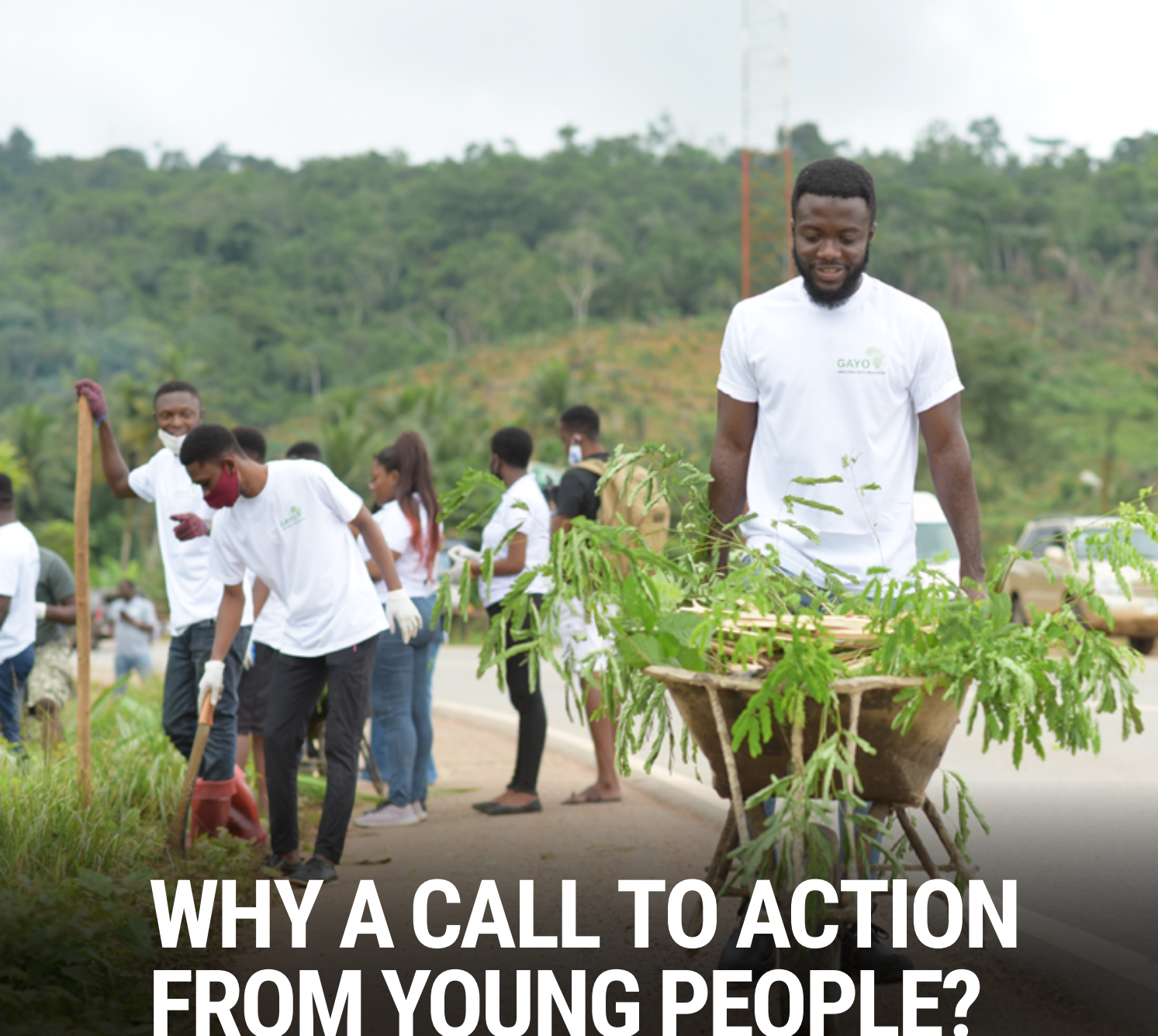




GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION

Global Youth Call to Action Adapt for Our Future





WHY A CALL TO ACTION FROM YOUNG PEOPLE?

Today, the world is home to the largest generation of youth in history, with 1.8 billion worldwide. One out of five people globally are between the ages of 15 and 24. Nearly 90 percent of the global youth live in developing countries, nearly one billion in Asia and Africa.

A significant share of the world's population is youth, with the youth population set to increase by as much as 62% in some countries. There is an imperative for young people to be involved in adaptation, because the generations who are young today will experience more significant climate change impacts.

Young people bring new ideas and radical ambition which are required to develop adaptation solutions and implement them at a large scale. When empowered, young people can build climate resilience and adaptive capacity in their communities even though they are among the most vulnerable populations which will be disproportionately affected by climate change.

How was this Call to Action developed?

