



GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION

Youth Engagement with the Global Goal on Adaptation



AUTHORS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ABOUT THE GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is an international organization, hosted by the Netherlands, which works as a solutions broker to accelerate action and support for adaptation solutions from the international to the local, in partnership with the public and private sector, to ensure we learn from each other and work together for a climate resilient future.

Learn more at www.gca.org or follow at [@GCAdaptation](https://twitter.com/GCAdaptation).



Norad

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“To me, meaningful youth participation is about more than being heard. It must also be about: Ensuring young people and their issues become priorities in climate policies and policy decision-making, recognizing young people's efforts and impacts to date, and promoting and enabling young people's participation and leadership in climate politics, policy-making and action.”

H.E. Simon Stiell, UNFCCC Executive Secretary



PARTNERS

On behalf of the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), we wish to thank the thousands of young people who shared their time, ideas and experiences on youth engagement with adaptation design, policy and implementation through the regional Youth Adaptation Forums and the inaugural Youth Dialogue. In particular we extend our thanks to the the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel who have worked with enthusiasm and energy throughout 2022.

We wish to express our thanks to the 24 partner organizations who made the hybrid, virtual and in person Youth Adaptation Forums possible, bringing together over 3,200 young people from around the world to drive the adaptation agenda.

Thank you to the COP26 and COP27 Presidencies for their continued support in the process to bring youth voices to the African COP27.



Mike Girling
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FOREWORD FROM THE CEO OF GCA

Young people are the trustees of posterity. We, who once were young, would be committing a serious error if we were to forget what it is like to be young.

This report, the result of worldwide consultations, ahead of the 'African COP27', aims to ensure we do not neglect or ignore the voices and ambitions of young people – their hopes for passing down a world in better condition than currently prevails to future generations.

In the following pages you will find insights into the views of young people from all continents on how they see the path forward to a more sustainable and climate resilient world.

In recent years we have seen how young people are becoming bolder, growing in confidence in holding their political leaders to account, and raising awareness of a climate emergency that grows starker and more evident by the day in the existential risks it poses to all of us, young and old and those yet to be born.

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) recognizes the transformational potential of young people. We put them at the heart of our work because we trust their instincts and we recognise their vital contribution to our mission. I am proud of the fact that we are investing in youth leadership through our programs, giving young people the tools and skills to turn their innate abilities into positive action.

Our Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP), the largest adaptation project of its kind globally in scale and ambition, is helping to create new adaptation jobs and supporting businesses run and owned by young people – the generation that stands to lose the most from climate change yet that is responding with innovative solutions to its impacts.

The prospects for rolling out this climate adaptation blueprint in more regions of the world are compelling and exciting. Adaptation to a warming world is

necessary – but it is not a necessary evil. Adaptation is an opportunity to recalibrate our economies, our cities and societies, creating new green jobs.

As we transform the adaptation agenda, young people need to be a part of it. This includes the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations on the Global Goal on Adaptation, the world's first collective commitment on adaptation. The Global Goal on Adaptation should not only respond to the needs and wishes of young people, it also needs young people participating in its development.

Young people are able to see this new dawn breaking with the enthusiasm and spirit which accompanies their younger years. They feel no need to turn back the clock; they teach us instead the lesson that we should embrace the moment and build on its possibilities.

This is a can-do attitude that young people possess in abundance. In my conversations with them – in Bangladesh in 2021 launching the Youth Adaptation Network, and earlier this year in Africa, in Central America and most recently here at our headquarters in Rotterdam during GCA's Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action – I am constantly impressed by their energy and commitment.

Young people do not despair. They bring their unquenchable hope to the climate agenda and with it they inspire their elders. They remind us that nothing is impossible and that, by attempting the impossible, we achieve it, generation after generation.



Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen
Chief Executive Officer
Global Center on Adaptation

FOREWORD FROM THE YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL TO THE CEO



YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL TO THE CEO OF THE GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION 2022

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As the eyes of the world turn to Sharm El-Sheikh for COP27, known as the 'COP of Adaptation', torrential monsoon rains have triggered the most severe flooding in Pakistan's recent history, washing away villages and leaving around 3.4 million children in need of assistance. As Pakistan is home to one of our dear members of the Youth Advisory Panel, this disaster has shown us first hand how the climate crisis is most affecting the countries that have least contributed to it. We have run out of time and we must act now. We hope that this report will inspire concrete adaptation action at all levels by showcasing what can be

achieved when the world comes together across borders, generations and sectors to co-create a more resilient future.

Over 12 months, we led seven regional Youth Adaptation Forums, meeting thousands of young people from across the world who are leading the adaptation agenda. From Ms. Disa Crow chief, an Indigenous young woman from Canada who co-founded the SevenGen Indigenous Youth Council to mobilize Indigenous youth and promote sustainability and equity, to Mr. Talua Nivaga from Tuvalu who is leading a coral restoration project,

young people are proposing innovative solutions, empowering women and girls, and advocating for societal transformations. This process culminated in the inaugural Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action in Rotterdam, when we convened over 100 young people to discuss the Global Goal on Adaptation, exchange knowledge and share some of the best youth-led adaptation solutions. One of the most important outcomes of this process are the #Youth4Adaptation recommendations, a call to action by young leaders to decision-makers to adapt our world to the cascading impacts of the climate emergency by providing an urgent, ambitious and robust response to deliver on the Glasgow Climate Pact. Adaptation is everyone's business and we call on all leaders, especially leaders from the Global North, to prioritize adaptation as much as they have prioritized mitigation. We must re-orient the climate adaptation decision-making processes to integrate diverse youth representatives as equal stakeholders. We must also unlock finance for youth-led adaptation and ensure that flexible mechanisms will allow the finance to reach the most marginalized communities. In the coming months, the global community will have the opportunity to shape the Global Goal on Adaptation. We call on all stakeholders to place meaningful engagement of youth, women and Indigenous communities as a guiding principle when setting the framework.

When we first set out on this journey, over 12 months ago, Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen asked us a simple

question: "What is the impact you want to have?". As we look back on what we have accomplished, we hope to have inspired thousands of young people in all parts of the world to take adaptation action. But most importantly, we hope that by sharing the messages and priorities of young people worldwide with international leaders, including H.E. Macky Sall, President of Senegal and Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana and Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, H.E. Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and host of the Pre-COP27, and H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, 8th UN Secretary-General, and H.E. Amina Mohammed UN Deputy Secretary-General, and many more, we have inspired bold political will and leadership. We need COP27 to be a watershed moment. We have no other choice: the social, economic and environmental cost of inaction would be unbearable.

We thank GCA for showing significant leadership in terms of youth inclusion, empowerment, and participation. We feel privileged to have had the chance to engage in such an inspiring and insightful process. We hope that this work will continue for years to come and that it will inspire all organizations, institutions and governments to follow in its footsteps. We are committed to partner with governments and other stakeholders to participate in climate adaptation decision-making processes including the Global Goal on Adaptation, and contribute to the design and implementation of National Adaptation Plans and local adaptation policies.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Paris Agreement established countries' first collective commitment on adaptation, known as the Global Goal on Adaptation. Countries are seeking to assess progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation and are thereby defining it. It is crucial that young people's needs and priorities are reflected in the Global Goal on Adaptation, as young people will live with the consequences of a warming planet the longest. Following worldwide youth consultations conducted by the Global Center on Adaptation, this report presents young people's views on the Global Goal on Adaptation.

The impacts of the climate emergency are already felt today. Extreme weather events have acute impacts on people across the world. In 2022, tropical Storm Ana and Batsirai caused widespread flooding in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, causing tens of thousands of people to be displaced.¹ In the summer of 2022, unprecedented heatwaves affected parts of Europe, for example in Portugal temperatures reached record highs of 47.0°C.²

Adaptation measures are necessary to reduce vulnerability to climate change. Our planet is warming and is projected to continue warming in the coming years.³ The number of people in need of international humanitarian assistance can be reduced by 90% with determined and ambitious adaptation action.⁴

The world is home to the largest population of young people in history, with 1.21 billion young people aged 15-24 living in the world today, accounting for 15.5% of the global population.⁵ It is projected that the youth population will continue to grow reaching 1.29 billion by 2030 and almost 1.34 billion by 2050.⁶ Around 87% of young people live in developing countries,⁷ which are most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Climate change is an intergenerational issue, disproportionately impacting young generations. Climate change impacts young people directly through extreme weather events, indirectly through disruptions to social, economic and environmental determinants of physical and mental health, and indirectly through distress and anxiety about climate change.⁸ There is an imperative for young people to be involved in adaptation.

Young people are effective advocates for adaptation, delivering innovative initiatives, leading demands for equitable policy solutions and developing strong global connections and collaborations to provide local, national, regional and international adaptation solutions. When empowered, young people can build climate resilience and adaptive capacity in their communities to enable a sustainable response to the impacts of climate change.



“Don’t give up on government, don’t give up on the UN. We’re not giving up on you. We are counting on you. And that’s a heavy burden but it’s no more than the one I had because I was you once.”

H.E. Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General

1 UNICEF, Madagascar Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2 (Cyclones Ana, Batsirai, Dumako, Emnati), February 2022.

2 Copernicus, Europe Continued To Swelter in July, 8th August 2022. <https://climate.copernicus.eu/europe-continued-swelter-july>

3 WMO, State of the Global Climate 2018-2022, 2022; WMO, International Science Council, IOC-UNESCO,

Global Climate Predictions: 2022 – 2026, 2022.

4 International Federation of the Red Cross, *The Cost of Doing Nothing: The Humanitarian Price of Climate Change and How It Can Be Avoided*, 2019.

5 United Nations, World Youth Report, 2020.

6 United Nations, World Population Prospects, 2019.

7 United Nations, World Youth Report, 2020.

8 T. Pereira & T. Freire, Positive Youth Development in the Context of Climate Change: A Systematic Review, *Frontiers in Psychology*, 2021.

This publication compiles young people's views on the Global Goal on Adaptation, comprising outcomes from worldwide youth consultations through the regional Youth Adaptation Forums and the Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action that took place in 2022.

These consultations were organized by the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), in collaboration with its CEO's Youth Advisory Panel, and were the first ever worldwide consultation with young people on the Global Goal on Adaptation. Based on these consultations, the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel formulated key recommendations to decision-makers to create a climate-resilient future.

The worldwide youth consultations – named the regional Youth Adaptation Forums - took place in seven regions between March 2022 and September 2022. The inaugural African Youth Adaptation Forum was followed in chronological order, by: Pacific, Asia, Europe, North America, Middle East and North Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The consultations concluded with a 2-day hybrid gathering, the *Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action: Delivering on the Glasgow Climate Pact*.

The consultations followed a participatory method of engaging young people on identifying their adaptation needs and opportunities. Over 3,200 young people engaged with the consultations, coming predominantly from youth organizations and civil society organizations.

The Youth Adaptation Forums and Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action fostered an intergenerational dialogue by bringing together young people and policy-makers to promote youth views in policy- and decision-making processes. 14 participants from nine governments, and seven representatives from international organizations attended the Youth Adaptation Forums and Youth Dialogue. Representatives of the COP26, COP27 and COP28 Presidencies also took part. The Youth Adaptation Forums and Youth Dialogue sought Indigenous perspectives, with a representative of an Indigenous community delivering remarks at the majority of consultations.

The Youth Dialogue in Rotterdam brought together 100 young people from 50 countries, and over 1,100 participants online. The aim of the Youth Dialogue was to promote an intergenerational dialogue between young leaders and decision-makers and accelerate adaptation action by showcasing youth-led climate-resilient initiatives and solutions on entrepreneurship, advocacy and policy-making, and to foster youth participation in shaping the international agenda by identifying youth recommendations on the international adaptation agenda.

To reach a broad group of young people, the majority of the consultations were organized in partnership. In total, 24 organizations partnered with GCA, ranging from youth organizations, to civil society organizations, and government.



The seven Youth Adaptation Forums took a regional focus, consulting young people on challenges and opportunities in their specific region, with a global connection through a video message from a representative of the 'African COP27', Mr. Amr Essam. The same methodology was used for each Forum for consistency and comparison between the regions. The Youth Dialogue brought together young people from across all regions, and the program included both consultations on the international adaptation agenda as well as specific regional consultations. The methodology that was used included (i) an intergenerational dialogue on reflecting youth recommendations on the Global Goal on Adaptation bringing together young leaders and policy-makers, (ii) showcasing youth-led adaptation action, initiatives and entrepreneurship, including from Africa, thereby providing a platform to young entrepreneurs, (iii) designing a climate-resilient region post 2030 where participants shared their views on adaptation action and policy.

The consultations were centred around the following framing questions:

Understanding climate realities

- What climate change related challenges do young people face in the region?

Young people in adaptation decision-making

- What are young people's priorities in the region for the Global Goal on Adaptation?
- What does a climate-resilient region post 2030 look like?
- What are five actions that can enable transformational change in the region?
- What do young people need to participate fully and meaningfully in policy-making and what can governments do to ensure young people are included?

Promoting youth-led adaptation solutions

- What are innovative youth-led solutions that young people are implementing in the region and what are the lessons learnt?
- What are the main priorities in the region for youth-led solutions to be sustainable and scalable?

Although each region has its own realities, contexts, needs and opportunities, four main themes emerged from the consultations:

- **Education as a driver for transformation:** Promote education, capacity-building and upskilling of young people on climate adaptation.
- **Young people as agents of change:** Provide an inclusive and participatory environment for young people in climate adaptation decision-making processes.
- **Bold solutions for economic and climate prosperity:** Empower youth entrepreneurs and young professionals to advance the adaptation agenda.
- **Unlocking finance for youth-led adaptation solutions:** Increase financing for youth-led adaptation initiatives through adapted and flexible funding mechanisms.

Young people are experts in their own right, and knowledgeable on the challenges, needs and opportunities within their local contexts. This report aims to translate the views expressed by young people to concrete recommendations to countries negotiating the Global Goal on Adaptation within the UNFCCC regime. In addition, the Youth4Adaptation recommendations presented in this report provide youth-led policy recommendations for a climate-resilient future more generally.

For the international community to build a climate resilient future for and with younger generations, it is crucial to hear what young people from around our world have to say.

2. THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTS YOUNG GENERATIONS

The climate crisis has devastating effects across the world. 2018-2022 was the fourth warmest 5-year period on record.⁹ In 2021, Cyclone Ana and Bina triggered more than 14,000 displacements across Fiji.¹⁰ Typhoon Rai caused 3.9 million displacements in the Philippines, Palau and Vietnam, the largest number of disaster displacements globally in 2021.¹¹ Impacts are disproportionately affecting women, Indigenous communities, young people and future generations.

The world is home to the largest population of young people in history, with 1.21 billion young people aged 15-24 living in the world today, accounting for 15.5% of the global population.¹² It is projected that the youth population will continue to grow reaching 1.29 billion by 2030 and almost 1.34 billion by 2050.¹³ Around 87% of young people live in developing countries,¹⁴ which are most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Deteriorating climate change impacts threaten the health and wellbeing of young people, especially those living in developing countries. Children and young people are estimated to suffer more than 80% of the illnesses, injuries, and deaths attributable to climate change.¹⁵ Youth groups particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts are women and people living in informal settlements.¹⁶

The most effective way of protecting children's lives and family livelihoods from climate change is adaptation

and resilience building.¹⁷ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines adaptation as the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.¹⁸ According to the IPCC, 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change.¹⁹

If adaptation measures are taken now, the projected negative effects on young people across Africa in 20–30 years could be vastly reduced. Africa's burgeoning population, estimated at over 1,34 billion in 2020, is the youngest in the world. 60% of the population is under 25 years of age, and a third aged between 15 and 34 years.²⁰ It is estimated that around 86 million people across Africa will be forced to migrate within their own countries by 2050 because of changing weather patterns. However, climate adaptation presents an opportunity to equip Africa's significant youth population for new green jobs.

Taking adaptation measures now, will deliver economic benefits later by reducing risks, lowering costs, increasing productivity and driving innovation. In Africa, the benefit-cost ratio of adaptation measures are almost always more than 2 to 1, and often are more than 5 to 1. In addition, early action is particularly cost-effective, with a benefit-cost ratio of at least 12 to 1.²¹ This would benefit African and global youth during their peak earning years and beyond.

9 WMO, United In Science, 2022.

10 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Global Report on Internal Displacement, 2022.

