

5th UNFCCC Capacity-building Talk

Enabling Youth as Agents of
Change: Building Youth Capacities
for Climate Action and
Implementation

Oct 2022



Summary Report



United Nations
Climate Change

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Background

The Capacity-building Talks are a new public event series launched by the UNFCCC secretariat to facilitate discussion and provision of information among actors and stakeholders involved in climate capacity-building. These talks offer a space to exchange knowledge and share best practices, including with a view to strengthening the focus of and work on capacity-building within the UNFCCC process.

The first Capacity-building Talk was held during the UN Climate Change Dialogues in November 2020 on the topic of monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building. The event series aims to reach actors involved or interested in climate related capacity-building efforts. This includes UNFCCC Parties and observers, members of the PCCB network, capacity-building providers, and other interested actors. The talks cater to both novices and experts in the field of capacity-building.

The 5th Talk

Young people play a pivotal role in delivering ambitious climate action and in shaping the way in which they empower other young people. At the same time, there is a need to invest in young people to contribute to developing their capacities in order to unlock youth-led climate action for greater impact on the ground. Capacity-building is key to enabling the potential of youth as agents of change and empowering youth to take a leading role in capacity-building efforts, as the capacity-builders that they are.

The UNFCCC Secretariat, with the contribution of the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition, has set up the Youth4Capacity initiative to contribute to building the capacities of young people on climate change, while engaging youth as capacity-builders in the process.

Objectives

The 5th Capacity-building Talk offered a space to explore the challenges, capacity needs and gaps and exchange knowledge and share best practices with regards to capacity-building initiatives to meaningfully engage youth in climate action and boosting youth-driven climate solutions.

Through an intergenerational dialogue, youth and capacity-building stakeholders shared recommendations and good practices to building capacities for engaging youth in climate policymaking and action at the national and local level – both as capacity recipients and builders. In addition to providing space for general reflections and perspectives on capacity building for youth, the session specifically considered the following aspects:

- 1 Exploring the capacity needs and gaps identified and addressed by youth-led capacity building initiatives.
- 2 Building on best practices from various capacity-building initiatives that unlock young people's potential for climate action and focus on retaining young people's capacities.
- 3 Recommendations and opportunities to build synergies and avoid fragmentation in initiatives, including with regard to better targeting, reaching and engaging key stakeholders, and facilitating their access to capacity-building support.

Meeting Information

Hosted by the
UNFCCC Secretariat

Date



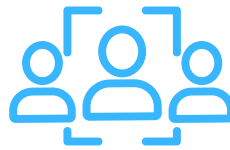
13 Oct

Time



14:00-15:30 CET

Venue



Virtual-MS Teams

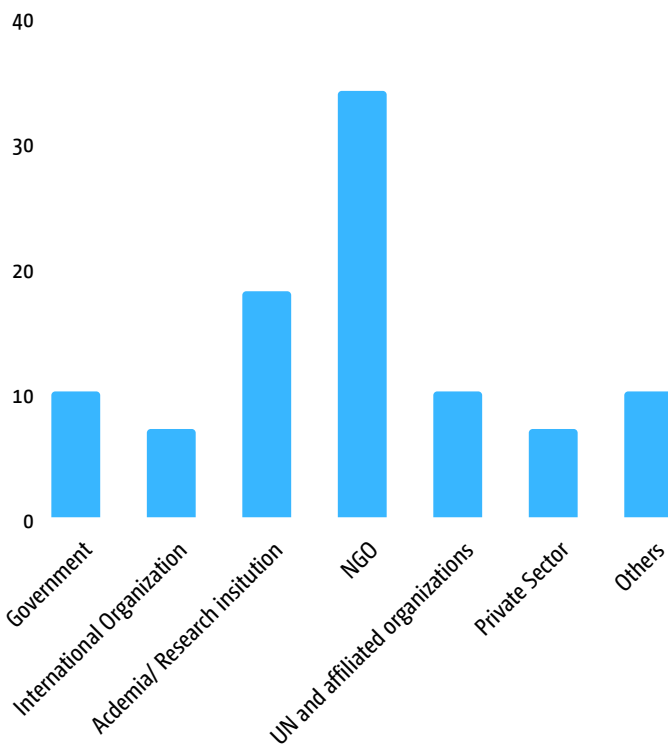
Attended by



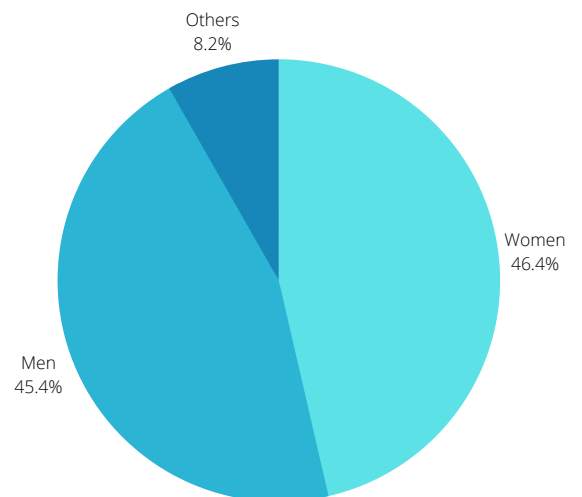
97 participants

Participants' information

Type of institutions:

