partnership, we strive to apply creative mediums for expression and implementation. We recognize audiovisual mechanisms as instrumental to effective communication and broadening awareness; climate actions can be portrayed through arts, cultures, and heritage. Arts is a universal language that transcends boundaries and amplifies climate actions and dialogues. Culture allows us to represent and participate in the climate space authentically. Heritage symbolizes tradition, legacy, and history.
- We are alarmed by the increased natural hazards and drastic climatic and environmental variations. Therefore we demand a strengthened effort in weatherizing the heritage sites and artifacts. We note further that economic, business and social activities can neglect to preserve historical sites, often leaving these sites to damage or extensive wear and tear. As such, we demand policies and frameworks to balance economic, business, and political interests to fully preserve historical sites and artifacts while promoting eco-tourism to recognize community flourishing arts, cultures, and heritage values. Finance also must be ensured for adequate maintenance and repair. Realizing their historical and environmental values, we are convinced that protection zones must be set to safeguard them from social unrest, economic instability, and political turmoil.
- We request partnerships to revive lost or near-extinct cultural practices and languages. A comprehensive curriculum must thrive in academia to teach pupils about local traditions while recognizing international ties. Multilingualism connects communities. Preserving ancient and living languages and acknowledging social progress can maintain cultural and linguistic diversity and inclusiveness.
- Declaring the expansiveness of artistic and cultural expressions is to advance climate actions, advocacy, and activism in addressing the climate emergency, a comprehensive solid legal framework must be in place to ensure the protection of rights, properties, and intellectual properties so we can collectively enhance climate education and broaden reach. Mentorship, financial support, and climate and international financial mechanisms can secure the artists' livelihoods to promote climate goals.
- Local and Indigenous knowledge must be embedded into climate policies as vulnerable populations, underserved, marginalized, and underrepresented communities have equitable representation in tackling the climate crisis. Humankind has a long history of wisdom instilled in arts, cultures, and heritage, and we seek to create a sustainable future with ancient art forms by creatively applying audiovisual techniques. Visual and performing arts express climate actions in ways that writing, speeches, and poems cannot. Fully believing the merits of augmenting arts, cultures, and heritage as supportive climate mediums, youth can thoroughly realize the scope of achieving the climate goals through raising awareness, forming working groups and task forces, drafting recommendations and policy submissions, and organizing events and conferences. Further, we aim to work with agencies like UNESCO to promote international partnerships in education, cultures, science, communications, and arts, focusing on climate actions.



CLIMATE FINANCE AND MARKETS

CLIMATE FINANCE AND MARKETS

Climate Finance has been at the heart of negotiations at COPs for the past few years and with the slated implementation year, it is undeniable that efforts regarding climate finance work programmes must be amplified. Climate finance will again be a key, and cross-cutting topic at COP27, with a significant number of scheduled discussions and linkages among most agenda items. We believe that existing finance is grossly inadequate, and that loss and damage finance needs are distinct and must be in addition to finance for adaptation, mitigation, humanitarian assistance and/or development assistance. UNEP defines the green economy as “an economy that not only enhances population standards, but minimises environmental problems, ecological deficiencies, social instability, and undesirable externalities”.

Paris Agreement (Article 2.1(c))

- We demand consistent flows of climate finance to underdeveloped and developing communities, especially areas that are water constraint and energy deficient.
- We demand an expansion of and equitable access to finance for youth and specifically to young entrepreneurs with expertise and credibility. We propose the establishment of programs to increase the accessibility to capital markets for youth. We urge the use of innovative financial instruments that scale up investments in adaptation, de-risk youth-led projects, and reduce the debt burdens faced by developing countries which often consist of the greatest proportion of youth populations.
- We urge climate investments to strengthen transitions to using renewable energy, championing clean technology, climate adaptation and resilience, maintaining sustainable production, consumption, business, and touristic behaviors, as well as the land-use sector. Further, we call for financial instruments to be applied to light industries in order to achieve the just transition of the entire economy and society.
- We propose that each country has a global commitment in Development Impact Bonds/Green Bonds that aligns with Climate Action projects to enable investors, philanthropies and organisation recipients, to have an easier funding/donor process.

Paris Agreement (Article 6)

- We demand the introduction of a carbon pricing mechanism with a minimum threshold to ensure that carbon prices will be sufficient to act as an external cost, as well as fund emissions reductions, adaptation projects and economic development.
- We demand more clear, stringent and comprehensive accounting standards for measuring both GHG and non-GHG metrics, and to assign a recognised third party verifier to ensure the accountability and credibility to avoid green washing.
- We call for an open repository of projects under Article 6 to ensure that only genuine, verifiable and tangible emission reductions qualify. We ask for the Article 6 database to be accessible and be open for its records to be queried.
- We request a target date of 2040 for Article 6 to fully phase-out reduction credits, including non-energy reduction credits, and move entirely to removals.
- We ask for a permanent youth observer at the Supervisory Board, in order to facilitate the communication of technical topics to the civil society.

New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance

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Definition of Climate Finance

- We demand a better approach by all countries to bring more awareness and knowledge around Sustainable Finance Models and Sustainable Finance Literacy among private sector investors, organisation-recipients, social entrepreneurs, and philanthropies that especially work on Climate Action Projects.
- We demand ensuring that the Climate Finance Definition conversation is aligned, consistent, and mindful of the other climate finance negotiations items such as the New Collective Quantified Goal.

Loss & Damage Finance

- We call on governments and multinational banks to conduct vulnerability analysis on high climate risk contexts to estimate the required amount for loss and damage and make sure sufficient financial support can be provided in any case of emergency.
- We demand both developing and developed countries establish financial task forces to manage loss and damage finance for the vulnerable populations in response to the increasing severity of climate catastrophes.
- We urge developed countries to supplement external finance with local finance mechanisms to meet the urgent adaptation needs of local communities at the frontlines of the climate crises.
- We demand that loss and damage finance needs to be urgently part of the NDC Global Stocktake.

Access to climate finance

Building capacities and assessing inclusivity.

- We urge the increase of opportunities for building capacities so that youth can access climate finance mechanisms; this access must not exclude any identity group, especially vulnerable communities.
- We demand supporting the access to climate funds through the ease of operations as

well as capacity-building for LDCs and DCs before passing due diligence.

- We demand that access to climate finance consider territorial needs for building resilience and the inclusion of climate migrants.

Accessing climate finance for civil society organisations and educational institutions.

- We demand secure, timely and easy access to funding for youth-led organisations to help them implement grassroots actions. Furthermore, multilateral environmental funds are urged to include youth-inclusive parameters in funding schemes.
- We demand including academic institutions, ranging from primary through high schools until tertiary education, so their needs and demands are duly considered in climate finance negotiations and direction boards.



CLIMATE JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS



CLIMATE JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Climate change has a profoundly negative impact on fundamental human rights, exacerbating existing inequalities and creating new disparities. It is no secret that the impacts of the climate crisis stem from chronic, structural inequalities that are deeply rooted in power imbalances, patriarchal structures and harmful gender norms as well as colonial attitudes, legacies, and stereotypes. To combat this, young environmental and human rights defenders are on the frontlines of climate justice movements across the world.

Climate Justice and Gender Equality

- We cannot take climate action without advancing climate justice and human rights. In this regard, in the strongest terms possible, we urge all stakeholders to:
- Commit to centering youth, young women and girls, especially those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalisation, as co-leaders, co-creators and co-owners across all climate-related decision-making processes, at all levels; and in this regard call on Member States to include young women and girls in their delegations to intersessionals and all intergovernmental climate-related processes, across the UN-system, and beyond.
- Strengthen the full, effective and meaningful implementation of the 5-year Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan.
- Increase accessible, flexible and sustainable financing provisions to operationalize the role of National Gender Focal Points, who can strengthen gender-inclusion in climate-related policy and decision-making processes.
- Prioritize capacity building programmes targeted at youth, especially at young women and girls, and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalisation, to expand their knowledge of climate policies and increase their contribution to effective policy-making; and in this regard, strengthen their capacity to understand the language that is being spoken within the UNFCCC circles, and to use this knowledge in their interventions and when co-leading on certain negotiated topics.
- Provide accessible, flexible and sustainable financing that will enable youth, especially young women and girls, to implement NDCs in thematic areas that affect their rights, including gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and others.
- Recognize UN Women's Generation Equality Forum's 5-year action journey to implement the agreed actions outlined in the Feminist Action for Climate Justice Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality and reaffirm existing and adopt further commitments in line with the Global Acceleration Plan published by UN Women and Generation Equality partners.
- Promote the importance of regionally-driven collaboration between environmental civil society organisations, supported by multilateral norm-settings to allow better coordination of civil society movements, strengthening their nationally established programs and participation in multilateral environmental forums where they can present their own identified region-based climate justice solutions, programmes and potential ways forward.

- Commit to the full, effective and meaningful implementation of the Agreed Conclusions and outcomes of the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2022/L.7), convened under the theme of “Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”.
- Commit to implementing grassroots, local and community outreach programmes to disseminate information on climate and disaster preparedness, safe water and health sanitation, including quality comprehensive sexuality education.
- Promote climate laws and policies that enhance social protections, and provide key services such as quality health care, including access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Indigenous Persons and Rights

- Commit to the full, effective, meaningful and substantial implementation of resolution 48/13 at the 48th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council that recognized the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as an essential human right for the exercise of other rights.
- Ratify and commit to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/61/295), and in this regard, guarantee Indigenous women, girls, and youth, in all their diversity, with the equal access to use and control resources in all their diversities (based on A/HRC/RES/37/8).
- Integrate existing obligations and commitments to human rights into climate policies, including the rights of Indigenous peoples, farmers, forest dwellers, fishing and coastal communities, pastoralists, nomads, people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, to foster resilience.

