



**YOUNGO Opening Statement at ADP 2-9, 1 June 2015  
World Conference Centre Bonn**

Mr Co-Chairs,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a statement on behalf of the Youth Constituency.

The world is at a critical juncture with the irreversible and devastating impacts of climate change and 2015 will be a decisive year if we are to adequately tackle this challenge. If the COP21 in Paris fails to deliver, the already declining faith of the general public in international climate negotiations will be further damaged, possibly irreparably.

On 27th May 2015, Ban-Ki-Moon met with international youth at a meeting organised by the European Commission to facilitate youth input into the Sustainable Development Goals. The Secretary General commented that youth are the first generation who can end poverty and last generation who can address climate change and added that he was putting youth *"in the driver's seat and giving us the driver's license."* We see the road in front of us – it is the journey ahead which will determine our futures. We all have hopes for how we want to live, the things we want to do and the places we want to see. But we cannot do this if we know that our Governments do not act as though they share in our ambitions for our collective future.

As such we particularly support and celebrate the vision of the 127 countries who have galvanised in support of a long-term goal. We believe that the long-term goal has the potential to unify parties endeavours, putting us all on the same pathway to deep decarbonisation, to build a stable and healthier future for every person not just for the privileged. We strongly recommend that Parties set a quantitative long-term commitment that aligns with the science to give us the highest probability of securing the maximum 1.5°C temperature rise target, and securing a safe and liveable world in 2050 and beyond. The most vulnerable nations tell us this must be done, and they are relying on us to deliver this in Paris.

The most vulnerable local communities to climate impacts in developing countries lack information on what climate change really is. In order to deliver, we all need to work together. Governments and civil society need to stand hand in hand. Progress was made with the Lima Declaration on Education

and Awareness Raising, but in order to facilitate transformative change towards low-emission and climate-resilient societies, we need policies which place greater emphasis on and provide greater support for climate change education, training, public awareness, public access to information and public participation at all levels and involving all stakeholders.

To avoid past mistakes and continue building positively towards the end goal of a more equitable and decarbonised world, we support proposals for an agreement without an expiry date. These proposals must include four-year review periods for mitigation commitments, where parties are expected/required to pursue additional action following each review period, building on each NDC to ensure the only way for ambition is up.

Finally, we believe that short-term action between 2015 - 2020 is necessary and will support mid and long term goals for decarbonisation. Short term action means developed countries must start cutting emissions deeply today. There is no time left to put things off.

Short-term action also means the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies in developed countries and financial support for developing countries to redirect fossil subsidies to the phase-in of equitably distributed sources of clean energy.

The Youth need a resilient, clean and healthy energy future; a fair and legally binding ambitious deal in Paris which will be applicable to all parties; and a mechanism that represents the developing and developed countries equally: we will still be here in 2050, there is no time left to put things off.

Thank you.