



**GLASGOW, OCTOBER 2021**

# THE GLOBAL YOUTH STATEMENT



A photograph of a person climbing a steep, mossy rock face. The climber is wearing a blue helmet and a yellow backpack. The rock is covered in green moss and lichen. The background is a dark blue gradient.

# GLOBAL YOUTH STATEMENT POLICY TEAM

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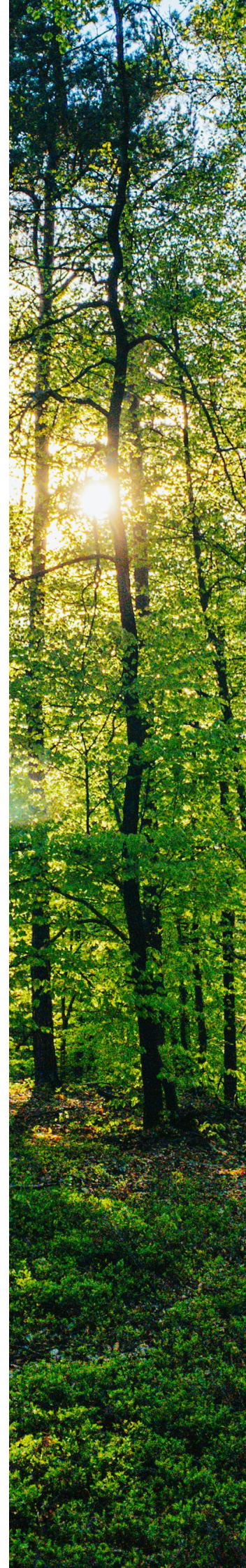
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# OPENING STATEMENT

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COP26, the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference, is the make-or-break moment for the future of our planet. Over the past year, the increasing frequency and severity of global climate-related disasters, combined with the IPCC's warning, labelled as 'code red for humanity' by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, highlight the imperative for ambitious and immediate climate action.

COP26 represents a crucial opportunity to address the climate crisis for three key reasons: First, it provides the platform for member states to follow up on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) established at COP21, which will determine if the world can limit global warming to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. Second, it facilitates the operationalisation of the Paris Agreement by finalising the Paris Rulebook and consolidating the Katowice outcome at COP24. Third, it takes place in the overarching context of the new normal since the Covid-19 pandemic, compelling the global community to radically rethink and transform our relationship with nature and with one another. This pandemic has exposed how unequally the consequences of a global crisis are distributed, and we cannot afford the same thing to happen with the climate crisis.

Throughout the negotiation process, COP26 must ensure that climate justice is at the core of decisions taken, and progress is made in a transparent and inclusive way. To live up to that promise, it is crucial for COP26 to meaningfully consider and engage with the COY16 Global Youth Statement, which seeks to officially represent the voice of the youth and their policy demands.

Youths around the world are ready for change, will political leaders at COP26 deliver it?



# Top Policy Demands





# TOP POLICY DEMANDS

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Our overarching demand that unifies all themes is that the youth should be actively and meaningfully included in all decision-making processes concerning climate change governance and implementation. We call for these policy demands to be integrated into national and international agendas and commitments. We demand an intersectional approach to youth inclusion in environmental governance, acknowledging that the climate crisis affects some communities and social groups disproportionately, and recognising that the climate crisis is a broader socio-political crisis that necessitates systemic and radical action.

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## Politics and Policy making

We demand national governments to design effective NDCs, NAPs, and climate policies aligned with scientific guidance, as well as mechanisms of implementation that are coordinated with local governance, inclusive of all social groups and enforceable long-term. Politicians must be held accountable to guarantee the continuity of action plans beyond party lines and in a fully transparent manner. We also urge support from the international community to help the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change pursue their NAPs.

## Underrepresented Groups

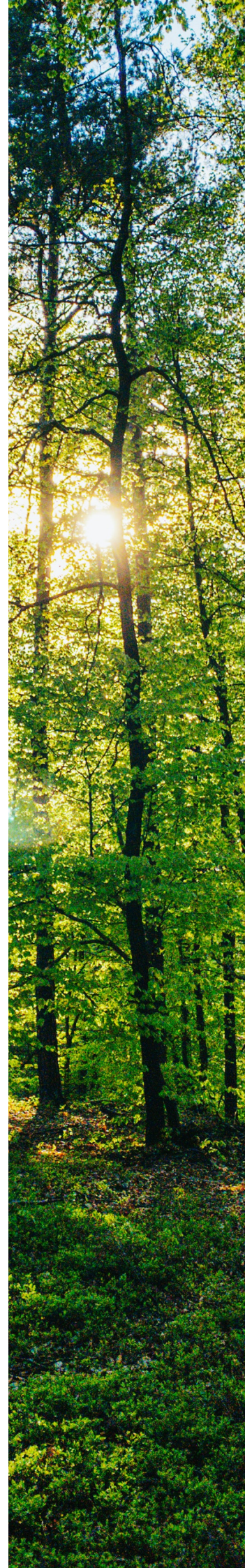
We urge real representation according to the justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) principle at COP and other UNFCCC processes, and call for financial support for Most Affected Peoples and Areas (MAPA), Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC), and other vulnerable groups, including youth, in the form of scholarships, grants, and opportunities to be heard in the national and international decision-making process.

## Energy

We urge that decision-makers incorporate the most recent findings of the IPCC and take into account the natural and social impacts of fossil fuel exploitation in order to create public policies that promote the energy transition to clean and renewable energy sources and reduce energy consumption. We also call for more international cooperation to meet these objectives worldwide, especially calling for support from developed to developing countries.

## Climate Finance and Markets

We demand that Parties finalize Article 6 of the Paris Agreement during COP26,





abide by their pledges for \$100 billion climate finance flow, with a fair share of this going towards adaptation and mitigation actions to accommodate the local needs of developing and least-developed countries. We call for the adoption of carbon pricing mechanisms in the form of progressive carbon taxes and market-based approaches, and for climate finance to be more accessible and inclusive to vulnerable communities.

### **Loss and Damage**

We call for action to address climate-induced Loss and Damage by operationalising the Santiago Network, generating evidence-based, all-hazard inclusive climate-induced loss and damage data and collaboration across humanitarian and development networks. Furthermore, Parties must agree to establish a new finance facility for loss and damage, beyond pledges for mitigation and adaptation. Parties should also make loss and damage a permanent agenda item in the negotiations. They must ensure that action is taken, and finance provided, to meet the scale of the needs of the most affected countries and communities.

### **Food and Agriculture**

We call upon Parties to come up with constructive ways forward during Koronivia negotiations, aligning more with national pathways of implementation and enforcement mechanisms. Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) needs to take action on the contributions of agri-food industries to the climate crisis, while understanding that small subsistence producers face challenges to adapt and require incentives and support.

### **Sustainable Cities and Communities**

We demand all national governments, bilateral and, multilateral institutions, private sector, and NGOs fully recognize the role of cities in achieving a just transition through ambitious local level decarbonization, adaptation, and resilience-building efforts, ensuring no person or place is left behind.

### **Mobility and Transportation**

We demand a Clean Transportation Technology Transfer Fund that will facilitate the exchange of know-how and financial resources to enable targeted infrastructural investments. We call for a redesign of our communities and transportation towards clean and renewable public transport and electric vehicles, in order to be more walkable, bikeable, and accessible.

### **Health**

Climate change and health are undeniably interconnected. As we are in the dual crisis of a global health and climate emergency, we urge the WHO, UNFCCC, UNEP, and national healthcare systems to build strengthened frameworks, policies, and programs for climate-resilient, sustainable, research-based, and people-centered healthcare systems that all nations can adopt and implement into their communities.



### **Climate Justice and Human Rights**

We urge all Parties to respect, protect, fulfill, and promote all human rights in climate action. We urge all Parties to take action to address the disproportionate effects of the climate crisis borne by under-privileged or marginalised communities.

### **Sustainable Consumption and Production**

We urge UNFCCC and national governments to facilitate a carbon labelling standard for consumer products, especially those from energy-intensive and global trade-exposed sectors. Care must be taken to circumvent outsourcing emissions overseas. We also call for the promotion of cradle-to-cradle (circular) value chains and, when disposal exists, it must be consistently assessed, ensuring that the damage to the environment is minimised and affected communities compensated.

### **Water, Sanitation and Oceans**

We call for safe water access for all through integrated water resource management (IWRM), recognizing local knowledge and practices, strong policies and regulations that would mainstream relevant issues into climate policies, and enhance support for research and development. In order to solve problems in water access and in ocean ecosystems, we must understand and view them through an interconnected and cyclical lens. Thus, we urge UN agencies, UNFCCC constituencies, and national governments to increase collaboration in the creation of sustainable, resilient, and community-based solutions, that would protect our waters and oceans along with all its biodiversity and ecosystems and maintain essential balance in the context of climate-change induced alterations.

### **Wildlife and Environmental Conservation**

National governments must prioritize nature over profit through halting subsidies for environmentally destructive activities, redirecting funds to restorative activities that promote biodiversity and the continuity of ecosystem services, developing plans to establish more protected areas and natural parks, and penalizing those who engage in destructive activity.

### **Technology Transfer and Innovation**

We demand that technology transfer is implemented in the context of international cooperation in addition to technical and financial assistance for research and development of climate resilient innovations.

### **Arts, Culture and Heritage**

We call for investment in mitigation systems to protect threatened communities, indigenous populations, and cultural heritage sites, as well as investment in sustainable tourism and cultural education.







# Politics and Policy making



# POLITICS AND POLICY MAKING

Irene Perez Beltran – Spain | Esther Galende Sanchez – Spain | Ahmad Bassam – Jordan  
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## **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)**

The NDCs are the main instrument to measure countries' engagement with on the ground actions to reduce their carbon emissions. To achieve inclusive and holistic NDCs, we demand:

- Countries that have not submitted their NDCs to do so immediately.
- Countries to reach a consensus on common time frames as stated in the Paris agreement.
- Countries to align NDC commitments with scientific demands and IPCC's guidelines so that the decisions taken are evidence-based.
- Countries and UNFCCC to disclose data collected to create NDCs and make it publicly accessible, nationally and globally.
- Countries to ensure that NDCs address the identification and elimination of subsidies to high emitting corporations and industries.
- To open spaces of international dialogue to discuss NDCs successes and mistakes to learn from other countries and find best practices.
- NDC structures to be cross-sectoral (e.g. water-food-energy nexus).
- To ensure the integration of the NDCs to the national education systems of all countries.

## **National Action Plans (NAPs)**

National Action Plans reflect on the commitment of countries towards a common goal of reduced emissions and resilience, resonating feelings of global movement for climate action and progressing towards a sustainable future. To ensure this, we demand national governments to:

- Establish concrete, enforceable targets, written in accessible language and formats.
- Include traditional and indigenous knowledge in natural resource conservation efforts within NAPs.
- Ensure that climate and environmental regulations that directly affect the consumer are progressive and sensitive to income inequality.
- Encourage and facilitate behaviour changes in society that contribute to tackling the climate crisis.
- Create and empower local administrations and environmental groups so that communities can see their environmental efforts directly translated into immediate improvements.

## **Democratization of Decision-making, Citizen Engagement and Inclusivity**

Meaningful citizen engagement in policy making and implementation is essential to tackle wicked problems that intersect all aspects of society, such as the climate crisis. To ensure that measures proposed are both legitimate and just, we demand:

- National governments to enhance mechanisms at all levels of governance which guarantee that decision-making processes include all voices, especially underrepresented and vulnerable communities. Thereby increasing legitimacy and ownership of climate policies and plans. Specifically, we demand inclusion in the formulation and implementation of the NDCs and NAPs.



- To institutionalize youth participation in decision-making in order to go beyond tokenism.
- To ensure participatory democracy, utilising mechanisms such as citizen assemblies to harness the voices, ideas, and opinions of those most affected by climate change.
- To provide safe spaces for citizenry deliberation and deepen citizenry connection to decision-making.
- To recognise that the climate crisis disproportionately affects vulnerable communities and address the climate crisis as a social justice issue.
- To secure the right of climate and environmental activists to protest and express their ideas freely and safely.
- To create a global commitment to end the murders of environmental leaders and ensure their safety at all levels.

### **Effective Governance and Enforceability of Climate Action Plans**

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

- To treat environmental issues as a crisis, as we saw with the approach to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- To create ministries that focus explicitly on climate action and collaborate with all other ministries as a separate body. Grouping the environment with other areas that correspond with industries, e.g. fisheries or agriculture, can lead to environmental issues being overlooked due to lobbying pressures from the sectors where GDP growth is at stake.
- To take a long-term view, not an election cycle view, when designing climate policies. Climate action needs to transcend political cycles and party lines by including mechanisms of non-regression for future governments, and thus avoiding the discontinuation of environmental projects.
- To include mechanisms of horizontal (interministerial) and vertical (national to local) connectivity, ensuring that there is coordination between decision-making and implementation. National environmental governance should have complimentary action plans at the regional and local level, with enough legal capacity mechanisms to implement them.
- To recognise the importance of good governance and human rights protection in climate action.
- To implement legal sanctions for actions and crimes against the environment (including ecocide), especially those coming from big corporations and fossil-fuel companies.
- To monitor the compliance of climate objectives, and enforce climate legislation to make sure they are taken seriously and met.

### **Accountability and Transparency**

Accountability is essential to follow up on consistency and coherence between long-term commitments and current actions. Transparency is also needed to increase social trust and uncover hidden powers. In order to ensure both, we demand:

- National governments to be held accountable for their climate-action pledges and promises during elections. To avoid the use of environmental policies as a strategy to win votes and popular support.
- To replace GDP as the main indicator which governments are accountable for and focus instead on well-being and prosperity (e.g. using the Genuine Progress Indicator).





- To closely monitor the influence of lobbying groups on policy making at the international and national level. We urge governance institutions to develop transparency registers where organisations must disclose their interests before interacting with institutions.
- Members of preparatory and consultory bodies should also go through a similar process to ensure full transparency of policy decisions.
- To explicitly prohibit revolving doors between politician and industry roles to avoid systems of reciprocated privileges undermining climate action efforts.
- To develop a transparency register for all donations to political parties (for electoral campaigns and other activities). Creating a maximum limit before donations become public risks interest groups dividing their donations into smaller amounts to maintain anonymity.
- To monitor and transparently report off-shore emissions and extractive activities and include this data in climate plans, so importing nations are held accountable for their consumption from abroad. Global Value Chain tracking mechanisms must be developed.

