



## Submission in Response to the Call for Inputs to the First Global Stocktake (GST)

March 2023

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Care About Climate (CAC) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission in response to the call for inputs to the first Global Stocktake (GST) with respect to decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 36 and 37. The GST is crucial for assessing and strengthening collective ambition and support for achieving the Paris Agreement. In the context of the review, CAC would like to draw attention to the critical contribution of youth and children and the role of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) in intergenerational justice and gender justice in addressing climate change. **One concrete way this can be achieved is by setting aside time at the technical dialogues to discuss intergenerational justice and ACE within NDCs in partnership with non-party stakeholders, especially youth.**

### Background

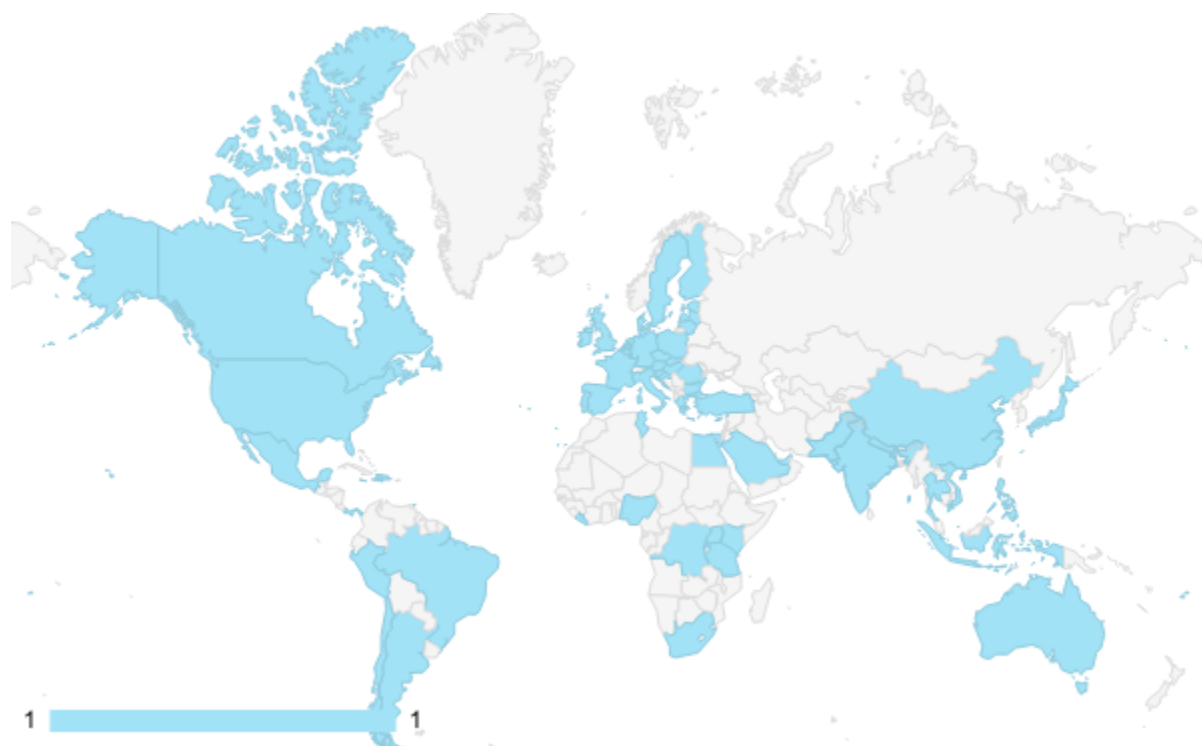
Care About Climate is a global youth organization focused on training and empowering young people to be climate justice leaders at local and international levels worldwide.

We support youth programs through training, education, access to networks, and navigating international policy spaces. Our members are regionally diverse, with over 40 countries being represented by active volunteers in our organization. With the help of our volunteers, we support three main programs: the COP taskforce, ClimAcademy COP training, and the NDC Project. The programs help volunteers lead, learn, and empower each other to be climate leaders in their communities and in international arenas to advocate for youth inclusivity and sustainable development across many areas of climate action.