11 Ibid.

12 United Nations, World Youth Report, 2020.

13 United Nations, World Population Prospects, 2019.

14 United Nations, World Youth Report, 2020.

15 McMichael et al., 2004.

16 GCA, Young People and Drivers and Barriers to Climate Adaptation Action, 2021.

17 UNICEF & GCA, A Call to Action on Climate and Children: Protect, Prepare, Prioritize, 2022.

18 IPCC, Glossary to Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5, 2018.

19 IPCC, Sixth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, 2022.

20 Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Africa's Youth: Action Needed Now to Support the Continent's Greatest Asset, 2020.

21 GCA, State and Trends in Adaptation Report 2021: Africa, 2021.

3. YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AGENDA

WHO IS CONSIDERED A YOUNG PERSON?

Within the United Nations (UN) there is no agreed upon definition of a young person. However, for statistical purposes, the UN defines young people as “those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 (...) without prejudice to other definitions by Member States.”²² The

General Assembly agreed upon this definition in 1981 in its preparations for the International Youth Year, and endorsed the definitions in its resolution 36/28, 1981.

The African Union defines a young person as “Every person between

the ages of 15 and 35 years old,” as agreed upon in the African Youth Charter.

For the purposes of this publication, the Global Center on Adaptation uses the definition of the African Union.

THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

The role of young people within the system of the United Nations (UN) has strengthened over time.

One of the first times the UN considered the unique position of young people in society was in 1965, when the UN General Assembly endorsed the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples. In 1985, the UN General Assembly observed the International Youth Year: Participation, Development and Peace, to “mobilize efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels in order to promote the best educational, professional and living conditions for young people to ensure their active participation in the over-all development of society and to encourage the preparation of new national and local policies and programmes”.²³ In 1995, building on the International Year of Youth, countries adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond to provide a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people.²⁴

Young people have played an important role in sustainable development.

In 1992, at the first UN Conference on Environment and Development, the Earth Summit in Rio, countries recognized the importance of public participation in decision-making for sustainable development.²⁵ In the Earth Summit’s outcome document, Agenda 21, countries committed to involve all social groups in society which led to the formalization of nine UN Major Groups.²⁶ This included the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY), which is

“Right now, leaders need to step up, they need to prioritize youth innovations in climate change adaptation planning, they need to prioritize youth inclusion in decision making. In fact, we need to include young people in the Executive Boards of organizations, so we can always have different perspectives and consider the diversity of young people.”



Desmond Alugnoa, Member of GCA CEO’s Youth Advisory Panel 2022, Co-founder and Programs Manager, Green Africa Youth Organization

22 UNGA, International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace: Report of the Secretary-General, 36th Session UN Doc A/36/215 (1981).
23 Ibid.

24 ECOSOC, World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, UN Doc E/RES/1995/64 (1995); UNGA, Policies and programmes involving youth: youth in the global economy – promoting youth participation in social and economic development UN Doc A/RES/62/126 (2008).

25 UNCCED, Agenda 21, 1992, Paragraph 23.2.

26 The other Major Groups are Women, Indigenous Peoples, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, the Scientific and Technological Community, and Farmers.

the “UN General Assembly-mandated and self-organised mechanism for young people to meaningfully engage in certain UN processes.”²⁷

Young people were active contributors to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.²⁸ At the Rio+20 Conference in 2012 – in which many young people participated – countries committed to establishing “an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly.”²⁹ UNMGCY was a key stakeholder in the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, which drove the development of the 2030 Agenda and deliberated its 17 Goals.³⁰ UNMGCY remains involved in the 2030 Agenda, as the Agenda called on the Major Groups to report on their contribution to the implementation.³¹

Setting out to integrate young generations across peace-building, human rights and sustainable development, in 2018 the UN Secretary-General launched the UN Youth Strategy: Youth2030. The aim of the Youth Strategy is to “facilitate increased impact and expanded global, regional and country-level action to address the needs, build the agency and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity around the world, and to ensure their engagement and participation in the implementation, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other relevant global agendas and frameworks.”³²

YOUNG PEOPLE IN CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The role of young people in climate negotiations has become more formalized over time. Until 2009, young people participated under the self-organized umbrella, called the International Youth Climate Movement. Shortly before COP17 in 2011, youth participation became formalized through the establishment of an observer constituency to UNFCCC, known as YOUNGO. As an official

constituency, YOUNGO can engage in the UNFCCC process in several ways such as delivering interventions at COPs and by receiving invitations to limited-access workshops between sessional periods.³³



YOUNGO’s official gathering is the yearly Conference of Youth (COY), which is the biggest youth climate conference ahead of COP. COY serves as a space for capacity building and policy training, in order to prepare young people for their participation at COP. COY also brings together written youth inputs, which feed directly into the climate negotiations via the official youth policy paper.³⁴

Young people have also been involved in UN climate processes outside UNFCCC. On 23rd September 2019, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, organized the Climate Action Summit in New York to forge new pathways ahead to support the achievement of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Summit focused on nine key action areas including young people: youth and public mobilization, social and political drivers, energy transition, finance and carbon pricing, resilience and adaptation, nature-based solutions, industry transition, mitigation strategy, and cities infrastructure and local action.

27 www.unmgcy.org

28 United Nations, World Youth Report, 2020.

29 Rio+20 Conference Outcome Document ‘The Future We Want’, para. 248. 2012.

30 UNGA, 67th Session UN Doc A/DEC/67/555 (2013).

31 2030 Agenda, para. 89. 2015.

32 Youth2030, 2018, p. 5.

33 UNFCCC, Non-Governmental Organization Constituencies. https://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/ngo/application/pdf/constituencies_and_you.pdf

34 UNFCCC, Conference of Youth (COY). <https://unfccc.int/topics/education-and-youth/younggo/coy>

On 21st September 2019, ahead of the Climate Action Summit, the UN Secretary-General convened the first ever Youth Climate Summit. This Summit brought young people into the UN, alongside global leaders, to share their ideas for climate action. In addition to participating at the UN conferences, young people also made their mark by taking to the streets. An estimated 60,000 people participated in the climate strike on 20th September 2019 in New York City, while hundreds of thousands more joined climate strikes in cities across the world.³⁵

Building on the momentum generated by the Youth Climate Summit and the climate strikes, 43 governments committed to the Kwon-Gesh Climate Pledge at the Climate Action Summit.³⁶ Led by the Republic of Ireland and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, countries committed to involve young people in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its goals.

SCHOOL STRIKES FOR CLIMATE

Young people are demanding a climate-resilient future by engaging in direct actions and protests, receiving widespread media coverage most notably by Greta Thunberg. Starting at the age of 15 in 2018, Thunberg skipped school on Fridays to protest in front of Sweden's national parliament to demand more ambitious climate action from her government. Following Thunberg's example, young people around the world joined in on the climate strikes, known as Fridays for Future, and approximately 18 million people have engaged in a climate strike thus far.³⁷ Thunberg's actions drew worldwide attention, although it was not the first time young people took climate action. Especially Indigenous People, people of colour, and young people from the Global South have been engaging in climate action,³⁸ as they have been experiencing climate impacts much longer and are particularly vulnerable due to intersecting inequities, including colonialism and governance.³⁹

Youth climate activists' demands have focused mainly on the role of governments to drastically reduce GHG emissions in line with the 1.5 degrees temperature goal of

the Paris Agreement. A recent study found that many young climate activists from the Global North attribute greater weight to mitigation than to adaptation.⁴⁰ Taking adaptation measures has been viewed by some young climate activists from the Global North as 'losing hope' in effective climate action and a failure to successfully reduce GHG emissions.

Nonetheless, there is a growing body of young people advocating ambitious and participatory adaptation action. Young people's views are shifting from adaptation as a conservative approach to adaptation as transformational potential.⁴¹ In 2021, millions of young people around the world signed the *Global Youth Call to Action: Adapt for Our Future*, which was presented to the Global Commission on Adaptation. The Global Commission on Adaptation was established by Prime Minister Mark Rutte of the Netherlands and the leaders of 22 other convening countries with a mandate to accelerate adaptation by elevating the political visibility of adaptation and focusing on concrete solutions. Young people called on the Global Commission on Adaptation and decision-makers around the world for a Decade of Action to prepare younger generations for the transition towards a green and climate-resilient development. The *Global Youth Call to Action* followed 15 global and regional consultations and inputs from hundreds of thousands of young people from more than 120 countries around the world.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN ADAPTATION

There are three main drivers that engage young people in climate adaptation: First-hand experience of climate impacts, education and civic participation. In a study conducted in 2021 by GCA, the Centre for Environment Education, Kai Analytics, and the Foundation for Environmental Education, 3,000 responses from young people were collected through the Global Youth Climate Adaptation Survey, along with interviews of 18 young people from across Africa about their climate adaptation experiences during extreme events. The results were analyzed in the study *Young People and Drivers and Barriers to Climate Adaptation Action*, presented in 2021.

35 New York Times, *Protesting Climate Change, Young People Take to Streets in a Global Strike*, 20th September 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/20/climate/global-climate-strike.html>

36 UN Report of the Secretary-General on the 2019 Climate Action Summit and the Way Forward in 2020, p. 30.

37 Fridays for Future, *Strike Statistics*, 2022. <https://fridaysforfuture.org/what-we-do/strike-statistics/>

38 C. Grosse & B. Mark, *A colonized COP: Indigenous exclusion and youth climate justice activism at the United Nations climate change negotiations*, *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment*, Vol. 11, 2020.

39 IPCC, *Sixth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, 2022.

40 J. De Moor, *Prioritizing adaptation and mitigation in the climate movement: evidence from a cross-national protest survey of the Global Climate Strike*, 2019, *Mitigation Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*, vol. 27(6), 2022.

41 Ibid.

First-hand experience of the impacts of climate change is a main driver for youth engagement.

Young people who have experienced disruption to schooling are 1.3 times more likely to be engaged with decision-making at the national level, and take on participation or leadership roles in climate adaptation initiatives.⁴²

Furthermore, the inclusion of climate change education in curriculums at schools and universities is one of the drivers of youth engagement.

Young people's participation at the national level is strongly related to climate change knowledge and level of education,⁴³ while regional and gender differences also play a part.

In addition, participation by young people in a youth network also contributes to engaging with climate action.

Young people who belong to a global youth network are twice as likely to interact with local and national policy makers, and to participate and take on leadership roles in climate adaptation initiatives.⁴⁴

Young people are crucial stakeholders in the adaptation agenda,

for three main reasons. Firstly, young people will live the longest in a world that is affected by climate change. Secondly, including young people in adaptation policies and decision-making leads to youth-responsive and more effective policies. Thirdly, young people bring ambition, innovation and creativity to deliver new solutions to adapt the world to climate impacts.

Young people today, and generations to come, will live with the impacts of climate change the longest.

In Africa, the worst impacts are expected in the second half of this century. This will particularly impact the people who are young today.⁴⁵ A child born today will face 2 to 7 times more extreme weather events than their grandparents.⁴⁶

Young people are key stakeholders in climate change adaptation as well as current and future decision-makers.

Their engagement locally, nationally, and internationally is vital to build resilience and develop effective adaptation policies. Young people want to be involved in adaptation

policy- and decision-making. In the Global Youth Climate Action Declaration, the outcome document of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Climate Summit, young people specifically called for participation in their countries' National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): "Developed revised concrete National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) that recognize young people as stakeholders and implementers (not just a vulnerable group) of adaptation action during 2020, with a focus on youth efforts while including capacity support for young people."⁴⁷



When empowered, young people can build climate resilience and adaptive capacity in their communities.

Young people have proven to be effective advocates for climate action. Yet, they also have an important role as influential actors and agents of change in impactful, innovative initiatives at the community level.

The Global Goal on Adaptation presents a unique opportunity to include young people in adapting our world.

Countries are already engaging in a process to assess progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation, the first collective commitment on adaptation. Including young people's perspective in the Global Goal on Adaptation will be crucial to create youth sensitive and equitable adaptation policies, and deliver innovative solutions to adapt our world.

42 GCA, Young People and Drivers and Barriers to Climate Adaptation Action, 2021.

43 GCA, Young People and Drivers and Barriers to Climate Adaptation Action, 2021.

44 GCA, Young People and Drivers and Barriers to Climate Adaptation Action, 2021.

45 GCA, State and Trends in Adaptation Report 2021: Africa, 2021.

46 Save the Children, Born into the Climate Crisis, 2021.

47 UNMGY, Global Youth Climate Declaration, 2019.

4. GLOBAL GOAL ON ADAPTATION

As the first collective commitment on adaptation, the Global Goal on Adaptation builds on more than a decade of work within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Over the years, the UNFCCC has created a space for political engagement, awareness-raising, and showcasing and exchanging best practices on climate change. The adaptation landscape has many actors in it, from the local, to the national, regional and international, yet the UNFCCC serves as the central regime governing international rules and norms of adaptation.⁴⁸ In 1992, countries included adaptation as a component of the ultimate objective of the Convention⁴⁹ “stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations (...) within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change.”⁵⁰ Nevertheless, adaptation was not a standalone aim.

Although adaptation was a part of the UNFCCC regime from the outset, it was only nearly a decade later that adaptation began to take form in the Marrakech Accords of 2001. At COP7, countries established the Least Developed Countries (LDC) work programme to contribute to the implementation of article 4.9 of the Convention, which stipulates that countries take full account of the specific needs and special situations of LDCs with regard to funding and transfer of technology. As part of the LDC work programme, countries established National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) to support LDCs to identify priority activities to adapt to climate change. The LDC work programme also established a Least Developed Countries Fund⁵¹ to fund the preparation and implementation of NAPAs.

In 2005, countries established the Nairobi work programme as the first institutional arrangement on adaptation under the UNFCCC. Adopted at COP11, countries agreed on the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change to assist all countries, in particular developing countries to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures.

In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) explicitly recognized adaptation needs in its fourth Assessment Report (AR4).⁵² This report was met by countries with the Bali Roadmap and the Bali Action Plan at COP10, which launched a “comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012.”⁵³ The Bali Action Plan stipulated that any future agreement should “address enhanced action on adaptation”.⁵⁴ Three years later, at COP13 in Cancun, this led to a break-through for adaptation. The Cancun Agreements recognized that “climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet”⁵⁵ and affirmed that “[a]daptation must be addressed with the same priority as mitigation and requires appropriate institutional arrangements to enhance adaptation action and support”. As part of the Cancun Agreements, the Cancun Adaptation Framework established the Adaptation Committee to promote enhanced action on adaptation,⁵⁶ and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to enable LDCs to identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs and develop and implement strategies and programs to address those needs.⁵⁷

48 A. Persson, Global adaptation governance: An emerging but contested domain, Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews, Climate Change Vol. 10(6), 2019.

49 J. Bell-James, ‘Blue Carbon’ and the Need to Integrate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Conversation Goals within the International Climate Law Framework, N. Craik e.a. (eds.) ‘Global Environmental Change and Innovation in International Law, 2018.

50 Article 2 UNFCCC, 1992.

51 The LDCF is managed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

52 IPCC, Fourth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, 2007.

53 Article 1 Bali Action Plan, Decision 1/CP.13.

54 Preamble Cancun Agreements, Decision 1/CP.16.

55 Article 20 Cancun Agreements, Decision 1/CP.16.

56 Article 15 Cancun Agreements, Decision 1/CP.16.

57 Article 2.1 Paris Agreement, 2015.

In 2015, countries adopted the landmark Paris Agreement which enhances the implementation of the UNFCCC through the 1.5°C temperature goal and by “[i]ncreasing

the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production”.⁵⁸ Thereby setting adaptation as “an equal pillar of the UN climate regime, alongside mitigation.”⁵⁹ In addition, countries recognized adaptation as a global challenge,⁶⁰ and countries established the first collective commitment on adaptation, thereby making it a global goal embedded in sustainable development.⁶¹ Article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement establishes the Global Goal on Adaptation, which has three objectives:

“Parties hereby establish the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2.”
– Article 7 of the Paris Agreement

Furthermore, article 7 sets out countries’ commitments to implement adaptation actions, formulating and implementing NAPs, submitting adaptation communications, enhancing international support to developing countries, and providing a mandate to the global stocktake.

The global stocktake, established in the Paris Agreement, takes stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement to assess collective progress towards achieving its purpose. It considers mitigation, adaptation, and the means of implementation and support. The first global stocktake will take place in 2023 and every five years thereafter. The outcome of the global stocktake shall inform countries in updating and enhancing their actions and support under the Paris Agreement.⁶² At the conclusion of each global stocktake, the outcome will inform countries as they

update and enhance, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support under the Paris Agreement.