Migration and Displacement

- Commit to international cooperation to facilitate safe, regular and orderly migration, both internally and internationally, including by implementing measures to integrate migrants into their new communities, and in this regard, commit to implement and strengthen relevant international legal instruments and promote effective international cooperation to facilitate safe internal and international migration, noting the impact of climate change, to reduce vulnerabilities to the trafficking in persons, sexual and gender based violence, and the smuggling of migrants.
- Commit to the protection of frontline communities or those at risk; increased collaboration between youth and local communities to ensure informed and meaningful leadership of climate migrants, refugees and host communities; while prioritizing technical skills development and innovation to match the demand for a green transition, particularly for youth affected by climate-induced mobility.
- Commit to mainstreaming considerations to counter trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in all climate-related responses, including the implementation of a multi-pronged, counter-trafficking in persons action plan in all climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction responses and policies across all forms of internal crisis displacement, including climate-induced migration and displacement, stressing the importance of coordinating local, national, regional and international cooperation to enhance the positive effects of all climate change-related efforts.
- Commit to minimizing the bureaucratic processes, marginalization, or forms of discrimination that limits access and fair distribution of funds, mainstreaming criteria

across all multilateral funds especially for youth, women and girls affected by climate-induced mobility, while supporting innovative adaptation initiatives and participatory monitoring and evaluation systems for accountability of funds.

- Recognize that trafficking in persons often occurs alongside environmentally destructive industries, commit to the introduction of mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation requiring traceability of supply chains and accountability measures, in both the private and public sector, to identify risk areas.
- Commit to increasing youth participation and knowledge in climate-migration issues; scale and capacity of global resourcing, and accessible and flexible funding to formal and informal youth, youth-led and migrant-led organizations, networks, movements and collectives, who are working on issues relating to migration and climate change.
- Commit to ensuring survivors of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, who have been displaced or forced to migrate as a result of climate change, especially children, are not criminalised nor threatened with detention, deportation, or other forms of punishment for crimes committed during their period of trafficking or exploitation, or as a direct result or consequence of their exploitation, including, inter-alia, breaches of laws, immigration procedures, possession and use of forged official documents, or drug offenses; and in this regard, ensure survivors are provided with the relevant humanitarian, legal and financial support through established channels of assistance.
- Commit to increasing the scale and capacity of global resourcing, and accessible and flexible funding to formal and informal youth, youth-led and migrant-led organizations, networks, movements and collectives, who are working on issues relating to migration and climate change.
- Enhance effective and reliable gender-responsive data-collection, processing, dissemination, and access on the climate change and migration nexus to inform policies and programmes and to develop, update and improve migration strategies.
- Invest in closing the wide knowledge gap that exists in the climate-migration nexus, including indigenous knowledge systems.
- Invest in identifying hazard hotspots, digital and other forms of early warning system, DRRM, Early preparedness and innovations in order to reduce loss, death, injury, vulnerability, risks and displacements.
- Address climate displacement as a risk multiplier that exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and produce new ones, through supporting an integrated approach on the prevention, adaptation and protection fronts of climate displacement and supporting evidence-based approaches across the climate-conflict-displacement nexus.

Climate and Conflict

- Recognize and commit to taking concrete action to address issues related to migration and climate change, where multiple crises intersect, noting the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Note and act on the increasing links between armed groups, conflict zones and settings, terrorist groups, and climate change; and end the coercion of persons, in particular women, girls, migrants and youth, into forced marriages, forced pregnancy, forced labour, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation.
- Implement policies that address ongoing trauma, violence and disruptions to women, girls, and youth, in all their diversity, during conflicts and climate emergencies; and in

this regard call for the full, effective and meaningful implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2250, recognizing the importance and contribution of youth, in all their diversity, in maintaining and promoting peace and security.

- Include women, girls, and youth, in all their diversity, in substantive policy and decision-making processes regarding climate change and peace and security issues, and in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2242.
- Recognise the importance of action to minimise the sense of vulnerability to climate change which influences people's behaviour to get involved in conflicts, armed groups, terrorist groups.

Human Rights and Environmental Defenders

- Provide conducive spaces for youth, in all their diversity, to meaningfully engage in decision making processes, free from intimidation, abuse and coercion.
- Partner with youth, in all their diversity, to deconstruct the stereotypes and harmful discourses around 'activism' to allow for activists to positively contribute to climate action and gender equality efforts.
- Guarantee to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, girls, youth and youth organisations, in all their diversity, that are human rights, environment and climate defenders.
- Ensure legislation is not misused to target human rights, environment, and climate defenders and repeal laws that allow for detention without trial, restrict fundamental freedoms and the criminalization of peaceful association, and reaffirm the full and effective implementation of A/RES/68/181, A/RES/53/144 and A/HRC/RES/44/20.

Decolonizing Climate Change

- Decolonize climate change language and knowledge, and simplify and legitimise languages and identities suppressed and eradicated by linguistic imperialism to allow the recognition of historical injustices such as colonialism and imperialism, and persistent struggles such as racism, casteism, ableism, ageism, classism and discrimination based on gender and sexuality into its understanding of the environment, and divert agency to Indigenous knowledge and practices.
- Recognise States perpetrating the greatest environmental degradation have a common responsibility to pay for their disproportionate historic emissions; increase climate finance and resourcing to implement anti-discriminatory climate reparations and cancellation of debts, especially for damage caused by extreme weather events, environmental and climate-induced crises; and provide adaptation funds to serve affected communities.
- Develop and deploy new decolonized feminist social contracts, free from discrimination, to positively contribute to the climate, environment, and labor rights and gender justice principles, to prioritise marginalized communities, and ensure meaningful and equitable participation in decision making around, inter alia, production, distribution, and consumption of natural and economic resources.
- Adopt a local and differential approach to climate justice efforts, to ensure climate equity takes into account inequalities, cultural dynamics, age and gender, inter alia, to prioritise communities at the frontlines of climate crisis, especially women, girls, and youth, in all their diversity.

- Eliminate barriers of discrimination within social systems, irrespective of multiple and intersectional identities, particularly within health systems, including provide access to menstrual products and hygiene, and guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights, especially during climate-induced and environmental crises.
- Adopt a decolonial lens of climate accountability and examine, unpack, and reshape power dynamics, particularly in relation to resource flows and decision making; to secure the full and effective leadership and participation of multiple and intersecting marginalised and vulnerable identities and communities.

Persons with Disabilities

- Reaffirms the commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and refrain from adopting any climate action policies and programmes that could result in further marginalisation and harm of women, girls, and youth living with disabilities.
- Call for the explicit mention as well as their meaningful involvement in the development, enhancement and implementation of national plans.
- Commit to ensuring that persons with disabilities are actively consulted during the development of international, regional, national and local disaster risk reduction, emergency and adaptation policies, programmes and strategies, to ensure responses to and support for people before, during and after climate and environmental-related disasters are as accessible and inclusive as possible.
- Ensure that persons with disabilities are meaningfully included and co-leading climate-related decision making processes, and commit to ensuring that these processes are established to secure inclusive and accessible participation, through clear understandable language, allowing for time and flexibility, and sign language interpretation.
- Ensure that housing provided after climate and environmental disasters are accessible for persons with disabilities.
- Acknowledge the existence of “Eco-ableism” as a way of discrimination against people with disabilities in climate action policies as “Discrimination towards people with disabilities that happens in environmental policies and actions, because the solutions are not being made thinking that might make some people with disabilities face difficulties”.
- Create public and effective policies to ensure concrete strategies against “Eco-ableism” as part of the plan that must be created for effective climate action.



ENERGY



ENERGY

Introduction

Today, around 75% of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are energy-related. Stabilising atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations therefore requires net-zero energy systems to be foremost on climate agendas. Given this, it is surprising that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the primary multilateral body tasked with “stabilis[ing] greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system,” is ill-equipped to deal with energy systems. Among the seventy-one paragraphs contained in COP26’s main outcome document, energy is mentioned just once. This is an unacceptable shortcoming of the present approach to multilateral climate governance.

This is partly a function of the UNFCCC’s negotiation structure; there is not one single track for attaining net-zero energy systems. Recent negotiations and discourse indicate that COPs are not structured in a way that permits open energy discourse, especially not in a way that includes key stakeholders. At COP26, one of the primary debates centred around language surrounding coal use in India and China. The “phase-down” vs the “phase-out” lexicology was characteristic of a structure that forces meaningful policy commitments into the hands of high-level politicians, resulting in stated ambitions coalescing around impossible-to-quantify metrics in lieu of actionable abatement pathways. The global multilateral governance framework must clearly do more, better, to address the elephant in the room that is the energy system.

However, the present crisis has also reinforced the importance of the net-zero energy transition and added fresh impetus to global renewables buildout. The political and financial preconditions are clearly in place to support the rapid build-out of clean and secure energy sources, minimising the risk of future dependence on hydrocarbon markets.

If this same collective resolve can be harnessed across the energy system, a Paris Agreement-compatible future may still be achievable. We thus provide the following recommendations to Parties at COP27:

Sustainable Energy Supply

1. Reiterate both the need for, and feasibility of, a transition to a 100% low-carbon electricity system for all Parties by 2050, while simultaneously noting that countries capable of meeting this target earlier must, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, implement energy policies to decarbonise electricity supplies on accelerated timescales.
2. Call for a global moratorium on financing prospecting and exploration for:
 - a. new coal resources;
 - b. heavy-polluting oil (suggested to be defined at 450 kg CO₂ per 42-gallon barrel); and
 - c. all fossil fuels in nationally or internationally-protected conservation areas.
3. Propose a scaling carbon takeback obligation for fossil fuel producers and importers, starting at 10% of upstream emissions in 2025 and scaling to 100% by 2050.

4. Recommend that Parties commit to a global phase-out by 2025 of all fossil fuel supply-side subsidies, whilst redirecting funds towards the subsidisation of renewable energy and efficient infrastructure in order to ensure a just, equitable, and green transition.
5. Urge Parties and private sector actors to avoid long-term fossil fuel investments (e.g. new LNG import terminals) as a result of conflicts induced energy security and affordability crisis, which may become stranded assets or create path dependencies.

Energy Networks

1. Remind Parties that the rapidly growing share of renewables in the global electricity system necessitates continued investment into transmission and distribution networks to ensure adequate system capacity to handle intermittent supplies, by reconductoring, rebuilding, and expanding networks as necessary.
2. Encourage Parties to cooperate on international grid infrastructure, including regional HVDC connections and energy storage mechanisms.
3. Recommend continued investment into dispatchable energy technologies, including expanding energy storage systems to more effectively match electricity supply and demand.
4. Further recommend continued investment into research on the use of novel energy carriers including but not limited to green hydrogen and ammonia.
5. Recognise the importance of smart, interconnected electricity distribution systems in not only managing the power network from the demand side, but ensuring that communities without existing grid connections are able to make best use of increasingly-accessible renewable sources to meet electricity needs.