### **International Community and Cooperation**

- The climate crisis is a global issue that can't be addressed by countries separately, thus international cooperation is crucial. In light of the recent efforts to ensure the implementation of the guidelines of the Paris Agreement, also referred to as the "Paris Rulebook", we demand:
- International funding organizations to be more accessible and fair for all developing and least developed countries to achieve their environmental commitments, as current requirements and processes are too complex.
- To increase levels of transparency and accountability of the international organizations process of choosing the targeted topics of interest to invest, and include representatives from both developing and least-developed countries and civil society in that process.
- Developed countries to increase knowledge and technology transfer and capacitate developing and least-developed countries whilst respecting local sensitivities.
- Developed countries to support developing and least-developed countries in their climate data collection systems (e.g. GHGs inventory) so they can effectively design and implement data-driven policies.
- To reinforce global environmental governance with existing or new agencies, acknowledge the global character of the climate crisis and go beyond the narrow-minded framing of nation-states.
- To develop better coordination between the international organizations working on similar projects/topics to build an integrative rather than a competitive landscape.
- To establish mechanisms that identify and sanction greenwashing in projects funded by international organisations.
- To create a global legal status for climate refugees so they can access help and asylum schemes. To prepare an internationally coordinated response to manage and protect the future waves of displaced communities.

### **Action Climate for Empowerment (ACE)**

Action for Climate Empowerment is essential for ensuring climate solutions are long-lasting and all of civil society is engaged in fostering transformational change toward a zero-carbon future. Unfortunately, there is a lack of priority in the UNFCCC agenda for ACE. This is reflected in the chronic gap of financial resources with the exclusion of ACE in submissions for GEF or GCF, and the virtual non-existence of monitoring, reporting, and evaluation. The implementation of ACE ...could strengthen Parties' country absence of requiring ACE National Strategies and/or National Task Forces highlights the parties' avoidance of any binding national commitments on this topic. This is lastly mirrored in the dearth of training and support for NFPs from the UNFCCC and overall lack of international infrastructure for ACE.



- We call for an ACE Expert Group and/or ACE Action Plan to provide a pathway for implementing ACE and build capacity for regional cooperation. This task force should be regionally balanced and have scientific and youth members.
- We demand more ambitious youth inclusion in ACE, as they have contributed to many solution approaches shared by Parties during the negotiations.
- We urge that a coordination platform be established for sharing best practices and promoting cross-country and cross-stakeholder collaborations to implement ACE.
- We call for involvement of local community organizations and members as they know their community best.
- We propose to build an international ACE community that has the finance and capacity to ensure all of civil society is empowered to take climate action, thereby, creating a culture of sustainability that can persist in the long term.



# Underrepresented Groups





# UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

Charles Baldaia – Brazil | Gaby Costa – Ecuador | Juan Sebastián Avella Dallos – Colombia  
Lucas Duchrow – Brazil | Clara von Glasow – Germany | Elenita Sales – Brazil  
Ati Gunnawi Viviam Misslin Villafañá Izquierdo – Colombia | Ulriche Wansi – Cameroon  
Parneet Kaur – India | Daniela Larios – Honduras | Yoko Lu – Canada  
Roxana Borda Mamani – Peru | Chandelle O'Neil – Trinidad and Tobago  
Azul Schvartman – Argentina | Tori Tsui – Hong Kong / UK

The world's underrepresented groups make up the majority of the global population. However, climate negotiations are often conducted by people in positions of privilege, and we typically see diversity as a light skinned minority and English speaking voices filling the tokenism. The lack of BIPOC, vulnerable, and marginalized youth participation is a problem of social injustice, lack of true innovation, and racism.

Underrepresented groups have long existed in a world that places little value on their well-being in spite of their contributions to societies and communities. This includes ethnic and religious minorities, migrant communities, indigenous groups, the LGBTQ+ community, and persons with disabilities. Such groups have suffered not only in developing countries, but also in developed countries, especially those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, or industries such as mining, farming, or fishing which have been impacted by globalisation.

Moreover, across all countries, women remain underrepresented in decision-making, gender-based violence continues, and even the most optimistic estimates predict that gender parity will not be achieved until the climate crisis has already had a devastating global impact. Furthermore, the legacy of colonialism is ongoing in the control of key resources and environmentally important areas by large profit-oriented multinational corporations, often owned by Global North. As such, it is essential that the fates of under-represented groups are considered at the forefront of all climate negotiations.

Adopted by consensus in 1992, the United Nations Minorities Declaration, in Article 1, refers to minorities as based on national or ethnic, cultural, religious, and linguistic identity, and requires that States protect their existence. The growing polarisation and increasing human right violations of minorities in various parts of the world needs to be addressed. The climate crisis is fueling and exacerbating many harmful experiences for LGBTQI+ people, including discrimination, violence, and stigma.

There is a critical need to acknowledge and restore land rights to the Indigenous groups who possess valuable knowledge of the environment. By failing to protect them, we also sabotage our best chance at fighting climate change by creating a truly sustainable world. Hence, we demand the meaningful inclusion of indigenous groups, especially women, in the political framework as well as the decision-making process aimed at environmental conservation. We propose the implementation of a pedagogical plan to ensure their inclusion of customs and ancestral knowledge to mitigate climate crisis and live in harmony with nature. Finally, we propose the signing of agreements of indigenous peoples, based on Convention 169 of the ILO, to respect and preserve ancestral knowledge when making decisions about their natural environment.



Women and persons with disabilities are the least considered when it comes to climate change action plans and policies. Women are more vulnerable to not being able to access basic needs and face the harsh realities of dehumanising behaviour. Systems in place are typically for men to better themselves, neglecting the specific needs of women during natural disasters. Similarly, necessary mechanisms should be created and implemented to help women stay in their careers in face of the impacts of the climate crisis.

A gender lense should be mainstreamed into existing climate policies to eliminate patriarchal values that govern society. This is required to create a fair and equitable world that provides greater opportunities and a better quality of life for girls and women. Mechanisms also need to be redesigned to ensure people with disabilities are given opportunities to actively participate and contribute for the real representation of the multiplicity of our global population.

The inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized BIPOC youth brings a valuable and unique perspective, to address the climate crisis from an anti-racist, inclusive, and ecocentric global view, and lay claim to a different future.

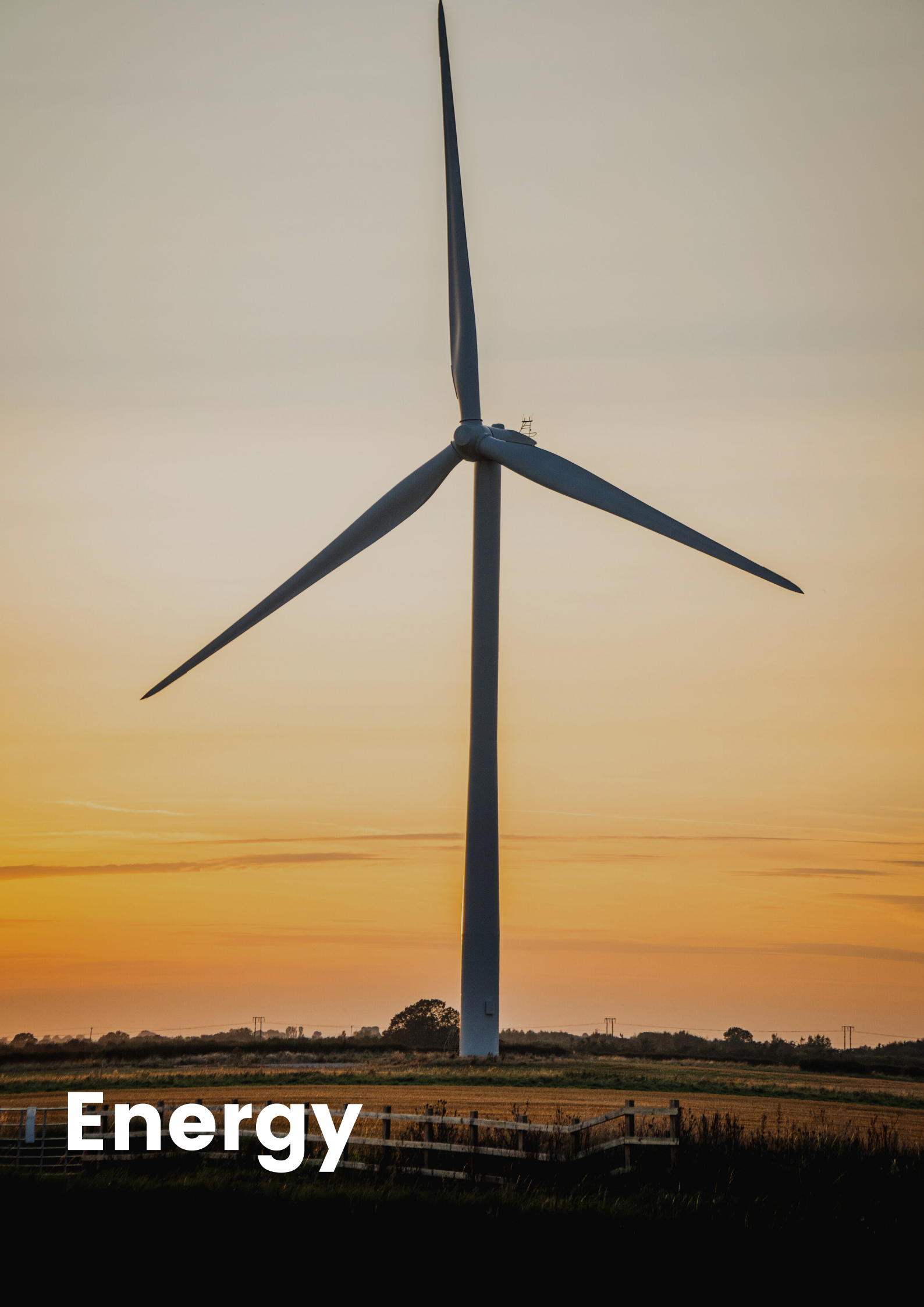
We demand the acknowledgement and recognition that we live in an intertwined crisis: climate, environmental crisis, and the social and economic crisis. Decision-making power must not be limited to the hands of the few. We the many, the under-represented propose the execution of an anti-racist and inclusive world policy culture to allow vulnerable and marginalized BIPOC Youth to have active representation, participation, and empowerment in every COP. We exhort world leaders to address those in an articulated manner through a comprehensive and holistic approach in the following:

- We seek the strengthening and capacity building for Global South, BIPOC, vulnerable and marginalized youth to ensure real representation: We request that the floor at the COP Plenary and each negotiation stage has at least one person from the invisible BIPOC, majority of each country.
- We request 30% of virtual and physical spaces to organize side events at COP, with requisite funding provided.
- We request targeted scholarships, financial and travel support to ensure at least 1500 BIPOC, vulnerable, and marginalized youth participants in the next COP and 500 in the next Pre-COP
- We urge the use of technology and media to scale up the widespread of messages, attendance, collection of views in surveys, forums, workshops among others to ease the access to all youth.
- We call for UNFCCC and all UN Agencies to reduce language barriers in their strategies, programs, capacity building, preparatory meetings, and all COP related events by including simultaneous interpretations, translations, or subtitles in at least all UN languages.
- We call for the implementation of a worldwide anti-racist and inclusive communication strategy in the UNFCCC and along the UN System in at least all official UN languages. The strategy should be implemented across agencies, and incorporate concrete actions to promote youth participation and representation in policies, solutions, statements, and planning.
- We urge the UNFCCC to execute a communication and capacity building strategy to all its employees, staff and across the UN System about environmental culture, racism, colonialism, and post-colonialism.
- We call for UN institutions to serve as means to assure connectivity to UN events, such as webinars, workshops, virtual meetings and conferences.
- We demand the promotion of young empowerment at all decision-making levels, both internationally and nationally.





- We call for UNFCCC to coordinate among the UN System, academia, NGOs, public and private initiatives to maximise efforts to assure an anti-racist and multi-lingual inclusive platform to empower, educate and achieve a social transformation towards more youth participation in decision-making process at international, national and local conferences.
- We seek support for youth participation through clusters in each country through National Climate Conferences or Youth Councils for Youth, BIPOC, vulnerable and marginalized individuals.
- We seek a designated UNFCCC Working Group to articulate a Knowledge Hub across the UN system with public and private partnerships to spread knowledge, information, and data about climate change policy and solutions.
- We set the target to reach worldwide at least 700,000 youth from developing and least-developed countries, BIPOC, vulnerable and marginalized backgrounds to have access to online or physical capacity building on climate change policy, negotiations, UN process and all related agreements, racism, decolonialism.
- We encourage government, private sector and stakeholders across all sectors to fully utilise social media as one of the open and free access to knowledge hubs to engage with young people in all UNFCCC events and provide equitable access to electricity, devices and the internet in rural areas to increase outreach amongst children and youth.
- We demand the commitment to establish the national ACE (Action for Climate Empowerment) focal point for all nations by 2022, and provide legislation and financial support for ACE mechanisms to support youth to contribute to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) updating and implementation.
- Finally, we encourage the creation of opportunities for BIPOC, vulnerable and marginalized youth internships, traineeships, and related employment with an economic remuneration.



**Energy**



# ENERGY

Rodrigo Iván Muñoz Quiroz – Mexico | Serena Bashal – United Kingdom  
Ahmad Bassam – Jordan | Seruni Salsabila – Indonesia  
Thaynara Furtado Constantinov Leal – Brazil | Antoin Ferraris – Austria

## Energy Security

Our modern lives are highly dependent on energy availability, and economic prosperity is also highly related to energy security. Countries deal with energy security matters with different strategies, but we believe a human-centric approach should be prioritized. Therefore, we demand:

- Redesign and democratize energy markets to give consumers the freedom of choice to choose clean energy in an ethical and fair manner.
- Invest heavily in the maintenance and improvement of the power grid to ensure electricity supply.
- Evaluate and make proper use of the resources of each region in a sustainable way to meet energy demand.
- Improve access to affordable clean energy in low-income households by supporting their basic energy consumption.
- Support the countries that are affected by the climate crisis to meet their energy demands and therefore increase their energy security.

## Clean and Renewable Energies and Emission Reduction

The energy costs burden does not lie only on the costs of energy production processes but also on the severe impacts it has on the environment and society. A just, fair, and democratic global energy transition to clean renewable energy should be on the top of the executive agenda. Therefore, we demand:

- Take into account the integration and availability of other resources in the diversification of renewable energy technologies, recognising that the water-food-energy nexus is essential for renewable energy to have a sustainable impact. As an example, the use of water-consuming technologies, such as hydrogen and hydroelectric power, can affect the availability of water resources.
- Monitor renewable energy technologies manufacturing to ensure acceptable emissions levels.
- Adopt open-source renewable energy technologies that are out of patent and are available to the public, so as to address the energy transition in developing and least-developed countries.
- Internationally funded projects to focus on utilizing the local resources of developing and least-developed countries rather than importing the latest technologies. For example, there is a need to focus on bioenergy projects that can reduce the waste management burden in developing countries and produce energy at the same time.
- National and international financing institutions to focus on transitional schemes of funding and support clean energy solutions with competitive market prices.
- Wider democratization of the instalment of decentralized solutions based in all countries, especially in developing and least-developed countries.