The global stocktake shall review the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and adaptation support, and review the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation. Although the global stocktake will assess progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation, there are no rules stipulating the approach nor its indicators or metrics.⁶³

At COP26 in Glasgow, countries established and launched the Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GlaSS).⁶⁴ The objective of the

GlaSS is to enable the full and sustained implementation of the Paris Agreement towards achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation,⁶⁵ and to enhance understanding and contribute to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation to inform the global stocktake.

The GlaSS set out a two-year process which includes four workshops per year, two virtual and two in conjunction

with the sessions of the subsidiary bodies, to contribute to an annual report prepared by the UNFCCC secretariat under the guidance of the chairs of the subsidiary bodies, which will inform the COP28 decision. Countries agreed that the GlaSS should be carried out in an inclusive manner with equitable geographical representation of countries, as well as observers, constituted bodies, organizations, experts and practitioners. In addition, the IPCC is invited to inform the work of the GlaSS.

The first workshop took place at SB56 in June 2022 on enhancing understanding of the Global Goal on Adaptation and reviewing progress towards it. In its summary report, the UNFCCC Secretariat outlines that the specific characteristics of the response to the Global Goal on Adaptation include “a long-term rather than only an urgent and immediate response; be country-driven and reflecting the national context; be holistic, comprehensive

58 Craft & Fisher, Measuring the adaptation goal in the global stocktake of the Paris Agreement, *Climate Policy* Vol. 18(9), 2018.

59 Article 7.2 Paris Agreement, 2015.

60 A. Persson, Global adaptation governance: An emerging but contested domain, *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews, Climate Change* Vol. 10(6), 2019.

61 Article 14.3 Paris Agreement, 2015.

62 Article 7.14 Paris Agreement, 2015.

63 A. Persson & A. Dzebo, Special Issue: Exploring global and transnational governance of climate change adaptation, *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*, Vol. 19(4), 2019.

64 Decision CMA.3.

65 Article 7.a GlaSS, Decision 7/CMA.3.

and reflecting transboundary and cascading climate impacts and risks; encompass local and indigenous knowledge and consider women, youth and vulnerable groups; and consist of different targets while allowing the adjustment of these through time, for example if climate risks increase.”⁶⁶

Building on the progress so far, there is an opportunity for young people to engage with the UNFCCC process to ensure the Global Goal on Adaptation not only considers young generations but is also informed by and with young people.

“Young people are agents of change. It is fundamental to foster youth participation in the design and implementation of the Global Goal on Adaptation, as well as in policy-making and adaptation action at all levels. Young people bring innovative solutions and can foster a transformational change that promotes new behaviors, values, and practices to build climate resilient development”.



Adriana Valenzuela, GCA Youth Leadership and Education Thematic Lead

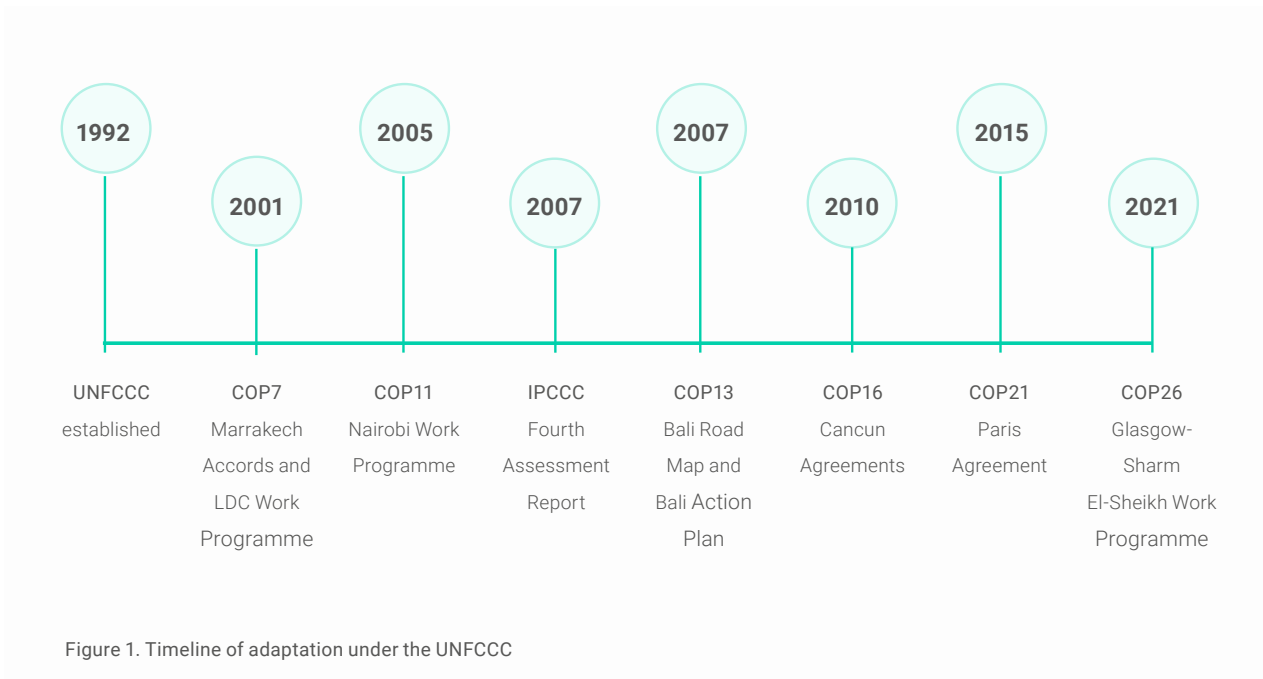


Figure 1. Timeline of adaptation under the UNFCCC

⁶⁶ UNFCCC, Summary of the first workshop under the Glasgow–Sharm el Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation, 9 August 2022, p. 2 para. 10.

5. WORLDWIDE YOUTH CONSULTATIONS ON ADAPTATION

GCA'S YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

GCA is an international solutions-broker working to accelerate adaptation action and support adaptation solutions. GCA's work focuses on those who are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change including the poorest people in the poorest countries. They are the least prepared to withstand the triple health, social and economic impacts of our climate emergency.

GCA's Youth Leadership & Education Program aims to make young people central to driving the adaptation agenda and implementation worldwide. The program's mission is to mobilize the next generation of adaptation leaders around the world by providing capacity-building for young people and creating adaptation jobs to make their communities more climate resilient. The action areas are the Youth Adaptation Network, Youth Advisory Panel, Adaptation Jobs & Entrepreneurship, Capacity-building and Adaptation Education, and Training for Young Women Leadership on Adaptation.



"You are the most important generation in our history. The actions you take and the influence you bring to decision-makers will decide the fate of all future generations."

H.E. Ban Ki-moon, 8th UN Secretary-General and Chair of GCA



"Your voices on the adaptation agenda are underutilized. My call, my request to you is jump on that band-wagon and drive it."

Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO Global Center on Adaptation

GCA's Youth Adaptation Network is an umbrella platform to engage, empower and amplify the role of young people in the adaptation agenda. By creating an environment where young people are engaged as equal stakeholders in climate adaptation actions and providing them with learning opportunities, the Youth Adaptation Network translates knowledge into action by engaging and participating in the design and implementation of local and national adaptation plans. The Network has members in over 130 countries.

In September 2021, GCA launched the Youth Advisory Panel to the CEO. Its aim is to provide strategic advice to the CEO of GCA, Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen on youth engagement to drive the adaptation agenda. The Youth Advisory Panel comprises 12 youth experts from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and Oceania. Additionally, the Panel ensures that the main goals of the Youth Adaptation Network, which are to engage, empower and amplify the role of the youth in the adaptation agenda, are achieved.

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH JOBS AND ENTRENEURSHIP

The Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP) was jointly launched by the GCA and the African Development Bank (AfDB) at the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021. AAP is aligned with the vision of the Africa Adaptation Initiative, which was initiated by African Heads of State in 2015 to ensure that the continent urgently adapts to the adverse effects of climate change. AAP will contribute to this goal of scaling up and accelerating adaptation in Africa and aims to leverage US\$25 billion by 2025.

A broad range of stakeholders – including African leaders, institutions, and multiple development partners – were consulted on the design of AAP. Based on their inputs, and on the priorities and needs identified in Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, the Africa Adaptation Initiative, and the Initiative for the Adaptation of African Agriculture, four key pillars were identified:

- Climate Smart Digital Technologies for Agriculture and Food Security
- African Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator
- Innovative Finance Initiatives
- Empowering Youth for Entrepreneurship and Job Creation in Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Transforming Job Creation through the YouthADAPT Pillar

The Empowering Youth for Entrepreneurship and Job Creation in Climate Adaptation and Resilience pillar aims to unlock the untapped potential of youth in Africa to drive resilience and green enterprise. The vision is to promote sustainable job creation at scale by 2025 through youth entrepreneurship and innovation for action in climate adaptation. Activities of this Pillar are built across the following business lines: Strengthening environments that support youth-led climate adaptation entrepreneurship and youth

participation in adaptation policies; scaling up youth innovations for climate action; building youth capacity for employability and unlocking access to finance, and mainstreaming “adaptation jobs” into multilateral development banks’ operations and projects.

With a sustained joint vision to unlock a further \$3 billion in credit for adaptation action for innovative youth-owned enterprises, and a gender mainstreaming target of 50%, the Youth Pillar has so far funded entrepreneurs across the continent to scale their adaptation businesses as part of the African Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge (YouthADAPT Challenge). The sponsored adaptation solutions cut across the agriculture and waste management sectors and across enterprises that are addressing on-ground climate challenges faced by vulnerable communities in their regions on the African continent. Some have seen their revenues rise by up to 50 percent since joining the accelerator; some have doubled their production capacity; and others are entering new markets.

The AAP Upstream Financing Facility is supporting the mainstreaming of adaptation jobs for youth in three African Development Bank-financed projects. In the Digital and Creative Enterprise Program in Nigeria, the Upstream Facility has helped identify opportunities to create climate adaptation-aligned jobs within the project, aiming at creating 165,600 direct jobs and 1,674,000 indirect jobs created over five years. The Youth Enterprise Development and Capacity Building Project aims to enhance employability and job creation for young women and men aged 18–35 years in South Sudan, creating at least 1,600 jobs and training at least 900 youth in business development and entrepreneurship in adaptation services. The Nigeria Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones Program expects to accelerate the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices to create at least 150,000 direct and indirect jobs.

METHODOLOGY

Regional Youth Adaptation Forums

Throughout 2022, GCA and the CEO’s Youth Advisory Panel organized seven regional Youth Adaptation Forums. The Forums took place in hybrid and virtual format, from Dakar to Bonn, and from New York to San José. The Youth Adaptation Forums aimed to elevate youth voices and increase the power of influence of young people worldwide in the adaptation agenda. Each Forum consulted the youth participants on their priorities, challenges and needs on the Global Goal on Adaptation.

These consultations were organized by GCA, in collaboration with its CEO’s Youth Advisory Panel,

and were the first ever worldwide consultation with young people on the Global Goal on Adaptation.

The seven regional Youth Adaptation Forums engaged:

- **24** partners to organize virtual, in person and hybrid consultations
- **110** speakers from over 50 countries
- Over **2,300** registered young people from around the world



Regional Youth Adaptation Forums

Collecting Youth inputs on the Global Goal on Adaptation and showcasing youth-led solutions



GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION

The consultations followed a participatory method of engaging young people on identifying their adaptation needs and opportunities. Over 2,100 young people engaged with the consultations, coming predominantly from youth organizations and civil society organizations. The consultations also fostered an intergenerational dialogue by bringing together young people and policy-makers to promote youth views in policy- and decision-making processes. 14 participants from nine governments, including Costa Rica, Egypt, Ghana, Vanuatu, Mexico, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and Italy, and six representatives from international organizations, including UNFCCC, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), attended the consultations. Representatives of the COP26, COP27 and COP28 Presidencies also took part. The Youth Adaptation Forums sought Indigenous perspectives, with a representative of an Indigenous community delivering remarks at the majority of consultations. Each Forum showcased the youth-led adaptation entrepreneurship by one of the YouthADAPT winners 2021. The speakers were invited based on gender and geographic considerations.

The consultations – named the regional Youth Adaptation Forums – took place in seven regions between March 2022 and September 2022, in chronological order: Africa, Pacific, Asia, Europe, North America, Middle East and North Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The seven Youth Adaptation Forums took a regional focus, consulting young people on challenges and opportunities in their specific region, with a global connection to the ‘African COP’. The same methodology was used for each Forum for consistency and comparison between the regions.

To reach a broad group of young people, the majority of the consultations were organized in partnership with a total of 24 organizations from across youth organizations, civil society organizations, and government.

To capture the outcomes of each regional Youth Adaptation Forum, a live illustrator created drawings of the Forums. Each drawing captures the challenges of the region, presents a vision for a climate-resilient post 2030, and summarizes the 5 key actions needed to make the 2030 vision a reality.

YOUTH DIALOGUE ON ADAPTATION ACTION

Building on the regional Youth Adaptation Forums, the hybrid *Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action: Delivering on the Glasgow Climate Pact* took place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands on the 3rd to 4th September 2022. The Youth Dialogue brought together thousands of young people, government and institutional representatives, academics and civil society organizations. The aim of the Youth Dialogue was to promote an intergenerational dialogue between young leaders and decision-makers and accelerate adaptation action by showcasing youth-led climate-resilient initiatives and solutions on entrepreneurship, advocacy

and policy-making, and to foster youth participating in shaping the international agenda by identifying youth recommendations on the international adaptation agenda.

- 100 youth delegates from 50 countries joined in person
- Over 1,100 participants from around the world joined online
- 61% of online participants joined from Africa

The Youth Dialogue took place immediately preceding the Africa Adaptation Summit in a Friends of GCA High-Level Dialogue for COP27 that took place at GCA's headquarters in Rotterdam, on 5th September 2022. The Africa Adaptation Summit convened African leaders, including the African Union and Climate Vulnerable Forum presidencies, and the leadership of the African Development Bank, together with global leaders from across governments, international organizations, multilateral development banks, central banks, the private sector, mayors, civil society, youth leaders, and other stakeholders, including H.E. Ban Ki-moon, 8th UN Secretary General and Chair of the GCA Board, H.E. Macky Sall, President of Senegal, and Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana and Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, and H.E. Felix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and host of the Pre-COP27. In addition, two youth representatives, Desmond Alugnoa from Ghana and Elysa Vaillancourt from Canada, both members of the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel, had a seat at the table, where they presented the key messages of the regional Youth Adaptation Forums.

"For COP27's incoming Presidency, any effective and meaningful climate response is expected to be conscious of the priorities and views of the youth, and opening pathways for their full participation and empowering their potential as a big part of the solution."



Amr Essam, Senior Advisor COP27 Presidency, Egypt

METHODOLOGY

The seven Youth Adaptation Forums took a regional focus, consulting young people on challenges and opportunities in their specific region. The same methodology was used for each Forum for consistency and comparison between the regions. The Youth Dialogue brought together young people from across all regions of the world, and the program included both consultations on the international adaptation agenda as well as specific regional consultations. The methodology that was used in the Youth Adaptation Forums and the Youth Dialogue included (i) an intergenerational dialogue on reflecting youth recommendations on the Global Goal on Adaptation bringing together young leaders and policy-makers, (ii) showcasing youth-led adaptation actions, initiatives and entrepreneurship providing a platform to young entrepreneurs, (iii) designing a climate-resilient region post 2030 where participants shared their views on adaptation action and policy.

The consultations were centred around the following framing questions:

Understanding climate realities

- What climate change related challenges do young people face in the region?

