The 16th UN Climate Change Conference of Youth

Youth Statement Toolkit

Unifying for Change
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Introduction

The 16th UN Climate Conference of Youth (COY16) is the annual gathering of YOUNGO members, the official Youth Constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). COY16 is officially endorsed by the UN Secretary General Envoy on Youth and the official youth precursor event to the UN Climate Change Conference, also known as Conference of Parties (COP26), which will be hosted by the United Kingdom. COY16 will take place October 28th - 31st in Glasgow, Scotland immediately before the COP from November 1-12, 2021. At COY16, a global youth statement or a youth policy document will be submitted to the COP Presidency and national governments for their consideration as they go into the COP meetings.

This statement will comprise input from youth all across the globe, with young people of all nationalities and backgrounds, as well as indigenous and non-country affiliated groups all welcome to contribute. It will feature global youth demands and recommendations, as well as country specific proposals from as many countries as are willing to contribute.

These national statements and proposals will be put together by youth from within each country. We encourage all youth environmental groups or educational institutions to create their own statement and set of proposals. These can then be submitted to be incorporated into their country's national statement.

This toolkit is prepared to assist the local institutions and organizations in crafting their official statement, demands and position relevant to the climate crisis we are facing.
Guidance on Building Your Statement

COP26 will be the most important climate event in years, with all countries attending called upon to increase the ambition of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) towards combating climate change for the first time since the 2015 Paris Agreement. These youth statements will be young people's best chance to influence these crucial decisions.

So, we recommend that your statement is carefully considered and formally presented. You should hold consultations among your group, organisation, or institution, as well as youths from different regions, backgrounds and make sure it's science-based or evidence-based; and together craft a statement that lays out specific and succinct proposals and demands.

We recommend that statements include the following content:

Preamble/Introduction

• Why your organization or institution is making this statement.

• Why your organization or institution deserves a voice on these issues (you should be sure to identify what that voice is/what perspective you are coming from e.g. indigenous youth, university educated, frontline community etc.).

Background/Rationale

• Include a summary of environmental conditions and impacts of climate change in your community, region and country as a whole.

• Identify the specific issues, gaps and challenges in national/regional governance and/or in efforts to address environmental impacts in your community.

• Reference to the wider global movement/community (e.g. YOUNGO) you are part of (to add credibility/weight).

Commitment

• Make clear what you want to see happen to address these issues.

• Include the time within which this should be accomplished and the consequences of not reaching the goal within that frame.

• You can add what personal commitments your organisation / youth in your community are making.
Demands

Next, the most important part of your statement will be laying out your set of climate action demands.

Based on the issues, gaps and challenges identified, what are your demands from the local, national and global decision-makers.

- These demands should be sufficiently ambitious to address negative environmental impacts in your community, but should also be written in a manner that is SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound)

What are your demands, specifically from the UN climate negotiations (COP) and diplomatic efforts in advance of the summit.

- Again, you should make effort for any demands to be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound)

Demands can be written thematically, for example they could be aligned with the currently identified target themes of COY:

- Clean Energy
- Clean Transport
- Nature-based Solutions: Actions that protect, manage and restore ecosystems to address societal challenges (e.g. climate change) while enhancing human wellbeing.
- Adaptation and Resilience: Improving the ability of natural and human systems to respond to climate change impacts (e.g. extreme weather events) before or after they have occurred (adaptation), or improving their inherent ability to absorb and withstand after an adverse event (resilience).
- Climate Finance: Investment in all of the above, as well as disinvestment (divestment) from high-carbon industries.
- Disaster Risk and Reduction
- Any other themes you deem necessary and relevant to your local context can be included as well, for example you may wish to address
  - Climate Justice and Rights
  - Gender
  - Finance
  - Loss and Damage
  - Sustainable Consumption and Production
  - Culture and Heritage
  - Food and Agriculture
  - Action for Climate Empowerment and Education
  - Technology Transfer
  - Eliminating Pollution of Land, Air and Water
  - Sustainable Cities
  - Any other topic relevant to your community

Institutions and organisations can freely add other thematic areas especially when it fits to the context in the community or country level.
Diversity of Participation