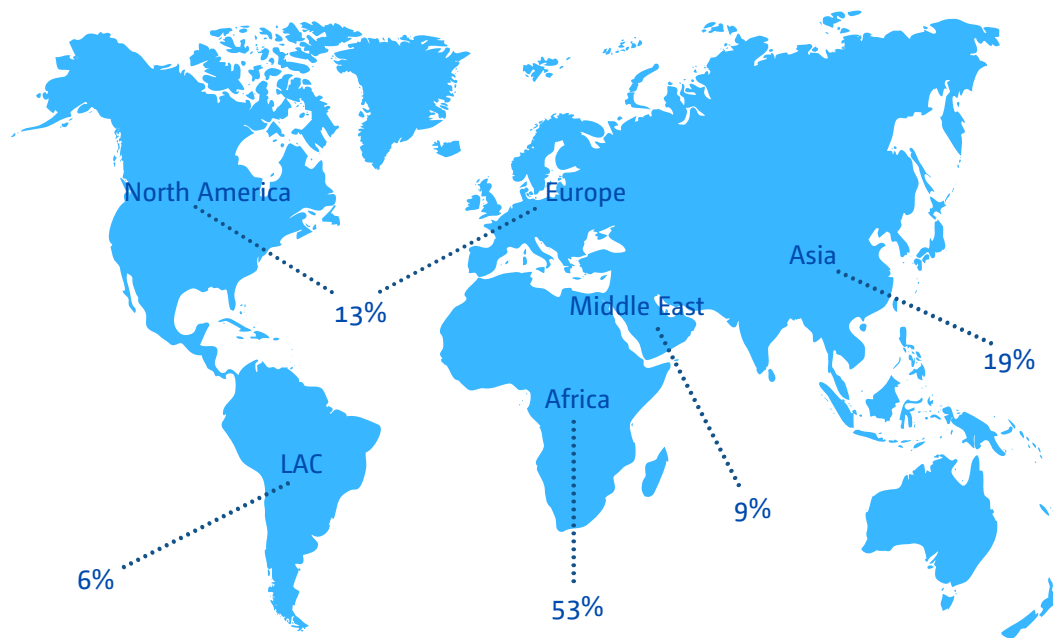


Gender Balance:



Participants' information

Located in:



Youth4Capacity Initiative

The UNFCCC Capacity Building and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) teams started by presenting the Youth4Capacity Initiative. The two teams, together with the Children and Youth constituency to the UNFCCC (YOUNGO), as well as many local and regional youth organizations, have jointly organized a youth affiliated event during the Africa Climate Week, where the Youth4Capacity initiative was officially launched.

This five-year initiative, seeks to support youth in enhancing their capacities for engaging in climate action, while acknowledging young people as equal partners and co-creators in these capacity-building efforts. To meet this objective, the UNFCCC secretariat, with the contribution of the Ministry of Ecological Transition of Italy, is expected to design and implement:

- (1) Targeted virtual knowledge and skill enhancement events.
- (2) In person hands-on capacity-building events.
- (3) A Mentorship Programme.
- (4) Dissemination of information and knowledge through various outreach channels.



Further updates on the Youth4Capacity initiative will be provided on its webpage in due course.

Panel Speakers



Summary of discussions

Panel Discussion

The panel discussion focused on the following aspects:

1. Exploring the capacity needs and gaps identified and addressed by youth-led capacity building initiatives
2. Building on best practices from various capacity-building initiatives that unlock young people's potential for climate action and focus on retaining young people's capacities
3. Recommendations and opportunities to build synergies and avoid fragmentation in initiatives, including with regard to better targeting, reaching and engaging key stakeholders, and facilitating their access to capacity-building support

To begin with, Bruna Elias introduced the United Nations Global Compact SDG Innovation Accelerator for Young Professionals, which seeks to address what it means for a business to be sustainable. The accelerator builds the capacity of young professionals using the breakthrough approach and design thinking, challenging them to disrupt from within businesses in order to make social impact. Furthermore, the programme emphasis is on how modern technologies and innovations can be leveraged for sustainability and the social good.