- Ensure the necessary skills and knowledge are provided so that no one is left behind during the transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy.

### Energy Poverty

- Electrification and access to energy in developing and least developed countries still faces many challenges. Financial barriers can restrict access to energy services even when these are physically available, particularly in energy market designs that run on monopolies. Taking this into consideration, we demand the following:
- Ensure electrification as a top priority for governments and deal with the affordability of energy accordingly.
- Reform energy subsidies based on the income of the households rather than any general increase or decrease, and to design energy subsidies in relation to the minimum health requirements of the marginalized communities' households.
- Design the proper pathway to reduce the consumption of hazardous energy consumption (e.g. lignite coal), and replace it with fair and affordable renewable energy solutions.
- Facilitate cross-border connectivity to be a top priority, as it is an essential asset to reduce energy prices.
- Build a long-term plan to move from monopolies into a more democratic model of energy markets.

### Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency is key for multiple sectors to reduce its environmental impact and increase competitiveness, since renewable energy alone will not be able to meet the growing demand for energy at an affordable price. Therefore, we demand the following:

- Take into account within national strategies the importance of energy efficiency to improve competitiveness and to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the energy sector.
- Increase the awareness and involvement of public authorities and energy utilities in energy efficiency projects.
- Combat the misconception that energy efficiency only equals optimizing energy use, as it overall implies a reduction of energy consumption (Jevon's paradox).
- Increase the energy efficiency targets for energy-intensive industries and reduce its related fossil fuels subsidies.
- Provide more funds to research projects focused on energy efficiency technologies.
- Promote de-risking solutions for energy efficiency investments in the developing and least developed countries, especially for the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises.

### The Future of Energy

Innovation is a key factor in facing current and future challenges. New technologies need more support, and analyzing these technologies in depth is of utmost importance in order to make the best possible use of them. Therefore, we demand the following:

- Reconsider nuclear energy for the time being due to safety and reliability issues and evaluate the real feasibility of its implementation, taking into account the particular conditions of each region where it is to be implemented.
- Address the biodiversity impacts of biofuel production and incorporate them as an essential part of environmental impact assessments. Local communities must be meaningfully consulted and included in decisions related to these projects.





- Diversify the energy matrix studies to reduce dependence on fossil fuel sources, adopt clean and renewable energies, and adapt to sustainable energy solutions.
- Implement life cycle emissions analysis to increase knowledge on the environmental effects of both renewable and conventional energy sources, especially gas in all forms.
- Promote the development of new energy resources and technologies such as green hydrogen, or smart grids to expand the available energy mix.
- Analyze and publicly promote the potential impacts of highly digitized energy industries.
- Increase affordability of renewable energy technologies to the general population through public programs and financing.
- Create an innovation-friendly environment that can build human-centric solutions and drive the public to adapt to sustainable energy solutions easily.
- Increase the investment in education, vocational training, and research to prepare the human resources with adequate knowledge and skills to meet the demand of the future energy job market.





# Climate Finance and Markets



# CLIMATE FINANCE AND MARKETS

Agathe Jean-Alexis – France | Karishma Ansaram – Mauritius | Benjamin Santhouse – UK  
Zac Pinard – US | Cathy Lee – China & UK | Ishan Ganguly – India | Gabriela Costa – Ecuador

Climate financing is key to ensure effective climate action around mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. The lack of financing of climate funds is particularly striking for the most vulnerable and affected communities, reflected by the lack of climate resilient infrastructure (e.g. embankments) in some of the world's most affected areas by the climate crisis.

## **Scaling-up Public Climate Finance and Financing For Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**

- We demand all local central banks to institutionalise policies that will compel local financial institutions to support initiatives supporting the realisation of their respective countries Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) towards low-emissions and climate-resilient pathways. In that regard, we also demand the development of public climate finance vehicles in all countries.
- We urge an increase in the unconditional financing of NDCs for developing countries. We demand an overall increase of the international cooperation budget allocated to climate action.
- We demand countries that are the largest emitters to commit to rapidly transitioning to financing decarbonization and funding adaptation measures in developing and least-developed countries that will be most impacted by the climate crisis.
- We demand more accountability from the recipients of climate finance to ensure funding is effectively allocated as initially planned.
- We propose to further harness public climate finance from ecotaxes, penalties for pollution, withdrawing subsidies to fossil fuels, and other progressive taxation sources.
- We propose to further develop public finance mechanisms such as public climate insurance funds and green bonds. Sound public finance and budget management by public authorities as well as elimination of corruption are critical preliminary requirements for channelling public capital towards climate action.
- We propose that the execution of financing in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developing Countries (LDCs), and developing countries shall increase their share of the climate finance available to be used to scale up environmental sustainable solutions from or employing BIPOC, vulnerable and marginalized groups or communities.
- We propose the introduction of easily accessible financing mechanisms for individuals and community groups pursuing projects contributing to environmental conservation and sustainable lifestyle by 2025 to be evaluated at the end of the next 5 year global stocktake of the Paris Agreement.
- We propose that developed countries, agencies of the United Nations (UN) international financing organizations and governments of SIDS, LDCs and developing countries work together to establish the capacity within all relevant institutions to ensure transparency of the climate funds received and their use through a reporting mechanism. We propose the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environmental Facility (GEF), and multilateral financial vehicles to allocate to local communities special funds dedicated to environmental issues and climate action.



### Harmonisation of the Climate Finance Framework

- We demand the adoption of a global harmonised definition and criteria to qualify climate finance, together with an harmonised accounting framework to monitor and bridge the financing gap for the realisation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

### Divestment of Private Finance

- We demand that major financial institutions divest from carbon-intensive portfolios, and all countries complete the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies. We also demand transparency over the reallocation of the finance to low carbon investments, with clear targets and timelines aligned with the best available science.
- We call for a global moratorium on financing prospecting and exploration: (1) for new coal resources without carbon capture; (2) heavy-polluting oil (suggested to be defined at 450 kg CO<sub>2</sub> per 42-gallon barrel); and (3) all fossil fuels in nationally or internationally-protected conservation areas.
- We demand fossil fuel assets and related market valuation to reflect the risk of stranded assets.
- We propose to give viability to the incentives proposed by external entities and/or tax reductions, for different levels such as residential, transport, and industrial (i.e., micro, small, medium and large enterprises) that apply energy efficiency mechanisms or implement the use of renewable energy.

### Scaling-up Private Climate Finance and Investments

- We demand that all private sector green investment decisions over a decided value should consider if the investment is compatible with the broader SDGs. We suggest that this value is in the \$10–100mn range, and recommend that the Standing Committee on Finance agree on a mechanism to finalise the actual limit.
- We demand that internal carbon pricing is performed on all investments over a given limit with said limit to be defined by the Standing Committee on Finance.
- We demand that each Annex I nations agree to commit to a minimum percentage of their annual GDP to secure private sector green loans in non-Annex I nations by 2025. We suggest that the securitization is split between government and financier.
- We demand the expansion of the insurance industry's contributions on both the underwriting and investment sides related to climate action.
- We propose that the Conference of Parties decide upon a mechanism to set clear guidelines, responsibility and targets for the private sector in order to generate the required climate finance to meet the objectives of Paris Agreement, Agenda 2030 and UN SDGs.
- We propose major polluters to financially support/sponsor the adaptation processes of the developing and MAPA countries.

### Streamlining Access to Climate Finance and Increased Inclusivity

- We demand that there is an increase in concessional capital rather than commercial one to ensure fair and distributive justice of climate finance to the most vulnerable. The financial burden for LDCs and SIDS needs to be lessened through financial mechanisms rather than deepening it through commercial loans.
- We urge both the public and private sector to finance more capacity building actions for stakeholders at grassroot level namely youth, SMEs and civil societies so as they are equipped to apply for grants and funding.



- We propose the introduction of a centralised platform to increase access to information on availability of climate finance initiatives. The application process to access climate finance should be eased and importantly the amount of grants should be reviewed to offer smaller ones to allow more stakeholders to access it.
- We ask that key stakeholders from the vulnerable communities and NGO representatives should be involved in climate finance decision-making and allocation at the local, national, and international level. We call for an increase in finance to enable youth participation in international conferences such as COP.
- We demand to scale back conditionality of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans if these conditions are leading to adverse impacts on social welfare schemes and climate (mitigation, adaptation) action.

### **Carbon Pricing**

- We demand that parties finalise Article 6 of the Paris Agreement so as to promote carbon pricing on an international level, and to ensure the trading of international transfer mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) start to increase financial flows. A mechanism and register need to be adopted to avoid double counting of ITMOs, ensure additionality and overall mitigation of emissions rather than just being an offsetting tool.
- We ask that emission allowances should be allocated in line with the Paris Agreement targets. We recommend that the range of industries under national or regional Emission Trading Systems (ETS) should be expanded to cover major polluters (to be defined by independent bodies) in addition to energy-intensive, trade-exposed sectors.
- We recommend that when used for carbon pricing, social cost of carbon calculations must not unfairly penalise future generations or value their lives at significantly less than those born earlier – so called “discount rates”. There is a need to promote an open conversation on intergenerational justice and current pricing methodologies that discount future losses and damages.
- We call for the social cost of carbon calculations to adequately account for fat-tailed climate risks. In the absence of a consensus among scientists and economists, the precautionary principle should be applied.

### **Allocation of Revenue from Carbon Pricing Mechanisms**

- We demand that there is transparency over the allocation of revenue generated from both auction sale of emission allowances and carbon taxes. The revenue should be fairly funneled to local climate initiatives, especially towards adaptation and loss & damages climate actions.
- We ask that revenues from border carbon adjustments are not used to subsidise imports. Instead, such revenues should be directed towards sustainable development aid and financing.
- We recommend the introduction of the adaptation-related levy on transactions under new carbon market mechanisms: We strongly encourage continued sourcing of the Adaptation Fund from an adaptation levy under any new carbon market mechanism of the Paris Agreement. The levy should account for at least 5 percent of all finance channeled via the new market mechanism.

### **Compliance and Carbon Pricing Mechanisms**

- We recommend that the bankability of allowances in ETS should be reduced so as to ensure that companies have to achieve a higher level of emission reduction. Significant financial penalties for noncompliance, bidder collusion and market manipulation should be ensured.

- We demand that the trading in voluntary carbon markets should be standardised through UNFCCC and WTO guidance. There is a need for more transparency and accountability over the pricing and validation of the credits.
- We demand that major polluters adopt internal carbon pricing. There is a need to develop a handbook on implementing internal carbon pricing for companies.
- We ask the WTO to offer immediate guidelines and clarification concerning border carbon adjustments. We expect the organization to lay out a framework for how nations can effectively implement legal border carbon adjustments.





# **Loss and Damage**



# LOSS AND DAMAGE

Irfan Ullah – Pakistan | Anish Shrestha – Nepal | Moa M Herrgård – Sweden  
Malek Romdhane – Tunisia | Alfredo Red Sablay – Philippines – Sonika Paudel – Nepal  
Adnan Khan – Pakistan | Jekulin Lipi – India | Qayum ud din – Afghanistan

The impacts of the global climate crisis are differently felt across various scales, regions and social groups. Particularly vulnerable developing and least-developed countries are already suffering the impacts of loss and damage associated with the climate crisis. The Santiago Network for Loss and Damage (SNLD) as well as the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage are critical in providing them with the technical and financial assistance to avert, minimise and address those impacts.

It is necessary to take into account MAPA (Most Affected People & Areas) when addressing impacts of the climate crisis, e.g., rising water levels and flooding. Climate-related hazards from extreme weather events have been at their worst increase in the past decade, notably in developing countries. The UNFCCC, in coordination with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, must develop a comprehensive approach to equip states on how to monitor the factors that increase risk of damages in MAPA, empower communities on how they can respond to these disasters, and build resilience in the bid to reduce losses and damage from these impacts.

We welcome the Parties' decision to establish the SNLD at COP25 in December 2019 by decision 2/CMA.2.

We welcome that work to operationalise the SNLD has started. The Presidencies must now provide leadership to deliver an effective, operational SNLD at COP26.

It must be ensured that the SNLD is made a formal agenda item at COP26, and its progress and performance is a regular agenda item hosted by the COP or subsidiary bodies (SB).

We as the global youth believe it will be a missed opportunity if SNLD are not fully operationalized and made effective during COP26.

We call upon Parties to urgently resolve the financial arrangements for the SNLD, including its establishment beyond a virtual presence, maintenance of a permanent host or secretariat, and for its activities. In resolving those financial arrangements, Parties must ensure that the SNLD does not suffer from financial constraints that limit its ability to carry out its activities.

We call on the Presidencies to lead a Party-driven process that delivers an operationalised and effective SNLD at COP26. This includes the following six demands:

- We demand the SNLD is made a formal agenda item at COP26 and its progress and performance is a regular agenda item hosted by the COP or SBs;
- We want dedicated resources to facilitate political and technical consultations and workshops to discuss operationalisation of an effective SNLD in an inclusive, transparent, and participatory manner that enables all Parties to engage with and drive this process.





**Key Questions That Need to be Resolved Include:**

- What technical assistance do Parties need currently and in the future?
- What functions should the SNLD deliver based on those needs?
- How should the SNLD be structured to deliver those functions and the organisations and experts who form part of that structure?
- What is the process for ongoing review and updating of the SNLD beyond COP26?
- How could the SNLD be integrated into and connected with existing networks to ensure it fills gaps where technical support is not currently available?
- What lessons can be learned from technical assistance network precedents such as the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN)?

We urge the necessary legislative framework based on the recommendations for design, functions, services and financing of the SNLD to be reviewed by Parties and constituencies which can support the development of a COP decision text;

- We ask that priority is given to resolving the financial modalities for the SNLD to enable its start-up and ongoing operations;
- We recommend collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage to build upon any work already being undertaken or planned to ensure coherence;
- We want support for the operationalisation of an effective SNLD that provides vulnerable developing countries with adequate technical assistance to avert, minimise and address loss and damage. This is likely to require the Presidencies to support the Parties to agree to a COP decision that establishes the SNLD within the UNFCCC structure, and also establishes adequate financial arrangements.
- We demand by 2025 that UNFCCC, along with other UN organizations, programmes, secretariats, and others related to the UN system, strengthen and finance an Earth governance system that scales up, and articulates existing technology regarding data and information systems (such as LANDSAT, SENTINEL 1 and 2) to monitor the use, exploitation, abuse, restoration and natural regeneration of nature. The Observation activities shall include knowledge transfer and participation of BIPOC and locals.





