



**YOUTH MEANINGFUL
PARTICIPATION AS
A TURNING POINT
FOR CLIMATE ACTION
AND NDC AMBITION**

20 July - 14 August 2020

DISCUSSION BACKGROUND

Climate change represents the biggest threat to sustainable development and is causing widespread, unprecedented impacts that disproportionately burden the poorest, marginalized and most vulnerable, including young people. Tackling climate change is critical to pave the way towards a sustainable future. We must halve emissions by 2030, and transition to carbon-neutral economies by 2050, if we are to prevent irreversible impacts. People's lives and livelihoods around the world are threatened by food and water scarcity, extreme weather events and climate-change induced displacement. The annual average economic losses from climate-related disasters are in hundreds of billions of dollars.

The most severe impacts of climate change will affect future generations, who will be forced to address this threat and make radical transformations possible. However, the most powerful, yet underestimated and excluded forces in climate action are young people.

As the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and partners implement the [Climate Promise](#), and support and advocate more ambitious nationally-determined contributions (NDCs), there is a growing consensus that a key success factor for raising climate ambition is ensuring an inclusive process that brings together government at all levels with youth organizations, movements, and networks, as well as with other citizens, private sector, and key stakeholders and partners. In particular, young people's needs and aspirations should be captured in the enhanced NDCs and their role as positive agents of change should be better recognized, promoted and supported.

In order to make climate action more ambitious, and more youth-responsive and youth-driven, UNDP's [NDC Support Programme](#), supported by the European Union, Germany and Spain, and UNDP's [Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace](#), supported by Denmark and Italy, co-hosted this global e-discussion on SparkBlue, on the Community of Practice (CoP) Governance: Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and CoP Nature-based Solutions and Climate Action, from 20 July to 14 August 2020.

Through three discussion rooms:

1. [Achieving success: Identifying youth roles, barriers and enabling conditions](#)
2. [Joining forces: Engaging & empowering youth through the NDC](#)
3. [Youth-only Lounge: Youth agency and pathways in climate action](#)

this online consultation stimulated a collective reflection on recent and ongoing promising practices and highlighted opportunities and policy and programming recommendations with youth at the core.

Many thanks to all participants for their valuable inputs and to the excellent moderators from the following organizations and networks: YOUNGO, the Office of the Secretary-General Envoy on Youth, Plant for Planet Nigeria, Klimaneustart, UNICEF, the Danish Youth Climate Council, Jóvenes Peruanos frente al Cambio Climático, and UNDP.

ROOM 1:

Youth roles, barriers and enabling conditions

With more than 1.8 billion young people in the world, young people are critical stakeholders in climate action and ambition, but they remain underrepresented in decision-making processes affecting the future of our planet. A key success factor for raising ambition on climate is ensuring a youth-inclusive process. However, young people face a wide array of development challenges, frequently involving negative assumptions about age, experience and capabilities.

Why youth meaningful participation in climate action matters

- **Youth meaningful participation** implies that young people have the right to participate in public affairs, including on climate, environmental and development issues. Their knowledge, energy and perseverance have spurred a global movement demanding bold climate measures from their leaders, while also leading initiatives in their countries and communities. Therefore, young people need to be involved and have a formal mandate in decision making regarding the present and the future of our planet as part of a generational right and duty.
- **Youth are a diverse group**, with different needs, demands and approaches regarding climate action and governance. Young people's voices need to be taken into consideration while appreciating their diversity, including language, gender, age, culture, race, class.
- Improving evenly representation of marginalized and vulnerable groups during policy-making processes, climate negotiations and talks is important to ensure their needs are captured and action is taken.

Barriers

- Even when young people are given the opportunity to participate in climate talks and negotiations, they often **lack adequate tools for meaningful participation**. Some barriers preventing youth from meaningfully participating in decision-making include lack of knowledge, skills, professional, financial and political support, access to information and lack of opportunities, including networking and partnerships.
- Barriers to effective participation also include **lack of national government support** for climate action, absence of effective local and national mechanisms and networks for youth participation, insufficient education and expertise as well as disconnect with key priorities of young people, such as education and employment.