We recommend that all statements incorporate as diverse a range of contributors as possible to make sure that all voices are represented. Depending on the nature and scope of your organisation, you may want to consider whether your statement has included the contributions of the groups listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Diversity and balance of genders including LGBTQIA+ community</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Communities (if applicable)</td>
<td>Any indigenous communities, particularly those impacted by climate change</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority Communities</td>
<td>Any minority or underrepresented groups in your country/community</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEET Youth (youth not in education, employment or training)</td>
<td>Whether you are part of an educational, professional or community group, consider how to include any youth not in education, employment or training</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable Communities</td>
<td>Any other particular community (whether an ethnic, economic or social group) that is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEND Youth (youth with special educational needs and disabilities)</td>
<td>Any youth with special needs and disabilities that may face difficulty in contributing</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sectoral Representation</td>
<td>Youth from various sectors e.g. the Arts, Culture, Humanities, Sciences, Hospitality, Activism, Religious youth groups</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Professionals</td>
<td>Youth already in employment</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once your full statement is completed and you have ensured it features diverse participation, it should be ready to submit. See the next page for an overview of the statement submission process and summary of where statements will go from there.
Process Summary

This chart summarises the process in creating and submitting your Youth Statement:

1. **Step 01**: Gather data, research and analyse environmental issues in your area. You can also gather the sentiments and voices of the individual youth towards the climate crisis.

2. **Step 02**: From your research and data analyses, identify your chosen focus themes and your demands for action.

3. **Step 03**: Draft your demands into a formal statement representing your community/organisation/institution.

4. **Step 04**: Ensure your statement is finalised, validated and approved by all the youth in your organization/institution.

5. **Step 05**: Submit your statement to your Country Coordinators or COY16 Team.

6. **Step 06**: Your Country Delegation to COY16 will work with youth organisations and government representatives to compile all submitted local youth statements into one national youth statement.

7. **Step 07**: The COY team and Regional Coordinators will bring all the national youth statements together into one global youth statement, which will feature all the national statements as well as additional global demands.

8. **Step 08**: The global youth statement will be officially endorsed by youth at COY and then submitted to the COP Presidency through YOUNGO and national governments through the COY Delegates.
Useful Terms

AAU  Assigned amount unit
AC  Adaptation Committee
ADP  Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action
AF  Adaptation Fund
AOSIS  Alliance of Small Island States
BAU  Business-as-usual
CBDR+RC  Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities
CDM  Clean Development Mechanism
CFC  Chlorofluorocarbon
CO₂  Carbon dioxide
CO₂e  Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Emissions
COP  Conference of the Parties
COY  The Conference of Youth
CTCN  Climate Technology Centre and Network
DAC  Development Assistance Committee
ERF  Equity Reference Framework
FAO  Food and Agriculture Organization
FPR  First Periodical Review
GCF  Green Climate Fund
GHG  Greenhouse gas
GWP  Global Warming Potential
HCFC  Hydrochlorofluorocarbon
HFC  Hydrofluorocarbon
IAR  Independent Assessment Report
ICA  International consultation and analysis
ICAO  International Civil Aviation Organization
ICI  International Climate Initiative
IMO  International Maritime Organization
INDC  Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IPCC  Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRENA  International Renewable Energy Agency
JCG  Joint Contact Group
LDC  Least developed country
LDCF  Least Developed Countries Fund
LULUCF  Land use, land-use change and forestry
MRV  Measurement, reporting and verification
NAMA  Nationally appropriate mitigation action
NAP  National adaptation plan
NAPA  National Adaptation Programme of Action
NDC  Nationally Determined Contributions
NWP  Nairobi Work Programme
ODA  Official Development Assistance
OECD  Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
QELRC  Quantified Emission Limitation or Reduction Commitment
QELRO  Quantified Emission Limitation or Reduction Objective
RE & EE  Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
REDD  Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
RL/REL  Reference Level and Reference Emission Level
SBI  Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA  Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SCF  Strategic Climate Fund
SOY  The Statement of Youth
TEC  Technology Executive Committee
TM  Technology Mechanism
TTE  Technical Team of Experts
UNEP  United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC  United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSG  United Nations Secretary General
WG  Working Group