Demand Management

1. Urge Annex 1 Parties to set national energy sufficiency targets at no more than 25,000 kWh per capita p.a. by 2050 to mitigate energy use increases in LMICs.
2. Suggest that all Parties implement national demand management strategies to ensure that increased demand arising from electrification of energy end-uses can be accommodated by transmission and distribution grids and associated ancillary services.
3. Call for Parties and relevant stakeholders to embrace temporal pricing to better align demand with intermittent renewable generation.
4. Recommend that any demand-side subsidies to households and industries to alleviate the impact of the present energy crisis are designed and sized correctly to act as price signals to reduce demand in the longer term.
5. Encourage global agreement on border carbon adjustments to reduce the risk of industrial activity and manufacturing being shifted from countries with low carbon intensity energy sources to countries with high carbon intensity energy sources.

Security in the Net-Zero Energy Transition

1. Reaffirm to Parties the necessity of effective planning of raw material supply chains, specifically pertaining to the extraction and processing for minerals and metals critical to the energy transition, in order to minimise risks associated with geopolitical circumstances on sustainability targets.
2. Emphasise the importance of extended producer responsibility for renewable and low-carbon energy technologies, including appropriate recycling and end-of-life procedures.
3. Remind Parties of the risk of climate damages to energy assets and the need to suitably mitigate future climate risk to ensure a secure energy system.
4. Urge Parties to consider energy storage (both power and vector fuels) a matter of national security.
5. Encourage international cooperation to sufficiently scale green vector energy sources in-time to displace fossil fuels, as is necessary for Paris Agreement targets, and avoid shortages of such fuels at global, regional, and national scales.

Equity in the Net-Zero Energy Transition

1. *Call upon* Parties to commit to protecting human rights and the natural environment across the value chain for renewable technologies, especially accommodating for marginalised groups.
2. Stress the importance of meaningful youth engagement and leadership in the development, enhancement, and implementation of energy policy and programs.
3. Recognize many workers' economic dependence on the fossil fuel sector and emphasises the need to establish effective and fair mechanisms of cooperation between the public and private sectors that promote green employment skills capacity building.
4. Reiterate the need for Parties and private sector actors to develop transparent and structured climate finance frameworks to support the uptake and development of renewable energy in LEDCs in order to promote sustainable development.
5. Emphasise that alternative fuel supply chains must not be monopolistic, exploitative of LMICs, or neglect consideration of producer countries' biodiversity and local socio-economic conditions.

Reforming Multilateral Energy Governance

1. Recommend the establishment of a dedicated negotiation track on energy within UNFCCC negotiations to discuss technology transfer, procurement and financing, scientific research and development (especially around vector energy sources), and strategic energy connectivity policy planning.
2. Support the establishment of a consultation process with stakeholders from policy, private sector, academics and civil society, as well as drawing upon inter-agency expertise that exists in the UN system (UN Energy, UNDP Energy Governance, etc.), on reforming multilateral energy governance.
3. Call upon Parties to adopt the proposed draft on Interlinkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism, with a view to creating a dedicated mechanism

for renewable energy technology transfer and financing at COP27.

4. Remind Parties that these must be complemented with bottom-up solutions, since the polycentric nature of the energy system cannot thrive on top-down approaches alone; local communities need to be involved and solutions scaled up onto the international level.
5. Propose a shift towards a globally-standardised consumption-based emissions accounting methodology for energy system emissions to reduce the potential for industrial energy and carbon outsourcing.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Agroecology

Agroecological approaches support nature-based solutions that are a fundamental part to protect, sustainably manage, and restore our ecosystems. Applying agroecological approaches contribute to food security by strengthening the production of healthy and diverse food crops. Agroecology is a useful approach for the implementation of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) and a great vehicle to take action across the entire food system, which would benefit the successor of the KJWA. We urge Parties to:

- Design policies to transition conventional agricultural systems to agroecological principles, ensuring that sustainability is not left behind in the pursuit of profit.
- Promote agricultural practices adapted to the local conditions and resilient to the already happening changes in climate.
- Prioritise agroecology to transform the agri-food system, absorb carbon, cool the most affected regions and countries, build resilience, and enable small scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers to adapt to climate change.
- Include agroecology in nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and national adaptation plans.
- Acknowledge the importance of and consider the knowledge of indigenous communities in implementing agroecological practices alongside best available science and technology.

Sustainable Production, Consumption and Diet

Agroecological approaches support nature-based solutions that are a fundamental part to protect, sustainably manage, and restore our ecosystems. Applying agroecological approaches contribute to food security by strengthening the production of healthy and diverse food crops. Agroecology is a useful approach for the implementation of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) and a great vehicle to take action across the entire food system, which would benefit the successor of the KJWA. We urge Parties to:

- Develop policies and programs that encourage small-scale and community agriculture focused on the development of community gardens in rural areas as well as in major urban centres.
- Provide follow-up and enforce compliance with the roadmap towards a circular economy in the agricultural and irrigation sector to achieve greater sustainability.
- Facilitate interactive spaces between producers and buyers that allows for a more direct consumption and favour local purchase.
- Advance support for local initiatives and sustainable enterprises with a focus on a circular economy.
- Commit to the full spectrum of the Human Right to Access Adequate Food, which includes the respect, promotion, provision and protection of the human right to food security and sovereignty, recognising the role of the States to end hunger and ensure equity in access to nutritious food - directly related to a sustainable production, consumption and diet chain.

- Mainstream and encourage healthy and balanced plant-based diets, realising the threat that animal products (meat and dairy industry) pose not only to human health but to the health of the planet and the environment (water quality, deforestation, soil degradation, methane emissions).
- Implement policies to create awareness of the harmful impact of intensive animal farming.
- Commit to the goal of promoting initiatives and policies with the aim to reduce the consumption of animal-based products, based on the findings and policy recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 2019 special report.
- Commit to open dialogues and discussion around various faith based traditional food practices that are rooted in the fundamentals of sustainability, no-harm, reverence and highly nature-based diet practices.
- Understand the intersectionality amongst food systems, health systems, economic progress and ecological restoration.
- Understand that the transformation of our food system requires actions at all levels: governmental (public authorities), economic (production, supply chain, retailers), individual (consumer), and scientific (use of new technologies, research & innovation).
- Acknowledge that healthy, sustainable lifestyle approaches can play a big role in monitoring the overall food systems.
- Support the transition of farmers towards an organic production mode & reducing the use of pesticides & fertilisers by improving the efficiency of their application. An overload of pesticides & fertilisers has severe damages for ecosystems, biodiversity, and water streams.
- Fight the issue of food waste by sensibilising citizens and tracking the waste throughout the whole food supply chain.
- Close the nutrient cycle by promoting the diversity of crop genotypes and cease the separation of livestock and arable crop production.
- Promote a better use and stockage of animal manure in order to avoid ammonia emissions.

Water and Food Security

Despite emerging conflicts and extreme weather events, it is crucial to ensure that food is available at all times, people have access to it, and know how maintain a healthy diet. To achieve food sovereignty, we not only must provide food to the ones suffering from hunger but act on these key areas: **availability, access, utilisation, stability and agency**. We demand that Parties:

- Ensure everyone has access to enough food to meet their daily nutritional requirements.
- Recognise the importance of water for food security from production to consumption, and develop strategies to fight water scarcity.
- Recognise the importance of the right to food as part of the right to an adequate standard of living, and its intersectionality with other human rights.

- Strengthen the climate resilience of rainfed cropping systems through (rain) water harvesting methods, soil conservation practices and increasing the water retention rate by improving soil health through crop rotations, mulching, terracing, and reduced or no-tillage.
- Increase nutrient density per land and water unit of irrigated agriculture, mainly in vulnerable areas.
- Embrace community gardens and hydroponics, as well as high-tech greenhouses - only if they are less water demanding.
- Reduce and/or eliminate water use for luxury products and activities (such as swimming pools, irrigation of golf courses, irrigation of low nutritious crops used for export) in water-scarce basins.
- Increase the measures taken to avoid food and water waste on all levels (from production to consumption).
- Focus on in situ conservation and flourishing of indigenous crops which carry potentials of food and nutritional security at the national level.
- Grant financial support and technical capacity building support to smallholder farmers to engage in irrigation and water harvesting.
- Provide financial support to research in crop water productivity methodologies and innovations.
- Implement nature-based solutions such as afforestation and reforestation, which in return results in improved agricultural practices and favourable climatic conditions.
- Recognise the importance of riparian woodlands and the need to preserve them to ensure balanced habitats and clean water for human consumption and food production.
- Promote education that supports awareness and paves a path for a more loving relationship with natural resources at all levels.
- Increase the efficiency in water use through the establishment of water treatment plants and water recycling systems.
- Stop the use of excessive pesticides proved to cause harm to humans and nature, and switch to organic farming methods.

Food Sovereignty and Just Transition

We urge Parties to:

- Focus on programs that encourage the participation of indigenous peoples, farmers and campesinos in the policy making process, following a bottom up approach.
- Align our food systems with human rights, offering a fair compensation to agricultural workers.
- Promote the use of traditional seeds and local crops and stop the use of GMOs and pesticides.
- Ensure that farmers have control over the seeds and crops and don't depend on big companies to sustain their crops.

- Promote initiatives of food sovereignty through education and awareness building, such as community gardens at schools, homes, offices and communal spaces.
- Implement food banks that acquire the crops from small and medium-scale farms that produce organically to regulate public stocks on food programs.
- Improve the efficiency of the use of arable lands by reducing animal feed big plantations and increasing human food plantations.
- Ensure transparent labelling of food so that consumers can make conscious choices about their diets, recognizing processed and highly-processed foods and their impacts on human and nature's health.