Enabling conditions

Education and green job creation

- Environmental education from a young age is key to build up **skills and knowledge regarding climate change, innovation, technologies**, etc. and prepare children and young people with the necessary tools to access green jobs, understand climate related policies and information and take informed decisions regarding their future. A post COVID-19 green recovery has to be driven by young people, who need to acquire relevant skills.

- Youth need more user-friendly platforms on policy-making and climate-relevant legislation to understand what decisions are being made and how these will have an impact on future generations.
- Today more than ever, it is very important to involve young people in practical seminars, trainings, eco-games and other environmental and climate change educational activities. Environmental education contributes to the formation of eco-thinking and skills that will help younger generations realize their ideas for improving the environment, not only at the local level, but also on a global scale.
- Participants in this online consultation provided examples of addressing current barriers preventing youth meaningful participation in many different ways. These include involving youth in productive activities at the community level, providing crucial technical training in renewable energy and other key technologies, creating education and hands-on learning programs (“learning by doing”) and volunteer activities in the community.
- Some examples emphasized important social inclusion aspects with resulting additional benefits, such as targeting and involving **rural youth, youth with disabilities and youth living in conflict and post-conflict areas**.
- Effective partnerships with government at all levels as well as with UN agencies were identified as important factors of success.
- It is also important to note that many of the examples were made possible by provision of **dedicated seed funding**, which supported establishing participation infrastructure, “learning by doing” activities, essential training and other interventions enabling youth participation.
- For instance, **UNDP-GEF Small Grant Programme (SGP)** has been targeting education and green job creation, with a focus on renewables, climate change, energy-saving and other green technologies in several countries. Participants of this e-consultation presented successful stories from SGP implementation in **Belarus, Armenia, Ukraine, Sierra Leone, Dominican Republic and the Barbados**.
- For example, in **Ukraine** more than 10 years of SGP performance has resulted in the establishment of partnerships and regular national-level youth forums, dozens of successful and sustainable youth initiatives on climate action and engagement of local and rural youth in national and regional level discussions. For more effective understanding of youth needs, in recent years SGP Ukraine has been working towards setting up a Youth Advisory Group to support the Technical Advisory Group and National Steering Committee. This means that youth participation is being addressed systematically going beyond project-based interventions, by establishing advisory infrastructures, training centers and networks for youth participation, in collaboration with other UN agencies and through dialogue with the government. The introduction of education for sustainable development is one of the top priorities for Ukraine and it requires the active participation of civil society, teachers and youth. Therefore, the desired result can be achieved only through cooperation between government agencies, civil society and research and educational institutions.

Institutionalization of youth participation

- This e-consultation highlighted the importance of creating a sustainable infrastructure for meaningful participation: advisory groups, networks and centers with civil society organization as key conveners and providers of services.
- In several countries including **Denmark, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Nigeria** etc. youth participation structures have been established at local and national level (e.g. advisory, groups, councils, networks, youth eco-hubs etc.).
- At the global level, **YOUNGO** (Youth + NGOs), the Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC consisting of many youth-led organizations, groups, delegations, and individuals working in climate change-related fields, has been operative since 2009 and it counts more than 10 thousand young members.

- Another example is the **Caribbean Youth Movement against Climate Change (CLIC!)**. The purpose of the movement was to create a space for collaboration and youth participation for the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region. Created in 2013, CLIC! promotes participation of regional youth in international spaces and in the context of the UNFCCC climate change negotiations. With regards to NDCs, CLIC! developed a project focused on the NDCs and is working with UNFCCC program on education as part of the NDCs to be launched in LAC.

Comprehensive approaches and Inter-sectionality

- An example of a project dealing with issues of intersectionality is the SGP funded project in **Sierra Leone**: “A renewable energy promotion - Achieving a low-carbon rural society through Solarfi charging kiosk and Micro Enterprise in three districts”. This project aims to integrate climate change adaptation and livelihood enhancement that can be replicated and scaled up in other chiefdoms and districts. This initiative connects the underserved and unconnected populations in remote rural areas through solar-powered phone charging stations. The aim is to support vulnerable groups, especially rural women and youths, by promoting a low carbon society and avoiding the use of generators for lighting and livelihood supports.
- In the **Dominican Republic**, a SGP funded project offered successful examples of youth and women participation in climate action, including the use of renewable energy sources through community micro-hydroelectric plants - a model of comprehensive and inclusive sustainable development, with a strong youth and women participation component and learning by doing approach. This project has been implemented by taking into consideration different groups’ timetables and working hours, in order to include all community members.