Hannah Girardeau continued by highlighting the Youth Engagement Plan of NDC Partnership, which seeks to provide capacity-building for young people in nationally determined contribution (NDC) processes. In particular, she recognized that while there are existing youth activities such as reskilling programmes, e-learning, and capacity-building projects, there remain capacity gaps and needs to be addressed, on topics such as technical skills for climate transition, climate finance literacy, and linguistic translation.

Following which, Saad Uakkas underscored the importance of strengthening organizational capacity of grassroots youth groups and organizations, in order to take their work from the local to the global level and develop their skills in high-level programming and partnerships. In the context of his work at the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change, the role of peer-to-peer learning and mentorship was emphasized as key mechanisms to raise awareness and facilitate the exchange of needs and issues.

Finally, Caterina Vetrugno introduced the Climate Leadership Programme of the Impulsouth Solutions Lab, which seeks to support the implementation of key climate initiatives led by young leaders from different sectors in 6 countries. In her experience, while there is ample technical knowledge on urban planning and circular economy, knowledge on legal frameworks and financing tools is lacking. Furthermore, given the complexity of systemic projects to address knowledge gaps, it is important to break down the process, define the steps required, and convene different experts for joint collaboration.

Best practices to unlock young people's potential for climate action and retain capacities

First, climate education should be recognized as a core component of capacity-building, and should be integrated into the educational curriculum at all levels to develop generational awareness and expertise.

Second, strategic thinking is required to understand the long-term goals and objectives of young professionals, in order to create systemic mindset shifts and positive cycles in which young people are empowered as capacity builders.

Third, a bottom-up approach is crucial to co-create knowledge and action with young people, and to recognize youth not merely as beneficiaries but also as partners of change. Grounding youth awareness at a local level is key to ensure the longevity of youth climate action, and formalizing the role of youth in capacity-building programmes is key to meaningful youth engagement.

Summary of discussions

Panel Discussion

Recommendations and opportunities to build synergies and avoid fragmentation

Bruna Elias cited the importance of the 80:20 rule, a principle that underscores the need to identify and focus efforts in light of resource and time constraints. She emphasised that while all of us may have different mandates, our end goal is the same, and we should harvest the power of collaboration and partnership to advance this common agenda.

Next, Hannah Girardeau suggested that existing capacity-building resources should be well utilized to ensure effective and efficient climate action. In addition, she recognized the need for both policy interventions and grassroots organizations to bring the local to the national and global.

Following which, Saad Uakkas highlighted that it takes courage and commitment to diversify the youth base which is engaged by other stakeholders. Furthermore, he urged the creation of platforms and spaces to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and interaction, with collaboration leading to better outcomes.

Finally, Caterina Vetrugno highlighted the necessity of creating synergies from a systemic approach. Recognizing that nobody by themselves has the knowledge to cross all the bridges, it is essential to convene different disciplines, to compromise, and to seek consensus for collective goals.

Open Plenary Discussion

This moderated open plenary discussion session invited participants to share their experiences with capacity-building programmes, as well as their suggestions on how the Youth4Capacity initiative can address the most significant capacity needs and gaps of young people.

The responses to the second question are included below:

Work on multiple levels	Creating opportunities	Train the trainers
Matchmaking collaborations and amplifying synergies	Identify the varying capacity needs focusing on continental and country needs	Ground in practical uses, focus on actionable capacity building
Whole-of-society approaches	Engaging young people as co-creators and equal partners in the process	Alternative opportunities for young people
Engage more youth	Outreach	Meaningful youth engagement

Summary of discussions

Q&A

Given the scale and complexity of the climate crisis, how should we engage as much of the global population as possible?



Bruna Elias

With 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions from the private sector, we must tackle the root cause of the climate crisis. The private sector must be involved as governments and UN agencies come up with strategies for climate action.

We need to train as many people in as many branches as possible. We have to design strategies that can be put into action step-by-step. We need to have a large-scale vision made up of millions of small actions and pilot projects, with the flexibility and adaptability for a constantly changing situation.



Caterina Vetrugno

Summary of discussions

Q&A



Hannah Girardeau

To build the workforce & decision makers of the future, we need an overall mindset shift. We need technicians, negotiators, entrepreneurs, leaders, and everyone else across the entire spectrum of capacity-building.

We need media in amplifying the best practices and examples of youth action. We need academia to ensure that youth action is well documented, monitored, and evaluated. A whole-of-society approach to collaboration is needed.



Caterina Vetrugno

Summary of discussions

Q&A

How do we ensure gender inclusiveness in the capacity-building interventions for climate action?



Hannah Girardeau

In fulfilling our commitments, we should avoid repeating biases in the past. Gender equality considerations must be at the forefront of the planning of programmes and projects, and continuously reinforced.

“

We have to include women as ambassadors, and as leading figures in circular economy and climate action.