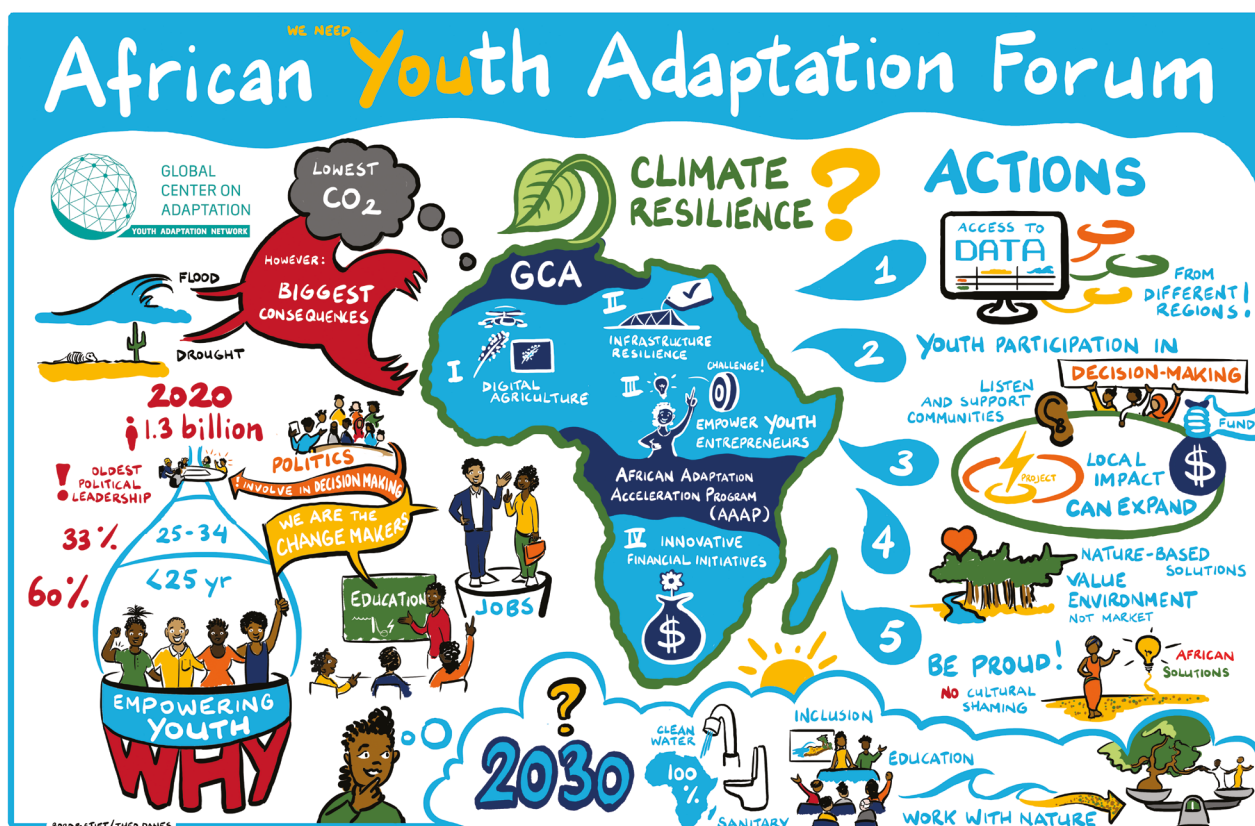
Young people in adaptation decision-making

- What are young people's priorities in the region for the Global Goal on Adaptation?
- What does a climate-resilient region post 2030 look like?
- What are five actions that can enable transformational change in the region?
- What do young people need to participate fully and meaningfully in policy-making and what can governments do to ensure young people are included?

Promoting youth-led adaptation solutions

- What are innovative youth-led solutions that young people are implementing in the region and what are the lessons learnt?
- What are the main priorities in the region for youth-led solutions to be sustainable and scalable?

African Youth Adaptation Forum



REGIONAL CONTEXT

In Africa, over the past decade the number of climate-related disasters have risen from 500 to 700 per year.⁶⁷

In 2020, more than 50 million people were affected by floods, droughts, and storms. Africa has the youngest population, with young people accounting for 20% of the population compared with 16% for the world as a whole.⁶⁸ The continent's youth population is the most educated generation ever in Africa. Studies show a high return to secondary and post-secondary education, indicating a demand for education in the economy.⁶⁹ Despite being the youngest continent, Africa has the oldest political leadership, and young people are often excluded from political activities and national leadership roles.⁷⁰ Young people in Africa face unemployment or underemployment challenges. In 2020, the unemployment rate on the African continent was estimated at 7% for the working-age population and 11% for young people.⁷¹

- Participants from 67 countries
- Two governments represented by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom
- Official side event of the triennial World Water Week in Senegal
- In collaboration with the International Secretariat for Water and the World Youth Parliament for Water

“When it comes to advocacy, young people are doing a lot, we are advocating, we have so many activists on every corner you pass. But when it comes to policy-making, the voices of young people need to be main-streamed into decision-making.”

Youth participant in the African Youth Adaptation Forum

67 GCA, State and Trends in Adaptation Report 2021: Africa, 2021.

68 GCA, State and Trends in Adaptation Report 2020: Africa, 2020.

69 GCA, State and Trends in Adaptation Report 2021: Africa, 2021.

70 Ibid.

71 ILO, Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020: Africa, 2020.

AFRICAN YOUTH ADAPTATION FORUM

On 22nd March 2022, the African Youth Adaptation Forum took place in Dakar, Senegal as an official side event of the triennial World Water Forum, and focused on the interlinkages between water resilience and adaptation action. The Forum brought together young entrepreneurs, researchers, governments, and young advocates. The two-hour African Youth Adaptation Forum featured the following speakers:

- Mr. Desmond Alugnoa, Co-founder Green Africa Youth Organization, Ghana
- Mr. Youssef Nassef, Director Adaptation UNFCCC
- H.E. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, Kingdom of The Netherlands
- Ms. Elysa Vaillancourt, International Secretariat for Water, Canada
- Ms. Yosr Khèdr, International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, Egypt
- Mr. Julian Wright, Senior advisor for climate change FCDO, United Kingdom
- Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of GCA
- Mr. Anthony Okon Nyong, Senior Director Africa, GCA
- Mr. Amr Essam, Representative COP27 Presidency, Egypt
- Mr. Eric Bosire, YouthADAPT Winner 2021, Kenya
- Boluwatito Awe, Nigerian Youth Parliament for Water, Nigeria
- Sara Ladouy, Water & Adaptation Entrepreneur, Morocco
- Fatou M'bow, Actor and model, Senegal
- Mr. Daniel Koto Dagnon, Young leader, Benin

The speakers and participants discussed the importance of representation in policy- and decision-making, including young people, women and Indigenous communities, having access to data to manage climate risks and prevent flooding, and the synergies between access to water and climate change. The key outcomes are:

EDUCATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Younger generations need to be equipped with the right skills and knowledge for creating a climate-resilient world, including disaster-preparedness. For adaptation action and infrastructure to respond to local needs, it is crucial to have access to information.

"So if we want real change, we should review our educational system as a tool to solve the climate challenges."



Sara Ladouy,
Water & Adaptation Entrepreneur, Morocco

EMPLOYMENT AND ADAPTATION ACTION

Young people in Africa face unemployment or underemployment challenges. Adaptation presents an opportunity to equip Africa's significant youth population for new green jobs. Adaptation action should be gender and youth responsive, and it should respond to the local context.

PARTICIPATION IN POLICY- AND DECISION-MAKING

Participants noted that meaningful youth participation is hindered by a lack of effective communication between authorities and youth. Transformative policies and programs can be created when fostering intergenerational collaborations.

"We need youth provocation and youth partnership to work with us and help build coalitions, to catalyze water security actions and commitments for the UN 2023 Water Conference, and onwards scale and replicate these inclusive and transformative actions across the world!"



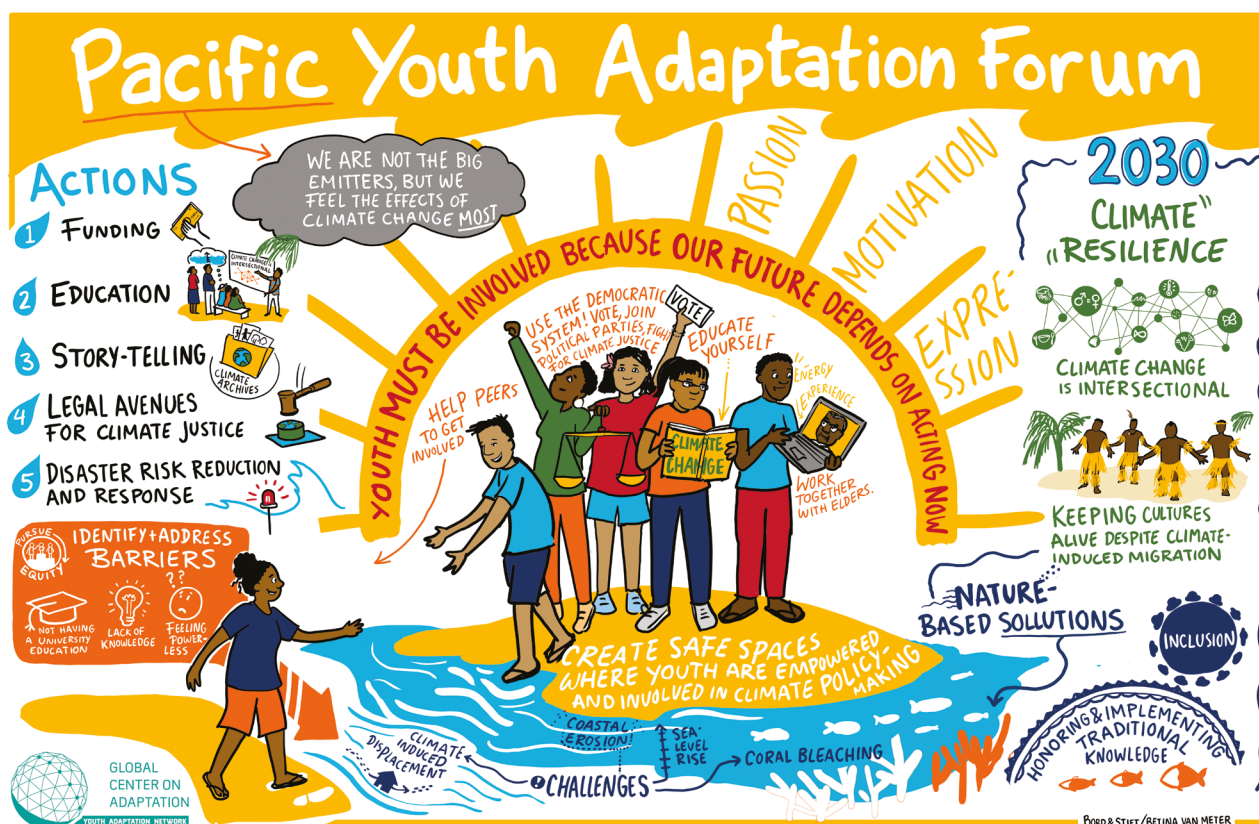
H.E. Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, Kingdom of The Netherlands and Sherpa for the UN 2023 Water Conference

"Adaptation action should follow a nationally driven gender and youth responsive participatory and fully transparent approach."



Yosr Khèdr, International Center for Conflict Resolutions, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, Egypt

Pacific Youth Adaptation Forum



REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Pacific islands are amongst the most vulnerable nations in the world to climate change. IPCC’s

Special Report on the Ocean Cryosphere in a Changing Climate shows that risk related to sea-level rise is expected to rise significantly by the end of the century along all low-lying coasts in the absence of major additional adaptation efforts.⁷² Annual flood damages are expected to increase by 2-3 orders of magnitude if adaptation measures are not taken.⁷³ This is of particular importance to the Pacific region, where nearly all human settlement is on the coast. Adaptation efforts are crucial to avert the worst impacts and protect populations.

Young people across the Pacific have showed resilience in the face of climate change, and are pursuing many initiatives to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts, and to promote resilience. Young people are engaging in advocacy

efforts and calling on leaders to strengthen policies, such as the appeal as part of UNICEF’s Guardians of the Planet report,⁷⁴ and young leaders are engaging in multilateral forums to drive global climate ambition.⁷⁵ Engaging young people in the Pacific is crucial to reducing vulnerabilities and promoting climate resilience. The World Health Organization puts it starkly: “The very survival of future generations in the Pacific depends on actions we take now.”⁷⁶

PACIFIC YOUTH ADAPTATION FORUM

- Participants from 36 countries
- 13 speakers from 10 countries

On 28th April 2022, the Pacific Youth Adaptation Forum took place virtually, and brought together youth organizations, humanitarian organizations, civil society, government, and entrepreneurs.

⁷² IPCC, Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, 2019.

⁷³ IPCC, Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, 2019.

⁷⁴ UNICEF, Youths Champion Climate Change Resistance in Asia Pacific, 16th September 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/eap/press-releases/youths-champion-climate-change-resistance-asia-pacific>

⁷⁵ www.pisfcc.org

⁷⁶ WHO, Human health and climate change in Pacific Island countries, 2015, p. 136.

SPEAKERS AT THE YOUTH ADAPTATION FORUM INCLUDED:

- Mr. Neekhil Prasad, Research Candidate University of Southern Queensland, Fiji
- Mr. Youssef Nassef, Director of Adaptation, UNFCCC
- Ms. Elly van Vliet, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Vanuatu
- Mr. Amr Essam, Representative COP27 Presidency, Egypt
- Ms. Hayley Payne, Red Cross Australia
- Mr. Krishneil Narayan, Sustainable Future Consultancy, Fiji
- Mr. Yewande Adebawale, YouthADAPT Winner 2021, Nigeria
- Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of GCA
- Mr. Solomon Yeo, Campaign Director Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change, Solomon Islands
- Ms. Tiyana Jovanovic, Humanitarian Changemakers Network, Australia
- Ms. Vinzealhar Nen, Activism Work, Papua New Guinea
- Ms. Talua Nivaga, Fuligafou (New Transformation NGO), Tuvalu
- Ms. Waki Semita, Red Cross, Vanuatu

Participants agreed that adaptation action and mitigation action are both necessary to protect Pacific islands from the threat of climate change.

To avert worse climate impacts from hitting the region, participants agreed it is crucial to limit global warming to 1.5°C, in line with the Paris Agreement. Participants further underlined that people of all ages have a responsibility to act on climate adaptation, irrespective of their location or background. The main findings of the Forum included a need for education and capacity-building on adaptation, youth participation in adaptation policy- and decision-making, stimulating youth employment on adaptation and adaptation action, and finance for youth-led adaptation action.

EDUCATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

The participants discussed the importance of capacity-building and upskilling young people on responding to climate change impacts. Disaster risk reduction and preparedness was identified as a key element of adaptation education. Participants also agreed on the need to use an inclusive narrative and raise awareness on the understanding that climate change is intersectional.

“The problem is that climate change education is not integrated in our national curriculum. When we go out to do reforestation exercises, we have to educate communities about what is happening to the environment. They can see what is happening but they don’t understand it is a long-term change that is affecting the environment.”



Vinzealhar Nen, Activism Work, Papua New Guinea

PARTICIPATION IN POLICY- AND DECISION-MAKING

Participants agreed that participation in policy- and decision-making should promote youth inclusion. Participants expressed that there is a need for governments to provide an inclusive and participatory environment for young people and underlined the need for initiative on the part of young people to step out of their comfort zone and take part in decision-making processes. Furthermore, participants agreed the need for bottom up mechanisms to inform policies and programs with better coordination and cohesion of adaptation action.

“Often we see young people are missing in the policy-making space. This is where governments can connect more with young people and ensure there is representation in the room.

But it is not only about representation, it also being a part of the whole process. Meaningfully engaging and contributing to the drafting process, providing comments, ensuring youth views are considered as part of policy-making processes.”



Krishneil Narayan, Sustainable Future Consultancy, Fiji

EMPLOYMENT AND ADAPTATION ACTION

Recognizing the specific and dire impacts of climate change on the Pacific region, participants expressed a wish for “a Pacific where our cultures are left alive, despite migration and sea level rise.” Participants emphasized that when taking adaptation action, it is crucial to implement such action using traditional knowledge practices of land care.

“Young people should be trusted and given the freedom and resources to be disruptive, creative and truly innovative in implementing solutions to adapt to climate change.”

Audience member of Pacific Youth Adaptation Forum

“The smoke that started this fire did not come from our islands, it came from far, far away, and you need to address it from the source.”



Solomon Yeo, Campaign Director, Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change, Solomon Islands

FINANCE FOR YOUTH ADAPTATION

Participants agreed that, given the right resources, young people can lead adaptation action. Financial resources for young people are necessary for young people to be disruptive, creative and truly innovative in implementing solutions to adapt to climate change.

“Youth from the Pacific are often left out from adaptation discussions and decisions simply due to our location and time zone, yet the islands of the Pacific are experiencing some of the greatest impacts of climate change. The Pacific Regional Youth Adaptation Dialogue provided a crucial opportunity for youth voices from the Pacific region to be heard on the global stage”.