Arenas and levels of youth meaningful participation

- Meaningful youth participation in climate action is possible at different levels: **national, sub-national and local** as well as in different ways: policy development, productive activities, job creation, learning and capacity building.
- Grassroots level is one of the most effective platform to effect change as youth are not just beneficiaries but remain key stakeholder whose knowledge and information guide climate action. Youth can be more active and effective as they can easily identify the needs and priorities of their communities, but they still need strong partnerships with government institutions and with national and international organizations in order to have a greater impact.
- Meaningful participation in climate action should allow young people coming from different sectors, including the private sector, to participate in governmental issues, politics, etc. and propose new and innovative solutions to governments.
- Over the last decades we have witnessed more young people taking action in form of advocacy, awareness raising, call for policy implementation, environmental enforcement and sharing innovative initiation on social media and through peaceful demonstrations and community outreach. However, there is a need for evenly representation of youth in planning for effective implementation, monitoring and accountability.
- At the **UN level**, the collaboration among different UN agencies has resulted in the development of UN-wide youth strategy (**Youth 2030**), an umbrella framework to guide the entire UN as it steps up its work with and for young people across its three pillars – peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development – in all contexts.

Youth participation in politics and policy making

- Youth as stakeholders can make valuable contributions to the planning and implementation of climate

actions. As studies have shown, there are generational differences in terms of energy and other environmental choices. This is why it is important to include young people in policy making.

- Every phase of climate policy making processes should allow for effective youth participation. Youth should be involved in defining a policy objective, participate in its implementation and propose innovative solutions. Therefore, **from grassroots projects up to international climate talks**, youth involvement from all backgrounds should become systematic.
- If institutions allow youth to co-design the process and plan interventions and decide beforehand how young people's suggestions will be used, youth would feel more empowered and their contributions would be more meaningful. Having **defined roles for youth and clear expectations** regarding their inputs will make young people participation and engagement more meaningful and relevant. This could be a step towards institutionalizing youth roles in policy making and climate events and negotiations.
- Young people can also be very effective on the implementation phase, where they can affect their communities and work harder taking advantage of their age, energy, innovative ideas and ambition towards making real impacts and concrete changes.



ROOM 2:

Engaging and empowering youth through the NDCs

As 2020 began, countries were committed to enhance their nationally-determined contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, in the aftermath of large scale climate actions driven by a global youth climate movement and a growing recognition of the urgency to hold global temperature rise below 1.5°C. Suddenly, the COVID-19 pandemic made this task even more complex and difficult, including in some cases by delaying activities and consuming attention and resources of national leaders and international organizations. Whether countries pursue a green, resilient and inclusive recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis and how much youth will be involved in this process along with NDC enhancement to address climate change will have profound implications for years to come. Recovery efforts and enhanced climate pledges can play a critical role in cutting emissions, building resilience and making headway on core economic and social objectives, especially by spurring sustainable action in sectors like energy, agriculture and food, transport and land-use.

Many governments around the world are already rolling out stimulus policies to help their national economies recover from the crisis. These policies will also determine long-term progress on climate change and development. If these policies promote fossil fuels, they will lock in future carbon pollution, but if they promote cleaner energy and meaningfully support young people's participation and leadership, then they could truly set the world on a sustainable pathway to zero emissions.

Youth in NDC enhancement and proposed mechanisms

- More than half of first generation NDCs failed to mention children, youth, or future generations. Some positioned youth as a vulnerable group, while only a minority actually positioned youth as stakeholders to be included in climate decision making and action. It is important for local, provincial, national and international stakeholders to open up more spaces for youth to express themselves and consider youth not just as vulnerable groups, but as agents of change bringing innovative solutions to the table. Not only should young people be consulted, but they should also be reached out to for solutions.
- Current international agreements should be used to foster multilateralism and institute new mechanisms for young people. For instance, in order to ensure youth meaningful participation in NDC enhancement processes, the United Nations System could play a key role. One proposal coming from participants was the establishment of a Green Youth Guarantee Mechanism by UNFCCC and UNDP as part of the NDC enhancement process. The process for establish this Guarantee Mechanism will be the one of co-creation, with local youth, including marginalized communities, such as rural and indigenous young people, having the prime seat at the table. Good policy, strong activism and local creativity would be the engine of such a mechanism.
- Another proposal to ensure youth meaningful participation in the NDC enhancement process was the establishment of a mandatory and formal "Youth Engagement Mechanism" in all governments, which should be inclusive and avoid tokenization of youth. Education and capacity building should support this mechanism to provide youth with the necessary tools to participate.
- Considering current NDC revisions and ways to include youth, young people could also be integrated as a target area within the NDCs (i.e. having a dedicated section in the NDC on youth, and possibly a dedicated section in NDC implementation plans, climate change laws or other instruments that serve for implementation purposes that define institutional arrangements, roles, responsibilities etc.). For instance, in Namibia, the Namibian National Climate Change Committee reports annually on all activities

