



# Strategic Policy Position

The stark realities of the climate crisis are both a consequence and an aggravation of profound systemic inequalities, leading to the undeniable need for comprehensive and immediate action - particularly in the face of increasing geopolitical instability. This demands that we now move beyond mere acknowledgements and instead embrace bold, evidence-based solutions, inclusive policy-making, equitable finance and grassroots mobilisation drive real, measurable, transformative change.

We, the Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC (YOUNGO), are deeply concerned about the insufficient climate action and the limited meaningful engagement of children and youth within climate governance.

To change the course of action and to accomplish our shared objectives, we urge the Parties to the UNFCCC to join us in a collaborative effort to:

- *Keep the 1.5°C guardrail alive by urgently delivering and acting upon ambitious NDCs and climate action plans aligned with the Global Stocktake outcome and in line with the latest scientific guidance.*
- *Place intergenerational justice, gender-transformative approaches, Indigenous Peoples' Rights, and Human Rights at the core of climate governance.*
- *Enact the rapid, just, and equitable phase-out of fossil fuels, targeting the global energy system in UNFCCC negotiations and the critical adoption of activities for a just transition*
- *Incorporate the participation of children and youth as agents of change as well as considerations of intergenerational equity throughout all decision-making, including but not limited to the development and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).*

## Children and Youth-Related Demands

Recalling [Decision 16/CP.28](#), [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, para's 55 and 56](#), [the Glasgow Climate Pact, para's 63 and 64](#), and [Decisions 23/CP.27](#) and [22/CMA.4](#); and reiterating the importance of meaningful children and youth inclusion within UNFCCC processes, national climate plans and other forms of climate governance at the regional and local levels; we call on Parties, stakeholders, the COP Presidency and the UNFCCC Secretariat to:

1. **Institutionalise intergenerational equity** as a cross-cutting principle within UNFCCC negotiations and establish a formal monitoring and accountability mechanism with annual review processes in cooperation with children and youth to track progress on meaningful engagement and climate outcomes.
2. **Acknowledge the Global Youth Statement (GYS)** of the Global Conference of Children and Youth (COY), organised by the Constituency and use the GYS as a source to inform future decisions and **fulfil the demands** of children and youth.
3. **Acknowledge the outcomes** of the Local and Regional Conferences of (Children and) Youth and support the meaningful participation of children and young people in these conferences through formal recognition and financial support where feasible.
4. **Amplify national children and youth inclusion efforts** and acknowledge and support child- & youth-led initiatives, such as the implementation of the Universal NDC Youth Clause.
5. Effectively **collaborate** with the Children and Youth Constituency in the organisation of **Youth-led Climate Forums** and **engage** in these events.
6. Support the involvement of children and youth in SBs and COPs by ensuring sufficient access to **accreditation** and, where feasible, providing **financial assistance** to enhance their ability to contribute to negotiations and policymaking.
7. Collaborate to **support the visa applications** of (young) delegates, especially from the Global South and conflict-affected areas, to facilitate their participation in the UNFCCC conferences with a special focus on establishing agreements for SBs.

8. Develop a robust framework that ensures the utmost **safety** of children and youth in all UNFCCC-coordinated conferences, incorporating a **housing strategy** for children and youth participating in such conferences, if not free, then well subsidised.
9. Formalise and **strengthen the coordination between the Presidency Youth Climate Champion (PYCC) and YOUNGO**, ensuring that PYCC activities are aligned with the broader children and youth constituency's priorities and that YOUNGO's expertise and networks are effectively leveraged. Crucially, ensure that the PYCC's efforts prioritise authentic engagement with grassroots children and youth, avoiding tokenisation, suppression or instrumentalisation of the role.
10. Require each PYCC to provide regular, publicly accessible reports on their activities, finances, outcomes, and recommendations, to ensure effective accountability and transparency in their role of facilitating children and youth engagement in the Presidencies' agenda and fostering a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration.



## Thematic Demands

To change the course of action, the unique insights and innovative solutions of children and youth are essential to both forging a sustainable and equitable future for all and upholding intergenerational equity across all UNFCCC Agenda items.