Equity and inclusiveness - A focus on Africa

For decades the youth have been turning away from farming and rural living all over the continent. The transition to agroecology and just food systems will never happen without the energy, drive, and ideas of young people. For this reason, we urge Parties to:

- Pay urgent attention to the role of children and youth in climate action, climate adaptation, and food systems transformation. This can create a future for African youth, with a livable climate, opportunities for profitable agro-ecological enterprises, and thriving local economies.
- Implement bottom-up public policies to ensure the meaningful participation of civil society in food sovereignty discussions, such as food councils, income transferring programs, social security programs and making public information on nutrition and sustainability accessible and widely disseminated.
- Operationalise the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan – including planning, monitoring, and budgeting to enable women and girls to make the best economic decisions to sustainably steward their lands, produce and market diverse foods, and support and feed their families.

Soil Health and Land Governance

We urge Parties to:

- Provide technical advice regarding planning and territorial zoning of crops, as well as good agricultural practices, vertical farming, use of ecological pesticides and organic fertilizers, among others to guarantee respect for the natural cycles of crops and not affect soil fertility or contribute to ecosystem damage, droughts and seasonal heat waves.
- Improve land use policies through categorization of land into agriculture, settlements, forest and other purposes.
- Promote strategies to maintain soil health such as crop rotation, integrated farming systems, cover crops and minimum tillage etc.
- Prioritize actions to assist soil carbon sequestration at global/regional level which has dual impact as improving soil fertility/quality and reducing atmospheric carbon.
- Understand and recognize the complexity of soil structure and its utmost importance as the backbone of agriculture.
- Cease deforestation and the replacement of long-term organisms (trees) with short-

term organisms (cropland and grassland) to avoid removing a important part of our carbon biomass reservoir.

- Keep the soil green and covered and support farmers to access bio-inputs to reduce on consumption of fossil fuel-based inputs.
- Create laws to strictly penalize actions of soil health degradation.

Human Rights

Recognising that agricultural supply chains are tainted by modern slavery and trafficking in persons, including forced labour, as well as other forms of sexual and gender-based violence including sexual abuse and harassment, we urge Parties to:

- Intensify measures on assistance, protection and prevention of modern slavery in agricultural supply chains, through implementing mandatory human rights due diligence measures and working with agricultural workers, trade unions and grassroots and vulnerable communities.
- Reject contentious solutions that threaten young people's access rights to land and farmers' seeds, increase vulnerability, and which rely on multinational agri-tech corporations or on synthetic inputs and monocropping.
- Uphold human rights accords, including the UN Declaration on the Universality of Human Rights, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants.
- Incorporate in the education systems compulsory courses on understanding food systems, achieving food sovereignty and implementation of practical knowledge on regaining carbon content in the soil.

Finance, Decent Livelihoods, and Green Jobs

Bringing back ethics, principles and values into the food system is at the core of the transformations we are aiming for. The core values of compassion, non-violence, respect and integrity are fundamental in actualising the vision of a food system that is just and capable of contenting all lifeforms. To achieve this, we urge Parties to:

- Promote and strengthen a green economy with national and local regulations and measures (strategies, incentives, subsidies, loans, taxes, etc.) to encourage climate commitment and public investment in measures related to sustainable, decent livelihoods, including green jobs and industries.
- Facilitate greater partnerships between educational institutions and industry representatives to further education on sustainable agricultural approaches to nurture the next generation of youth in agriculture and foster land stewardship.
- Encourage and fund Youth-Led-Projects focusing on sustainability and resilience, and offer the opportunity to agri-preneurs to scale projects.
- Support young farmers and provide financial support and subsidies to their current and future crops.
- Establishment of a social support system that can promote job creation and smooth

transfer of technical know-how in the agricultural sector by supporting dual-income farmers who can work concurrently with their current jobs, share land, and create flexible forms of employment, including conversion to part-time agricultural business, with consideration for work-life balance in order to continue sustainable agriculture.

- Put agriculture and food systems at the centre of adaptation plans for MAPA (Most Affected Populations and Areas) countries and direct climate finance to agroecology. The time is now for an appropriate and deliberate increase in financing for small-scale farmers, fishers, pastoralists, and indigenous

HEALTH



HEALTH

Decarbonization & mitigation in the settings of health systems

The healthcare system contributes to 5% of global carbon emissions. It is cost-effective for global governments to achieve low carbon health systems in the near future before the system becomes more carbon-reliant: it reduces the cost of introducing this initiative and the catastrophic expenditure related to pollution-related diseases. Forty-five countries have pledged to achieve low carbon health systems in COP26, however, more action is needed. We call upon the UNFCCC and national governments to:

- Adopt new strategies to reduce the carbon footprint of health systems through collaborative partnerships in knowledge and technology transfer.
- Expedite climate friendly processes which will ensure carbon footprints of health systems remain low.
- Promote rapid transition to circular healthcare infrastructure and waste management by prioritising these topics in the global research agenda, conducting training programs for the health workforce, and encouraging sustainable local productions.
- Implement the usage of zero-emission vehicles in transportation and supply chain within the healthcare system, including production of the world's first zero-emission ambulance.
- Ensure the digital transformation of health care aligns with the goal of becoming a net-zero health service.
- Support the construction of net-zero hospitals as part of the government's health infrastructure plan.

Adaptation & Resilience in the settings of health systems

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven that health systems are the frontline defense in protecting people's health and wellbeing during emergencies. Thus, it is vital to ensure optimal functioning of healthcare systems to preserve people's health especially amongst the vulnerable group during climate emergencies.

Shifting health systems to be resilient and adaptive to climate hazards is essential in order to move forward in delivering their multisectoral services, and response to climate-related emergencies that protect people's health. We call upon the UNFCCC and national governments to:

- Urgently assess the vulnerability of their national health systems to climate change and accordingly strengthen them to withstand the environmental consequences.
- Mobilise funds and resources to health systems during climate emergencies.
- Develop a Health National Adaptation Plan (HNAP) to ensure action and protection of human health from the climate crisis.
- Promote evidence-informed practice through case studies for scaling up climate adaptation action within health systems.

- Engage relevant health policy, research, and healthcare professionals to advocate for climate resilience within health systems at local, national, and international levels.

Food Security, Nutrition, and Healthy Sustainable Diets

Food insecurity and malnutrition are the current scrutinized issues caused by environmental risks to the food supply chain. Trade policies, market regulations, and fiscal subsidies are largely bound to production or unconstrained use of variable production inputs that is destructive to the environment. It is urgent that countries must reconcile competing social, economic, and environmental interests by moving away from unsustainable sectoral approaches in securing food supply chain, mobilizing malnutrition responses, and promoting healthy diets.

We call upon the UNFCCC and national governments to:

- Strengthening the current agri food system frameworks for its integration with social health protection systems to ensure that social security takes into account green food aspects.
- Urge national governments to lower costs on nutritious food sources and reduce the technical barriers to achieve healthy diets through alternative food and agricultural combined policy support with tailored mechanisms depending on each country's fiscal and policy space.

Health governance and political commitments

Globally, the implementation of health-related climate change adaptation strategies is hampered by the lack of coordination, tools, and funding. However, while health is considered as a priority adaptation sector by governments, comprehensive health-specific policies have only been developed by a small number of countries. This highlights the urgent need for adequate governance and political commitments to ensure the sustainability of these strategies.

- We call upon the UNFCCC and national governments to:
- Incorporate climate-resilient health systems strategies as key adaptation and mitigation sectors of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs).
- Accelerate the development and implementation of health national adaptation plans (HNAPs) in accordance with the WHO quality criteria by prioritizing resources and promoting international support & stringent monitoring of these projects.
- Promote sustainable and targeted health-specific financing strategies by ensuring the development of funding mechanisms based on vulnerability assessments, inclusion of these strategies to NAPs and HNAPs, and equitable access to donor funding.

Climate-related health issues of vulnerable populations

Children, youth, women, and people with preexisting illnesses, as well as those who live in areas that do not promote good health or wellbeing, are more susceptible to disease. There is a rapid shift in healthcare from a reactive model that treats illnesses and diseases to one that proactively promotes health and wellness.

Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

- We call on the UN agencies and WHO to work together to design policies and strategies to reduce the risk of NCDs. It is important to monitor NCDs and assess

their progress at the national, regional and global levels and support research and encourage collaborations among national and international health agencies and academic institutions.

Infectious and Re-emerging diseases in Africa

- We call upon the national governments to provide basic functions such as disease surveillance and coordinating emergency operations, even in remote areas, and creating lab networks that can quickly diagnose, track and pinpoint the origin of re-emerging infections such as; outbreaks like cholera, dysentery, yellow fever, Ebola, meningitis, and other zoonoses.

Mental Health

Mental health is essential to achieve sustainable development goals, yet the prevalence of mental health conditions is increasing worldwide, with higher disability and mortality outcomes. It is impacted by climate change and related extreme weather events, which prevent access to resources and adequate healthcare, displace people and communities, disrupt social networks, exacerbate pre-existing conditions and inequalities, and increase the vulnerability of developing mental health conditions, such as bereavement, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. As a consequence, it will also lead to an overload of health systems and higher economic and social costs.

We call upon UNFCCC, and national governments to:

- Raise public awareness to increase understanding of climate related mental health conditions and reduce stigma;
- Design climate aware mental health programs based on the assessment of community needs and the efficacy of the response;
- Provide access to non-discriminatory, affordable and quality mental health care and effective treatments for all people, especially vulnerable groups (e.g., children, youth, women, and disabled);
- Ensure mental health care appropriate and culturally aware of the disproportionate effects of climate trauma in frontline communities;
- Recognize the threat to childhood development and the intergenerational effects of climate trauma on vulnerable populations.

People with Disabilities

We call upon UNFCCC and national governments to:

- Ensure inclusive climate action that consults persons with disabilities and subject matter experts in the design and implementation processes of climate change programs and policies;
- Create a set of guidelines to be adopted in the evacuation of people with disabilities during floods, hurricanes, or any other natural disasters;
- Raise awareness and give access to safe public shelters for people with disabilities, and access to quality water to avoid rapid dehydration.

Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief

Disasters and climate change are interconnected events, with high impact on health in multiple ways, including by leading to death, illness, disability, migration, and the disruption of supply chains. They also lead to increased susceptibility to diseases (e.g., zoonoses, water- and vector-borne), as well as mental health conditions and worsening air quality. Furthermore, disasters undermine equality and access to health care and social support structures, including damages to infrastructures. These consequences are disproportionately felt by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged (e.g. children, youth, women, etc.).