completed, but activities concerning youths are only envisioned in the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. By creating a space for young people as a key activity, most member states could dedicate or seek funding to empower young people in climate action and governance.

- By only considering youth as a cross-cutting issue, there is a risk that youth voices or needs are drowned out in the absence of robust participatory mechanisms, whereas having young people as a target area in an NDC could be one way of ensuring that their needs are taken into account and their position as leaders in climate action would be legitimized.
- Setting up a Youth NDC Tracker (Y-NDCT) with a comprehensive methodology could allow countries to track progress regarding young people's inclusion in climate governance and youth-led climate action within the NDC mandate. Using indicators such as youth representatives in national climate change committees or task forces and tracking budgets that are dedicated to youth projects or engagements, etc. could contribute to a reliable and effective monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system. Adopting indicators to assess the impacts of youth engagement could also be considered to ensure that youth participation is not simply a token effort.
- Youth should have a key role in supporting both the implementation and the **tracking of the goals set out in the NDCs**. Indeed, several think tanks have suggested that civil society organizations, including youth, national auditors, researchers and other state and non-state actors will need to access the information generated by the enhanced transparency framework, a key pillar of the NDC process, and use it for public shaming (or faming), direct lobbying, legal action and other strategies, all aimed at supporting the achievement of the NDCs.
- Based on the 2020 process, countries should establish/improve a permanent mechanism to include youth participation into the 5-year NDC revision cycle; design/improve the youth participatory process to be an example of inclusiveness; each cycle the process could start by looking at the lessons learned and recommendations from the previous one. Permanent spaces of discussion could also be the spaces for capacity building, allowing each cohort of young people to shorten the learning curve for effective participation. Learning from and sharing experiences with the other Rio Conventions about the incorporation of youth perspectives could be helpful.
- Participants highlighted that a major opportunity for enhancing youth development related to the NDCs also lies in enhancing **nature-based solutions** (NBS) at the national and local levels. Involving the youth in NBS in the NDC context provides many opportunities for sectoral development while promoting a post-COVID-19 green recovery and green jobs. As NBS tend to involve local implementation, this allows youth more opportunities to be more directly involved in the planning, implementation, and monitoring processes, which should give them invaluable insights about the climate crisis and addressing the risks at this level. The innovativeness required for enacting NBS is suited for the creative approaches that youth can help develop (e.g., reforestation, mangrove conservation, coral reef protection), effectively building a culture of ecological consciousness and integrated approaches that will be necessary to successfully achieve the NDC targets worldwide for the next few decades.
- Youth can bring an invaluable support in creating start-ups for **climate technology innovations**, contributing to climate change-related research and development (R&D), strengthening science-based approaches, participating in expert training, and contributing to nature-based solutions.

Recommendations to national governments and institutions

- National governments must strengthen their **collaborations with non-government stakeholders** as a means of providing more support for the development of their youth delegations as future climate leaders. Given the lack of adequate financial and technical resources in many countries, they need to create partnerships and strengthen existing ones with civil society organizations, NGOs, academia, including schools and other educational institutions, businesses through corporate social responsibility, and multilateral fund-granting institutions, to create programs and projects designed to further capacitate

the youth in addressing climate change issues within their schools, work places, and communities. Considerable efforts are also needed in strengthening the adaptive capability, resilience and partnerships of youth in rural, indigenous and forest communities in developing countries.