The Global Youth Call to Action on Adaptation has been co-designed by the Global Center on Adaptation's Youth Adaptation Network through 15 global and regional consultations and inputs from hundreds of thousands of young people from 120 countries around the globe. The Youth Adaptation Network is an umbrella platform to engage, empower and amplify the role of youth in the adaptation agenda by providing them access to adaptation knowledge and campaigning materials while connecting youth with leaders and businesses who are leading the global response to climate change.

OUR CALL TO ACTION

Young people around the world are demanding for climate justice and are already playing a significant role in how countries, communities and businesses respond to the impacts of climate change. We, the Youth Adaptation Network, together with young people across the world, are united through this Global Youth Call to Action on Adaptation to ask world leaders to adapt our world for our future.

We call for a Decade of Action to prepare younger generations for the transition towards green and climate resilient development.

To adapt for our future, we call upon governments and all stakeholders to make the most of the unprecedented opportunity, post-COVID-19, to implement the Global Youth Call to Action on Adaptation below in addition to their mitigation efforts and Paris Agreement targets.



The Needed Actions for the Decade

Raising awareness on adaptation to climate change

- Document the life-long impact of climate change on young people and the cost of inaction on climate adaptation including through online mediums, publications and visual story-telling;
- Develop engaging and informative educational materials on climate change in multiple languages and in accordance with local circumstances and cultural contexts;
- Raise awareness and understanding on climate adaptation, promote sports, healthy lifestyles and sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- Provide adaptation learning resources in both digital and offline platforms through community-based education, to ensure distributional reach of the diversity of the global youth population.

Promoting universal education, training and skills development to empower younger generations to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Countries should:

- Ensure comprehensive climate adaptation and resilience training is universal and mandatorily placed at the center of education policies by integrating them into the curricula at all levels of formal education;
- Support and fund organisations that provide formal, non-formal and informal climate education as well as effective capacity building programs including virtual training, MOOCs on climate adaptation and training of trainers programs that target youth;
- Increase climate adaptation leadership training, as well as youth engagement in adaptation research and community projects in schools, universities, technical and vocational training institutions and non-profit organizations;
- Invest in quality, reliable and sustainable infrastructure to ensure that schools, universities and education institutions are climate resilient.

Fostering youth participation in the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Recognize that it is essential that youth are engaged in the design, implementation and evaluation of national climate change policies including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term development strategies;
- Undertake multi-stakeholder consultations, dialogues, youth councils and online platforms to enhance youth engagement in the adaptation agenda, including leveraging new and existing climate and youth networks;
- Ensure that youth participation in the local and international decision-making process is non-tokenistic and equitable;
- Direct local and regional authorities to engage with young people in the design of locally led adaptation agendas and facilitate the exchange of best practices on climate resilience through global, regional and local networks.

Accelerating adaptation implementation and scaling of climate resilient solutions

- Create a timely and innovative financing mechanism and technical assistance to support youth-focused projects that build resilience and adaptive capacity among marginalized communities;
- Provide technical assistance to support young people, especially those in the most vulnerable communities, in developing, prototyping and implementing adaptation solutions;
- Ensure equitable participation of youth in international, national and local climate policy in a way that is mutually supportive of new and existing climate youth networks;
- Engage a broad range of stakeholders, including youth organizations and networks, governments, the private sector, academia, the media, IGOs, NGOs, community-based organizations and other international organizations in order to support the Global Youth Call to Action on Adaptation.

Expanding economic opportunities for youth, adaptation jobs and youth-led businesses

- Support and develop youth-led green and climate resilient businesses by fostering youth entrepreneurial skills development, training, mentorship, financing and networking opportunities;
- Boost job creation for youth through paid internships, new job streams in adaptation and partnerships with the private sector;
- Establish and support regional incubators and accelerator programs to promote innovative adaptation solutions across different sectors.



Strengthen youth leadership of girls, young women, indigenous youth, young farmers and the most vulnerable youth

- Ensure the full and effective participation of women and girls in opportunities for adaptation leadership, including local dialogues, decision-making processes and professional trainings;
- Foster the active engagement of indigenous youth, young farmers and vulnerable youth in adaptation solutions;
- Increase the engagement capacity of policy-makers to ensure that they are able to equally engage and empower young people with special needs, those living in last-mile communities, climate migrants and refugees who are currently not represented enough in policy dialogues.

Our Commitment

To work together with existing youth networks to build upon their efforts, and liaise with the Global Center on Adaptation and other stakeholders to enhance the timely stocktaking and implementation of this Global Youth Call to Action on Adaptation;

To act as changemakers to foster implementation of the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and related international, regional and local frameworks that are essential to increasing the climate resilience and adaptive capacity of our communities;

To continue to work on climate change mitigation and strengthen our efforts on climate adaptation towards a resilient future for all.

This Call to Action has been developed with input and support from:





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