Caterina Vetrugno



Bruna Elias

Women are at the heart of sustainable supply chains. Everyone has a role to play in contributing to gender frameworks that inform government policy.

Summary of discussions

Closing

To summarise the main takeaways of the webinar, Natalie Mangondo reiterated the importance of going together in our fight against the climate crisis, and on equal footing, in order to create transformative global shifts. In addition, she underscored the role of education in creating breakthrough shifts in the way that companies do business, and in the way we live and consume. Furthermore, she highlighted the need to build, retain, and upscale the capacities of young people in climate action. Finally, she underscored the importance for Youth4Capacity to recognise youth, especially vulnerable groups, as co-creators and partners of change.

Finally, Roberta Ianna (Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition) ended the webinar with the closing remarks, recognising that the Youth4Capacity initiative will adopt the co-creation approach in engaging young people as capacity-builders and scaling up climate action.

What's Next?

The information provided during the 5th Capacity-building Talk will relate to the ongoing work on enhancing youth engagement in climate action and capacity-building in the UNFCCC process, particularly through the Youth4Capacity initiative.

The fifth and next edition of the Capacity-building Talks is scheduled to take place in the first half of 2023, registration for this event will be published in due course on the [capacity-building talks main page](#) and registration information will also be shared through the UNFCCC capacity-building mailing list.

Useful Links

- [Recording of the 5th Capacity-building Talk](#)
- [5th Capacity-building Talk page](#)
- [Capacity-building Talks main page](#)

Moderator

Natalie Mangondo



Natalie Mangondo serves as the Finance Youth Fellow with the United Nations Climate Change High Level Champions Team. She is an economist who brings more than six years of experience in climate change and sustainability in Southern Africa. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Science in Economics from the University of Zimbabwe as the Southern Africa Climate Finance Partnership Masters Scholar, where her research centres on incorporating climate-resilience into Africa's investments in greenhouse gas mitigation. Additionally, she volunteers her time with various climate justice organisations, and the YOUNGO Finance and Markets Working Group which is the children and youth constituency of the UNFCCC.

Panelists

Bruna Elias



Bruna Elias is part of the Global Operations team at the United Nations Global Compact, leading efforts around Business and SDG Innovation. She oversees the SDG Innovation Accelerator for Young Professionals, a development programme designed to foster a new community of emerging leaders disrupting traditional ways of doing business and spearheading change for true SDG impact.

Caterina Vetrugno



Caterina Vetrugno is an architect by training. She works on international projects related to Urban Metabolism, Circular Economy and vulnerable settlements regeneration. Her goal is putting into practice the experience she gained first in Europe and then in Latin America about systemic design, management and research to contribute to the urgency of climate change adaptation and mitigation and the sustainable development of cities.

Hannah Girardeau



Hannah is the Gender and Youth Associate for the NDC Partnership. She works to support countries in advancing gender equality and meaningful youth engagement throughout the NDC process. Her work focuses on driving support through progress on the Partnership's Gender Strategy and Youth Engagement Plan.

Saad Uakkas



Saad is a London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine public health master's graduate and activist. He has occupied leadership positions for 3 years in the international federation of medical students associations IFMSA and led global campaigns and coordinated the global medical students' COVID-19 response collaborating with WHO, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNICEF, and other stakeholders. He works now as AYICC North Africa Coordinator and program co-lead of the COP27 children and youth pavilion.

Programme

Welcome & Introduction

- Eva Costas, Capacity-building Subdivision, UNFCCC secretariat
- Riddhi Dutta, Capacity-building Subdivision, UNFCCC secretariat
- Hyunjin Chang, Action for Climate Empowerment Subdivision, UNFCCC secretariat

Panel Discussion

The discussion focused on capacity-building needs and gaps experienced by young people, ways to build and retain youth capacities in the long-term, and recommendations and opportunities to build synergies and avoid fragmentation.

- Bruna Elias, United Nations Global Compact (SDG Innovation Accelerator for Young Professionals)
- Caterina Vetrugno, ImpulSouth Solutions Lab (Climate Leadership Programme)
- Hannah Girardeau, NDC Partnership (Youth Engagement Plan)
- Saad Uakkas, African Youth Initiative on Climate Change

Open Plenary Discussion and Q&A

- Alejandro Kilpatrick, Capacity-building subdivision, UNFCCC secretariat
- Xuan Zihan, Capacity-building subdivision, UNFCCC secretariat

Closing

- Natalie Mangando, UNFCCC High-Level Champions
- Roberta Ianna, Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition

Capacity-building
Talks

Contact details

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Bonn 53113, Germany

Webpage: [https://unfccc.int/Capacity-building Talks](https://unfccc.int/Capacity-building%20Talks)



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