- It is also important to **institutionalize more mechanisms** for the youth to be involved in climate change-related research and development processes. Nowadays, it is necessary to strengthen science-based approaches towards every step of the climate action process, from local and global stocktaking of data and information needed for assessing vulnerabilities to climate risks to monitoring, reporting, and validating progress in the implementation of related policies and programs.
- Governments must also devise mechanisms for **addressing generational and gender divides** on understanding climate-related risks and opportunities. This is integral in tailoring information and initiatives on climate-related impacts and responses in ways suitable to these different perceptions, given the highly-localized impacts. Doing so does not only lead to likely reduced risks through an inclusive participatory goal centered on youth activities, but also produces long-term co-benefits such as educational and developmental learning and the potential for coherent and collaborative approaches to tackling climate and disaster-related risks, from the household scale up to the national or international level.
- Governments should include youth in the design phase of NDCs or there should a specific section in NDCs about youth development and empowerment. For instance, having youth focal points at national ministries of environment and climate change would allow representation of young people in NDC processes and communication and mobilization around youth involvement in climate/environmental organizations. This would support youth engagement in NDC enhancement processes and other climate-related activities.
- There is the need to strengthen government/community relations and build capacity of youths regarding environmental governance to understand environmental and climate policies and track implementation, accountability and activities around natural resources.
- A proposal coming from participants was for governments and the UN to invest in the **institutionalization of youth activism** and towards public participation. This means creating a legal structure that gives political (decision-making) power to young people while providing them with all the needed resources (finance, knowledge, technical skills, etc.) to organize themselves at the national and international level.

Recommendations to the United Nations

- The participation of the youth in processes within the UN system, especially those pertaining to the enhancement and implementation of NDCs needs to be strengthened. More youth delegates from the Global South, including the Asia-Pacific region that hosts many of the highly vulnerable communities, must be allowed to participate during the annual UN climate change conferences. Youth could provide assistance in monitoring key outcomes of these climate negotiations and attending side events that can help enhance their knowledge on key issues, as well as reporting on the outcomes that help shape the local and regional narrative of climate-related issues in their respective areas.
- When electing national youth focal points, a suggestion was made in regards to having a the UN overseeing the process to ensure adequate youth representation in terms of agenda setting and policy making. In addition, the UN could provide clear guidelines for inclusion of youth perspectives in the preparation of NDCs and any project/initiative relating to climate action at national level.
- A proposal encompassing the UN system and national governments was to have UNFCCC pushing Parties to include young people in their NDC enhancement processes. Governments could create a youth council/ advisory group (or similar), which channels inputs from young people in the country to the NDC process during the design, implementation and revision phases. The established youth council should provide inputs and advice to specific national programmes or projects, as a part of stakeholder engagement. UNDP Country offices can likewise support youth dialogues on NDC and create a permanent space for youth in climate change.

- Both the UN bodies and non-governmental organizations that support governments in the NDC review process (such as NDC Partnership or World Resources Institute) should make youth engagement mechanisms an integral part of their templates, guidelines, and suggestions. As much as youth advocate to be heard, having professionals advocate for the inclusion of youth would give more legitimacy and resonance to youth movements and demands. National Youth Councils could work as a proxy for engaging youth in the governmental process if resources and political will are limited.
- There are already mechanisms in place for youth participation at the level of the United Nations, including the recently established UN Secretary General's Youth Climate Advisory group. Challenges lie more at country level, considering every country's different contexts. The UN could make an even stronger call to States on the importance of climate action by youth, and more so now in the context of COVID-19, and also connect climate youth movements with various state agencies (national and sub-national) to facilitate access for youth to those in authority.

Recommendations for all: advocacy, communication related to Youth & NDCs

- UNDP/UNFCCC Regional Dialogues on NDCs: countries highlighted the importance of using the right communication tools to engage and educate citizens. With the rise in youth and **community-led action**, countries emphasized that the appropriate media (e.g., social media channels such as Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook) and language (e.g., dialects) should be harnessed. Popular music artists or other national figures could also play a role in helping raise awareness around climate change/NDCs and help reach broader audiences.
- Better **knowledge dissemination** of NDCs/NDC measures and use of appropriate communication tools and simple language could help reach broader audiences to educate and engage young people. A key step is ensuring that the capacity building and knowledge dissemination processes of engaging youth are inclusive and engage with all communities, and that innovative approaches are explored in order to deliver this.
- Systematic **outreach to educational facilities, including to rural areas**, is key to reaching young people as they learn about the world and consider their role and future career interests (e.g., green jobs, including future green engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs).
- Better communication, outreach and inclusion facilitate societal ownership of NDCs, which is fundamental to ensuring effective implementation and enhancement of mitigation and adaptation measures.