We call upon UNFCCC and national governments to:

- Design culturally and linguistically aware humanitarian aid and disaster relief programs, based on the assessment of community needs and the efficacy of the relief response;
- Provide cultural and linguistically appropriate humanitarian, psychological and psychosocial support for survivors, families and communities after disasters;
- Develop disaster risk management-based health systems, humanitarian assistance, and infrastructure;
- Fund disaster preparedness plans and community-led mechanisms to build resilience against short- and long-term health effects of climate change and disasters.

Healthcare professionals mobilisation for climate actions

We call upon the UNFCCC and national governments to:

- Promote and endorse the inclusion of climate change in health professionals' education;
- Create and support existing platforms for youth in the climate change and health discourse;
- Include youth in climate change initiatives through engagement in policy and governance programs;
- Facilitate the discussion between local governments and the general public on climate change and health.
- Include climate change and health in the curriculum to emphasise the importance of the relationship between these two areas as well as equip health professionals with the essential knowledge and skills to advocate and take action on related interventions.

LOSS & DAMAGE



LOSS & DAMAGE

Climate disasters are increasing in severity and frequency, a trend that is likely to accelerate with global climate change and the large-scale degradation of ecosystems, leading to new humanitarian crises. At the same time, climate change induced disasters cause far-reaching economic and structural disruption as well as long-term social and psychological impacts.

People and communities around the world already face these consequences of climate-induced loss and damage. In 2020, more than 30 million people were displaced due to climate change. By 2030, the economic losses due to climate change are anticipated to be above 580 billion USD. Very dry areas across the globe have doubled in extent since the 1970s, resulting in increased frequency, severity, and duration of droughts.

Forms of Loss and Damage

Economic losses and damages: Affected resources, goods and services that are commonly traded in markets. Simply put, economic losses and damages involve climate change-induced impacts that adversely affect infrastructures, properties and business activities, as well as disrupt supply chains of production and distribution.

Non-economic losses and damages: This is considered as the most devastating, leading to more adverse extreme losses and damages which ties are irreplaceable losses and damages such as the incalculable toll of losing family members, disappearance of cultures, migration, displacement, drought and desertification, extinction.

Loss and Damage Concerns:

- The discourse on Loss and Damage has generated more awareness, calling on the need for climate—vulnerable countries in dealing with increasingly systemic climate risks and also seeking support from developed countries in strengthening adaptation and resilience measures.
- Finance sources and mechanisms for loss and damage have been presented but lack proper adoption which is not positioned with regard to the whole scope of climate change-induced loss and damage and risks.
- There have been suggestions that loss and damage must be a risk-based three-tiered mitigation and finance framework, which includes: finance for transformation, risk finance, and curative finance.
- Insurance must be considered an approach for slow-event L&D and if not considered, then other risk finance options must be considered, such as social protection (Social protection, as defined by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, is concerned with preventing, managing, and overcoming situations that adversely affect people's well-being) and contingency funds (Contingency Fund is created as an imprest account to meet some urgent or unforeseen expenditure of the government/party/individual)

Key Demands for Loss and Damage

We urge all Parties:

- Ensure that the Glasgow Dialogue on Loss and Damage result in the establishment of a finance facility on Loss and Damage at COP27. This facility must guarantee increased investments beyond adaptation for irreplaceable loss and irreparable damage. These finances for loss and damage must be measurable via both qualitative and quantitative

indicators, and must be separated from the Adaptation Fund and the GCF.

- Support the establishment of a L&D finance facility, as demanded by Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and other groups, and use its administrative capacity to ensure that money provided to the facility is effective, grant-based, and reaches MAPA (Most Affected People and Areas) quickly.
- Developed countries to support plans to place L&D firmly on the formal COP27 negotiation agenda and see that this becomes a permanent item at future COPs.
- Developed countries to engage with the Glasgow Dialogue (GD) to ensure recommendations are considered thoroughly.
- Top emitters to ensure that L&D finance is part of determining the new collective quantified goal on climate finance to be set by 2025, as a separate component from funding allotted to adaptation and mitigation.

We also demand that:

- Loss and Damage be incorporated into the Global Stocktake, ensuring that it is connected to all aspects of the GST, including adaptation, mitigation, and finance. This is especially important beyond COP27, involving NDCs and NAPs, focusing on resilience.
- Loss and Damage must have a policy framework that addresses key issues of Loss and Damage needs, ensures loss and damage assessment, and enables loss and damage recovery and safeguard measures.
- Countries must have a reserve fund for loss and damage in their national budget and directives.

Operationalise the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage

At COP27, the Santiago Network mandate must be effectively operationalised and sufficiently financed. We urge the UNFCCC and its Parties to:

1. Incorporate loss and damage as a permanent and independent agenda item for all future COPs/CMAs.
2. Develop finance modalities for the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage. Specifically, loss and damage must be integrated and receive a dedicated percentage of the existing USD100 billion pledged in the Paris Agreement.
3. Ensure that the Santiago Network engages all relevant actors in its operationalisation. This includes but is not limited to vulnerable groups, communities, youth, and experts.
4. Support the establishment and development of national-level systems distributing loss and damage financing.
5. Provide technical support and guidance, including capacity building on a right-based approach to address L&D, ensuring equality, non-discrimination, participation, and inclusion of all stakeholders in developing national and local policies and needs assessments for L&D.
6. Develop a clear set of measurable mechanisms to ensure timely response and technical assistance to severe climate-induced hazards and events.

7. Undertake an inventory of the technical support that is already available for loss and damage, such as the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and other groups outside the UNFCCC, so that the SNLD can build on what exists and focus on filling gaps.
8. Provide clear and defined legal knowledge in international regulations that addresses loss and damage.

Generate and Disseminate Loss and Damage Data

- Lack of data and awareness is altering the understanding of the true scope of climate-induced loss and damage. As such, critical actions to take include the following:
- All countries must support the qualification and quantification of both economic, non-economic, environmental, human, and social climate-induced loss and damage.
- The existing standardized definitions of hazards must be used to identify losses and damages driven by climate change.
- Quantification of climate-induced loss and damage must include both direct and indirect effects, and communities must be included in the identification of loss and damage.
- A definition of loss and damage needs to be established at the global level for indicators and metrics in monitoring and assessment as, for example, many nations have different meanings for vulnerable communities and climate change impacts.
- The use of three-dimensional evolutionary trend of quantification, i.e. mapping web tool, must be expanded by countries to assess their mid- and long-term strategies.

Minimize Climate induced Loss & Damage

To reduce climate-induced loss and damage in the long term, risk management and prevention are key. Better prevention and risk management minimize adverse effects and create opportunities to transform systems and societies. Risk-centered approaches must thereby be integrated into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs). To reach the most vulnerable, guidance and assistance are needed to help them access sustainable, adequate, and predictable financing to address underlying drivers and risks for climate change-related loss and damage, including human mobility.

Collaborate

When people work together, they thrive together. However, today's institutional and social structures, grounded largely in a culture of competition and antagonism, perpetuate power imbalances and entrench inequalities. Unsustainable patterns of human behavior, including a growth-first mentality and the pursuit of power, also aggravate rather than ameliorate the challenges. We must put the reality of our shared humanity and dependence on the well-being of the planet and each other at the center of our deliberations and actions. This applies to all of us, both states and communities, as well as humanitarian and development agencies and actors. Loss and damage reduction, and risk-informed investments and development, must be streamlined, and integrated at all levels, including the work of development and humanitarian actors. Through collaboration, we can achieve more and as well record more success in reducing adverse loss and damage and also prevent potential loss and damage threats among climate vulnerable communities.





NATURE & BIODIVERSITY

NATURE & BIODIVERSITY

Last year, we entered the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, yet the world is still heading towards 2.5°C warming this century, far from the agreement that has been made. The youth demand a healthier, fairer, inclusive, and more sustainable world for us and our future generations. We demand solutions and decisions aimed to reconcile our relationship with nature, acknowledging that humans are an inherent part of the Earth's ecosystems. We urge the recognition that life begins and ends with nature and respect for the planetary boundaries.

Biodiversity

Biological interactions are inherent to an ecosystem: if one species goes extinct due to the climate crisis, any other species that rely on them would be impacted as well. It is crucial that policies are strengthened and implemented in order to achieve and maintain the 1.5°C target, and prevent an ecological collapse in which habitats are destroyed and species can no longer adapt to the climate crisis.

We urge all Parties to:

- Implement adequate legislation and planning to protect and conserve forest and marine wildlife and ecosystems, as well as wetlands, Earth's most threatened ecosystem.
- Empower and engage local communities in biodiversity conservation projects and efforts.
- Consider the function of wetlands and other ecosystems as carbon sources, sinks, and storage sites, when developing conservation plans and strategies.

Nature and Wildlife Conservation

There are only 17% of areas in the world that are protected and the quality of these areas being protected is insufficient. Protection of our natural environment is the protection of our heritage - a reminder of where we came from and our connection with nature.

- We demand that deforestation must be halted, mangrove forests restored, and natural carbon sinks protected through multi-level decision-making bodies.
- We call for the number of biosphere reserves to be increased in every region to ensure that these zones are actively monitored and reviewed at both the national and international levels. Funding for these areas must be increased to ensure that the landscape is preserved for the future.
- We urge the introduction of legislation to protect endangered species and ensure they can thrive again. In addition, autochthonous species must be preserved and prevent (or remove) the presence of invasive species that alter ecosystems.
- We call for an increase in public awareness of the importance of conserving nature and wildlife, acknowledging humans are an inherent part of it.

Zoonotic Diseases

With an increase in forest fragmentation, natural areas are shrinking, which causes animals to increasingly cohabit human space. This poses a risk of the spread of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 and SARS, due to closer contact of wild species with humans or domestic livestock. We are currently in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this may be indicative of our future, if we do not act to protect our natural spaces for wildlife to thrive untouched. If we continue to encroach on their natural habitat, we put public health at risk.

Recommended actions:

- **Monitoring:** Closely monitor illegal or non-domestic animal capture, such as hunting, poaching, and trafficking.
- **Research:** More research must be conducted on the risks of the spread of zoonotic diseases and how to tackle future public health crises.
- **Training:** Increase training opportunities and increased awareness of the risks that poor handling of wild and domesticated animals entail.
- **Funding:** More public funding must be directed to public health systems so they are better equipped with more health personnel and means to tackle future health crises.