NDCs have been recognized as climate pledges that will lead the global community into collective ambitious climate action. The Care About Climate NDC Equity Tracker provides a platform for youth worldwide to share recommendations based on how ambitious their country's NDCs may be. Although the tracker at this time does not include analysis of all countries with an NDC submitted to the UNFCCC, every year, we grow our database to provide youth recommendations in the first subjective NDC tracker available to the public. With 38 countries currently analyzed, youth ambassadors

provide an in-depth analysis of their country's recognition of different climate needs in three main topics: emission reductions, gender inclusion, and intergenerational support and youth inclusivity.

There is an opportunity in this GST to: (1) take stock of the collective progress made on intergenerational justice and ACE in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and finance, and (2) to identify activities that can be done to strengthen action and ambition on it. Below we have included a few key takeaways and resources from CAC's youth-led analyses of NDCs, however, more can be reviewed at: [www.ndcequitytracker.org](http://www.ndcequitytracker.org).



**Caption:** Countries included in the NDC Equity Tracker.

## Key Messages and Recommendations

Youth ambassadors and mentors from the NDC project realize the importance of emission reduction across the board. Pointing to emissions as one of the most important topics when discussing climate action, we see a consistent theme when discussing emissions reductions. **From a youth perspective, there is a call of action to rapidly reduce emissions and phase-out all fossil fuels, especially from those countries labeled the highest emitters.** The countries that make up the current CAC NDC equity tracker, represent a total emissions of 48% with analysis available from regions like the European Union to small countries like Haiti.

On gender, according to recent NDC analysis, we still leave a lot to be desired when it comes to gender inclusivity, this goes for women and LGBTQIA+ communities. Climate change is not gender neutral. In 2021, 25% of country's NDCs submitted to the

UNFCCC are gender-blind with no considerations for gender or LGBTQIA+ community. This was also reflected in the NDC tracker, although there are countries making positive strides towards gender inclusivity, optimal targets are not being met to have equal representation in all countries. Fortunately, there have been NDC updates that are beginning to see women as stakeholders in climate change and building networks that include them in decision making spaces, such as the Dominican Republic's Gender and Climate Action Plan. **Ambassadors propose integrating gender equality in all climate strategies to better impact long-term mitigation, and promote the involvement and engagement of women as stakeholders in decision-making processes.**

The NDC equity tracker provides insight into how youth see the world around them, what they care about, what is important to them, and what they see they need to build a sustainable future. Youth ambassadors and mentors recognize that you cannot talk about climate change and sustainability without speaking to emissions and inclusivity, but at the same time, they are also stakeholders in the movement and ask for intergenerational support and inclusivity. Unfortunately, a common theme seen in the tracker is a lack of representation or inclusion of youth. Few countries have institutions in place that support youth inclusivity. Liberia has the Ganta declaration, which amplifies youth voices in the country, but other countries like Japan and Turkey make no reference or considerations to youth in their NDCs. **Ambassadors propose the inclusion of youth stakeholder consultations, funding for youth-led climate action projects, and employment of young people on NDC design and implementation teams as revisions to NDCs.**

The NDC Equity tracker reveals unsustainable gaps in climate pledges from youth ambassadors. We cannot have a sustainable future without inclusivity, empowerment, or ambitious climate action. An ambitious NDC is inclusive, realistic, and empowering to all people - including all ACE elements. The most impactful recommendations made were based on gender inclusivity, intergenerational support, and a reduction of emissions. Other areas in which youth ambassadors made calls to action included, civil society considerations, loss & damages funding, and climate education. **Mainstreaming of ACE in NDCs is an additional consideration to ensure the fair, just, and equitable inclusion of all people in climate action country-wide.**

**As technical dialogues approach, we hope countries will look to the NDC Equity Tracker for unique perspectives from young people representing their home country for a better future.**