# Food and Agriculture



# FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Pramisha Thapaliya – Nepal | Oluwatosin Ogunsola – Nigeria  
Chandelle O'Neil – Trinidad and Tobago | Elizabeth Gulugulu – Zimbabwe  
Dixoni Emmanuel – Tanzania | Jhonny Jn-Baptiste – Haiti |  
Vanessa Garcia Polanco – US/ Dominican Republic | Yoko Lu – Canada | Ayadi Mishra – India  
Genna Tesdall – US/Germany | Glindys Virginia Luciano – US / Czech Republic  
Juliette Tronchon – France | Josephine Zimba – Malawi | Belinda Ng – Hong Kong, China  
Jin Tanaka – Japan | Brenda Mwale – Malawi | Rahmina Paullete – Kenya  
Emily Bohobo N'Dombaxe Dola – UK/Spain

We acknowledge the role parties have played in centring agriculture and food in Climate Change negotiations since COP23. As young people we have come together to share our position on transforming food systems and agriculture through sustainable agricultural practices that promote healthy lifestyles and a healthy planet. We encourage parties to continue working together to mainstream agroecology in local, regional and national contexts, transitioning away from harmful intensive agricultural practices. We highly recommend parties to acknowledge young people and treat them as co-leaders in policy-making efforts, at COP26 and beyond. While welcoming the outcomes of the 'Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture', there still needs to be significant work on several issues which include:

## **The Future of 'Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture'**

We call upon Parties to come up with constructive ways forward during Koronivia negotiations at COP26. We hope to see Koronivia continuing forward and to align more with national pathways of implementation and enforcement mechanisms. KJWA needs to design tools to support ground level farmers, and further recognise Indigenous people as rights holders as opposed to simply being considered one amongst many 'stakeholders'. KJWA needs to put greater focus on how different agri-food industries contribute to the climate crisis, while understanding that small subsistence producers face challenges to adapt and require incentives and support. It further needs to incorporate the topic of consumption and the shift to healthy sustainable diets in the discussion. KJWA should consider having discussions on issues of 'just transition' and 'labour' and should work hard to ensure trade union and workers' voices are well represented in future agricultural workshops, as they were not represented in the past workshops.

## **Need for Capacity Building and Financial Flows**

We demand parties to support and incentivise youth small-scale food producers and family farmers since they are most vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis and also the potential torchbearers of adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. Technical and youth-friendly financial support should be offered to youths willing to transition to sustainable agricultural practices and new green technologies. These actions must be incentivized and rewarded.

## **Soil Health and Nutrition**

We encourage parties to support and establish policies in line with the restoration of soil health through local methods including traditional knowledge in consideration of our biodiversity whilst



avoiding introduction of invasive species for improved agriculture and food systems. Efforts to scale up solutions that increase soil organic carbon like conservation tillage, use of cover crops and other agro-ecological practices should be put in place. We encourage parties to establish National Soil Guidelines in line with Agroecology pillars.

### **Addressing Intersectionality**

We urge parties to address intersectional issues beyond the farm gate that prevent youth from being in the agriculture sector. Land tenure issues should be addressed, training, education, cultural perspective of farmers should be put into consideration, as well as credit, debts, land transfer and other structural barriers.

### **Food Security**

We demand parties to consider all the pillars of food security (availability, access, utilisation and stability) when thinking about agriculture, the climate crisis and building healthy and resilient communities. There is a need for a more holistic view that adopts a sustainable “Global Production Networks” approach to understanding the challenges that the climate crisis poses in the Agriculture value chain.

### **Food Sovereignty**

We encourage parties to observe the right of people to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. This includes, putting the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations, and empowering “production, distribution and consumption based on environmental, social and economic sustainability”, based on the Declaration of the Forum for Food Sovereignty.

### **Livestock**

We encourage parties to raise awareness amongst consumers on the environmental impact of the meat and dairy industry. We urge agricultural subsidies to be decoupled from production areas and conditional to strict environmental regulations. Subsidies must ensure social justice by supporting predominantly smallholders and young farmers that can't afford to meet environmental requirements without financial assistance. We highly recommend feeding animals crop remains and food waste, thereby moving away from land use for livestock feed. Furthermore, livestock expansion and intensive agriculture are recognized as contributing factors in global pandemics, and thus their prevention must be included in food and agriculture policies.

### **Aquaculture and Fisheries**

We call upon parties to increase regulation of aquaculture and fisheries to prevent their damaging effects on the ocean. We demand stricter fishing quotas to prevent the exploitation of marine ecosystems, and stronger mechanisms of control to address the issue of illegal fishing. We also call upon governments and international institutions to address the issue of bycatching in industrial fishing practices, as well as monitoring and fining fishing gear pollution, which drifts to coastal regions and contaminates coral reefs amongst other marine life.



## Technology

We demand parties and stakeholders to invest into technologies and innovations for farmers. Innovations should be community driven, implemented, and owned. Technology should not be a solution itself but a part of a broader objective and strategy, it should be adopted to the needs of producers and communities while taking into consideration traditional knowledge. We oppose the introduction of unsustainable innovations for the purpose of profit generation, especially by private corporations.

## Just Transition

We urge parties to recognize that a just transition for agricultural and other food system workers is imperative. Youth farmers willing to transition to agroecology should be incentivised, this involves understanding that workers and frontline communities have a right to a clean and healthy environment in their workplaces and neighbourhoods/homes. Transition from chemical intensive agriculture to agroecology is vital.

## Efficient Water Management Strategies

We urge parties to take a proactive role in their countries and manage watersheds to implement efficient but also socially and ecologically just water management strategies. We need to consider the geopolitics of water resource conflicts where the resource straddles across national boundaries and farming communities should not be affected by national politics. Strategies to reuse waste water and cross-country collaboration should be put in place. Agricultural policies should focus on precision agriculture and efficient irrigation schemes in areas prone to droughts/prolonged dry-spells.

## Change of Consumption Patterns

Parties should facilitate change of consumption patterns to healthy sustainable diets through incentives for the transition including systematic measures to raise accessibility of plant-based nutrition, shifts in government subsidies and other fiscal measures to support affordability of healthy sustainable foods, and implementing true cost/value of food and environmental food labeling. Consumption of seasonal food should be encouraged. This can also be done through farmer's markets and smaller local shops with a stronger producer-to-consumer linkage, thus effectively removing the extra waste generated in long production chains.

## Implementation of Healthy Diet Culture for Schools

Parties must establish policies that restrict marketing of unhealthy food, especially to youth and children. We urge the provision of healthy, sustainable, and plant-forward food at all levels of primary and higher education. This can be done, for instance, by governments introducing environmental conditionalities to food procurement contracts for public educational institutions. We need to incorporate sustainability and climate considerations in countries' national dietary guidelines.

## Food Loss and Waste

We call upon parties to develop strategies on reducing food waste and losses. We should ensure that farmers have the necessary tools and information to preserve as much food as possible (for example, through better food storage mechanisms).



New innovations on food waste should be considered and youths should be given a platform to generate a source of income through making organic manure or converting it into biogas.

While implementing all these, we need to democratically and consistently include all constituencies, which are youths, women, small-scale farmers, Indigenous peoples, farm workers, landless persons, people with disabilities, vulnerable and marginalized communities the most since they are the ones who are the most affected by the impacts of the climate crisis. Implemented policies should have a bottom-up approach and they need to scale up already

existing solutions. Accountability and transparent reporting in agriculture, forestry and other land use is a must. International regulations should be made more accessible to remote communities and developing countries and there should be independent oversight for monitoring and reporting.





# Sustainable Cities and Communities



# SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Shamiela Reid – South Africa | Ishita Yadav – India | Guntoju Sujith Sourab – India  
Euan Crispin – United Kingdom | Lewis Morey – United Kingdom | Yoko Lu – Canada  
Xuan Zi Han – China / Singapore

Today, 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas, a number that is projected to increase to 68% by 2050; an additional 2.5 billion urban dwellers, nearly 90% of which will be in Asia and Africa. Almost all the 10,000 cities globally are on the frontline witnessing at least one impact of the climate crisis including sea level rise and extreme weather events.

At the same time, cities are a significant driver to global warming, consuming more than 78% of the world's energy and producing 60% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The latest IPCC AR6 WGI report indicates (to a high degree of confidence) that urbanization alters the water cycle, generating increased precipitation over and downwind of cities, and increasing surface runoff intensity. Meanwhile, the world's youth population are at the heart of urban resurgence. Attracted by cities' role as hubs of economic and social activity, it is estimated that as many as 60% of all urban dwellers will be under the age of 18 by 2030. Yet, too often, youth voices remain an afterthought in the development and implementation of urban policy and planning, especially those relating to climate change. It is therefore imperative that they are actively involved through a meaningful participation process to achieve a just transition towards sustainable, safe, inclusive, and resilient urban development.

We urge UN agencies (particularly those concerned with urban settlements including UN-Habitat and UNEP), national governments, multilateral institutions and private sector to fully recognize the role of cities in achieving a just ecological transition through ambitious local level decarbonization, adaptation and resilience-building efforts, ensuring no one or place is left behind. By 2025, we demand them to:

- Implement education programmes and tools for youth in cities on the climate crisis, creating spaces for innovation and integration into the school curriculum.
- Step up climate financing to cities alongside the capacity building and technical assistance to ensure funds are well managed and implemented.
- Create improved multi-stakeholder platforms that include youth and local populations and integrate them into local planning processes, ensuring ownership and understanding.
- Actively pilot and scale up youth-led innovations in areas such as renewable energy and waste management by better integrating universities and education institutions with the cities and local governments, enabling students to design and test real-world solutions to identified problems.

## **Buildings and Sustainable Development**

The building and construction sector is well placed to lead the way on climate action given that buildings generate nearly 40% of annual global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and thus have the potential for huge emission reduction. Buildings also present significant opportunities to improve climate resilience through sustainable design, refurbishment of existing buildings and the use of nature-based solutions. These opportunities exist at a range of scales, from a single home to an entire neighbourhood or municipal area.



- We urge national and local governments to ensure all buildings (i.e. residential, commercial and industrial) are energy and water efficient, operate on renewable energy, have pollution and waste reduction measures in place, have nature-based solutions incorporated into their design and are inclusive of people with disabilities.
- We demand national and local governments drive these changes through developing legal instruments like a comprehensive legally enforceable Sustainable Buildings Standards/Byelaws & Building Code of Practice, incentive mechanisms to ensure that these actions are followed and behaviour change encouraged through citizen action communication, particularly on energy efficiency and water conservation (eg. rainwater harvesting).
- We call for managing and addressing rapid urbanisation, particularly in developing countries, which has led to the growth of informal settlements and slums, constructed using temporary material that makes residents highly vulnerable and exposed to extreme weather events.

### Infrastructure

Cities represent unique sustainability challenges with regards to their transport systems but also to the food-water-energy nexus or their waste management strategies.

- We demand national and local governments invest in more sustainable urban mobility solutions such as accessible and affordable mass transit networks, cycle lanes and pedestrian infrastructure, and electric vehicle infrastructure. Importantly, this should be well connected to existing housing and employment centres.
- We call for the preservation and enhancement of Blue-Green Infrastructure coverage per capita in the form of parks, green and open spaces, rivers, streams and canals. Studies have demonstrated their multiple benefits to physical and mental health, acting as buffers against urban heat islands effect, heatwaves, disasters, carbon sinks, sustainable drainage, biodiversity hotspots and more.
- We call for a just transition towards clean energy that includes the use of rooftop solar, district heating and cooling networks, decentralised micro-grids and smart metering accounting for diverse needs and income levels through flexible and dynamic tariffs. Many young people are already engaged in smart and sustainable energy solutions and these should be further supported through incentives and subsidies.
- We urge the construction of decentralised treatment infrastructure such as DEWATS and constructed wetlands, among others. Treating wastewater is an intrinsic component of sustainable cities. However, lack of underground drainage networks, poor capacity, and the presence of industrial effluents in wastewater render sewage treatment plants inefficient and likely to contaminate surface and groundwater.
- We call for the establishment of adequate waste management facilities in every city, as well as the installation of both general waste bins and recycling bins. Ensuring segregation of waste at source is vital to ensure that the waste goes through different streams of recycling and resource recovery.
- We urge national governments to integrate unplanned settlements and urban slums in city planning processes so their needs and rights can be included in urban development strategies. These communities must have access to clean water, energy, solid waste management and urban transport infrastructure.
- We demand national and local governments to acknowledge the vulnerability of informal settlements and slums, as well as other low-income neighbourhoods and create adequate norms and regulations to protect them.



### **Smart Cities, Smart Homes and Connectivity**

Digital technologies and smart cities have the potential to serve people, improve public services and education, facilitate the ecological transition and increase public participation (through digital or e-governance). However, persistent digital divides and inequalities remain, especially among the least developed countries and between women and men.

- We demand national governments to promote smart cities that serve the people and improve living conditions for all rather than a selected few, and maximise the benefits rather than unintended consequences such as greater monitoring and manipulation.
- We demand the integration of ecological and sustainability concerns in the digitalisation of our societies. Digitalisation has further led to a phenomenal increase in the consumption of natural resources, and this must be accounted for when measuring the environmental impact of technologies. Technological trends with a high environmental impact must be reversed. The internet may be digital, but the infrastructure that allows data to travel on it is not.



# Mobility and Transportation





# MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION

Vladislav Kaim – Moldova | Sophie Stroehler – Germany | Clara Luz – UK  
Adamu Bashir Ahmad – Nigeria | Shamiela Reid – South Africa  
Prince Raphael – Nigeria | Pradeep Karuturi – India

In an increasingly interconnected world, mobility has a great impact on the planet. Transportation is the largest and fastest-growing source of carbon emissions globally and accounts for a fifth of global CO<sub>2</sub>. With its close linkages to other sectors, transportation should be seen as an especially important factor in the context of sustainability.

Due to our dependence on transportation for our mobility and keeping goods moving, we emphasize and call on the importance of increasing its accessibility while maintaining compliance with the 1.5°C warming scenario. We strongly recommend that the commitments on the shift to clean transport are duly reflected in NDCs, with the UN institutions playing their role as supporters and monitors of these efforts.

## **Electrification of Transport and Impact of Batteries**

We call for electrification in its first phase of implementation to be focused on public transport, ride sharing and freight startups. We further call for an electric vehicle friendly ecosystem in the form of tax waivers, subsidies, faster regulatory clearances and dedicated parking zones, in order to achieve the scale required to substantially reduce sectoral climate impact.