30x30 Conservation Target

- We call for protecting 30 percent of the world's terrestrial and marine habitats by 2030, known as the 30x30 target. For this to happen, we urge Parties to:
- Implement and consolidate a comprehensive framework to monitor the effectiveness of conservation efforts.
- Increase the number and coverage of protected areas at the national level.
- Safeguard and recognise the rights of indigenous people to own and manage their lands.
- Establish a national conservation steering committee to create a diverse and inclusive community, thus facilitating knowledge transfer between indigenous peoples, researchers, practitioners and activists.

OCEANS



OCEANS

The Youth Stands for Our Ocean

To address the problems of our ocean head-on, we must first understand that we are *One Planet, One Ocean, and One Voice*. We must raise awareness of the ocean's problems and contribute to their solutions by creating new models of thinking, collaboration, communication, regeneration, innovative action from an international community of young advocates, activists, leaders, and innovators. Youth and civil society today recognize that the Earth has one big ocean with many features and that the ocean plays a crucial role in ensuring the survival of our species and a habitable planet. Our ocean regulates our climate and provides food, oxygen, and ecosystem services essential to our well-being. The ocean is connected by upstream and downstream water bodies, connecting us with all life on Earth. To solve the problems of ocean ecosystems, we must understand and view them through an interconnected and cyclical lens. Therefore, it is everyone's responsibility to participate and advance in a stakeholder-driven, democratic, and multilateral form, following the UN Framework Principles on Human Rights, UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the Decade for Ecosystem Restoration, the seven crucial Ocean Literacy Principles, and the Environment by contributing and being participant in initiatives for the recovery and conservation of our Ocean. Together as we journey in the Decade of Action, the youth around the world are one in our firm demand for a healthy, restored, and protected ocean in all aspects.

Ocean Ecosystem Services

We urge all Parties to:

- Divest from the fossil fuel industry to prevent further fossil fuel consumption, including offshore drilling
- Support the research, development, and deployment of clean ocean energy technologies and alternative and sustainable fuel sources once their potential impacts on the environment and human rights have been assessed
- Improve the assessment of ocean chemistry, data collection, processing, dissemination, outreach, and capacity building that are accessible to relevant stakeholders
- Ensure the long-term monitoring of the changes occurring throughout the regions through the Ocean Acidification Network, UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and UNEP World Conservation Monitoring
- Implement mandatory oil spill prevention checklists on each vessel;
- Efficient comprehensive, preventive and responsive plans for oil spills to be implemented with the encouragement of regional cooperation;
- Conduct transparent Environmental Impact Assessment and extensive, research-based regulations for deep-sea mining practices led by the International Seabed Authority (ISA)
- Allow genuine youth participation at the ISA negotiations
- Increase funding for research & development, incubation, scaling-up, and capacity building training of the agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and forestry sector including the academia and private entities for timely, innovative, and sustainable interventions;

- Increase support for impactful youth-led initiatives, especially through research- and community-based approaches;

Ocean Governance

We urge all Parties to:

- Strongly uphold the High Seas or beyond jurisdiction or areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty to bridge pressing gaps on one of the most crucial ocean governance deficits - the presence of unregulated regional fisheries, deep-sea mining, and ship pollution in the high seas threatening and countering progress on marine life conservation and sustainable management;
- Increase education and enforcement of the 30x30 initiative to efficiently conserve ocean health and biodiversity as well as to consolidate global to local frameworks to jointly achieve the goal of 30% of the world's oceans by 2030 through improved development and stronger adherence to international and regional regulations and agreements as well as better drafting and imposition of national and local policy in relation to local community contexts; and
- Consider creating a consultative, inclusive, and diverse yet well-represented annual dialogue in which transnational companies and international conglomerates and organisations will be transparently urged to make known how they have regulated their actions, both physical and moral, to protect marine life.

Blue Economy

We urge all Parties to:

- Develop sustainable strategies for coastal and ocean ecosystem management, based on systemic ecosystem and human rights approaches that recognize the following, through dissemination campaigns and support for enterprises that make use of and work with ecosystem-based resources to generate added value:
- Develop clear regulations on big-scale aquaculture operations to mitigate the impact on water resources and human health;
- Enforce fishing seasonality and determine a set catch limit lower than a fish stock's maximum sustainable yield (MSY) or demand if lower than the MSY;
- Inform communities of the health risks of seafood consumption and merge scientific techniques and ancestral knowledge to identify seafood safe for human consumption;
- Build stronger governance agreements to sustainably manage the fish stocks within and outside of countries' Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), including Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and High Seas Areas;
- Fund research and development for the innovation of plant-based and cell-cultured seafood alternatives, as well as eliminate subsidies that contribute to overfishing; and,
- Ensure that relevant international negotiations such as the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, FAO, and UN negotiations, include a new instrument on the BBNJ, allowing genuine youth participation.

Research, Technology, and Innovations for Ocean Health

We urge all Parties to:

- Fund the aforementioned areas of research and conservation initiatives and technologies that work to solve these problems.
- Involve an interdisciplinary and collaborative community of researchers, innovators, and policy makers, fostering connectivity between them.
- Scale up new and innovative solutions to restore our ocean's health. For example, there are many coral gardening practices that breed coral more resilient to bleaching events. However, these tend to be small-scale endeavours that do not persist after the project funding ends.
- Meaningfully engage youth in ocean-related works, especially in the field of research and innovations, and to establish mentoring programs, scholarships, to support students and junior professionals.

Loss and Damage Effects of Climate Change to the Ocean and Seas

We urge all Parties to:

- Expand and encourage funding and implementation of green-gray infrastructure methods, or natural coastal buffers created using conventional means such as concrete or sea wall construction, that can be used to mitigate coastal damage caused by sea-level rise and coastal storms;
- Develop a comprehensive approach to equip states on how to monitor the factors that increase the risk of damages such as flooding in affected areas, empower communities on how they can respond to these disasters, and build resilience in the bid to reduce losses and damage from these impacts.



POLITICS, POLICYMAKING AND GOVERNANCE

EARTH



is more

valuable than money

POLITICS, POLICYMAKING AND GOVERNANCE (NDCs and GST)

The climate crisis is considered one of the greatest challenges to global governance, posing an extraordinary collective action problem. For this reason, the coordinated and ambitious actions of all actors, including national governments, private sector and civil society, are essential if we want to keep the 1.5°C target alive.

Democratization of Decision-making, Citizen Engagement and Inclusivity

Respect for human rights and democratic values, as well as a meaningful engagement of all actors of civil society, is essential to tackle wicked problems that intersect all aspects of society, such as the climate crisis. In order to ensure this, we demand all Parties:

- To enhance mechanisms at all levels of governance which guarantee that decision-making processes include all voices, especially underrepresented and vulnerable communities. Thereby increasing the legitimacy and ownership of climate policies and plans. Specifically, we demand inclusion in the formulation and implementation of the NDCs and NAPs.
- To institutionalize youth participation in decision-making in order to go beyond tokenism, by ensuring youth representation in political and governing institutions.
- To provide safe spaces for citizenry deliberation and deepen citizenry connection to decision-making.
- To recognise that the climate crisis disproportionately affects vulnerable communities and address the climate crisis as a social justice issue.
- To respect the right of speech as a fundamental human right and allow climate and environmental activists to protest and express their ideas freely and safely.
- To create a global commitment to end the murders of environmental leaders and ensure their safety (and the safety of their families and relatives) at all levels.

Effective Governance and Enforceability of Climate Action Plans

A crucial factor to translate pledges into action is to have efficient systems of governance with a strong commitment towards the climate agenda. In order to ensure this, we demand all Parties:

- To take a long-term view when designing climate policies. Climate action needs to consider future generations and transcend political cycles and party lines by including mechanisms of non-regression for future governments, thus avoiding the discontinuation of environmental projects.
- To include mechanisms of horizontal (interministerial) and vertical (national to local) connectivity, ensuring that there is coordination between decision-making and implementation. National environmental governance must have complementary action plans at the regional and local levels, with enough legal capacity mechanisms to implement them.

- To monitor the compliance of climate objectives, and enforce climate legislation to make sure they are taken seriously and met.
- To introduce large-scale environmental destruction and the prevention of future generations thriving on a healthy planet, ecocide, as a crime in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

International Community and Cooperation

The climate crisis is a global issue that can't be addressed by countries separately, thus international cooperation is crucial. In light of the recent efforts to ensure the implementation of the guidelines of the Paris Agreement, also referred to as the "Paris Rulebook", we demand:

- International funding organizations to be more accessible and fair for all developing and least developed countries to achieve their environmental commitments, as current requirements and processes are too complex.
- Developed countries to increase knowledge and technology transfer and capacitate developing and least-developed countries whilst respecting local sensitivities.
- Developed countries to support developing and least-developed countries in their climate data collection systems (e.g. GHGs inventory) so they can effectively design and implement data-driven policies.
- To reinforce global environmental governance with existing or new agencies, acknowledge the global character of the climate crisis and go beyond the narrow-minded framing of nation-states.

Private sector involvement in decision-making

Decisions taken now will highly affect our future and the one of future generations, so it is essential that those decisions are taken prioritising humanity's common good and not economic profit.

- We urge corporations to fully transform their operations and supply chains ensuring they respect human rights and nature.
- We demand all sponsors of UNFCCC's events to fully respect human rights and the environment and align their operations with the 1.5°C target.

Global Stocktake (GST):

- The GST must advance intergenerational justice/equity and evaluate whether the climate change response policies of Parties have been designed and implemented with this principle in mind.
- The GST must take into account human rights, just transition, among others, and adopt a gender-responsive approach, including evaluating whether activities implemented by Parties consider and respect human rights as well as gender equality.
- The GST must put equal emphasis on the loss and damage needs of vulnerable countries and marginalized groups.

- The GST recommendations must starkly urge Parties to immediately phase out fossil fuels, commit to sustainable management of the natural ecosystems, restore degraded lands, and build on nature-based practices thereby respecting the rights of local and indigenous peoples.
- The GST process must clearly underline the gaps in the financial needs as well as recommend other means of implementation including the use of the best available science.
- The GST process must include fact checking of climate action claims and goals brought forward by Parties in order to ensure equity and fairness.
- Both the GST and NDC processes must acknowledge the significance of young people's engagement and develop avenues to foster their skills and meaningfully engage them.
- Along with mitigation, adaptation, and finance, the GST process must give equal emphasis to loss and damage, indigenous peoples, just transition, human rights, and equity including intergenerational equity.