Hayley Payne, International Response, Australian Red Cross and GCA's Youth Advisory Panel 2022, Australia



Youth Leadership & Education Activities

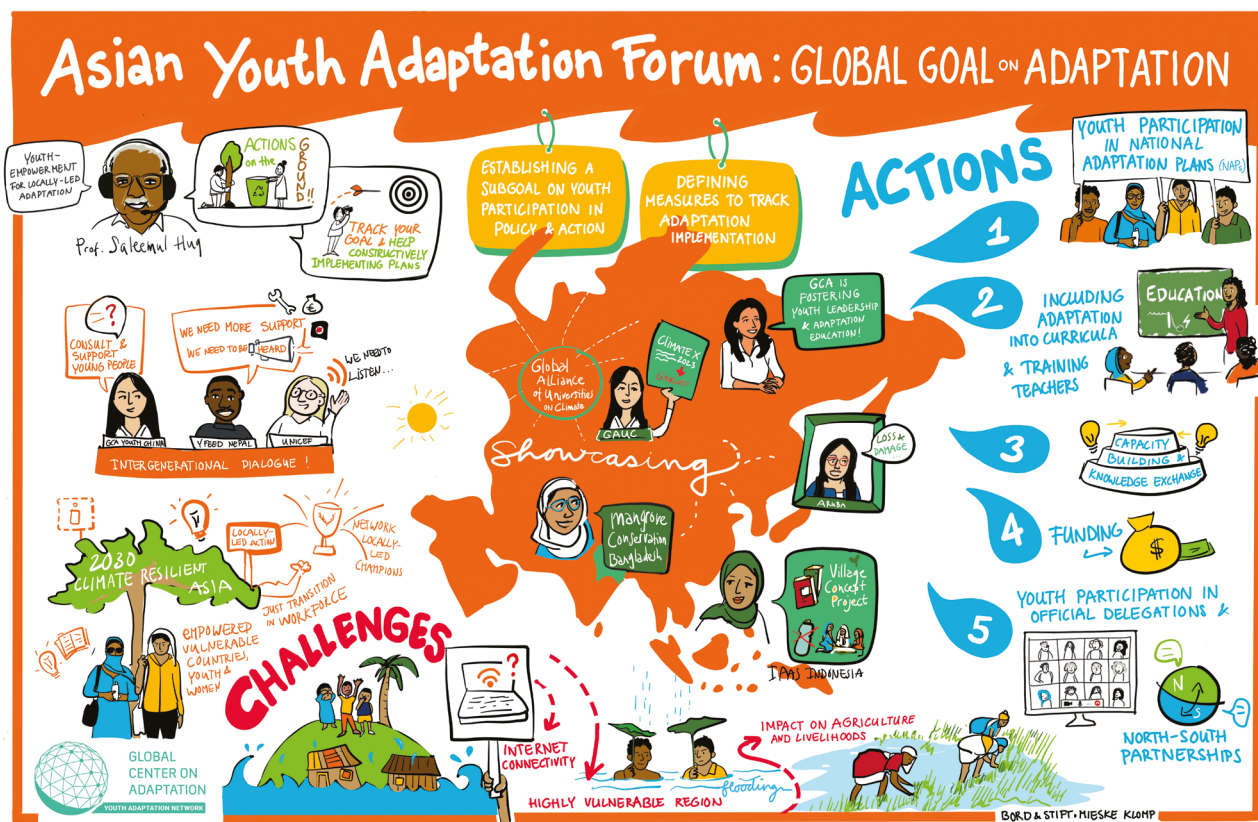


Presenting Case Studies on Adaptation and Climate Resilience in Schools and Educational Settings at the 'African COP'



Capacity-building workshops on adaptation at the 17th Conference of Youth in Sharm El-Sheikh

Asian Youth Adaptation Forum



REGIONAL CONTEXT

South Asia is one of the regions most affected by the impacts of climate change. IPCC’s Sixth Assessment Report concludes that Asian countries will face rising temperatures, longer monsoons and sea level rise.⁷⁷ In particular, rising sea levels and flooding pose a threat to the coastal states Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. One fourth of the world’s population and an estimated 616 million children live in South Asia. UNICEF’s Report Reigniting opportunities for children in South Asia shows that these children are particularly at risk of the impacts of climate change due to high levels of poverty and a lack of effective safety nets.⁷⁸

Young people are engaging in climate change and demanding a different future. In India, 5,000 students mobilized through the Youth4Water campaign, raising awareness on water and climate change, and across the region young people are demanding change through the Fridays for Future climate strikes. These advocacy initiatives demonstrate youth’s resilience in the face

of climate change, and their ability to lead change.

- 15 speakers from 6 countries
- Participants from 40 countries
- In collaboration with the International Centre for Climate Change and Development

Asian Youth Adaptation Forum

On 31st May 2022, the Asian Youth Adaptation Forum took place virtually. The Forum brought together young leaders, international organizations, civil society, youth organizations and entrepreneurs.

“Young people need more space, capacity-building and more support so we can lead and support climate adaptation and adapt for our future.”



Anish Shrestha, Youth for Environment Education and Development, Nepal

77 IPCC, Sixth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, 2021.
78 UNICEF, Reigniting Opportunities for Children in South Asia, 2021.

SPEAKERS AT THE YOUTH ADAPTATION FORUM INCLUDED:

- Ms. Cathy Li, UNIDO Youth Advisor, China
- Mr. Youssef Nassef, Director of Adaptation, UNFCCC
- Ms. Marianne Oehlers, UNICEF
- Mr. Irfan Ullah, Founder Sustainability Week Pakistan
- Prof. Saleemul Huq, Director International Centre for Climate Change and Development
- Ms. Carolyne Mukuhi Mwangi, YouthADAPT Winner 2021, Kenya
- Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of GCA
- Mr. Anish Shrestha, Youth for Environment Education and Development Foundation, Nepal
- Ms. Alice Ho, Chief Youth Officer Global Alliance of Universities on Climate, China
- Mr. Amr Essam, Representative COP27 Presidency, Egypt
- Ms. Sidratul Moontaha, Mangrove, Bangladesh
- Ms. Aruba Faruque, Climate Activist, Bangladesh
- Ms. Safira Nurul Izzah, International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences, Indonesia

The Asian Youth Adaptation Forum was opened with a presentation on adaptation under the UNFCCC by Prof. Saleemul Huq,

Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development and former IPCC lead author. Following Prof. Huq's presentation, participants spoke about the Global Goal on Adaptation, and expressed a wish to include a specific metric on the involvement of young people in the Global Goal on Adaptation. Other main conclusions of the Forum included a need for adaptation education, youth participation in adaptation policy- and decision-making, and finance for youth-led adaptation action.

"The Global Goal on Adaptation needs to include a component for youth both to plan as well as implement it."



Prof. Saleemul Huq, Director of International Centre for Climate Change and Development

EDUCATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

To prepare young generations for a climate-resilient future it is crucial to include adaptation in curricula. Ms. Marianne Oehlers shared that UNICEF's research in Bangladesh shows that 70% of young people learn about

"We need to bring in voices of young people to strengthen adaptation education for young people, and train teachers."

"We need to provide young people with adaptation skills to combat the climate crisis and create green jobs in the process."

Participants of the Asian Youth Adaptation Forum

climate change in school, but 50% don't understand what it means. To deliver comprehensive adaptation education it is necessary for teachers to receive capacity-building. Furthermore, participants drew attention to existing knowledge and experience that can be learnt from and can be multiplied through knowledge exchange.

PARTICIPATION IN POLICY- AND DECISION-MAKING

The participants discussed the necessity of capacity-building and climate change education for young people to engage in designing adaptation policy at the regional, national and local level. Specific emphasis was placed on the need for locally-led adaptation by young people. In addition, participants raised North-South partnerships amongst young people and youth organizations as important to facilitating knowledge exchange..

"Having a sub-goal of the Global Goal on Adaptation focusing on youth engagement is critical."

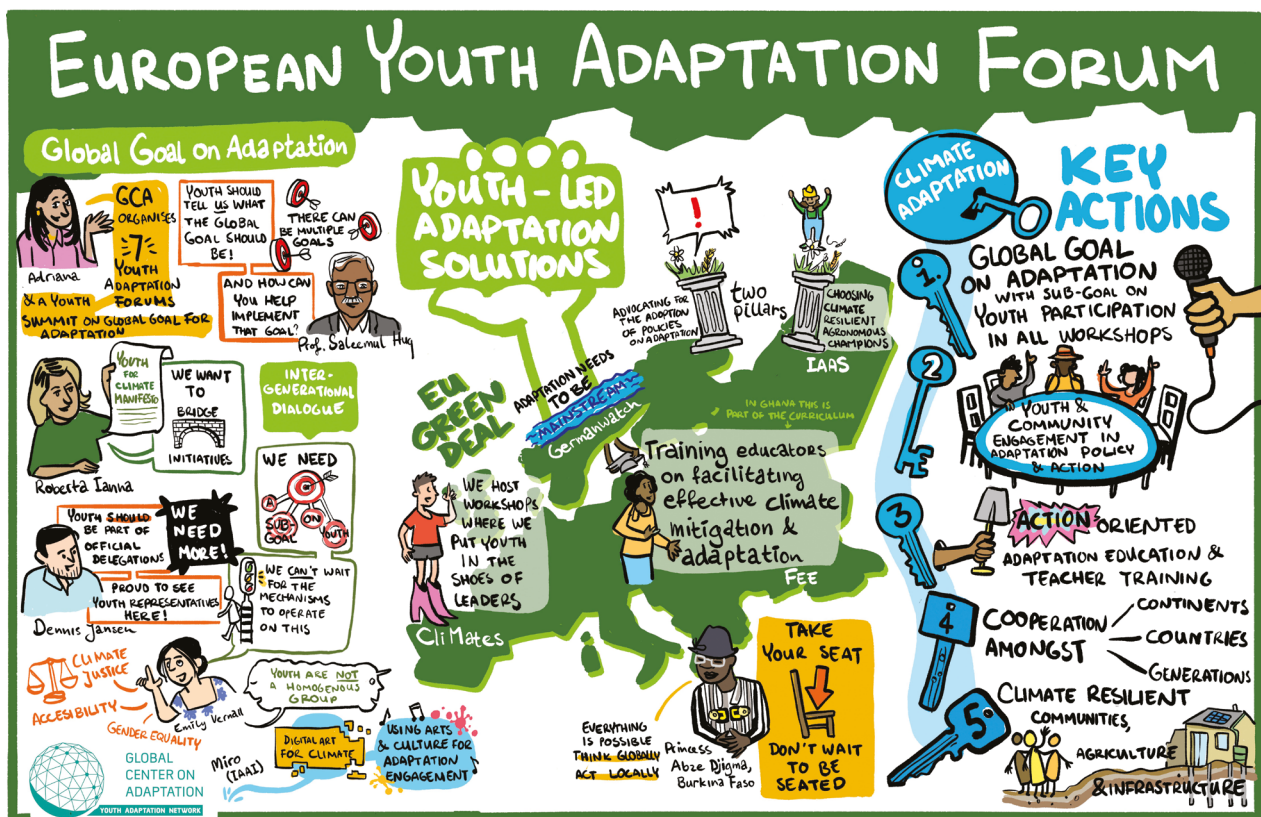


Cathy Li, Youth advisor UNIDO and CEO's Youth Advisory Panel 2022, China

FINANCE FOR YOUTH ADAPTATION

Participants expressed that a barrier for youth-led adaptation action is adequate funding for youth-led initiatives. More funding and more accessible funding for youth adaptation action is necessary to promote adaptation action, especially at the local level.

European Youth Adaptation Forum



REGIONAL CONTEXT

Europe is increasingly facing climate impacts causing disruptions to agriculture and energy production.⁷⁹ In

the summers of 2021 and 2022 extreme heat affected the continent, for example on Sicily, Italy, temperatures reached record-highs of 48.8°C. In 2021, severe flooding affected Western Europe, causing 83,000 internal displacements across Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.⁸⁰

Across Europe, young people are organizing around climate change. The Fridays for Future movement started in 2018 by then 15-year old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg has mobilized hundreds of thousands of young people across the European continent. In recent years, new youth organizations have been established specifically addressing climate change.

- Official side event of the UNFCCC 56th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation in Bonn
- 14 speakers from seven countries
- In collaboration with eight partner organizations: Centre for Environment Education, Foundation for Environmental Education, GermanWatch, International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences, CliMates, PeaceBoat, International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges, Climate Vulnerable Forum

⁷⁹ European Environment Agency, Global Climate Change Impacts and the Supply of Agricultural Commodities to Europe, 11th February 2021. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/global-climate-change-impacts-and/global-climate-change-impacts-and>; EU Science Hub, Droughts in Europe in July 2022: almost half of the EU +UK territory at risk, 18th July 2022. https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news/droughts-europe-july-2022-almost-half-eu-uk-territory-risk-2022-07-18_en

⁸⁰ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Global Report on Internal Displacement, 2022.

EUROPEAN YOUTH ADAPTATION FORUM

On 11th June 2022, the European Youth Adaptation Forum took place in Bonn, Germany at the meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC, SB56. The Forum brought together governments, young entrepreneurs, advocates, young negotiators, and the COP26 Presidency. Speakers included:

- Ms. Maya Hirschler, International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences, Germany
- H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma, Burkina Faso
- Ms. Ifeoluwa Olatayo, YouthADAPT Winner 2021, Nigeria
- Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of GCA
- Dennis Jansen, UN Youth Representative on Sustainable Development, the Netherlands
- Lydia Birtwistle-Sawyer, Head of Parliamentary and Youth Engagement COP26, UK
- Ms. Kristina Madsen, Foundation for Environmental Education, Denmark
- Stefan Rostock, GermanWatch, Germany
- Ms. Inès Meunier, CliMates, France
- Ms. Emily Vernall, SHE Changes Climate and GCA's Youth Advisory Panel, UK
- Ms. Roberta Ianna, Senior advisor Ministry of Ecological Transition, Italy
- Prof. Saleemul Huq, Director International Centre for Climate Change and Development, Bangladesh
- Mr. Miroslav Poltzer, International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges, Austria
- Dr. Emmanuel Tachie-Obeng, Ghana Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana

The main outcomes of the European Youth Adaptation Forum include strengthening youth participation in adaptation decision-making, providing adaptation education to young people and providing capacity-building to educators, and supporting youth-led adaptation initiatives through financial means.

EDUCATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Participants raised that climate change education, on both mitigation and adaptation, is needed in national curriculum. In addition, that more adaptation education is needed to prepare young generations for a climate-resilient future. For this, young people need a broad range of skills. Furthermore, capacity-building should be provided to teachers to deliver adaptation education, and empower them to learn alongside their students.

“Youth always have proven to be real change makers in history. They know what needs to be changed, they have great ideas and they know how to mobilise and how to accelerate using social media. Let's give them a place in the driving seat in the adaptation agenda.”



H.R.H. Princess Abze Djigma, Burkina Faso

PARTICIPATION IN POLICY- AND DECISION-MAKING

Participants discussed pathways for more youth involvement under the UNFCCC, and identified that including youth representatives in government delegations can lead to youth-responsive COP decisions. Furthermore, participants expressed that the Global Goal on Adaptation should include a specific sub-goal on the inclusion of young people and that young people should participate in all UNFCCC workshops on the Global Goal on Adaptation.

“We need students to engage with climate issues that are happening in their own communities, and that they are able to research, reflect and discuss adaptation solutions in a constructive way to avoid maladaptation. To do this, they need key competencies: critical and creative thinking, collaborations, systems-thinking, and they need to know about media and technology.”



Kristina Madsen, Foundation for Environmental Education, Denmark

EMPLOYMENT AND ADAPTATION ACTION

Participants agreed that adaptation action should focus on preparing communities and taking locally-led adaptation action. Due to the innovative power of young generations, young people can play a significant role in agriculture and infrastructure. Furthermore, participants agreed that it is important to foster cooperation across continents, countries and generations when taking adaptation action. A platform to exchange knowledge and best practices, and showcase the action young people take could contribute to promoting collaboration.

FINANCE FOR YOUTH ADAPTATION

To enhance capacity building on the ground, young people called for a change in funding models, and increased finance flows to locally led adaptation initiatives for young people.



“Amazing things can happen when youth are included in delegations. In the COP26 Cover Decisions there were more mentions of youth than ever before.”



Dennis Jansen, UN Youth Representative on Sustainable Development, the Netherlands

“We, as youth, have the ability to create projects that can help lead the way on climate adaptation. But we are still lacking the means to bring these projects to the next level. We need financial support, and we need to lift the barriers between youth and institutions so we can all strive for better adaptation.”