- We encourage the authorities at all levels to provide manufacturers with tax and regulatory incentives necessary to design models which are affordable, reliable and accessible to all sections of the society.
- We particularly urge the Parties and corporate actors to unify the charging standards to encourage collaboration in the ecosystem and reduce wastage.
- We encourage the Parties to facilitate a faster and more scalable rollout of battery swapping stations alongside charging stations themselves, so that controlled charging environments in battery swapping stations can improve the lifetime of the batteries. Setting up battery recycling centres and providing incentives for sustainably disposing of the old batteries is critical.
- We call for the following conditions to be in place for mining of critical minerals which are used in electric vehicle batteries like lithium, cobalt: strong labor rights laws; stringent circularity standards; legal recognition of land rights and the need for informed consent of the Indigenous communities. Extended producer responsibility should be the governing regulatory principle when it comes to batteries and vehicles.

## **Air Travel**

We demand that the Parties include the social cost of carbon emissions in the cost of flights in full and make sure that the richest and most frequent (business and first class, private jet) flyers bear the main brunt. This measure should be complemented by a phaseout of short-haul flights that can be replaced by train rides of 4 hours or less, as well as greater roll-out of multimodal ticketing for air and rail.





For long-haul aviation, apart from taxation mechanisms, a much greater ambition in the use of SAF is imperative. Even the most ambitious player in the field, the EU, which has rolled out the ReFuelEU Aviation proposal to stipulate minimum shares of fuel supply from SAF all the way to 2050, is not yet up to task. Thus, we request the Parties, especially G20 members, to come up with actionable plans that guarantee a 50% share for SAF in their aviation fuel supply by 2035 and 90% by 2050 and make them part of their updated NDCs.

### **Fuel Taxation and Subsidies**

Taxation and subsidy policies related to fuel consumption often increase pollution and inequality, benefit the rich and damage the planet.

- We urge Parties and international financing institutions to conduct a public and comprehensive review of their fossil fuel subsidies policies by COP27 and present credible plans for their phaseout by 2025 (in developed countries) and 2030 (in developing ones) respectively.
- We recommend the Parties and the international financing organisations to allocate the necessary resources for and share the best practices in implementing financial interventions designed to help the working poor and other vulnerable communities to transition from their old cars to electric vehicles. These should be funded by consumption-based fuel taxation focused on the more affluent, as well as targeted international assistance.

### **Public and non-motorized Transport**

Public transportation has an important role in economic development, given its role to distribute goods and services and ensure people get to work. However, there remains a lack of clean, safe, accessible, affordable, fast and reliable quality public transportation.

- In light of this, we demand that the Parties enter in much more comprehensive agreements with their local and subnational governments to promote the decarbonization of public transport, as well as reduce the scale or temporarily suspend taxation of electric and hybrid cars until they constitute at least a half of the total fleet.
- We insist on the Parties to formally recognize the right to clean and affordable public transportation as a human right, particularly for the previously underserved residents of rural and other vulnerable communities, and assure their functioning on a not-for-profit basis. The profits of the existing for-profit public transport operators should be continuously reinvested in full in the expansion of essential service networks by 2035.
- Clean and free public transportation to schools for children must be assured regardless of the distance.
- We demand that Parties ensure a full transition of rail transport to clean energy sources by 2040.
- We encourage national and subnational authorities to ensure that individuals are able to apply for an income assessed annual 'Public Transport Pass' that covers all forms of public transport required for their commute.

Non-motorized transport (NMT) through walking and cycling plays a vital role as it further complements existing public transport systems. Cycling creates zero emissions and multiple work opportunities with delivery services of goods such as medicine and food.

- Thus, we urge the municipal authorities to do whatever it takes to redesign our streets to make them safer and more convenient for people to walk and cycle more frequently.

- We encourage Parties to ensure that no large urban center in the world by 2030 remains without appropriate facilities and improvements for a convenient walking and cycling experience. Main routes into and within urban centres should have dedicated cycle tracks extending beyond the urban centre and be designed in accordance with the '15-minute city' approach.

Traffic congestion management required a policy response to ensure a much more efficient use of private vehicles

- We demand a stronger focus on the sharing economy in this sector, particularly through operation of special taxation schemes for entities that commit their vehicle fleets to verifiable car pooling schemes or businesses.
- We demand grants schemes to be extended to the individuals that opt for sharing and pooling instead of individual ownership.

### Conclusion

Tackling the climate crisis within the boundaries of transportation policy is absolutely contingent on a rapid, on-scale and coordinated switch to clean transport, as well as making our communities more walkable, bikeable and transit-friendly. A clean transportation dominance scenario requires a combination of fast adoption of new technology and regulatory incentives in order to become reality. With regards to the changing background in personal transportation, while it is encouraging to see examples of countries pledging to ban fossil fuel powered vehicles by 2040, or, having a mostly electric fleet, this is not enough. Thus, we strongly urge the parties to the Paris Agreement to agree on a global moratorium for the production of fossil fuel powered vehicles after 2040 and an immediate ban of the use of such vehicles if they are past 10 years of use.

The impact of transportation on global warming can be meaningfully lowered only when the availability of electric vehicles and clean public transport options, as well as charging infrastructure powered solely by renewables, becomes truly global. This can be achieved only through a good-faith engagement of the industrialized countries on technology transfer, as well as targeted infrastructural investments, primarily in the form of grants, and fully transparent carbon footprint tracking across the entire supply chain. Based on these considerations, we call, in the spirit of common but differentiated responsibility under the Paris Agreement, for the creation of a Clean Transportation Technology Transfer Fund that will facilitate exchange of know-how, financial and other resources in order to help developing countries achieve meaningful progress in the field of net-zero emissions mobility.





Health



# HEALTH

Camille Darbo – France | Ashlin Naidoo – South Africa | Dawda Cham – The Gambia  
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## **Link between Environmental Health and Climate Change**

Living in a clean and healthy environment is a fundamental right, recognised by the UN Human Rights Council. However, despite its legal importance, this right is still far from being achieved. Climate-related health threats particularly manifest amongst vulnerable populations, especially those with low income, children, the elderly and pregnant women.

- We call for countries to implement policies that protect and restore biodiversity, establishing nature reserves, investing in reforestation, banning mining, logging and fossil fuel drilling in protected areas.
- As human beings we deserve clean and breathable air, thus we demand government's to adopt stringent regulations on air pollutants, requiring industries to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
- Governments shall also address the impacts of the climate crisis on children's health and well-being, including nutrition, housing and risks of physical and mental ill-health, providing funding for mental health services.

## **Barriers to Healthcare Access and Delivery**

Achievement of universal access to healthcare, and disease prevention is plagued by barriers especially present in developing and less developed nations, and is further worsened by the climate crisis.

There is a general absence of climate-resilient healthcare systems, especially where facilities are not built to cope with natural disasters and where poorly built infrastructures have a negative effect on health and the environment through greenhouse gas emissions. Coupled with the lack of health infrastructure is a lack of effective surveillance of diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, cholera and cancer, among others. Taken together the effect on developing and less developed countries is a reduced ability to prevent and manage these diseases leading to significant mortality rates, higher than in the global North. We call for the following:

- Increased climate-resiliency and efficiency for the entire healthcare system. This would ensure better programs that would address problems in a range of diseases, mental health, maternal health, and sexual and reproductive health.
- The WHO to reiterate and monitor the attainment of universal healthcare in every country, as healthcare is a basic and fundamental human right.
- Proper investment and allocation of funds for healthcare workers, facilities, and medications coupled with transparent handling of finances would positively benefit the healthcare system.
- An end the vaccine crisis through a Vaccines for All Global Roadmap in providing essential vaccines to at least 60% of the population in all countries by the end of 2021.



## COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a global health crisis and has further worsened the already burdened health systems especially in developing countries. It has also caused and highlighted both pre-existing and new healthcare lapses, barriers, and insufficiencies. It has also caused health facilities to become overwhelmed and caused burnout and deaths of frontline healthcare professionals and personnel, affecting the management of other diseases causing significant morbidity and mortality. Youth in particular, are subjected to misinformation and other disparities due to COVID-19 impacting their personal health choices.

Climate change alters species interrelation and affects health by increasing the risk for pandemics. Habitat loss caused largely by deforestation forces species migration that causes contact with other species especially with humans and facilitates the transfer of pathogens. Climate change is making conditions more favorable to the emergence, re-emergence, and rapid spread of infectious diseases such as Lyme disease, waterborne diseases such as *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever. We call on the UNFCCC, UNEP, WHO, and national health ministries to:

- Reinforce greenhouse gas reduction emissions and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees to limit the risk of infectious diseases.
- Enforce transparency and accountability in terms of governance in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and public health.
- Immediately and temporarily relinquish intellectual property protection for COVID-19 vaccines and other related medical technology to lower cost, increase production, and expand access for resources essential to end the pandemic.
- Step-up and monitor programs for health prevention and promotion and call on the private sector to increase support of sustainable and effective COVID-19 initiatives.

## Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief

Increases in climate-related extreme weather events and disasters affect millions of people globally. This has drastically increased the need for humanitarian assistance. Several challenges in delivering humanitarian aid and disaster relief to affected areas and communities are linked to funding gaps, lack of education and awareness and not prioritizing the most affected. In order to overcome these challenges, we demand UNHCR, World Food Program, OCHA, UN CCERF and UNDAC to revisit the humanitarian financing system which is still designed to wait for disasters to happen before resources are mobilized and actions are taken. A more proactive system will allow resources to be mobilized and implementation plans to be negotiated in advance before disasters occur. This approach will help to meet increasing demands of humanitarian assistance and vastly improve the efficiency of resource allocation and deployment.

We call on the UN agencies and relevant stakeholders to make significant investment in more robust solutions for people who are affected by disasters. Disaster risk reduction and management should be addressed within our developmental programs in order to mitigate their devastating consequences. In the case of humanitarian aid, there needs to be a proper and well-built foundation that can complement our long-term developmental objectives making our communities resilient and capable of responding swiftly.

We call for more effective approaches to mobilizing resources to ensure that we meet the growing humanitarian needs and more effective information management services that can inform rapid, effective and well-tailored responses. Humanitarian aid is often not distributed to those in most need as a result of the lack of data and proper flow of information.



## Education

Health information and education is unequally distributed. This exacerbates environmental health issues, impacts our response to pandemics and our ability to prevent future ones. We need better education and leadership to empower people to protect their health. A small percentage of medical schools around the world included climate change and health in their medical curriculum. Considering the links between climate change and human health, healthcare professionals should recognize and consider the links between environmental health, animal health, and human health and acknowledge climate risks to be able to address their patient's and communities' needs.

We call on the UN and national governments to raise awareness about the health impacts of contaminated water, heavy metals, and air pollution and to adopt the new WHO Air Quality guidelines. Beyond this, we call for the consideration of interdisciplinary research in public health, environmental, and economic policy including One Health and Planetary Health concepts, acknowledging the interconnection between environment, social, and health issues.

## Food Security and Nutrition

Food insecurity, largely caused by a changing climate, means farmers are no longer able to predict weather patterns or effectively manage soil fertility, and experience a reduction in the quality and quantity of the yield. Changing climate also makes it difficult to locate arable land and economically cultivate it. This challenges the cultivation of medicinal plants and crops, resulting in further strains on global health systems. The agricultural sector needs to adapt to the changing climate to ensure sustainable food supplies. Covid-19 further worsened food security in many countries by disrupting supply chains and adversely impacting people's socio-economic status to acquire food.

We echo the United Nations General Assembly's 2016–2025 Decade of Action on Nutrition to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and call for public nutrition education.

## Hazardous Health Effects of Pollution and Mismanaged Waste

Waste is a problem faced by all nations, thus we call for governments to move past the concept of reduce, reuse, recycle (linear system) and adopt a more cyclical system based on the circular economy. Similarly, we call on the WHO, UNEP and UNCSD to help foster a society that is aware of its unsustainable consumption rates. Governments and international organisations need to facilitate education and training regarding waste recycling and disposal in communities.

Furthermore, we demand governments from developed countries end the export of waste to developing and least-developed countries which often lack the infrastructures to manage this. Pollution must also be addressed swiftly and systematically. Air pollution needs to be reduced to reduce respiratory problems such as pneumonia, asthma and lung cancer.

We call for the management of pollution which impacts our rivers and oceans. As well as microplastics which enter the food chain. Similarly, the use of agro-chemicals (herbicides, pesticides etc) in agriculture and the use of antibiotics to feed animals eventually contaminates our food.

### **Safe Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure**

We call upon parties to establish policies that support healthy cities and environments to support global sustainability and climate justice. Contamination of water and land due to illegal dumping, improper disposal of sewage, habitat destruction, and air pollution should be avoided. Cities need to incorporate efficient transport systems, as well as city planning to eliminate commuter congestion.

We call upon parties to invest in resilient infrastructure to protect people. Sustainable cities should be inclusive of all people, who must have fair access to healthcare facilities, transport routes, recreational facilities, and utilities.

### **Public Policy**

To meet 1.5 °C goals and make our health and societies resilient to climate change we need strong public policy to reduce emissions and strong mitigation and adaptation policies. We therefore demand the UNFCCC, UNEP, and all relevant stakeholders to commit countries, especially those that are large emitters, to global climate change agreements and policies to promote 'smart growth' in order for the world to meet its 1.5 °C target.





# Climate Justice and Human Rights



# CLIMATE JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Soumyadip Dewanji – India | Kaime Silvestre Silva Oliveira – Brazil |  
Yoko Lu Canada | Javiera Orellana Paredes – Chile | Itorobong Raphael Etuknwa (Nigeria)

Over recent years, the human rights implications of the climate crisis have become more evident, especially when it comes to the rights of children and youth, which are adversely impacted. Even though the recognition by the UN Human Rights Council and other bodies, the international climate change regime has failed to address these implications, recognizing only in 2010 the importance for parties to respect human rights in the implementation of the Framework Convention.

We therefore demand all actors present at COP to acknowledge that the climate crisis does not affect everyone in the same way, generating injustices that interfere in the fulfillment of basic human rights of many populations around the world. We implore decision-makers to take decisive and bold actions now that ensure nobody is left behind.

## **Climate migration and refugees**

The detrimental effects of the climate change-related extreme weather events are seriously affecting agricultural crops and people's habitat and livelihood, thus forcing them to emigrate and relocate to another place to survive in this rapidly changing earth. According to a report of the World Bank, without immediate action, rising sea levels, water scarcity and declining crop productivity could force 216 million people to migrate within their own countries by 2050. We urge all national governments and international institutions to legally acknowledge the basic rights of 'climate migrants'. They should be treated as legitimate asylum-seekers even if they relocate to another place within the same country and are internally displaced. International treaties and agreements must be revised to take into account climate as a driving factor for migration.