Climate Pledge:

- High emitter countries that haven't submitted their updated NDCs must do so immediately.
- All countries, particularly developed countries, must submit their Long Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions Development Strategies.
- Evaluate the progress of the delivery of doubling adaptation finance to developing country Parties from 2019 levels by 2025.
- Evaluate the progress of delivering 100\$ bn till 2023 and increase it drastically thereafter.
- High emitter developed countries must increase their ambition in their updated NDCs to be submitted by the end of 2022.



REIMAGINING AND TRANSFORMING ECONOMIES



REIMAGINING AND TRANSFORMING ECONOMIES

Introduction

Cities are the centres of economic growth, accounting for more than 80 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP). Due to their concentration and clustering of people, businesses, trade, and transport, urban areas generate economies of scale that in turn attract further economic activity. Only by harnessing the power of sustainable, well-planned, and responsibly managed urbanisation will countries be able to transition to low carbon economies whilst reducing economic disparities.

We demand all state and non-state actors to:

1. Invest in nurturing talents and institutions for green skills and careers:
 - Invest in talent nurturing and capacity development, education and skills to reskill and upskill workers, especially youth, to enable active participation in the green economy.
 - Build and enhance partnerships between universities/academic institutions, businesses and local authorities in youth talent development programmes that can address industry needs and further incentivise the development of green employment opportunities
2. Actively include youth in the creation of green jobs and economies: Engage with and meaningfully center youth in the just transition process
 - Establish Green Jobs and Youth Entrepreneurship as a permanent working stream in the office of High-Level Champions.
 - Establish permanent presence of YOUNGO, in the form of a representative who is a plenipotentiary member, in the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI).
 - Enable green youth-led small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
3. Ensure Green Financing for Just Transition and Circular Economies:
 - Recognise the essential role of the informal sector in the economy, as well as protect its role through the promotion of safer working conditions, better wages, access to markets and finance, and integration with wider value chains.
 - Adopt legislation on mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence to ensure that private sector stakeholders implement sustainable and circular practices.
 - Centre sustainability as the guiding principle of financial institutions and vehicles, ensuring that
 - Establish the roles of emerging green financial institutions (eg. green banks, green venture capital, green bonds, ESG etc.) on the role they play in financing the just transition and promoting decent job creation.
 - Establish a special financial target dedicated to just transition of economies.

Green existing jobs and facilitate environmentally sustainable career transitions within public, private and industrial sectors.

Implement green social contract, by enhancing human and labor rights and discrimination protections in green jobs, and by prioritising decent work, human welfare and security over profit motives.

Encourage a mandate of corporate sustainability reporting and emissions disclosure across the private and industrial sectors of national economies.

Focus Area

Just Transition to Circular Economies in Cities

A transition from the traditional linear economy to a circular economy in cities can greatly eliminate waste, save energy, resources, and create green job opportunities in both the traditional and other sectors. Therefore, we call upon all stakeholders to:

- Establish policies and guidelines to encourage development of the circular economy at the city-level as well as for a just transition.
- Elevate capacity building programmes to retrain and reskill professionals for the circular economy.
- Empower circular initiatives to extend product life-cycles, which will also create jobs in refurbishment (ie. electronics, modern recycling, upcycling sectors).
- Recreating new technologies or retrofitting it for industrial development
- Offer incentives to the building and construction sector to adopt circular economy designs, techniques and processes that eliminate waste, enable repair and reuse.
- Invest in R&D companies which are actively looking for innovative ways to use, reuse, and recover materials, products, and energy.
- Support the adoption of new innovation and technology that enables shared uses or sustainable mobility in the transport sector (ie. carpooling mobile phone applications, city-bike initiatives).
- Mandate companies, financial institutions, and the public sector to adopt mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation, prevent negative human rights and environmental impacts across their operations, with concrete accountability and liability measures and requirements for companies to disclose their supply chains.

Revamping Fashion Industry and Consumer Behavior in Cities

Fashion industry is responsible for 4% of global emissions. The consumption of fashion items remains highly influenced by the social factors and branding techniques used in the fashion industry. Aside from the negative environmental effects, social issues continue to increase as factory workers barely earn a minimum wage. Revamping the fashion industry for sustainable and effective climate action, would have huge co-benefits of addressing water scarcity, deforestation, and pollution (chemical, water, and microplastics). Hence, we call upon companies, governments, and other stakeholders to:

- Apply circular economy models into their business with principles of rental, resale,

repair, and remaking to encourage sustainability in the supply chain of fashion garments.

- Decarbonize fashion industry value chains through scaling up energy-efficient solutions and renewable energy sources, phasing out coal, and sourcing more low-carbon material alternatives.
- Set up governance structures which involve key stakeholders within the fashion industry, for the purposes of just transition and speedy implementation.
- Adopt circular economic policies such as: Stimulation of access and use of products to minimize waste; regeneration practices; promotion of sustainable resource management models; creation of regulatory economic practices to bring the concept of circular economy to the forefront; investment in improvisation of infrastructure and skills; and encouragement of collaboration and multi-stakeholder participation.

Dynamic and Flexible Spatial Planning Towards New Urbanism

A dynamic, flexible and close proximity urban form helps realize the benefits of agglomeration economies where resources will be better utilised with increased efficiency in transportation or flow of goods and services and reductions in carbon emissions. We demand that the local governments and authorities to:

- Develop greenfield areas with focus on using low-carbon material and resilient infrastructure.
- Balancing commercial and residential needs and priorities, ensuring adequate supporting facilities and infrastructure to live and work.
- Revise development codes, land use guidelines and urban policies ensuring Central Business District Areas to better utilise the “off-hours” and create spaces for pop-up businesses, events, meeting or gathering places (ie. 24 hour city concept).

Rural-Urban Linkages

Rural-urban linkages recognise and allow the flow of people, goods and services by linking agriculture, manufacturing, and the service sector to the city. Hence, we demand governments to:

- Establish strong infrastructural connections and policies (ensuring water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus) to facilitate better access to jobs, amenities and different types of services.
- Integrate urban and rural policies, especially to encourage private sector participation in enhancing connection to the regional economy.
- Establish a sustainable, coordinated governance system which can ensure good management and continued operation of these connections.

Green/Sustainable Government Procurement

Green or sustainable procurement refers to the purchasing of products and services that cause minimal adverse environmental impacts and maximize wider benefits to society and the local circular economy. Cities can use their spending power for green economies which can benefit local businesses and SMEs through:

- Promoting green/sustainable procurement policy and/or specifications as “mandatory” requirements.
- Working with other major institutions within cities such as universities, education, healthcare providers, to influence their procurement practices and expand outreach.
- Updating the green purchase or procurement list due to the quick nature in development of technologies and products.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Implementation

We urge all Parties to:

- Install more renewable energy and modern cooking and heating appliances, especially in the least developed countries where traditional methods of cooking and heating are still used, despite their demonstrated negative impacts on nature and human health.
- Ensure that sustainable cooking and heating devices are affordable for all.
- Reduce or completely eliminate the use of technologies that rely on fossil fuels.
- Incorporate a product life cycle approach into any technology development or innovation.

Innovation

We urge all Parties to:

- Support the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as it can improve the energy efficiency of industrial processes contributing to the decrease of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Use sustainable search engines to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the internet and related services: According to researchers, the Internet and associated services (videos, sound files, cloud file hosting) pollute as much as the airline industry, with 830 million tonnes of CO₂ released each year worldwide.
- Use cloud computing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions when the migration to the data center is a better climate option.
- Introduce public policies to implement the use of smart grids and smart technological devices.

Climate Technologies as a Negotiated topic

We urge all parties to:

- Ensure that intergenerational justice and equity is implemented in the field of technology.
- Apply a gender-responsive approach.
- Guarantee that there is an equal emphasis on Global South countries and vulnerable groups.

Education and Capacity Building

We urge Parties to:

- Establish workshops and conferences in the form of CTCN meetings and TEC roundtables where youth can contribute with new advances or promote projects with potential.
- Provide international scholarships to young professionals.

Democratization of Technology Transfer and Accessibility

We urge UNFCCC and all Parties to:

- Expand open science in an inclusive manner to achieve a just technological transition, and ensure access to technological capacity development and knowledge for all.
- Promote underrepresented groups in Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education to ensure accessibility to the green technology labor market.
- Take into account the needs of the most vulnerable communities when transferring technology. The technologies must be aligned with the social and cultural setting of the receiving community and must be easily taken up.
- Consider conducting capacity-building on the ground in communities that are not easily accessible or lack internet access, and whose members cannot easily access their national designated focal points.
- Review the mandate of the CTCN and other bodies like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to ensure their activities are not limited to country level but further technological research as well.
- The CTCN must explore the opportunity to partner with the innovation hubs that have been set up by youths in different countries in order to enhance technology transfer.

Technology and Youth

Youth have continually proven they are up to the task when it comes to climate technology innovation. Despite the amazing ideas young people from vulnerable countries have, they tend to be limited by a number of factors. It is quite difficult for youth to access climate finance or to submit requests for finance due to their Nationally Designated Entities (NDEs)/ National Focal Point (NFP) rarely responding to their emails. This is a complaint we have received from several young people from the Global South, especially in Africa. We urge the UNFCCC and all Parties to:

- Encourage/support youth technology ideas in the implementation of their country's NDCs.
- Encourage NDEs of the CTCN and NFPs of the UNFCCC to respond to the requests of youth and make it easy for youth to submit their Technical Assistance requests and readiness project proposals, given that youth cannot submit such requests directly to bodies like GCF, CTCN, etc.
- For every technical assistance project to be implemented, ensure young people with suitable academic backgrounds are involved so they can gain practical skills.
- Involve youth in the monitoring, evaluating, and reporting of transferred/implemented technologies in their respective countries, especially on items relating to youth
- Ensure that different mechanisms are involved, such as the Global Goal on Adaptation, where the 4th workshop strictly focused on monitoring and evaluation
- Support regional youth initiatives that promotes climate technologies

Finance and Partnership

The linkages between technology mechanism and financial mechanism cannot be overemphasized. Without finance, it is absolutely impossible to transfer and effectively implement technologies for climate change adaptation and mitigation. The UNFCCC technology transfer and implementation bodies have repeatedly complained about the lack of sufficient funds to effectively transfer technologies to vulnerable countries. In addition, the financing bodies of the UNFCCC have very stringent requirements for accessing climate finance. Such stringent requirements are not limited to independent project proponents, they also apply to UNFCCC implementation bodies like the CTCN. Therefore, we request that:

- The UNFCCC/COP must strengthen the relationship between the technology mechanism and the financial mechanism.
- The UNFCCC financial mechanism bodies like the Green Climate Fund must make access to climate finance less stringent to technology implementation bodies (NDE, CTCN, UNIDO, etc).
- Annex I countries must increase their financial contributions to the technology implementation arm of the UNFCCC in order to increase the number of accepted and implemented technical assistance requests per year.
- Parties must define a budget to support youth in the climate technology sector and promote transparency and accountability.
- Parties must verify the origin of funds to projects in regional areas to avoid greenwashing of extractivism and fossil fuels capitals.