Ms. Maya Hirschler, International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences, Germany



Youth Leadership Activities



Latin American and Caribbean Youth Adaptation Forum in San José, Costa Rica



Intergenerational dialogue 'Driving Climate Action: The Central Role of Youth and Universities'

North American Youth Adaptation Forum



REGIONAL CONTEXT

North America is projected to experience multiple climate change impacts across all regions. Average temperatures are set to increase significantly, particularly in northern subregions. Sea levels are expected to continue to rise, leading to coastal flooding and erosion.⁸¹ In addition, the continent is already facing extreme weather events. In June 2021, Canada faced an unprecedented and deadly heat wave, with temperatures reaching over 40°C.

Across the North American continent, young people are mobilizing and placing climate action at the top of the political agenda. In 2019, 60,000 young people took to the streets of New York City to demand more ambitious climate action.⁸² And actions haven't stopped there. Youth-led movements, such as Sunrise Movement, are advocating change across sectors and proposing future-proof legislation. Young people are driving political change.

North American Youth Adaptation Forum

On 15th July 2022, the North American Youth Adaptation

- Official side event of the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
- Hybrid event in New York City
- 90 in person participants and 181 online participants from 59 countries
- Organized in collaboration with Peace Boat

Forum took place in New York City as an official side event of the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

“The power of community is the greatest capital”

Ms Isatis Cintrón, Member of US ACE Coalition, Puerto Rico



⁸¹ IPCC, Sixth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, 2021.

SPEAKERS AT THE YOUTH ADAPTATION FORUM INCLUDED:

- Ms. Emilie McGlone, Director of Peace Boat US
- Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of GCA
- Ms. Isatis Cintrón, US Action for Climate Empowerment Coalition
- Ms. Hailey Campbell, Care About Climate
- Alyssa Kang, Global Ambassador program with Blue Planet Alliance
- Ms. Natalia Mack, Global Kids in New York
- Ms. Disa Crow Chief, Young Indigenous leader and environmental activist from Siksika Nation, Canada / Co-founder of SevenGen Indigenous youth council
- Ms. Angelica Shamerina, UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme
- Ms. Alejandra Rodriguez, My World Mexico, Mexico
- Luis Elizondo Belden, Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN
- Mr. Amr Essam, Representative of COP27 Presidency, Egypt
- Mr. Youssef Nassef, Director of Adaptation, UNFCCC

The main outcomes of the North American Youth Adaptation Forum include meaningfully engaging young people and Indigenous communities

in decision-making, and providing capacity-building to young people and Indigenous Peoples on adapting to climate change. In addition, emphasis was placed on partnerships across regions and generations for a climate-resilient future.

EDUCATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Participants agreed that more adaptation education is necessary. Furthermore, a holistic approach to adaptation education should be taken, teaching young people about climate impacts as well as societal impacts. Adaptation education should honor Indigenous knowledge. In addition, to empower young people to lead adaptation action it is crucial for young people to receive training and mentorship.

“All schools must deliver holistic information about climate change, not only focusing on mitigation but also providing more information on what we need to do to address climate change.”

Participant of the North American Youth Adapt Forum

PARTICIPATION IN POLICY-AND DECISION-MAKING

Participants identified that there is a lack of feeling of representation amongst young people. To combat this it is important to include young people in public policy decision-making as a priority constituent for good governance and not only as an interest group.

EMPLOYMENT AND ADAPTATION ACTION

Participants agreed that adaptation action should engage local communities who are most knowledgeable on their needs and realities. Community leaders can also take on roles as educators and promote adaptation action across the community. Furthermore, participants agreed that young people need to be included in adaptation action from the design and planning stage, and not only during implementation.

“It is important to not just involve Indigenous People, but to hire us in projects, offer trainings, and exchange knowledge in schools.”



Disa Crow Chief, Young Indigenous leader

FINANCE FOR YOUTH ADAPTATION

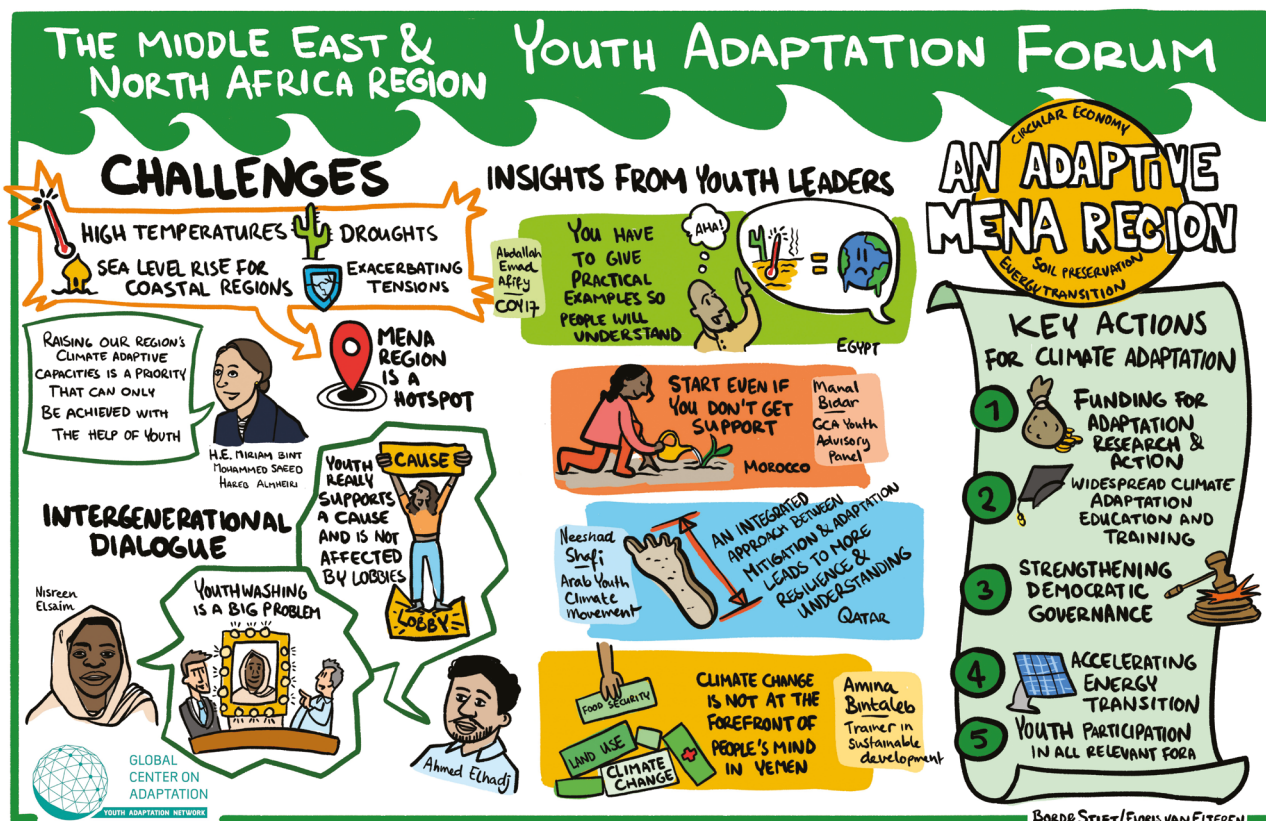
Participants paid particular attention to the disproportionate impacts of climate change on Indigenous communities. Despite possessing knowledge of adaptation solutions, Indigenous communities are underfunded and underrepresented. This can be changed by not only listening to Indigenous communities but also providing funding to lead adaptation projects.

“We have the ideas and the good practices. But not everyone has the resources to make a change. Financial resources and funding are one of the key aspects.”



Alejandra Rodriguez, My World Mexico

Middle East and North African Youth Adaptation Forum



REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has a rapidly growing youth population, expecting to double in size by mid-century with approximately 271 million youth living in the region.⁸³ Several countries are expected to experience population growth of nearly 50% by 2030, with Egypt experiencing the largest increase in absolute numbers.⁸⁴ Despite the potential of a large youth population, civic engagement is the lowest in the world, owing to violence, social norms and other factors. The region is also set to experience devastating climate impacts, including droughts and water scarcity, and more extreme heat waves.⁸⁵

The MENA region is taking center stage in the international climate arena, with COP27 being held in Egypt and COP28 in the United Arab Emirates. To reach ambitious, innovative and fair solutions it is crucial to hear directly from young people on the international adaptation agenda.

- 14 speakers from nine countries
- In collaboration with four partner organizations: Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar, Libya Youth Council for Climate Change, Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network, ACT Sustainable
- Simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, English and French

MENA Youth Adaptation Forum

On 3rd August 2022, the Middle East and North Africa Youth Adaptation Forum took place virtually. The Forum brought together young advocates, entrepreneurs, and the COP28 Presidency. H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates and representative of the COP28 Presidency delivered remarks through a video message. She welcomed participants to collaborate on adaptation action, including at the COPs taking place in the MENA region.

82 IPCC, Sixth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, 2022.
 83 UNICEF, MENA Generation 2030, 2019.
 84 UNICEF, MENA Generation 2030, 2019.

SPEAKERS AT THE YOUTH ADAPTATION FORUM INCLUDED:

- H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, United Arab Emirates
- Mr. Youssef Nassef, Director of Adaptation, UNFCCC
- Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of GCA
- Ms. Nisreen Elsaïm, Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, Sudan
- Mr. Ahmed Elhadj Taieb, Youth Climate Activist and Lead Negotiator on the Global Goal on Adaptation for Tunisia, Tunisia
- Mr. Abdallah Emad Afify, COY17 National Focal Point, Egypt
- Ms. Amina Bintalib, Environmentalist and Trainer in Sustainable Development, Yemen
- Ms. Manal Bidar, GCA Youth Advisory Panel, Morocco
- Mr. Mohamed Maray, Libya Youth Council for Climate Change, Libya
- Ms. Zahra Abu Taha, Youth Climate Activist, Arab Youth Sustainable Development Network, Jordan
- Mr. Neeshad Shafi, Arab Youth Climate Movement, Qatar
- Mr. Amr Essam, Representative of COP27 Presidency, Egypt

Main outcomes of the MENA Youth Adaptation Forum included strengthening democratic governance, using innovative technologies to enable transformative adaptation including strengthened water management, provide adaptation education and raise awareness among young people, and provide funding for youth-led adaptation initiatives.

EDUCATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Widespread climate adaptation education and training was identified by participants as key to preparing young people for a climate-resilient future, and share best practices on adaptation. Participants pointed out that this will also create more awareness on the importance of taking adaptation measures in the region.

"If delegations insisted on the participation of youth, we would move forward the negotiations and achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement."



Ahmed Elhadj Taieb, Youth activist, Tunisia

PARTICIPATION IN POLICY- AND DECISION-MAKING

To ensure youth participation in adaptation policy- and decision-making, participants agreed it is critical to strengthen democratic governance. In addition, governments should promote youth participation at the local, national, regional and international level. As the MENA region is taking center stage hosting COP27 and COP28, governments are presented with a key opportunity to include youth in official delegations to UNFCCC.

EMPLOYMENT AND ADAPTATION ACTION

Participants agreed that one of the priorities for adaptation action should be to accelerate the energy transition and support the agricultural sector to transform using innovative technologies. In addition, the energy transition presents an opportunity to create green jobs and promote youth employment. Furthermore, emphasis was placed on sustainable water management.

"We are not there as decoration or to diversify the negotiations. We are there because we have technical capacities, we have brains and we can contribute."



Nisreen Elsaïm Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, Sudan

FINANCE FOR YOUTH ADAPTATION

Participants agreed on the need for funding for adaptation research to promote adaptation knowledge and strengthen the capacity of young people as researchers and scientists. In addition, adaptation research can inform adaptation action.

"With the UAE hosting COP28 in 2023, we are committed to ensuring a meaningful participation and inclusion of youth into decision-making processes. We will make sure young people are present at the negotiation table, side by side with our senior government officials. We believe the young generation has the right to have a say in shaping their future."

H.E. Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates

Latin American and Caribbean Youth Adaptation Forum



REGIONAL CONTEXT

In Central and South America mean temperatures have increased and will continue to increase at rates higher than the global average.⁸⁶ The effects of climate change are already felt today: 2020 was one of the three warmest years on record in Central America and the Caribbean.⁸⁷ Climate change particularly impacts young people and future generations.

Over 154 million people live in Latin America and the Caribbean, comprising nearly a quarter of the world's total population. In recent decades, the continent experienced economic growth and widespread reductions in poverty, until in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the region.⁸⁸ Currently, approximately 24% of young people are not in education, employment or training, posing a significant challenge to further economic and social development.⁸⁹

Latin American and Caribbean Youth Adaptation Forum

- 250 young people in person from across the Latin American and Caribbean region
- 26 speakers from ten countries
- Hybrid event in San José, Costa Rica with online interpretation in English and Spanish
- In collaboration with six partners: Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica, Embassy of the Netherlands in Central America, the Climate Vulnerable Forum, University of Costa Rica, Costa Rican Youth and Climate Change Network, La Ruta del Clima.

85 IPCC, IPCC, Sixth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, 2022.

86 IPCC, Sixth Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, 2022.

87 WMO, State of the Global Climate 2020, 2021.

88 The World Bank, Poverty, 2022. <https://www.bancomundial.org/es/topic/poverty/overview>

89 ILO, 'ILOSTAT database', 2022

On 12th August 2022, the hybrid Latin American and Caribbean Youth Adaptation Forum took place at the University of Costa Rica in San José, Costa Rica. The Forum was organized on the occasion of International Youth Day and brought together young people, governments, young entrepreneurs, academia, and international organizations.

SPEAKERS AT THE YOUTH ADAPTATION FORUM INCLUDED:

- Cheymi Gallardo Sánchez, Cabecar Talamanca Indigenous Territory representative, RIBCA Youth Group Coordinator and Sá JÚ Tsa Tkö Coordinator
- Mr. Iván Delgado, Director of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica
- Ms. Mayte Molina, Youth Representative from Nicaragua
- Ms. Priscila González, Youth Representative from Boruca Indigenous Territory, Costa Rica
- Mr. Pascal Girot, Director of the School of Geography, University of Costa Rica
- Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO Global Center on Adaptation
- Mr. Javier Díaz, Senior Fellow for Latin America and the Caribbean GCA-CVF
- Ms. Marissa Navarro, Costa Rican Youth and Climate Change Network Associate
- Ms. Joyce Mendez, Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean of the SDG7 Youth Constituency, Brazil
- Mr. Matthew McKinnon, Head of Program, Climate Vulnerable Forum
- H.E. Christine Pirenne, Ambassador of the Netherlands in Costa Rica
- Ms. Irene Rodríguez Arce, Member of the Costa Rican Youth and Climate Change Network, Costa Rica
- Mr. Abdiel Douglas, Climate Change Analyst at the Ministry of Environment and Youth Climate Movement Panamá (YOUNGO)
- Ms. Camila Herrera, Coordinator of Reverde5, Monteverde, Costa Rica
- Ms. Judith Barrera, Member of the movement Green Political Rebellion, El Salvador
- Ms. Mayte Molina, Focal point emergency response Good Neighbors, Nicaragua
- Ms. Sara Jane Ahmed, V20 Finance Advisor and Workstream Coordinator, Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)
- Mr. José Villatoro, Founder Voices for the Planet, Guatemala
- Sra. Patricia Portela de Souza, UNICEF Costa Rica Representative
- Ms. María José Araya, Coordinator Center for Sustainable Water in the Atlantic (CESAGUA), Costa Rica

EDUCATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Participants pointed to adaptation education as necessary in adapting the region to climate change impacts. Participants emphasized that local and Indigenous knowledge should inform adaptation education and that adaptation education should be inclusive. This includes translating materials to Indigenous languages.

PARTICIPATION IN POLICY- AND DECISION-MAKING

Several participants raised that adaptation action should be locally-driven. Adaptation policy- and decision-making should include young people, including in the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In addition, especially Indigenous young people should be included in design, planning and implementation of adaptation action.

“We need support to sit down at the negotiating table. We need more young, trained people in involved in countries’ NDCs... So help us sit down with our local governments, help us transition from protests to proposals...We need a lot of technical assistance, we especially need it translated into local languages, into Indigenous languages.”