**We, the Children and Youth Constituency (YOUNGO), call on Parties, stakeholders and the UNFCCC Secretariat to:**

### Adaptation

- Provide support to developing country Parties in tracking adaptation progress;
- Ensure that sufficient Means of Implementation are provided for countries to implement Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL);
- Ensure that the final outcome of the UAE-Belém Work Programme incorporates disaggregated indicators that reflect the different dimensions of vulnerabilities, including health, that affect children, youth, and other vulnerable populations;
- Invite existing international funds to support child- and youth-led adaptation measures through provisions such as grants, technical assistance, and enhanced outreach;
- Ensure NAPs effectively identify and address climate-related risks, including but not limited to peace and security, health, gender, children and youth and Action for Climate empowerment (ACE);
- Address the high risk of malnutrition of vulnerable populations, including children and youth, perpetuated by the impacts of the climate crisis.
- Ensure inclusion of context-specific targets under the UAE FGCR. This is not limited to but must include cultural heritage sectors in the identification and tracking of adaptation finance flows, technology transfer mechanisms, and capacity-building programs;
- Recognise and include cultural heritage adaptation strategies, including traditional knowledge, Indigenous practices, and community arts, as transformative adaptation actions;
- Expand the scope of national and local Early Warning Systems to include risks to cultural heritage and heritage-based livelihoods.

### Finance

- Ensure that public funding remains the backbone of climate finance, especially for adaptation and loss and damage;
- Adopt a transformative approach to climate finance that upholds the principles of intergenerational justice, gender equity, transparency, and climate justice;

- Establish mechanisms of direct and equitable climate finance for local and municipal governments;
- Operationalise Article 2.1(c) so that it complements, rather than dilutes, developed countries' obligations under Article 9 and provides a clear pathway toward sustainable, equitable climate finance;
- Ensure that the Baku to Belém Roadmap guarantees equitable, transparent, gender-transformative and efficient finance flows by minimising bureaucratic barriers, ensuring the participation of primary recipients, especially Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and children and youth projects;
- Prioritise domestic emissions cuts and use Article 6 only to increase ambition in line with Article 6(1), and only to use Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) for residual emissions (those that are technically infeasible to abate with currently available technologies and economic constraints).

### **Gender**

- Recognise and address interlinkages between Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Gender-Based Violence, and the climate crisis;
- Expand the focus beyond the binary language of women and girls to include gender-diverse individuals and gender-transformative approaches;
- Launch a global gender, race and climate campaign to recognise leaders implementing climate solutions and connecting them with policymakers to advance their impact;
- Include Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent health (MNCHA) in the Gender Action Plan (GAP).

### **Just Transition**

- Establish the global Just Transition Mechanism (BIM) that enables effectiveness, accountability, and systemic change, as well as sustainable practices and social protection; to achieve a holistic multisectoral and multidimensional Just Transition within and between countries, based on the principles of equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC); Agree on ambitious safeguards for Just Transition, prioritising the inclusion of a transformative and rights-based approach (labour, social protection, education, Indigenous rights, gender justice, care economy) in the Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP);
- Shifting away from extractive economies and reducing the environmental impact of industries like manufacturing, agriculture, fashion, technology, and construction on human and ecological well-being;

- Recognise the design and implementation of Just Transition policies, plans, programmes and practices as supportive of climate ambition and eligible to receive climate finance; fostering democratic governance, intergenerational justice, and international cooperation through equitable finance and capacity-building
- Ensure access to green jobs and propose training programs that support a just transition and respect labour rights.

### **Loss and Damage (L&D)**

- Ensure that Loss and Damage Funding is based on fair shares and historical responsibility, not charity. Therefore, developed country Parties must contribute to the L&D fund at the appropriate scale and speed;
- Guarantee the direct access of at least 30% of the funding by local communities, Indigenous Peoples, non-male-led, child & youth-led organisations, and frontline actors;
- Operationalise and implement rapid-response finance tracks for sudden-onset disasters (e.g. floods, cyclones) and long-term support mechanisms for slow-onset events (e.g. sea-level rise, droughts);
- Ensure that L&D funding covers non-economic losses such as cultural loss, mental health trauma, displacement, or education disruption, supporting healing, relocation, and community-led recovery programs;
- Ensure coherence and unified efforts between the Santiago Network, the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) adaptation frameworks and humanitarian aid.