## **Equal Access to Basic Services**

The climate crisis has significant impacts on universal access to basic services, including drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as health and education services. They are essential for human well-being, yet they are not ensured in many developing and least-developed countries.

We urge all national and local governments to establish strong governance schemes that guarantee equal access to basic services among their populations. We demand cooperation with local organizations to empower local communities and capacitate them to access those services. Diversity and inclusiveness are vital so that the resources are equally shared.

## **Minorities and Vulnerable Groups**

Human rights embody universal aspirations to attain justice and realize each individual's human potential.

Marginalization and social exclusion refer to the relegation of individuals and populations to the fringes of society due to a lack of access to rights, resources, and opportunities, either social, economic, cultural and/or educational. It is a major cause of vulnerability that exposes individuals to a range of possible harms they are unable to deal with adequately.





Individuals and groups can be marginalized on the basis of multiple aspects of their identity, including but not limited to: race, gender or gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, sexuality, age, and/or religion. We cannot allow the climate crisis to be another cause of marginalisation and vulnerability, but rather a wake up call to tackle them.

We demand the UNFCCC, international organisations and national governments to end all forms of marginalisation and pay special attention to those that can be magnified by the effects of the climate crisis, ensuring vulnerable voices are heard during negotiations and decision-making processes.

### **War and Conflicts**

The climate crisis and its effects increase political, economic and humanitarian tensions around the world. It perpetuates resource depletion and exacerbates socio-economic inequality, both of which tend to initiate and fuel civil and international wars. For example, the risk of climate disasters such as droughts and floods has disrupted lives and livelihoods of populations around the world, leading to escalating conflict and dispute.

Therefore, we urge the international community to work together to prevent the climate crisis from being a driver of conflict, and for all countries to commit to signing peace agreements. We demand the UNFCCC, multilateral organisations and national governments to continue strengthening efforts to achieve efficient climate governance based on cooperation. This is the only way forward not only to tackle the climate crisis but also to ensure geopolitical stability.

### **Gender Equality and Women**

In recent decades, gender gaps have narrowed, but systemic inequalities persist, and important challenges remain. Some countries are still lacking laws to ensure protection and fairness and many overlook the disproportionate effects that the climate crisis has on the different genders.

Rising temperatures and resource deficiencies could severely impact maternal health and, in addition to that, climate disasters disrupt access to sexual and reproductive health services and products. Additionally, significant evidence has shown that women and children who are migrants, refugees, or internally displaced persons due to climate disasters are subject to increased vulnerability to gender-based violence.

Therefore, we demand all national governments to incorporate a gender approach in public policies, specifically climate and environmental policies, and to achieve gender balance in leadership by including women in decision-making processes and ensuring their access to education.

### **Indigenous Knowledge and Rights**

Indigenous knowledge is a valuable source of practices and time-tested tools that have enabled these populations to supply their needs from natural sources without depleting them. It is therefore an essential contribution to the sustainable development of all societies.

We urge all governments to recognize the basic rights of indigenous people, ratifying ILO 169. We strongly condemn the schemes and projects that incentivize deforestation and promote land grabbing, depriving indigenous people of their livelihoods and heritage, and call for their reconsideration. We finally demand the inclusion and active participation of indigenous people in decision-making processes.

### **Climate Impacts and Island States**

Island states are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis because of predicted sea-level rise, but also to other natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and typhoons that result in high death and economic loss rates.

We urge the UNFCCC, international organisations and national governments, multilateral governments to support island states and further collaborate on a resilience plan that guarantees the safety of their populations, as well as the provision of goods and services. We urge the international community to support the concerns and perspectives of the member states in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) in climate negotiations and treaties.



# Sustainable Consumption and Production



# SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Benjamin Santhouse-James – United Kingdom | Yoko Lu – Canada | Nathan Rueche – France  
Brian Maina – Kenya | Veena Balakrishnan – India

At present, the UNFCCC does not possess a formal mechanism for sustainable consumption and production interventions; most policies in this area are labelled as “circular economy” and covered separately through UNEP and UNIDO. Our collective youth position is that sustainable consumption and production cannot be uncoupled from conversations on climate solutions, and that this has so far been a blind spot in international climate negotiations. Moreover, the topic is at the heart of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

However, we urge caution in how sustainable consumption and production issues are communicated in relation to the climate crisis. Too often, environmental issues such as microplastics in the marine food chain are conflated with climate change; while key to address, politicians, journalists, and environmental activists (including young people) must separate wider environmental problems caused by unsustainable consumption from those directly contributing to the climate crisis. Where possible, therefore, we encourage sustainable consumption and production discourse in the context of climate change to focus on carbon emissions, energy consumption, or other metrics that directly relate to climate change.

According to the Circularity Gap Report, the majority (>60%) of global greenhouse gas emissions (excluding those from land use and forestry) are released during the extraction, processing, and manufacturing of goods. The overwhelming responsibility to decarbonise goods and products should therefore fall on producers, mainly large corporations, rather than individuals – this can be achieved both at the point of production but also at end of life through reuse and recycling. However, we as consumers must also increase our environmental consciousness; the charity RARE estimates changing individuals’ consumption behaviour could reduce global emissions by 20–37%. Focusing on three value chains with high emission leakage – fashion, e-waste, and plastics – we provide a list of recommendations to facilitate a just and inclusive transition towards a circular economy.

## **The fashion industry**

Our clothes, footwear, and household textiles are responsible for resource shortage, environmental pollution and contribute to climate change and social inequalities. According to the BBC, 70 million barrels of oil a year are used to make polyester fibres in our clothes. The overall production of clothing and footwear amounts to 5–10% of the global greenhouse gases each year. Fashion needs to be made to last rather than throwaway, and this responsibility must be shared by both producers and consumers. Producers must encourage buying less, buying better, repairing, mending, and recycling of clothes. Policy interventions should also be brought in making this value chain transparent to avoid human rights violations, as we see it today.

## **E-waste**

The electronics value chain is becoming one of the world’s foremost environmental issues: reliant on ethically dubious metals, blighted by product design that hinders disposal, and characterised by e-waste exports from developed to developing and least-developed countries. The Shift Project estimates that over 3% of global emissions are from electronics manufacturing, yet the Global E-Waste Monitor notes that only 17.4% of generated e-waste is collected and recycled globally.





Yet recycling e-waste has both climate and economic benefits. Recycled metals emit 60-90% less carbon during production, while the global economic opportunity of e-waste recycling is approaching \$100bn – being profitable without subsidies while solving critical metal security issues.

### Plastics in the climate context

Plastics were invented for longevity. However, single-use plastic products are ubiquitous, have an enormously negative impact on our environment and are predominantly made from fossil fuels. The entire value chain, from the extraction of oil to landfill disposal, releases enormous greenhouse gases. According to WWF, plastic production and petrochemical refining each use 4% of the global oil supply. Plastic production remains one of the hardest industrial sectors to decarbonise, and is likely to be one of the last remaining uses of oil in the transition to net-zero – making its consumption and recycling policy critical to solving the climate crisis. Yet 95% of plastics are discarded after a single use and only 12% are recycled. Beyond the climate crisis, plastic pollution's social and health impacts will fall predominantly on marginalised groups – women, children, and populations in developing countries.

A more sustainable consumption model could allow society to reap plastics' benefits without environmental externalities. McKinsey suggests that reuse and recycling could contribute up to \$60bn profit to the petrochemicals and plastics sector. This recycling model could reduce emissions by 30-80%. Meanwhile, switching to renewable energy could reduce virgin petrochemical plastic production emissions by half, according to University of California research.

### Policy Interventions: Production

- We recommend that governmental policy-making focuses on producers, not individuals, when considering responsibility for the climate externalities (the “polluter pays principle”).
- We urge national governments to seek bipartisan, market-based solutions to adequately internalise climate externalities in the production of consumer and industrial goods.
- We advocate for the creation of a global supply chain standard definition through UNIDO. A monitoring mechanism should promote transparency for environmental externalities (through UNFCCC/UNEP), human rights (UNHRC), and labour conditions (ILO).
- We propose that the UNFCCC and national governments facilitate a carbon labelling standard for consumer products, especially those from energy-intensive and global trade-exposed sectors. This could be enforced nationally or voluntarily agreed to by organisations – potentially as an extension of the Global Compact. Care must be taken to circumvent outsourcing emissions overseas. We also call for the promotion of cradle-to-cradle (circular) value chains and, when disposal exists, it must be consistently assessed, ensuring that the damage to the environment is minimized and compensated for.

### Policy Interventions: Consumption

- We urge the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency to facilitate a working group to assist national governments with public information campaigns raising the environmental consciousness of consumers, and explaining how their decisions relate to the climate crisis. Such initiatives should be scientifically rigorous yet free from jargon.
- We recommend that the Secretary-General appoint a Special Envoy for Sustainable Consumption to champion a more sustainable consumption model.
- We encourage the Special Envoy to lead international cooperation efforts on behavioural intervention research, including coordinating specific support to nations that may not have

the financial or institutional resources to develop their own national nudge units.

- We further encourage the Special Envoy to promote public conversation and debate around alternative measures of socio-economic prosperity to GDP.
- We ask the UNFCCC to hold an open conversation on the socio-economic implications of consumption reductions and the importance of negative emissions technologies as a complementary measure. The public must understand the trade-offs when achieving net-zero, and the implications of failing to do so.

### **Policy Interventions: Circular Economy**

- We recommend that the WTO provide guidance for an international extended producer responsibility, based on the EU's plans as best practice. This would allow international suppliers of consumer products to pay for end-of-life disposal in the relevant geography. A tax for imports from non-compliant nations could be implemented as an extension of border carbon adjustment policy. Scope and coverage should be lawfully agreed upon and certified independently.
- We further recommend that this responsibility includes an explicit extended warranty, with a global uniform minimum term and scope set internationally for electronic devices and fashion, to extend the lifetime of products and encourage repair where possible rather than new consumption.
- We suggest governments add take-back charges to consumer products for end-of-life recycling. This should also be considered for other sectors, including renewable energy equipment. As many products will outlive the business from which they were produced, we highly encourage that this is a government-led scheme (a "tax") rather than operated by individual companies – especially as such take-back schemes require economies of scale for aggregation and are akin to natural monopolies. A surcharge above the tax should be applied at the point of sale and refunded when the product is eventually returned for recycling.
- We urge all countries to ratify the Basel Convention enabling member states to support each other and ensuring that each country disposes of electronic waste sustainably. Manufacturers should focus on designing products that are more repairable, recyclable, reusable, as well as use non-toxic materials. Producers should also be encouraged to consider end-of-life during the product design stage, set standards on separation, and minimum recyclable percentage for respective products.
- We propose that waste recycling and reuse processes be optimised to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, principally through energy source choices and energy efficiency savings. Innovation must ensure the overall lifecycle is sustainable – particularly for energy from waste operations. National governments should monitor and sanction greenwashing through tighter regulations and encourage secondary producers to quantify sustainability performance where possible.





# **Water, Sanitation and Oceans**

# WATER, SANITATION AND OCEANS

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## **Water and Sanitation: Clean Water Access**

Clean, safe and affordable water is a cross-sectoral resource and the basis of sustainable human and animal life and socio-economic activities. There is a strong interconnection between water and society. 2.2 billion people worldwide have no access to clean water including basic water sanitation facilities and services. The common responsibility of women and girls, where collecting water for families is involved, links to lower school attendance and progression in education. Therefore, it is important to ensure that everyone has equal, equitable, and fair access to basic water services, as clean water is vital to human health and linked to all aspects of daily life. It is crucial to gain international support and ensure that the water is sanitized and delivered to the citizens at all levels.

## **Water and Sanitation: Elimination of Water Pollution and Waste**

With water pollution and waste from various sources becoming a major problem, it derails access to quality water leading to complications in health, environment, and quality of life. Coupled by the ever-increasing population and pressure on the already existing water resources. 890 million live in areas where open defecation occurs leading to creation of wastewater – 80% of which is emptied into the ocean and rivers without appropriate and sustainable waste removal.

According to WHO, amongst the poor and especially in developing countries, diarrhoea is a major cause of death. It was estimated to have killed half a million children under 5 in 2017. The absence of adequate water sanitation services also affects the youth and females in facing threats of sexual and physical violence brought about by logistical constraints in clean water access. Thus, the global issue of the elimination of water waste is urgent, as sanitation and hygiene are crucial for individual and public health and safety, dignity, nutrition, economic growth, and environmental protection.

In ensuring global access to clean water and adequate water sanitation services in all communities, it is imperative that we urge the United Nations General Assembly, World Health Organization, multinational regional groups, and national governments to:

- Recommend key changes in policies and serve as effective avenues for resource and best practices sharing.
- Prioritize funding, investment, allocation, and scaling-up of innovative and sustainable wastewater treatment strategies,
- Demand stronger coordination and accountability in the global, regional, national, and community levels.
- Prioritize systematic and evidence-based strategies involving research on behavioral-change and development-oriented interventions to make wastewater treatment and elimination more people-oriented and highly sustainable.





- Include conservation of water as a resource through increased support for innovative technologies and frameworks that allow treated wastewater to be recycled and reused for net-zero water.
- Enhanced support for impactful youth-led initiatives, especially research-focused and community-based, to inspire and effect further action.
- Embed Integrated Water Resource Management policies to be adopted by national and local governments and mandated agencies to mainstream water issues in all sectors of the economy while increasing synergies to sustain livelihoods and health of ecosystems.

### **Water and Sanitation: Ocean Acidification and Blue Carbon**

Fossil fuel use, deforestation, and land use changes are increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions leading to acidification beyond average oceanic acidity. The ocean is estimated to have absorbed more than a quarter of the CO<sub>2</sub> released by human activity in the past 200 years, increasing ocean acidity by a proportion of equal measure causing widespread damaging impacts on marine biodiversity and ecosystems. The altered ocean water chemistry disrupts the balance upon which biodiversity depends for survival. Corals are among the species that ranks high, with 66 species of corals having been declared endangered from acidification. Furthermore, acidification is widespread throughout the ocean leading to deficiency of carbonate required by some invertebrates for building shells and exoskeletons. Blue carbon ecosystems are crucial carbon sinks for mitigating climate change emissions but are extremely scarce on the world's marine surface.

We demand that the Ocean Acidification Network, UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and UNEP World Conservation Monitoring improve assessment of ocean chemistry; data collection, processing, dissemination, and access to relevant stakeholders; outreach; and capacity building to accelerate action at both local and global levels. Furthermore, there is a need to address and implement better conservation and protection measures for coastal and island areas.