Joyce Mendez, Indigenous representative from the Paraguay-Brazil border area and a member of GCA's Youth Advisory Panel

EMPLOYMENT AND ADAPTATION ACTION

Several participants saw dignified jobs as one of the main challenges across the region. There is a need for more green jobs to ensure unemployment and underemployment decreases, and to maximize the innovative power of young people.

FINANCE FOR YOUTH ADAPTATION

Participants agreed that one of the main barriers for youth-led adaptation action is access to funding. Capacity-building and technical assistance, including guiding materials on project proposals for adaptation action would decrease the obstacles young people and youth organizations face in accessing funding. In addition, more youth-accessible funding is necessary to stimulate youth adaptation action.

“Youth are the answer and the solutions that the world needs.”



Mr. Iván Delgado, Director of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica

“If we don’t protect the environment now, there will be no future. Indigenous territories have been adapting to massive changes over many years...these territories have been resilient, adapting to these changes in search of improvement.”



Ms. Gallardo, Coordinator for RIBCA Youth Group and Sá Jú Tsa Tkö



6. YOUTH DIALOGUE ON ADAPTATION ACTION: DELIVERING ON THE GLASGOW CLIMATE PACT

Ahead of the 'African COP27' taking place in Sharm El-Sheikh, the hybrid *Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action: Delivering on the Glasgow Climate Pact* took place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands from the 3rd to 4th September 2022. The inaugural Youth Dialogue brought together young people and global leaders from across youth organizations, civil society, academia, international organizations, multilateral development banks and governments to accelerate adaptation action and ensure youth's perspectives and solutions are promoted to deliver on the Glasgow Climate Pact.

- 100 participants from 50 countries participated in Rotterdam
- 1,100 participants joined online
- 86% of online participants joined from Africa and Asia
- COP26, COP27 and COP28 Presidencies attended
- 665 mentions of #Youth4Adaptation on social media from 383 accounts reaching 1.2 million people

The Youth Dialogue built on the seven regional Youth Adaptation Forums that took place around the world.

Whereas the Forums took a regional perspective, the Youth Dialogue brought together young people from all regions, thereby contributing to the exchange of good practices, and directly responding to a recommendation of the Asian Youth Adaptation Forum to foster Global North-Global South dialogue and partnerships between young people.

The Youth Dialogue took place immediately preceding the Friends of GCA High-Level Dialogue for COP27: Africa Adaptation Summit, which took place on 5th September 2022 at the headquarters of GCA in Rotterdam. Two members of the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel presented the main outcomes of the worldwide youth consultations to global leaders, present at the Africa Adaptation Summit, including five Heads of State and Government.

With young people and global leaders in Rotterdam to drive the adaptation agenda, the Youth Dialogue also provided a space for decision-makers and young leaders to come together for an intergenerational dialogue.



The Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action aimed to contribute to the objectives of the Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh work programme by bringing young people's

views on adaptation to the 'African COP27'. Additionally, the Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action aimed to:

- Facilitate the exchange of young people's experiences in adaptation action, advocacy and policy-making from around the world ahead of the 'African COP27'
- Accelerate adaptation action by showcasing youth-led climate-resilient solutions, including the African YouthADAPT winners 2021
- Provide capacity-building to young people on adaptation science, UNFCCC adaptation negotiations and regional development and investments

Throughout the two-day program participants followed keynote speeches, interacted with experts in thematic working groups and engaged in intergenerational dialogues with policy- and decision-makers. In addition, the in person participants visited adaptation projects in Rotterdam, including Bentemplein Water Square, the world's first full-scale water square which stores rainwater and serves as a recreational space for the city's inhabitants and visitors.

Speakers at the Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action included:

- Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of GCA
- H.E. Ban Ki-moon, 8th UN Secretary-General and GCA's Chair of the Board
- H.E. Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General
- Ms. Nisreen Elsaïm, Chair UN Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, Sudan
- Mr. Xan Northcott, YOUNGO Global Focal Point, UK
- Dr. Omnia El Omrani, Youth Envoy of the COP27 Presidency, Egypt
- Ms. Lydia Birtwistle-Sawyer, Head of Parliamentary and Youth Engagement, COP26 Presidency, United Kingdom
- Ms. Roberta Ianna, Senior Advisor Ministry of Ecological Transition, UNFCCC negotiator and representative Pre-COP26, Italy
- Ms. Shaemma Mebwana, Representative COP28 Presidency, United Arab Emirates
- Prof. Saleemul Huq, Director International Centre for Climate Change and Development
- Ms. Edith Adera, Lead Coordinator, Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) and Regional Principal Officer, African Development Bank

- Mr. Mike Girling, Director of External Affairs GCA
- Dr. Ede Jorge Ijjasz-Vásquez, Senior Advisor Africa GCA
- Dr. Jamal Saghir, Senior Advisor GCA
- Ms. Paloma Noriega Jalil, UNFCCC Fellow, Mexico
- Mr. Abdallah Emad Afify, National Focal Point of the Conference of Youth COY17, Egypt
- Mr. Arnoud Molenaar, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Rotterdam
- Ms. Nolly Vos, Project Architect, Powerhouse Company
- Mr. Mitchel Veloo, Real Estate Developer, RED Company
- Ms. Priya Kanchan, Senior Partnerships Specialist, GCA
- Ms. Persis Ramírez, Program Officer for Global Water Partnership Caribbean and member of Water Youth Network
- Mr. Weluzani Joseph Thole, Winner of the Youth Adapt Challenge 2022
- Ms. Gül Tuçaltan, Project Manager, Research for Impact GCA
- Mr. Niels van den Berge, Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer Easy Housing
- Ms. Cathy Li, UNIDO Youth Advisor and GCA's Youth Advisory Panel, China
- Mr. Desmond Alugnoa, Co-founder Green Africa Youth Organization and GCA's Youth Advisory Panel, Ghana
- Mr. Irfan Ullah, Founder Sustainability Week Pakistan and GCA's Youth Advisory Panel, Pakistan
- Ms. Emily Vernall, SHE Changes Climate and GCA's Youth Advisory Panel, UK
- Mr. Benjamin Strzelecki, Founding Global Focal Point at SDG7 Youth Constituency and GCA's Youth Advisory Panel, Poland
- Ms. Joyce Mendez, Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean of the SDG7 Youth Constituency and GCA's Youth Advisory Panel, Brazil-Paraguay
- Ms. Elysa Vaillancourt, International Secretariat for Water and GCA's Youth Advisory Panel, Canada
- Ms. Aoife Fleming, Youth Leadership & Education Officer GCA

To promote intergenerational dialogues taking place, the Youth Dialogue brought together young people and key stakeholders from the international climate arena. The COP26, COP27 and COP28 Presidencies were represented,

including by the first Youth Envoy for the UN Climate Change Conferences, Dr. Omnia El Omrani, Youth Envoy of the COP27 Presidency of Egypt.

WORKING GROUPS

During the Youth Dialogue the young delegates were consulted on a range of adaptation topics as well as cross-cutting themes. The delegates took part in working groups on water, education, climate finance, nature-based solutions, agriculture and food security, and entrepreneurship and jobs for youth. Cross-cutting themes were also explored, including participation, empowering young women, Indigenous communities and the most vulnerable groups, and communication and advocacy. Providing comprehensive overviews of the topics discussed, GCA’s Program Leaders and other experts from across NGOs, multilateral development banks, multilateral funds, international organizations and government gave substantive input to the young delegates’ deliberations. Experts included:

- Ms. Cristina Dengel, Knowledge Management Officer, Adaptation Fund
- Ms. Hayley Capp, Gender, Knowledge and Learning Advisor, CARE Climate Justice Centre
- Ms. Viola Christian, Program Lead Women and Youth, Ban Ki-moon Centre
- Mr. Liam Upson, COP26 Presidency, UK
- Ms. Lydia Birtwistle-Sawyer, COP26 Presidency, UK
- Mr. Anthony Okon Nyong, Senior Director Africa GCA
- Ms. Hayley Payne, Red Cross and GCA CEO’s Youth Advisory Panel, Australia
- Mr. Neekhil Prasad, GCA’s Youth Advisory Panel, Fiji
- Mr. Shaikh Muhammed Mehedi Ahsan, Country Manager Bangladesh GCA
- Mr. Danilo Amaral Cançado, Program Officer Infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions GCA
- Ms. Adriana Valenzuela, Program Lead on Education and Youth Leadership GCA
- Mr. Ali Haider, Senior Program Officer Climate Finance GCA
- Mr. Joep Verhagen, Program Lead Water & Urban GCA
- Dr. Oluyede Ajayi, Africa Program Lead, Food Security and Rural Well Being GCA
- Gabriela Díaz Musmanni, Communications Officer GCA



“My call to action is for this COP, the African and the Youth COP, to set a milestone for transformative and meaningful youth engagement in climate processes.”

Omnia El Omrani, COP27 President
Youth Envoy, Egypt



The main outcomes of the working groups included a need for more awareness on adaptation among young people, including through training and education, and more accessible funding for youth-led adaptation initiatives, honoring local and Indigenous knowledge, and participants saw many benefits in intergenerational collaboration.

WATER

Climate change impacts the availability of water resources and exacerbates extreme weather impacts such as droughts and flooding.⁹⁰ Furthermore, inadequate water and sanitation causes 1.9 million preventable deaths worldwide, particularly among young children.⁹¹ Good practices of water management are essential for a climate-resilient future. Rotterdam was presented as a good practice where multifunctional systems are located around the city, both catching water and functioning as basketball courts or skateparks. Delegates discussed the challenges that mismanagement of water resources, and salination of water pose, as well as the conflict-inducing effects of water scarcity. The opportunities and key actions identified by the young delegates are focused on placing people at the center of solutions.

Recommendations

- Bring different stakeholders to the table including young people.
- Support transfer of water adaptation knowledge and technology.
- Enable direct climate finance to water projects, including youth-led projects.

EDUCATION

Climate change impacts young people's learning and education in multiple ways. Extreme weather events can lead to damage of infrastructure and learning materials and can cause injury to learners. Indirectly, climate change hampers education by increasing the risk of diseases, leading to absenteeism and dropouts.⁹² Adaptation education is key to help young people adapt to a changing climate and prepare them to engage in adaptation activities. Delegates identified that climate education is a small and non-integral part of education systems. Furthermore, even if climate education is provided, it is very mitigation-centered. Nevertheless, there are countries

that have included climate education as part of the national curricula, including the Dominican Republic, Ghana and Italy. Delegates agreed that education should focus on both students and teachers, and that adaptation education should be inclusive and accessible to a wide range of young people.

Recommendations

- Adaptation education should be included in formal and non-formal education, and life-long learning should be promoted.
- Capacity-building should be provided to teachers to deliver effective adaptation education to students.
- Information should be accessible to young people at all ages, avoid technical language and be produced in multiple languages including Indigenous languages. Finance for adaptation education is needed to develop adaptation materials, and deliver capacity-building to teachers.

CLIMATE FINANCE

There is a wide discrepancy between adaptation costs and current climate finance. Adaptation costs are estimated at US\$ 140-300 billion per year by 2030 and US\$ 280-500 billion by 2050. In 2019, climate finance to developing countries for mitigation and adaptation planning and implementation was US\$ 79.6 billion.⁹³ Climate finance is crucial in ensuring the commitments under the Paris Agreement are fulfilled. Delegates identified a gap between youth initiatives on adaptation and accessible climate finance. Recommendations focused on making climate finance more accessible to young people to support the potential of young people to contribute to the adaptation agenda.

Recommendations

- Increasing the availability of dedicated finance facilities for youth-led projects.
- Providing capacity-building to young people on preparing funding proposals.
- Simplifying application processes to climate finance facilities and grants for youth organizations.
- Climate finance for youth-led initiatives should be highlighted by creating a platform where youth-accessible climate finance facilities are compiled.

90 UN Water, UN World Water Development Report 2020: Water and Climate Change, 2020.

91 WHO, Safer Water, Better Health, 2019.

92 UN Water, UN World Water Development Report 2020: Water and Climate Change, 2020.

93 UNEP, Adaptation Gap Report 2021, 2021.

94 UNDP, Pathway for Increasing Nature-Based Solutions in NDCs, 2019.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Nature-based solutions are critical in adapting our world.

Approximately 77% of NDCs include nature-based solutions to contribute to mitigation and adaptation goals, although few NDCs have specified quantifiable commitments, hampering reporting and measurement.⁹⁴ Fiji's seawall was discussed as a best practice, where natural products such as rocks and vetiver grass are used to protect coastal communities and promote indigenous endemic species living in the walls. Delegates agreed that efforts on nature-based solutions should be taken with respect for nature. One of the main gaps that was identified was availability of knowledge on nature-based solutions.

Recommendations

- Increase awareness of the benefits of nature-based solutions and communicate its health and community benefits.
- Train young people to create and maintain nature-based solutions.
- Increase finance for nature-based solutions by quantifying its benefits.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Climate change threatens food security due to rising temperatures, more extreme weather events and changing precipitation patterns. It is estimated that cereal prices will increase by 1-29% by 2050, thereby putting as many as 183 million people at risk of hunger.⁹⁵ In addition, agriculture accounts for 27% of the world's employment,⁹⁶ and agricultural impacts affect a large share of the world's workers. Digital infrastructure for agriculture and food security was discussed as a good practice to connect remote areas and help smallholder farmers increase yields and income.

Recommendations

- Honouring Indigenous knowledge and traditions, and promoting locally-led adaptation by partnering across generations.
- Technology and digital infrastructure can ensure food production can support humanity.
- Young people have a unique capacity to innovate, and youth initiatives should be supported with technical and financial support.



“We have got to get the energy and we have got to get the message right. What is the message that will call leaders to act? They need to feel the challenge and the fear of not doing. Because there are billions of people out there that are being affected by climate change. It is very real.”

H.E. Amina Mohammed, UN
Deputy Secretary-General

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND JOBS FOR YOUTH

Worldwide, 621 million young people aged 15-24 years are not in education, employment or training.⁹⁷

In addition, young people are 2.7 times as likely to be unemployed compared to adults. Climate change negatively impacts employment by decreasing productivity. Rising temperatures are expected to reduce work-hours in G20 countries by 1.9% by 2030.⁹⁸ As a good practice, delegates discussed the YouthADAPT Solutions Challenge, an annual competition by GCA, AfDB and the Climate Investment Funds, that seeks to boost sustainable job creation through support for entrepreneurship and youth-led innovation in climate change adaptation and resilience across Africa.

Recommendations

- Dedicated finance for youth entrepreneurs on adaptation to scale adaptation solutions.
- Awareness and training on the impact of climate risks facing entrepreneurs and businesses.
- Provide capacity-building on adaptation jobs, apprenticeships and enterprises for youth to bridge the knowledge gap on adaptation action.

95 IPCC, Special Report on Climate Change and Land, 2019.

96 ILO, ILOSTAT Database, 2021.

97 UNICEF, Global Development Commons, 2020.

98 ILO, The Employment of Climate Change Adaptation, 2018.

99 UNDP, Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development: 2016-2020.

PARTICIPATION

Youth participation is key in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building resilient communities.⁹⁹

Encouraging young people to actively participate in society allows young generations to achieve their full potentials. In addition, young people are effective innovators and agents of change to adapt our world to the impacts of climate change. Delegates identified a lack of social and economic security, exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. Delegates agreed that greater participation of young people in adaptation policy- and decision-making is key for equitable and more ambitious adaptation action. Young people want to participate at different levels of policy- and decision-making, including the local, national, regional and international level.

Recommendations

- Young people should be engaged in the design, development and implementation of local adaptation plans and National Adaptation Plans.
- Country delegations to UNFCCC should include a youth representative in their delegations and capacity-building for young negotiators to UNFCCC should be made available more broadly.
- Equitable participation of young women, Indigenous Peoples, marginalized communities and the most vulnerable communities should be ensured in adaptation policy and action.
- The Global Goal on Adaptation should foster the participation of young people from the local to the national and international level.

EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS

Climate change disproportionately impacts marginalized communities due to existing inequalities and exposure to climate impacts. Women make up 80% of people displaced by climate change.¹⁰⁰ Indigenous communities account for 15% of the world's poor despite comprising 5% of the world's population, and 80% of Indigenous communities live across Asia and the Pacific, regions which are particularly vulnerable to climate change.¹⁰¹ Delegates agreed that adaptation measures can only transform our world when they are based on principles of climate justice. Including marginalized communities is key when making adaptation policy and taking adaptation action.

Recommendations

- Adaptation programs and policies should follow participatory planning, honoring and implementing traditional knowledge and listening to local and Indigenous voices.
- Inclusive economic opportunities should be created through investments in women-led initiatives, and stimulating income diversification.
- For the full participation of women and Indigenous communities exclusionary policies need to be overturned including those on the control and ownership of resources.

COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

Youth people's advocacy and activism has been crucial in placing climate change at the top of the political agenda.

Communicating the urgency of the climate science, whilst taking account of the vulnerability of the world's marginalized and putting forward solutions to change course requires careful communication. Delegates agreed that conveying climate change messages relies significantly on story-telling from human experiences and partnerships with different stakeholders around the world.

Recommendations

- When reporting on adaptation action stories from the field should be told to connect with people around the globe.
- Adaptation communication should center around a human narrative and perspective, which can promote participatory adaptation policies and actions.
- Adaptation language should be inclusive and demonstrate awareness of how the climate emergency exacerbates existing inequalities.

Youth4Adaptation recommendations

Following the regional Youth Adaptation Forums preliminary recommendations were presented by the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel to H.E. Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General at the Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action. H.E. Mohammed responded to the youth representatives with encouraging words to continue demanding more action from their leaders.

AFRICA ADAPTATION SUMMIT

At the Africa Adaptation Summit, two representatives from the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel, Desmond Alugnoa from Ghana and Elysa Vaillancourt from Canada, attended the high-level ceremonies alongside five heads of state and

¹⁰⁰ UNDP, Gender and Climate Change, 2017.

¹⁰¹ ILO, Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change, 2017.

government, including H.E. Macky Sall, African Union Chairperson and President of Senegal, H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana and Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, H.E. Félix Tshisekedi, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and host of the Pre-COP27. On behalf of the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel Desmond Alugnoa made an intervention calling on global leaders to unlock adaptation finance targeting youth initiatives and entrepreneurs, and to include young people in the design, planning and implementation of adaptation policies.

NEXT STEPS

This report seeks to provide an advocacy document for young people, give guidance to policy- and decision-makers, and inform the work of GCA's Youth Leadership Program. The recommendations presented in this report were gathered by GCA and its Youth Advisory Panel throughout 2022 through seven regional Youth Adaptation Forums and the Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action, and resulted in the Youth4Adaptation Communique.

To share the Youth4Adaptation Communique with young people, a webinar for the Youth Adaptation Network took place on 28th October 2022 ahead of COP27. The webinar focused on leveraging the Youth4Adaptation recommendations at COP27, and promoting broader uptake of the recommendations by young people in their communities.

At the 'African COP27', the Youth Advisory Panel, together with young people, will present the Youth4Adaptation recommendations to decision-makers through an official side event at the GCA pavilion. In addition, the Youth4Adaptation Communique will be submitted as an official submission to UNFCCC by young people. Furthermore, the Youth Advisory Panel 2023 will seek to participate in UNFCCC workshops on the Global Goal on Adaptation to present the key recommendations to UNFCCC adaptation negotiators.



“I do not represent the voice of the 1.8 billion young people on this planet. And I cannot speak for the youth of 2050 by which time the youth population will have doubled. But we are here to appeal that the adaptation agenda should be a youth agenda.”

**Desmond Alugnoa, CEO's Youth Advisory Panel
2022, Ghana**

The Global Center on Adaptation seeks to make young people central to driving the adaptation agenda. The worldwide consultations with young people, and the subsequent Youth4Adaptation recommendations are designed by, and implemented with young people. The central areas which were identified – adaptation education, youth participation, employment, entrepreneurship and action on adaptation, and funding for youth-led adaptation solutions – will inform the work of GCA.

The Youth4Adaptation recommendations are formulated by and with young people. Organizations are invited to draw attention to the recommendations in their activism and advocacy activities. Decision-makers at the regional, national, and local level are encouraged to implement the recommendations, and countries are encouraged to establish a sub-goal on youth inclusion in the Global Goal on Adaptation under the UNFCCC regime.

7. ABOUT THE YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL



In September 2021, GCA launched the Youth Advisory Panel to the CEO. The Youth Advisory Panel provides strategic advice to the CEO of GCA, Prof. Dr. Patrick Verkooijen on youth engagement to drive the adaptation agenda. The Youth Advisory Panel comprises 12 youth experts from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and Oceania. Additionally, the Panel ensures that the main goals of the Youth Adaptation Network, which are to engage, empower and amplify the role of the youth in the adaptation agenda, are achieved.

In its plans for 2022, the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel prioritized consulting young people across the world to ensure its messages are representative of young people's needs in adaptation. From its inception, the Panel was engaged in designing the regional Youth Adaptation Forums. The Panel proposed the series of regional Youth Adaptation Forums, created a blueprint of the agenda, brought together a diverse range of participants and participated in the Forums as moderators and speakers. For the Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action, nine members of the Panel travelled to Rotterdam where they engaged with the young delegates to synthesize the key recommendations following the regional Youth Adaptation Forums.

Alongside its activities to consult young people on the adaptation agenda, the Panel engaged with decision-makers to amplify young people's voices in the global

adaptation agenda. At the Africa Adaptation Summit, Desmond Alugnoa from Ghana and Elysa Vaillancourt from Canada, attended the high-level ceremonies alongside 5 heads of state and government, including President Macky Sall, African Union Chairperson and President of Senegal, and President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana and Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum. Desmond Alugnoa made an intervention on behalf of the Panel, calling on global leaders to unlock adaptation finance targeting youth initiatives and entrepreneurs, and to include young people in the design, planning and implementation of adaptation policies.

As the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel 2022 is passing the baton to the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel 2023, the message is clear: young people across the world want adaptation education, participation in adaptation policy and decision-making processes, adaptation jobs and employment, and finance for youth adaptation initiatives for a climate-resilient world.

The Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action saw the birth of the youth adaptation movement. The CEO's Youth Advisory Panel has been, and continues to be, crucial in bringing together young people, youth organizations, civil society, researchers, policy-makers, and other stakeholders to include young people in the adaptation agenda. The work does not stop here. The Panel is committed to remaining engaged with driving the adaptation agenda and shaping the Global Goal on Adaptation.



1. Desmond Alugnoa, Ghana

The commonest tool in all the conflicts in Africa is not the gun but the young person holding the gun who is being cut away from the mains and pushed to face reality in the midst of devastating climate impact. In order to balance the aspirations of youth, intergenerational dialogues need to keep happening and resources need to be redistributed to the regions that need them the most.



This is how we can safeguard with honesty the frontline communities, youth and all vulnerable groups, leaving no one behind. Let us redefine leadership by bringing to the COP27 the Global Goal on Adaptation and pursuing it religiously to halt the carnage induced by climate change.

2. Hayley Payne, Australia

Often, our future feels overwhelming and full of uncertainty. But hearing from youth from across the world, each with a unique lived experience, I have come to understand that the best way for us to achieve powerful change is to develop strong communities.



3. Irfan Ullah, Pakistan

Young people around the world, and especially those from developing countries, face various problems and challenges. At the grassroots level of political processes, community development, and adaptation agenda, there is insufficient youth engagement. A new vision for youth activism that will contribute to youth development and resilience is essential.



4. Joyce Mendez, Brazil-Paraguay

As a migrant and urban indigenous person, climate adaptation is not a choice, but the right answer to the current climate crisis. As a child I used to hear the stories from my ancestors about how they understood pachamama, and live in the logic of nature, without ecocides and in prosperity; el 'Buen Vivir' was represented into their daily life, and my Indigenous ancestors did not consider themselves separated from nature, thus creating resilient and respectful communities. Nowadays Indigenous wisdom represents a fundamental answer for climate change adaptation and mitigation, is knowledge that is not commonly studied or is simply related with the past, with museums and pre colonial periods. Recognizing Indigenous rights ensures a safe climate for humankind! How do you want to be a good ancestor to future generations?



5. Emily Vernall, United Kingdom

I'm working on adaptation because climate change is happening quicker than expected, and with unequally distributed impacts. By connecting adaptation planning and climate justice, we can accelerate climate adaptation projects and financing that not only prepares us for these changes, but also grounds this action in the transversal principles of inclusivity, justice, and transformation to ensure that no-one is left behind.



6. Cathy Li, China

I have been following UNFCCC processes since the age of 19, with a focus on adaptation. This year, I would like to see civil society stakeholders, UNFCCC and its Parties, as well as ambitious private sector actors, joining forces to jointly make progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation and its links with other areas under the convention, like technology, finance, and capacity-building.



7. Elysa Vaillancourt, Canada

I have had the privilege to grow up in Canada; a country with beautiful nature and clean water resources. Yet, if everyone lived like the average Canadian, we would need over five planets to sustain the global population. When travelling abroad, I met with local communities who are truly bearing the impacts of climate change. A climate change, that we, countries in the Global North, are mostly responsible for. This injustice is the reason why I chose to get involved with climate adaptation.



8. Neekhil Prasad, Fiji Islands

As a Pacific Islander, I have witnessed persisting changes within our environment and its climatic conditions. We are well aware that we now experience more frequent and intensive cyclones and other forms of catastrophic natural disasters. Climate change is a global concern and everyone will be affected. Decisions and mandated policies of our future should include our say as well! That is why it is paramount to include youth at the decision-making table.



9. Benjamin Strzelecki, Poland

When I first got involved in climate activism in 2016, I was often the only person in my social circle that cared about the issue of energy consumption or carbon footprint of industrial agriculture. In 2022, there is a much better understanding in society about the causes and impacts of the climate crisis, but we are still far from recognising adaptation as a key pillar of climate action, especially in Europe. There is a need to put pressure on governments and corporations to increase the scale of their ambitions and implementation is urgent!



8. YOUTH4ADAPTATION COMMUNIQUE

OUR PLANETARY CRISIS

Young people are uniting to mobilize adaptation solutions as a response to the cascading impacts of climate change.

The past decade almost 4 billion people were impacted by climate-related disasters. Globally, approximately 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in contexts that are highly vulnerable to climate change, and its effects are not distributed equally. Despite contributing the least to our planetary crisis, the Global South is being hit the hardest. In Africa, average temperatures will be 2°C or higher by mid-century, compared to pre-industrial levels. Curbing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the 1.5 degrees goal of the Paris Agreement is the only way to halt the climate emergency. States and businesses must urgently be weaned off their fossil fuel dependency. But mitigation efforts alone are not enough to avert the worst climate change impacts, and must be met with potent adaptation action. Even if international mitigation efforts keep global warming below 2°C, Africa is expected to face climate change adaptation costs of US\$ 50 billion per year by 2050. Not only is the climate emergency a global inequity, disproportionately impacting Global South countries, it is also a generational injustice. Globally, young people under the age of 35 represent more than half of the global population. The climate emergency is bound to threaten the wellbeing of young people. Young people are advocating a future based on principles of climate justice and we are leading innovative climate solutions. Young people have the power to steer the way to a climate-resilient future, and it is imperative for young people to have a seat at the decision-making table.

TOGETHER WE CAN ADAPT OUR WORLD

The Glasgow Climate Pact in 2021 recognized the key role of young people to respond to the climate crisis and the importance of meaningful youth participation and representation in decision-making processes, including under the Paris Agreement. Ahead of COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, the Global Center on Adaptation and the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel conducted worldwide consultations bringing together over 7,000 young people and decision-makers from across youth organizations, civil society, academia, international organizations, multilateral

development banks and governments through the regional Youth Adaptation Forums. The Youth Adaptation Forums were organized in collaboration with 24 partners, featuring 110 speakers from over 50 countries. Building on the outcomes of the Forums, the first hybrid Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action: Delivering on the Glasgow Climate Pact brought together 100 young leaders from 50 nationalities in Rotterdam, the Netherlands and over 4,700 youth participants virtually to mobilize adaptation solutions.

ACTING IS ADAPTING

These Youth4Adaptation recommendations are a call to action by young leaders to decision-makers worldwide to adapt our world to the cascading impacts of the climate emergency by providing an urgent, ambitious and just response to deliver on the Glasgow Climate Pact.

Including young people in the world's first collective commitment on adaptation, the Global Goal on Adaptation, is crucial to adapting our world in a way that is just. That is why we recommend to include a specific and measurable objective in the Global Goal on Adaptation to foster youth engagement and participation in adaptation policy from the local to national and international level.

We, youth for adaptation, propose the following four key transformations to respond to our rapidly changing world for a safer, greener and more prosperous future:

EDUCATION AS A DRIVER FOR TRANSFORMATION

Promote education, capacity-building and upskilling of young people on climate adaptation, by:

- Providing climate education, including education on the risks of and adaptation to the climate crisis, at all levels of education in formal, non-formal and informal education.
- Developing climate adaptation education materials in all UN languages for use at all levels of education, taking into account Indigenous knowledge.
- Training educators to teach young people on climate adaptation education and prepare young generations

for disaster risk-response.

- Promote peer-to-peer learning across communities, countries and continents to exchange good practices on youth-led adaptation action.

YOUNG LEADERS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

Provide an inclusive and participatory environment for youth in climate adaptation decision-making processes, by:

- Establishing Youth Climate Change Councils at local, national and regional levels of governance.
- Including youth representatives as part of official delegations to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Consulting young people on the design, development and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- Promoting youth-led adaptation projects through participatory and iterative planning, honoring and implementing traditional knowledge and listening to local voices.
- Ensuring equitable participation of young women, Indigenous Peoples, marginalized communities and the most vulnerable communities in adaptation policy and action.

BOLD SOLUTIONS FOR ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE PROSPERITY

Empower youth entrepreneurs and young professionals to advance the adaptation agenda, by:

- Establishing incubator, accelerator and funding programs with mentorship and technology transfer opportunities to support young entrepreneurs in the adaptation sector by governments and International Organizations.
- Promoting sustainable job creation through investment in youth entrepreneurship, particularly for women-led enterprises.
- Providing equitable space to young researchers to share their work on climate change and adaptation, and foster locally-driven research.

UNLOCKING FINANCE FOR YOUTH-LED ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS

Increase financing for youth-led adaptation initiatives through adapted and flexible funding mechanisms, by:

- Establishing dedicated climate finance streams for

youth-led initiatives and increasing existing climate finance for young people and especially young women, especially on locally led adaptation and loss and damage.

- Increasing the accessibility of existing climate change finance opportunities for youth.
- Including young people in the criteria for grant disbursements under the UNFCCC finance mechanisms.
- Providing trainings to youth organizations on preparing project proposals.

We recognize that our world can only be adapted when generations work together. In view of the above, we hereby commit to:

- Fostering cooperation across young people, countries and generations.
- Raising awareness amongst young people on the need for adaptation action, and developing skills to adapt our world together.
- Engaging all stakeholders in forging shared solutions, especially young people, women, and Indigenous communities.

We invite the international community and all stakeholders to endorse these Youth4Adaptation recommendations and contribute to its effective implementation.

The Youth4Adaptation recommendations were presented to H.E. Ban Ki-moon, 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations and to global leaders at the Africa Adaptation Summit: Friends of GCA High-Level Dialogue on 5th September 2022.

We express our thanks to the young people who have shared their views with us through the regional Youth Adaptation Forums and the first Youth Dialogue, and to all the youth organizations who have made it possible to consult young people across the world on the adaptation agenda. We also express our thanks to the partners in the Youth Adaptation Forums and Youth Dialogue, and to the Global Center on Adaptation for their support in organizing the regional Youth Adaptation Forums and the GCA Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action: Delivering on the Glasgow Climate Pact.

9. DEFINITIONS

Adaptation In human systems, the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects.¹⁰²

Climate change A change in the state of climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings such as modulations of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use.¹⁰³

Global Goal on Adaptation Enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement.¹⁰⁴

Mitigation A human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.¹⁰⁵

Resilience The capacity of social, economic and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identify and structure while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning and transformation.¹⁰⁶

Youth Every person between the ages of 15 and 35 years old.¹⁰⁷

102 As defined in the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC.

103 Ibid.

104 As defined in the Paris Agreement.

105 As defined in the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC.

106 Ibid.

107 As defined in the African Youth Charter.

10. ACRONYMS

AAAP	Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program
AfDB	African Development Bank Group
COP	Conference of the Parties
COY	Conference of Youth
CVF	Climate Vulnerable Forum
GCA	Global Center on Adaptation
GHG	Global Goal on Adaptation
GGA	Global Goal on Adaptation
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
GlaSS	Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LCOY	Local Conference of Youth
LDC	Least Developed Country
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
SBs	Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC
UN	The United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNMGCY	United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth
YAN	Youth Adaptation Network
YOUNGO	UNFCCC constituency of Youth Non-Governmental Organizations

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