### **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**

- Submit 1.5°C-aligned and economy-wide NDCs that include all greenhouse gases, in line with the latest scientific guidance from the IPCC;
- Adopt modalities to follow up on commitments, notably the transition away from fossil fuels and the First Global Stocktake (GST1) outcome;
- Promote a Second Global Stocktake (GST2) process that includes all civil society stakeholders;
- Ensure that all NDCs are gender-transformative;
- Adopt the [NDC Youth Clause](#), which calls for a commitment to appreciate young people as agents of change and for enhanced collaboration with young people as climate decision-makers and implementers;
- Ensure Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are developed in consultation with children, youth and other rights holders;

- Ensure Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) include appropriate measures and finance related to children and youth, gender, ACE, health and peace & security;
- Integrate health and psychosocial well-being into NDCs through a Health in All Policies Approach that recognises the necessity of cross-sectoral climate action to maximise health promotion and protection.

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

- Create dedicated and accessible funding instruments at all levels for ACE projects, including dedicated financing for child and youth-led projects;
- Create a formal ACE platform managed by the UNFCCC Secretariat to increase the exchange of information and the collaborations among all actors of the ACE Community;
- Enable and facilitate children and youth representation in all delegations with clear mandates, funding and accountability mechanisms, and further enhance it by establishing children and youth councils, and designating UNFCCC ACE Focal Points;
- National curricula and ACE strategies must include science-based education and training for children and youth to understand and apply climate data and projections.

### **Energy**

- Establish a Dedicated Energy Negotiations Track within the framework of UNFCCC negotiations, via an inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation process to reform energy governance, and discuss technology research, transfer, and financing;
- Commit to a rapid, fair, and equitable fossil fuel phase-out in line with the best available scientific evidence and reject all expansion of fossil fuel projects in every capacity;
- Scale up public finance for community-owned and rights-based clean energy systems, prioritising child & youth, women-led, Indigenous, and frontline initiatives.

### **Food and Agriculture**

- Embed measures to promote nutritious, just, and resilient food systems into climate policies, addressing agricultural emissions and land access issues for vulnerable and marginalised communities;

- Recognise holistic food systems approaches and agroecology as key strategies for sustainable agriculture.

### **Human Rights**

- Formally recognise the link between the human rights obligations of states and climate action within the UNFCCC, and place Human Rights at the centre of climate governance;
- Uphold the inclusion of children and youth, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and gender-diverse people to ensure equity and justice in climate action;
- Support the creation of an official Disability Caucus within the UNFCCC;
- Recognise and condemn the abuse inflicted upon Environmental and Human Rights defenders and activists;
- Respect Indigenous Peoples' Sovereignty, the right to self-determination, Right to Land, and Free, Prior and Informed Consent as well as the Right to self-determination of peoples, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities.

### **Migration**

- Establish planned and regular climate mobility patterns, alongside integrating climate migration into adaptation strategies;
- Create comprehensive, legal frameworks that protect the rights of climate migrants;
- Allocate resources within loss and damage funds to support internally displaced populations and support the creation of children and youth-led initiatives focused on capacity building for vulnerable communities at risk of displacement.

### **Cities**

- Enable city authorities to lead and implement mitigation and adaptation projects with the inclusion of children and youth;
- Implement integrated and inclusive urban resilience planning that prioritises the most vulnerable neighbourhoods, ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, essential services, and green infrastructure;
- Develop city-level climate action plans aligned with NDCs, supported by capacity building, technical assistance, and child- & youth-led monitoring efforts.

### **Peace and Security**

- Recognise the negative impact of military conflicts on the climate crisis;

- Ensure regional cooperation on transboundary climate-security risks (e.g. shared water basins or climate migration routes);
- Recognise the peacebuilding value of Indigenous conflict resolution and ecological stewardship.

### Science

- Include children and youth in national climate science advisory bodies, UNFCCC technical dialogues (e.g., Global Stocktake), and scientific review processes (e.g., IPCC review cycles);
- Ensure negotiation outcomes include transparent mechanisms to track progress against scientific benchmarks as outlined by the IPCC.