WATER



WATER

Summary

As one of the key stakeholders and beneficiaries directly affected by the policy decisions across the world, youth remains an important driving force to support the development of the water sector and successfully deliver the water and climate targets. Against the backdrop of the increasing need of incorporating the integrated management of water resources for achievement of the SDGs, it is important to design, cooperate, and deliver the internationally agreed water-related projects. Moreover, considering that water and climate change are inextricable, it is important to put water at the heart of the climate change negotiations and policy action plans.

United Nations, governments, and the private sector are the key actors to mobilize the progress on Water Action Agenda. There is a need to establish and institutionalize local, regional, and global participation of youth in the water and climate sector for knowledge exchange, networking, innovation and technological interventions, and capacity building. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), policy and governance, Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), and water finance should also be collaboratively addressed by stakeholders to ensure the inclusivity of youth across the water and climate sector. Youth further endorses the implementation and adoption of the Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda (YDPA) followed by robust monitoring and implementation of the commitments.

Networking and Partnerships

We demand the UNFCCC to:

- Establish a platform to facilitate information exchange, coordination, and collaboration among the global youth on water-related activities and issues;
- Provide institutional, financial, and policy support to governments to create an enabling environment for youth inclusion and meaningful participation in water and climate processes;
- Support regional youth initiatives that promote peace and security around transboundary water basins.

We demand all Parties to:

- Establish national youth committees and communities to establish networks and connections for water advocacy;
- Mandate youth participation in national and global water and climate processes;
- Provide means of support to enhance existing and emerging youth-for-youth and by youth initiatives.

We demand the private sector to:

- Ensure early inclusion and integration mechanisms for young professionals in the water and climate job market.

Innovation and Technological Intervention

We demand the private sector to:

- Open up more avenues for standardized certifications on water and climate issues;
- Promote water saving techniques such as vertical farming and hydroponics;
- Support innovative citizen science projects on water and climate with youth and community involvement at the grassroots level;
- Support creation of collaboration spaces for youth, local communities, academia, communities of practice, and policy makers to identify locally relevant issues, raise awareness, and search for solutions.

Capacity Building and Training

We demand the UNFCCC to:

- Train and include young people under the mandate of Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) to strengthen their skills, expand their knowledge and have up-to-date information;
- Initiate special programs dedicated to young girls and women for capacity building and skills development, as they are disproportionately affected by issues related to water and climate.

We demand all Parties to:

- Mobilize universities and training institutions as an instrument to enhance capacity building on water resource planning and management, and legal knowledge on water issues;
- Include water as a subject in environmental education programs;
- Equip young people with expertise to conduct analysis, modelling, and manage data interpretation tools for water-related projects.

We demand the private sector to:

- Open up bursary funds for early career professionals, apprenticeship, and internships;
- Assist in financial accessibility of international seminars, high-level forums, and conferences;
- Support water sector professionals to undertake awareness raising initiatives directed towards politicians, decision-makers, and the general public on the finite and fragile character of water resources;
- Support youth entrepreneurs by providing specific grants, subsidies, and avenues to collaborate and upscale the innovative projects.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

We demand the UNFCCC to:

- Provide regional financial and technical support to youth led WASH innovations aimed at providing new solutions to recurring problems in communities;
- Facilitate exchange of best practices performed by youth communities from every region pertaining to WASH to help in global development and exchange of ideas, solutions, and sustainable alternatives.

We demand all Parties to:

- Put sustainable water management at the core of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). NDCs must feature result-based approaches and instruments;
- Invest in access to sanitation facilities to guarantee quality sexual health and women reproductive rights;
- Increase accessibility and subsidize the water treatment and management tools, and innovate the water treatment methods;
- Empower youth with resources and funds to implement climate-smart water management projects;
- Pay attention to the availability of water resources in the most vulnerable regions and financially capacitate them to recycle and manage the available resources.

We demand the private sector to:

- Invest through collaborative water resource governance policy framework in Corporate Water Stewardship (CWS) activities for watersheds conservation projects;
- Promote cleanup projects for rivers and oceans, and run campaigns on hygiene and importance of safe drinking water.

Politics and Governance

We demand the UNFCCC to:

- Add water as a main negotiation topic under UNFCCC processes;
- Transfer the necessary technology and skills from the developed world to developing countries by providing internship opportunities to young water engineers/professionals from climatic stress countries;
- Encourage parties to adopt the policies, programs, projects, and activities (PPPAs) as proposed in the Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda (YDPA), endorsed in the Dushanbe Declaration;
- Ensure adoption of the “303030 Youth Target”, launched during the Youth and Children’s Water Forum at the Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028” in Dushanbe.

We demand all Parties to:

- Institutionalize youth inclusion by ensuring that water youth groups are given opportunities to be part of the policy making process especially the indigenous youth and marginalised groups;
- Institutionalize youth participation as a key stakeholder to mobilise action for achieving water and climate goals outlined under National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and nominate a youth focal point for water.

We demand the private sector to:

- Ensure inclusion of water experts in water-related businesses to improve water resources management and monitoring systems.
- Support and capacitate the youth led startups and promote entrepreneurship opportunities for young scientists.

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)

We demand the UNFCCC to:

- Develop incentives for local institutions which are incorporating water resource management in their operations and recognize them on international platforms;
- Generate SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) indicators for successful IWRM Operation to benchmark all parties equally, with consideration of low and middle-income countries;
- Support vulnerable nations facing extreme climate events by establishing hydromet effective water information systems to ensure consistent and reliable data, thus boosting emergent responsiveness;
- Put special emphasis on wetlands conservation. Wetlands are extremely important for the ecosystem and sheltering various exotic species.

We demand all Parties to:

- Emphasise on unconventional water resources to complement existing traditional water resources;
- Initiate projects on the development of coastal buffers, and canyon and stream restoration to help replenish and restore the resource in the surface water reservoirs.
- Empower youth to organise and participate in the events and conferences aimed at enabling a multiperspective decision-making in IWRM projects;
- Pay emphasis on the inclusion of peri-urban regions of cities for water development projects and regulate their water consumption, since these regions are left out during the development process;
- Develop hydropower projects considering the finite nature of the resource and it must be ensured that such projects do not over exploit the natural resources;
- Ensure that communities impacted by water-related issues have access to justice for crimes of ecocide

We demand the private sector to:

- Ensure a sustainable well-centred work methodology in execution of their water-related operations, otherwise be held accountable for the damage;
- Prioritise facilitation of graduate training for major government projects through public-private partnership to ensure a well fostered familiarity with operationalisation of water management projects;
- Offer internship programs and “corporate exchange” initiatives, followed by placing trainees in tech firms and intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) to create a unanimous level of awareness on IWRM.

Water Finance

We demand the UNFCCC to:

- Encourage parties to define a clear budget to support youth in the water and climate sector and make it public to promote transparency and accountability;
- Allocate annual funds and grants for regional water infrastructure, water assessment projects, and research and development in water sector;
- Support victims of natural disasters such as floods, tsunamis, droughts, etc.

We demand all Parties to:

- Allocate bursary funds to local government units to strengthen water availability;
- Lobby for laws and policies with specific budget allocation for the development of community-based water projects;
- Provide subsidised services to youth in the water sector.

We demand the private sector to:

- Strengthen public-private partnerships with the national governments;
- Support youth-based water projects in countries with low access to water.



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Regional and Local Conferences of Youth (RCOYs & LCOYS)

LCOYs Countries			
Americas	Asia	Africa	Europe
Argentina	Bangladesh	Bénin	Austria
Bolivia	China	Burkina Faso	Cyprus
Brazil	Hong Kong, China	Chad	France
Canada	India	Côte d'Ivoire	Georgia
Chile	Japan	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Germany
Colombia	Jordan	Egypt	Greece
Costa Rica	Kazakhstan	Ethiopia	Ireland
Dominican Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Gabon	Spain
Ecuador	Lebanon	Ghana	Turkey
El Salvador	Macau SAR, China	Guinea Ecuatorial	Ukraine
Guatemala	Malaysia	Kenya	United Kingdom (UK)
Haiti	Mongolia	Liberia	
Honduras	Nepal	Malawi	
México	Oman	Morocco	
Nicaragua	Pakistan	Namibia	
Panama	Palestine	Nigeria	

Paraguay	South Korea	Rwanda	
Peru	Turkmenistan	Sénégal	
The Bahamas	United Arab Emirates	Seychelles	
United States	Vietnam	Somalia	
Venezuela		South Africa	
		Sudan	
		Tanzania	
		The Gambia	
		Togo	
		Tunisia	
		Uganda	
		Zambia	
		Zimbabwe	

RCOYs Regions			
Latin America	The Caribbean	Africa	Eastern Europe
Central Asia	Asia Pacific	MENA	

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The 17th Conference of Youth (COY17) is regarded as one of the most significant youth gatherings for climate action, given its capacity to directly amplify the official youth position and voices at COP27, serving as a dialogue channel for youth worldwide. We recognize the efforts of the five Egyptian youth-led organizations who, collaboratively, brought COY17 into existence through their commitment and dedication with more than 1100+ children and youth participating from 150 countries:

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Emam Foundation
Youth Loves Egypt
Youthinkgreen Egypt

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