ROOM 3:

Youth agency and pathways in climate action

Youth empowerment is both a means and an end. Climate change has already transformed the face of our planet. Its impacts, combined with the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis, have magnified and dangerously exacerbated inequalities. It is urgent to act now for youth, and more importantly, with youth in the driving seat. Youth meaningful participation in climate action is primarily a human right issue, and the risks faced by young environmental defenders globally, in particular in the current pandemic, are truly preoccupying. The world should not and cannot afford to silence or limit the potential of young people in climate action. We need everyone on board, in particular young activists, innovators, entrepreneurs, political leaders and citizens.

As we recently celebrated the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the need to enhance youth-led and youth-inclusive partnerships is clearly identified as a sine qua non to renew multilateralism, push for ambition and achieve better impact. Enhancing NDCs is a critical opportunity to shift the way in which we do business, in particular by recognizing and supporting young people more systematically. This youth-only session aimed at developing visions, ideas and recommendations to ensure youth agendas and perspectives are at the heart of climate action.

Key messages

- Quality **education** focusing on climate and environmental issues is of outmost importance and should be included within the primary school curriculum. Children as young learners will thus develop environmental friendly approaches towards climate and environmental issues. A successful example comes from **Mauritius**, which officially integrated climate education in primary curriculum in 2015 (see Nine Year Continuous Basic Education adopted in 2015).
- Some sectors are still difficult to penetrate and youth and women remain excluded. This is the case of **renewable energy**, especially at project level. Policies in this field are still quite new to mainstream youth participation and skills requirements are often above youth capacity. One suggestion at the policy level was to advocate for youth inclusion in at least 50% of projects by recruiting young engineers and young volunteers, especially from communities in proximity. Then, introduce a quota system that ensures several projects are awarded to women and youth. Environmental/Green funds should also increase their percentage of their finances aimed towards these groups.
- Creating **jobs** for young people in energy will require strong intersectional policies, which address these problems. This sector is very technical and difficult to access. To overcome this problem, in **Namibia** the Namibian Youth on Renewable Energy (NAYoRE) was created to mainstream youth participation in the energy sector. In the National Energy Policy of Namibia, NAYoRE advocated for youth recognition and equitable participation of marginalized groups. In addition, NAYoRE aimed at creating a space for young people and enabling them to foster stronger partnerships through engaging various stakeholders in the energy sector and creating a platform to voice youth views and innovations.
- Governments could better support youth by: 1) promoting youth solutions and products coming from youth and innovation labs and giving them probationary space in the market. 2) Linking youth participation in renewable energy to national development priorities such as food security and water. This diversifies the role of renewable energy highlighting the interdependent relationship between energy, water, and food supply and tapping into youth potential. Young people can fit across the web of operations from research to solar installations. 3) Promoting targeted scholarships, research awards, mentorship programmes

and apprentice or specialized trainings and strengthening universities and energy centers and other institutions leading innovation in sustainable energy.

- In addition, governments could strengthen existing platforms (e.g., Local Conferences of Youth etc.) to educate and empower youth leaders about meaningful participation at the multilateral level. This would also help develop the next generation of negotiators.
- Climate activism is more impactful when linked to the lives and livelihood of communities. A project on LED lights and solar panels among fishing communities in **Jamaica** showed some of the challenges linked to lack of awareness regarding climate change and subsequent engagement, which was overcome by hands-on project activities. Youth, especially girls and young women, were keen in learning how to assemble and install these RE/EE technologies.
- Pairing youth from rural and urban, developing, and developed areas and countries can also boost fruitful conversations and lead to innovative solutions.
- Effective **communication around climate and environmental issues** should target different sectors and audiences, as shown in the Philippines, where conversations were mainly focusing on solid waste management, deforestation, and biodiversity protection. While these problems must be urgently tackled, there is a need to expand their interests beyond these issues so that we can collectively address the growing complexities observed with the climate crisis, environmental degradation, and associated social injustices.
- Seed funding dedicated to youth empowerment is key to create space for the civil society to set up youth centers and ensure that young people have information and knowledge needed for participation in political process at all levels. Allocation of funding for youth and SDG integration in many countries is urgently needed, as highlighted by youth delegates from the Philippines, Namibia and Kenya. In Ukraine, a recently established Youth Center was the product of partnerships between local authorities, regional departments of education and ecology, NGOs from all over Ukraine, higher and secondary educational institutions, nature reserve institutions, community representatives and many other participants. The priority task of the Center is to empower rural youth and involve parents and family to help them create favorable conditions for the development of environmental culture and environmental responsibility in preschool children.
- Other successful examples of implementation of intergenerational equity in climate planning, digital solutions and integration of several SDGs came from Peru, Australia and Panama, highlighting that the promotion of youth meaningful participation in climate action is closely linked to governance and human rights issues.

