

## High Level Segment Intervention

Distinguished Delegates, I am Etinosa Obanor, speaking on behalf of the youth constituency.

Future generations will recall 2017 as another year in which the consequences of the climate crisis became more apparent than ever before. They will also remember the absence of courage from the world leaders in response to this global crisis.

In the past, you've never stopped promising action. There is no need to keep talking endlessly in closed rooms if you don't face up reality and act accordingly.

Distinguished Delegates, it is **your** choice if you want future generations to remember you as the heroes of the century. Here's how.

**First**, you must commit to pre-2020 action. At this very moment, people are suffering and dying from the impacts of climate change. The only option we have to act is **now**. Let's not leave their suffering unheard. The climate crisis is a new frontier for human rights. You have human rights obligations; we implore you to take them seriously!

**Secondly**, we need a massive increase in financing. This **new** and **additional** money needs to be accessible for all countries. All countries must be allowed to handle the money by themselves without being patronized. All of you must respect the ability of the Global South to successfully manage the adaptation fund to advancing the resilience of their own communities. None of you can judge their expertise on the ground. Even though you may think that some countries have not efficiently used finance, local communities know what works best for their contexts, and we urge you trust them regarding the implementation of regional climate solutions..

In particular, money needs to be made available for Losses and Damages. Even as we come together as a part of a global youth movement, those from the global south are disproportionately impacted by climate change. And it is especially on their behalf that we make this request.

**Thirdly**, in the Talanoa Dialogue and in the preparatory meetings, youth should get mandated spaces for participation. We have the right to participate and this means that we also must have a political voice in the whole process, not only in statements but also in the conclusions. When engaging with young people, we ask you to consider our diversity and not to see us as a homogenous mass.

**Fourthly**, we call on you to stop supporting the seemingly endless expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure. While we are here talking, 50km away coal is burned, heating up this planet, compromising our future. People around the world, young and elders alike, are demanding a just transition away from a fossil fuel based economy. You must listen to them. We **can** prioritize creating good jobs while addressing climate change. We need ambitious fossil fuel reductions. Development, jobs, and investment done in fossil fuel industry will be wasted when we'll start taking the Paris Agreement seriously. We urge the parties to make their future investments in clean sectors. We demand that polluters get kicked out of the negotiations and that our government's stand on the right side of history during this pivotal moment.

The climate crisis is here, but in fact the solutions are ready to go. For the past 23 years, everyday, people around the world showed they are ready and willing to act. Today, we ask you to listen to the call of millions of people, and demonstrate the political will to keep us below 1.5°C.

Progress is a long process. The system is not perfect – and it might never be perfect. But today's system is better than yesterday's. And it is our duty to make sure that tomorrow's system is better than today's.

Thank you.