### **Ocean Pollution and Disasters**

Solid waste has reached marine and aquatic habitats. 8 million tons of plastics end up in our ocean annually, with single-use plastics being very prominent. The waste management and recycling systems only end up recycling about 9% globally with the majority ending up in landfills, polluting land or in the ocean. As the plastics are light in weight, they tend to be in the ocean water column, floating, creating large plastic patches. Beach clean-ups cannot match the high volume of plastic pollution in the ocean. Plastics disintegrate and fill the ocean with microplastics, negatively impacting ocean productivity and cause bioconcentration and biomagnification with long-term health issues. Plastics can also sink to the ocean bottom and smother the below lying ecosystems.

We urge UN agencies and national governments to:

- Recommend a full ban on single-use plastics (SUPs), raise public awareness, increase investment in innovative technology for new alternatives, and more efficient recycling systems for the plastics currently used.
- Implement national policies focusing on single use plastics coupled with promoting environmentally friendly products by strengthening the innovative marketplaces.
- Adoption of proper waste management best practices.
- Equip countries with regional policy frameworks and agreements in reducing ocean plastic dumping.

Oil spills release many components that are toxic to the ocean and its biodiversity. Not only does oil spills have an overall negative impact on the water resources and shorelines, it also severely causes dramatic economic loss. We recommend the following:

- Prevention of oil spills by implementing mandatory oil spill prevention checklists on each vessel
- Efficient comprehensive, preventive and responsive plans for oil spills be implemented with encouragement of regional cooperation
- Stricter policy and regulations should be consistently authorized and accredited with certified representatives who should be present on each vessel containing barges
- Reiterating transition to cleaner and sustainable energy sources in industries and communities.

Deep Sea Mining (DSM), the process of retrieving mineral deposits in the deep ocean, is a growing field to ensure the demand for essential metals with a growing population. Though DSM is viewed as an innovative solution for the future, damages caused to the deep-sea ecosystems would be inevitable. Despite all the explorations and exploitations being regulated by International Seabed Authority (ISA), there is still a huge knowledge gap to be addressed regarding the deep ocean ecosystems and possible impacts as the deep sea is less explored. Due to DSM, the seafloor could be largely disturbed, eventually altering or wiping out unique ecosystems and biodiversity. Furthermore, DSM could possibly result in seafloor cracking, stimulating earthquakes, and landslides in the ocean. Noise, light, and vibrational pollution disturb the organisms in the deep sea, causing displacements in the migration patterns of whales, sharks, tuna, and even invertebrates.

There has also been accumulation of heavy metal particles like copper, zinc, and cadmium in coastal waters released by industries, DSM, fossil fuel combustion, and unregulated waste disposal negatively affecting coastal and marine ecosystems and posing several health risks to humans in the long run.

We urge the following:

- Conduct baseline studies by the Interference of ISA to clearly understand the impact on the deep-sea organisms.
- ISA-led transparent conduct and unveiling of the Environmental Impact Assessment of such practices
- Extensive, research-based regulations for DSM practices should be made by independent entities with proper execution by the ISA
- Stricter industrial waste disposal policies
- Regular contamination assessment to frame up viable solutions for assessing heavy metal pollution

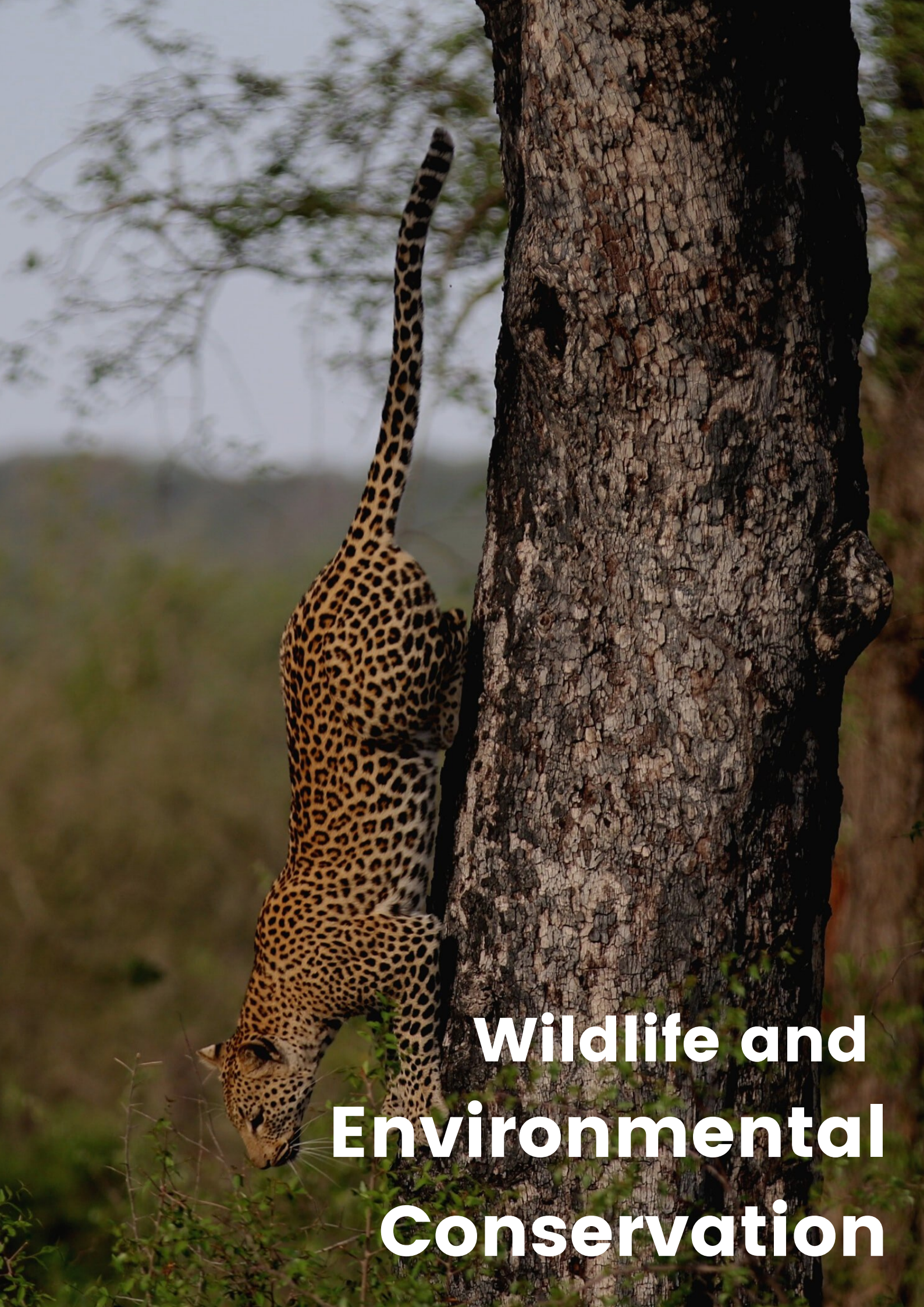
Dead zones are water areas where aquatic life cannot thrive and is brought about by oxygen-depleting hypoxia from harmful and rapid algal overgrowth. These dead zones pose problems for bays, lakes, and coastal waters since they receive excess nutrients from upstream sources, making it impossible for other aquatic life to survive. In addition, the rapid algal blooms causing dead zones can lead to problems in potable water sources when the overgrowing algae release toxins that contaminate drinking water and threaten the health of animals and humans. Documented dead zones in the world's ocean have reached a staggering count of 405, affecting coastal communities, near-shore habitats, and the global fisheries.



We urge the UN General Assembly, UNEP, and multinational regional groups to/for:

- Expedite stronger and more efficient multilevel policies for responsibly managing and reducing run-off from agricultural activities, increasing demand for accountability of involved sectors and stakeholders, and providing avenues and resources for innovation, education, and action.
- Innovative, cross-cutting, and collaborative strategies involving more responsible nutrient management from fertilizer application, usage of buffers and cover crops, reducing field tillage, and more mindful management of livestock waste and agricultural water drainage
- Increased funding for research & development, incubation, scaling-up, and capacity building training of the agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and forestry sector including the academe and private entities for timely, innovative, and sustainable interventions.
- Increased support for impactful youth-led initiatives, especially research-focused and community-based, to inspire and effect further action.





# **Wildlife and Environmental Conservation**



# WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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The next decade has been declared to be the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The world is currently heading towards above 3°C warming this century, far from the agreement that has been made. The youth demand a healthier, fairer, inclusive, and more sustainable world for us and our future generations. We demand solutions and decisions aimed to reconcile our relationship with nature, acknowledging that humans are an inherent part of the Earth's ecosystems. We urge the recognition that life begins and ends with nature and respect for the planetary boundaries. Finally, we also call for an improved articulation among the UN system and its related treaties and protocols. Overall, we demand the following:

- We urge governments to halt subsidies for environmentally destructive activities such as mining and deforestation. These funds should be redirected to restorative activities that promote biodiversity and the continuity of ecosystem services.
- We demand that by 2025, the UNFCCC, along with other UN organizations, programmes, secretariats, and others related treaties, strengthen and finance an Earth Observatory articulating existing initiatives and technology regarding data and information systems (such as Landsat, Sentinel 1 and 2), to monitor the use, exploitation, abuse, restoration and natural regeneration of nature.

We demand national governments to develop and strengthen climate and environmental education, training, and awareness interventions to promote the connection of humans with nature. This, among others, should be through the provision of legislation and financial support for embedding climate education into existing education curriculum across all levels and enhance access to education, ICT facilities and supports networks for the application and transfer of innovative ideas, training, and best practices. We further make the following demands:

## Habitat and Biosphere Conservation

Not only do increased destructive anthropogenic activities such as mining, logging, and forest clearance destroy natural habitats, but they also damage our carbon sinks. These negative schemes raise the concentrations of pollutants in the atmosphere that can change the structure of the trees. Habitat degradation for diverse species promotes conditions in which species cannot thrive.

- We demand that deforestation must be halted, mangrove forests restored, and natural carbon sinks protected through multi-level decision-making bodies.
- We call for the number of biosphere reserves to be increased in every region to ensure that these zones are actively monitored and reviewed at both the national and international levels. Funding for these areas must be increased to ensure that the landscape is preserved for the future.



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### **Sustainable Urbanisation**

Improper waste management is evident in our cities, with increasing chemical emissions and plastic waste from industry, which can threaten wildlife especially if ingested. Aggravating the urbanisation problem is mass human migration to urban and lowland areas, which causes loss of natural wildlife habitat.

- We urge national and local authorities to create initiatives to restore green spaces and public parks to promote urban biodiversity, as well as to serve as a carbon sink for emissions from vehicles and factories.
- Governments must implement strict rules to actively reduce urban emissions.

### **Exploitation**

There is an apparent over-extraction of natural resources as witnessed through unsustainable mining, overfishing, and degradation of forests including biodiversity-rich ecosystems such as mangrove forests and coral reefs. Our natural resources are poorly managed and exploited. If we fail to properly balance conservation and extraction for human use, we cause rapid deforestation and overfishing, destruction of habitat, and reduction of biodiversity.

- We urge governments to take immediate action to address this through more radical nature-positive regulation.
- Nature-destructive activities must be penalized and potentially destructive activities must go through rigorous screening and mitigation planning prior to approval.

### **The Climate Crisis and The State of Biodiversity Loss**

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

- We call for the implementation of rules concerning the protection and conservation of forest and marine wildlife from illegal trafficking, ensuring that we preserve biodiversity for future generations and conserving wildlife habitats from adverse effects of the climate crisis.
- Strict enforcement of fines and penalties must be enforced for parties liable to destroying ecological assets we need in mitigating the climate crisis.



### Human-Wildlife Interaction

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

- There is an urgent need to protect our natural spaces for wildlife to thrive untouched, with limited contact with humans.
- National governments must closely monitor illegal or non-domestic animal capture such as hunting, poaching, and trafficking.

### Protected Areas and National Parks

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

- We urge governments to strengthen current policies and develop comprehensive environmental management plans and strategies, to ensure a socially and environmentally sustainable economy. Such policies must include the increase in protection areas at a national level as a way of preserving biodiversity, since this is of utmost importance for the balance of multiple ecosystems.
- Governments must ensure that environmental management policies are inclusive to indigenous communities, as they are key stakeholders as protectors and inhabitants of protected areas.
- National governments must increase the number and coverage of protected areas at the national level.

### Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change Mitigation

Among a myriad of solutions to the climate crisis, nature-based solutions (NBS) must be promoted. These include solutions that involve working with nature such as forests, wetlands, savannahs, and mangroves among others, as carbon sinks to deal with the climate crisis.

- We demand the systematic integration of NBS in the planning and implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies and plans at the national and regional scale.
- We urge national governments to restore landscapes and create natural carbon sinks including urban green spaces such as green roofs, street trees, and urban forests, in addition to the preservation and protection of existing carbon sinks as a climate change mitigation measure. The creation of new green spaces in both rural and urban areas will enhance carbon sequestration and therefore regulate the climate at local and global scales.

### Conclusion

We must keep our global rising temperature well below 2°C and actively pursue 1.5°C. Although there still will be negative impacts from climate change, the severity will be much less. Our oceans and forests cannot sustain their current rate of degradation. Climate change and biodiversity loss will continue to reinforce each other if unaddressed.

Humanity must respect planetary boundaries and protect our natural resources. We urge that all



of these demands be kept in mind throughout the discussions and negotiations in COP26. The actions taken today will determine the fate of future generations. We must act today for a better tomorrow.





# **Technology Transfer and Innovation**



# TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND INNOVATION

Sara Nyberg – Sweden | Alli Devlin – Australia | Alfredo Lorenzo Sablay – Philippines | Nadira Mukhamejan | Sajith Wijesuriya – Sri Lanka Eluar Fuchs – Germany/Mexico | Cathy Yitong Li – China/UK

Accelerating the development, transfer, and implementation of climate technologies is crucial, and as IPCC AR6 warned us, we need innovative and bold actions now. Youth play a critical role in climate technology as students, researchers, entrepreneurs and must be included in all processes especially as our generations will live with the consequences of the decisions taken and technologies implemented today.

## **Democratisation and Accessibility**

We demand that open science be expanded in an inclusive manner to achieve a just technological transition. Access to technological capacity development and knowledge for all is pivotal in achieving this goal.