If you have any questions, please contact: giulia.jacovella@undp.org and noella.richard@undp.org



REFERENCES

Key resources

- [Decent Jobs for Youth](#) (ILO-led)
- [Mission 1.5 website](#)
- Mission 1.5 Report (The [People's Climate Vote](#), 2021)
- [The Small Grants Programme](#)
- [UN Youth 2030 Strategy webpage](#)
- [UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth](#)
- [UN Programme on Youth \(DESA\)](#)
- [Inter-Agency Statement on Youth & COVID-19](#)
- UNDP UNFCCC (2019). [The Heat is On](#)
- UNDP (2019). Young people and Climate – Fighting for a stolen future.
- [UN Climate Action Summit](#) (2019)
- [UN Climate Ambition Summit](#) (2020)
- [UNDP Climate Promise](#)
- UNDP Climate Promise: [November 2020 Progress Report](#)
- [UNDP NDC Support Programme](#)
- [UNDP #Youth4ClimateWebinar/CoP Chat "Young people powering climate action"](#)
- [UNDP Youth Global Programme](#)
- [UNDP Sparkblue Consultation](#): Youth meaningful participation as a turning point for climate action and NDC ambition. Discussion Room 1: [Achieving success: Identifying youth roles, barriers and enabling conditions](#); Discussion Room 2: [Joining forces: Engaging & empowering youth through the NDC](#); Discussion Room 3: [Youth-only Lounge: Youth agency and pathways in climate action](#)
- [UNDP Sparkblue Space on Youth](#)
- [Youth4Peace portal](#)

Resources shared in the discussion rooms

- Amponsem J. et al (2019). [Adapt for Our Future: A Background Paper on Youth and Climate Change Adaptation](#).
- [Belarus educational platform: Yaklass](#)

- [COY15 Argentina \(2019\)](#).
- [ECOHOUSE Argentina](#)
- [Eleuthera Foundation](#)
- [Government of Argentina \(2020\). Se realizó una jornada sobre adaptación y mitigación al cambio climático junto a jóvenes de militancia ambiental](#)
- [Global Youth Video competition](#)
- [Localizing Climate Justice Conference Series](#)
- [Republic of Lebanon, Ministry of Environment, Library on climate change.](#)
- [SGP Armenia \(2020\). Establishing Low-carbon Energy Education Centers for Young Practitioners \(Strategic Project\)](#).
- [SGP Armenia \(2020\). Green skills for youth.](#)
- [SGP Armenia \(2017\). Establishment of Young Agro ecologists Training and Production Center in Spitak](#)
- [SGP Armenia \(2017\). Implementation of “Intended Nationally Determined Contributions” of the Republic of Armenia in rural communities \(Strategic Project\)](#)
- [SGP Armenia \(2016\). Introduction of ‘green’ backyard gardening practices for improved livelihoods in Saramej community of Lori](#)
- [UN blog \(2020\). Seven young climate activists to take formal seat at UN table in Secretary-General’s new Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.](#)
- [UN News \(2019\). Jóvenes contra el cambio climático: de la convicción a la palabra y de la palabra a la acción](#)
- [UNECE “Education for Sustainable Development”](#)
- [UNDP Argentina \(2019\). ODS 13: Tres meses ininterrumpidos de diálogo por la acción climática](#)
- [Ukraine NGO “CENTER OF YOUTH INITIATIVES” \(2020\)](#)

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