- For technology to be democratised whereby intellectual property rights should be placed at the center of a debate around technology transfer to vulnerable and poor communities in order to ensure a green technology transition that is just for all
- Promoting underrepresented groups in Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education to ensure accessibility to the green technology labor market.
- Education on climate technologies and green innovations must be promoted to help the young generation come to grips with the most recent advancements. Capacity building for young entrepreneurs, including skill and knowledge sharing, needs to be expanded. Examples of these programs include the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) Regional Youth Innovation Labs which should be continued and scaled up.
- Technological innovations, from green hydrogen production to carbon capture and storage (for hard-to-abate sectors), can only be part of the solution in the context of systemic change. Technology solutions are not apolitical and must not be decontextualized from their broader socio-economic setting.

## **International Cooperation and Assistance**

We demand that technology transfer is implemented in the context of international cooperation in addition to technical and financial assistance for research and development of climate resilient innovations.

- We urge lowering of tariffs and other trade barriers to ensure that the import and transfer of climate technologies is accessible in the long term.
- We call on international cooperation to shorten global value chains of climate technology goods to reduce the end consumer price.
- We demand technology transfer to include the transfer of knowhow to empower countries with technological needs to become more self-reliant.
- We ask that local infrastructure be scaled up for countries with low technological capacities to reduce their dependence on developed countries' assistance.
- Nature-based solutions should seek to integrate technological innovations, such as biomimicry, with traditional knowledge from local and indigenous communities.



### Digitization and Automation

Digital access, literacy, and inclusion is a basic human right, and COP26 should serve as a platform to prevent digital divides. Whilst the anticipated 4th industrial revolution is hailed as the pinnacle of efficiency, enabled by knowledge-sharing technology such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things, this development must be inclusive, collaborative, and remove technological divisions. We demand:

- When deploying Innovative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), remote sensing and Internet of things (IoT) for climate mitigation and adaptation, personal privacy needs to be safeguarded and thorough risk assessments be performed.
- We demand that more governmental support is given to IoT-enabled monitoring, remote sensing and early warning systems which contribute to disaster risk reduction, as well as to AI and IoT technologies which are enabling smart energy systems and can be used to increase energy efficiency
- Governments need to work with companies to ensure universal access to reliable internet because this enables the access to knowledge on climate technologies and communication to enhance technology transfer.

### Private sector engagement and state-promoted governance mechanisms

Big companies cause a significant part of global emissions, but can also contribute with innovative solutions to reduce their and others emissions. By calculating their emissions they get aware of the largest sources of emissions which are most important to address. The results also serve as a basis to set climate targets, which should be in line with climate science and take into account global climate justice. We demand:

- National governments to pass legislation that prohibits planned obsolescence and develop mechanisms that make it easier and cheaper to repair things.
- National governments to introduce public policies that make it mandatory for big companies to calculate their emissions and set climate targets.
- To enable more companies to effectively calculate their emissions, a global free and accessible database with emission factors should be developed.
- Carbon footprint assessments must encompass all the embodied, operational and end-of-life emissions so that holistic climatic impact may be interpreted.

### Engagement of YOUNGO in the Technology Mechanism

The Technology Mechanism Working Group of YOUNGO has been engaging young people in the development, transfer, and implementation of climate technologies since 2019. Specific to the UNFCCC, we engage in the two bodies of the Technology Mechanism: The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC).

- Youth play a critical role in climate technology, as students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and must be included in all processes especially as our generations will live with the consequences of the decisions taken and technologies implemented today.
- The CTCN, the operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism, must strive to stimulate technology adoption and appropriation by local people. Specifically, it must ensure the rights of those most affected by climate change – indigenous people, rural communities, women and youth, are protected and strengthened. Only then can countries' efforts and investments be efficient and sustainable.
- We would like to continue having junior consultants at the CTCN, as well as the Regional Youth Innovation Labs and a close collaboration and joint events together with the CTCN.



- We, as YOUNGO, WGC and IPO, are asking Parties to lay forward our request to become members of the AB – with the same status as RINGO, BINGO and ENGO (Decision 14/CP.18: Annex II, para 1. g)) – under the agenda item “review of the constitution of the CTCN AB” at COP26. This enables us to meaningfully engage in the decision making process of the CTCN. We can drastically enhance the work of the CTCN and help accelerate technology development and transfer by extending the expertise of the CTCN, widening its network and outreach, and improving its effectiveness and efficiency.
- We are grateful to have been participating in TEC’s work as members of its task forces on innovation, implementation, capacity-building, stakeholder engagement, and support, but wish to see the WGC being included in the work of these task forces as well.
- We look forward to engaging in the work of the TEC on GST through the ad-hoc task force and would like to be included in TEC’s joint work and events with other constituted bodies and processes like the NWP, AC, and IUCN on Oceans and more.
- Going forward, we wish to see all TEC events reaching gender-balanced panels.





# Arts, Culture and Heritage



# ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Morgan Guthrie – United Kingdom | Itorobong Raphael Etuknwa – Nigeria  
Giulia Cortale – Italy | Aislinn Mulligan – United Kingdom

Extreme weather events are increasingly challenging the existence of cultural sites. Other challenges to cultural heritage include the rise in temperature and the consequent rise in sea levels, which threatens the homes and cultures of many low-lying populations. Governments must take action to ensure not only the survival of geographically low-lying and island nations' cultural heritage, but also of the islands themselves.

Other threats to global cultural heritage include deforestation, contamination, and pollution. Poor waste management and pollution are leading to a major loss of biodiversity. Damage to the environment directly translates to damage to cultural heritage. We call for mitigation systems for the protection of cultural heritage sites from climate-related catastrophes, such as floods and extreme weather.

## **Creative Education**

We call on national governments to support access to arts education in schools, as well as facilities and support for artistic careers and projects. This support would help present individual, national and indigenous identities to the world, building bridges, and influencing policy making. We call for support particularly for artists working on climate and environmental topics, which educates and promotes sustainable futures.

We call for an environment of listening and respect, where we learn from indigenous peoples and communities, creating regular forums which facilitate knowledge sharing. Indigenous people play a key role in the preservation of cultural heritage, language, and art, and they are often most affected by climate disasters.

## **Finance Incentives**

We call for more financial assistance for cultural and artistic programs, especially youth projects, as well as small businesses, eco-tourism, indigenous communities and investment in projects to preserve cultural heritage. We call for support for the arts in infrastructure projects and financial planning to promote quality of life in communities and cross-cultural bridge-building.

## **Culture Conservation**

One of the biggest challenges to cultural conservation is people's loss of identification with their own culture. In many countries, young people are shifting from their traditional values to those of the Global North. To reverse this trend, we call for the use of indigenous knowledge and practices to formulate and implement policies that protect traditional heritage and natural reserves.

A further challenge to the conservation of cultural heritage is posed by the climate crisis. We call on national and local governments to protect local habitats and cultural sites. We further



call on creative practitioners to adopt more sustainable practices in arts and cultural production.

The issues that national and regional authorities should address include poor physical planning mechanisms, inadequate development control and enforcement, lack of defined limits to transformation in historical sites, lack of participation, ineffective preservation policy, and lack of funding.

Finally, there is a need to provide opportunities to indigenous peoples or native communities, promote handicraft and ecotourism projects, and empower artists and the enterprises of diverse populations.

### **Political Accountability**

We call on local, national, and international governments to involve young people in the environmental decision-making process at every stage. Diverse youth involvement is vital to ensure that decisions made are fair for them. We demand government incentives for young people to get involved. Youth voices should not be ignored or be used to tick a diversity box.

We demand that all governments invest in the promotion of local cultures. All governments must promote and finance local cultural research and conservation, in a way that is sustainable and centers the local populations. This would enable them to live in a financially sustainable way in order to increase cultural centers and preserve local heritage. It is vital to involve indigenous people, whose ideas and concerns must be actively listened to and acted on. There also needs to be clear communication channels with elected officials for those working in culture and heritage, so political representatives can be held accountable when there is damage to local environments.

### **Sustainable Tourism**

There is an overwhelming youth demand for sustainable tourism that will promote local culture and environment, while still preserving the land and the species that inhabit it. The promotion of indigenous tourist activities must be considered, providing this remains respectful and is centered on the indigenous people and their wishes.

We urge national and local governments to develop sustainable and diversified sources of revenue for communities that are currently dependent on mass tourism, for example coastal communities. This can include job generation in conservation of natural sites and ecotourism initiatives.

We call on local governments to support tourist sites to become more sustainable. This includes proper waste and recycling facilities, reducing unnecessary paper and plastic use. Governments must encourage and incentivise their tourist sites to go green and ensure that the environment is a key priority.

We call on governments to invest in accessible public transport methods to access cultural sites. This would involve better pedestrian and cycle access: ensuring there are adequate cycle lanes, repairing pavements when they deteriorate, safe road crossings and accessibility measures, providing ramps, disabled bathrooms, wide doorways, and others to make tourist spaces more accessible.

We call for an increase in multi-language signage to ensure that all those who visit a space are able to respect the local rules and traditions. This can also help tourists to be sustainable in their



travels. This interlinks with the desire for sustainable tourist groups and companies to be prioritised.

### **Conclusion**

In addition to its intrinsic value, culture provides important social and economic benefits. With improved learning and health, increased tolerance, and opportunities to come together with others, culture enhances our quality of life and increases overall well-being for both individuals and communities.

Culture is who we are and what shapes our identity. No development can be sustainable without including culture. Arts, culture, and heritage can promote access to and enjoyment of cultural diversity. It can also enrich social capital by shaping an individual and collective sense of belonging, which helps to support social and territorial cohesion.

We support the work of UNESCO in preserving cultural and natural heritage sites around the world. We also recommend the evaluation of potential heritage sites using advanced technology and including them in the World Heritage sites list for their preservation and recovery. The knowledge of local communities and indigenous people, who are connected to that heritage site, should be valued and included in the decision-making process.



# APPENDICES



## Appendix I: Methodology

### DATA COLLECTION

This year, the COY16 team adopted a novel approach to the Global Youth Statement drafting process. In order to ensure Diversity and Inclusion, the approach taken was to draft a democratic and inclusive statement that leaves no one behind. Multiple streams of inputs to COY16's organizational policy team were provided. Taken together, the data gathering process aspires to be the most ambitious and impactful endeavour to bring together youth voices for a common climate policy position.

A) Institutional input stream: includes inputs from universities and educational institutions, environmental youth organizations, and other institutional actors.

B) Individual input stream: includes inputs received from individuals to express their demands and opinions on all themes and sub themes, as well as direct their demands to specific UN agencies. There was an open call to submission via social media and respective networks to reach as many young people as possible globally.

C) LCOYs input stream: includes inputs from Local Conferences of Youth.

D) vCOYs input stream: includes inputs from Virtual Conferences of Youth.

### DRAFTING PROCESS

Once this data was gathered, the analysis and drafting process was carried out by a highly diverse group of volunteers coming from:

YOUNGO Working Groups  
YOUNGO Policy Team  
YOUNGO global network  
COY16 Policy Team

These volunteers were then organized in the different thematic areas according to their expertise, and a total of 15 working groups were created. Each group was formed with five to ten volunteers and headed by two co-leads supported by the COY16 Team.

During the drafting period, the data inputs were read carefully, analysed and synthesized according to frequency and urgency of youth demands. This process was followed by multiple rounds of revision and editing. To avoid any bias, individuals who had not previously worked on each theme were asked to review and provide feedback on each section during a Policy Hackathon. Finally, the document was proofread by a group of external reviewers selected from the YOUNGO network, as well as from the COY16 and the YOUNGO Policy teams, who completed the final edits before release and publication

### LCOY

LCOY (Local Conference of Youth) is an event under the umbrella of YOUNGO which aims to be a space to boost youth climate action locally and create an input into the international conferences.

LCOYs focus on these 3 points:

- Raise Awareness: To empower and support young people who want to make a difference in their communities, we need first to raise awareness about the climate crisis in each community.



- Networking and Skills Sharing: To gather young people from around the country and give them a space where they can share experiences and solutions so as to maximise impact.
- LCOY Policy Paper: To deliver policy papers and engage with government officials and other decision-makers, and present their region's youth perspective to the global COY.

#### vCOY

YOUNGO organized its first-ever virtual Conference of Youth (vCOY) on the International Youth Day 2021. Like all the other conferences of Youth (COY), the vCOY is integrated in YOUNGO's mandate and round-the-year policy processes towards the UN and especially UNFCCC.

While the Youth Climate Space is ever-growing, the vulnerable, marginalized and indigenous communities' voices are mostly unheard, as giving input to the climate negotiations is a question of privilege. This is why the vCOY was a step, by the young people and for the young people, in the right direction. It was designed to give skills to young people who are new to climate negotiations or advocacy. Pre-released materials were also shared with the delegates to standardize the knowledge set of all the delegates.

The delegates were from all over the world, especially from the vulnerable, marginalized and indigenous communities. They gave their inputs virtually over a period of 5 days and also contributed to the policy outcome document of the vCOY, which has been incorporated in the Global Youth Statement.

Toward the end of the vCOY, the delegates were also given the opportunity to attend a special training by UNICEF focused on youth advocacy guides, as well as a networking platform "YOUNGO NETWORK" supported by March For Science.

## Appendix II

Data visualisation graphics serve to illustrate the demographic data of all youths involved in this process.

Statistics are regularly updated on our website as we continue to receive support from youth in our fight for making our common voice heard at COP26.

Go to <https://ukcoy16.org/global-youth-statement> to find out more.



## Appendix III

### ABOUT YOUNGO

YOUNGO is the official Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC. YOUNGO is not an organization, rather a platform and network of children and youth up to 35 years, as well as youth non-governmental organisations.

Formally recognized in 2009, YOUNGO serves as the official voice of young people from across the globe in the climate negotiations under the UN Climate Change. It aims to empower children and youths around the globe to take action and be drivers of meaningful, impactful and positive change by raising awareness, sharing knowledge, building capacity, enhancing collaboration and cooperation, advocating for pragmatic and ambitious climate and environmental policies and mobilizing for youth actions to achieve a livable and just future.

YOUNGO focuses on the following areas:

- 1) Awareness, Knowledge and Capacity Building
- 2) Collaboration, Cooperation and Network
- 3) Policy, Lobby and Advocacy
- 4) Youth Action

YOUNGO Working Groups are teams who come together within YOUNGO to work on and advocate for a particular thematic topic, such as Education, Intergenerational Equity, Agriculture, Mitigation, Finance, Adaptation, Ocean or Health. In the past, they have also lobbied for the inclusion of specific content in the negotiations and their outcomes. Overall, there are currently approximately 20 active WGs and the membership is based on individual interest expression, not on any selection process.

The YOUNGO Policy Team supports the Constituency mission of “Policy, Lobby and Advocacy”, working together with the different WGs and also actively collaborating in the draft of the annual Global Youth Statement in the lead up to COP.