

Concept Note:

Youth Stocktake - An opportunity for ambition youth inclusion in climate agendas

Monday 9th October at 11 am – 12:30 pm in Neom

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Summary

Co-organised by YOUNGO and the COP28 UAE Youth Climate Champion team (YCC), the MENA Climate Week Youth Stocktake Event provides a critical opportunity for building greater support by UNFCCC stakeholders for the inclusion of children and youth in key climate processes at the national, regional and international level. The event provides a platform for raising awareness among key stakeholders of the Youth Stocktake (YST) process, which runs alongside the Global Stocktake (GST) process. The session will help to amplify the key message from the YST: greater inclusion of youth in climate processes is critical for achieving the targets laid out in the Paris Agreement, as well as other key international climate agreements, and in securing a future for our planet and all future inhabitants. Moreover, the event provides an important opportunity for youth and other key stakeholders to directly engage with the YST process by feeding into the findings for the YST report via a consultation centred on MENA youth participation in UNFCCC processes.

Background

The first-ever Global Stocktake (GST) went underway in 2022, providing a pivotal moment for understanding progress against the goals set out in the Paris Agreements, being, to strengthen the global response to climate change and limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The exercises contained in the GST are necessary at various levels to determine progress in diverse sectors and at different scales. After substantial work, the GST is now in the home stretch before taking center stage at this year's COP28 in the UAE, where Parties and other key stakeholders will gather for important climate talks on whether enough has been done on cutting emissions, adapting to climate change, funding climate action and rolling-out technology. Moving forward, the implementation of the GST would be a significant moment to shape and influence key actions in the future.

At SB58 in Bonn, it was announced that there would be a [Youth Stocktake](#) (YST) which would run in parallel to the GST and provide an assessment of youth inclusion in climate policy processes, including at the national, regional and international level. Youth participation in the UNFCCC processes has been steadily increasing over the past decade, in particular since the formalisation of YOUNGO, the official children and youth constituency group at the UNFCCC. Young people have long been demanding to be heard and to be engaged meaningfully in important discussion and processes responding to climate change, a global issue that disproportionately impacts society's most vulnerable groups, including children and

youth. However, while youth climate activism has exponentially grown in quantity and scale, young people are met with persistent challenges in the political arena, restricting their potential in playing pivotal roles in key solutions. Among these challenges are limited funding, low technical knowledge, visa restrictions and other logistical barriers, and a lack of human resource capacity (YOUNGO report 2022). In the face of numerous barriers and challenges, young people have continued in their struggle to engage meaningfully and influence climate policy to secure their future and that of future generations. Now more than ever, young people's participation in key climate processes must be integrated within a holistic view of Climate Change Governance (CCG) that is rooted in the principles of inclusion and climate justice, including intergenerational equity. For the first time, the YST will provide a mapping of the landscape of youth inclusion, focusing on the development of local, national, regional and international youth mechanisms, particularly in the past 3 years, and on youth inclusion by Parties. Moreover, the YST will provide an important roadmap for future youth inclusion and serve as a guide for incorporating a YST in future GST processes.

Title

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Format

Presentation by YOUNGO/YST Team & the COP28 UAE Youth Climate Champion team (YCC) followed by a world cafe-style practical workshop facilitating consultations with youth, Party representatives and other key stakeholders.

Duration

90-minutes in total (20-minute presentation, 10-minute Q&A, 50-minute workshop consultation, 10-minute wrap-up).

Expected Number of Participants

50-100

Key objectives

- Promotion of the Youth Stocktake among youth, Party representatives and other key stakeholders to the UNFCCC in the MENA region.
- Highlight the need for promoting intergenerational equity in climate processes from the local to the global level.
- Drive engagement of youth, Party representatives and other key stakeholders to the UNFCCC in the MENA region with the Youth Stocktake process.
- Facilitate a consultation with youth, Party representatives and other key stakeholders to the UNFCCC in the MENA region on the progression of MENA youth participation in UNFCCC processes.

Speakers

1. Moderator - Ola Alhaj, LCOY Syria Organiser, YOUNGO
2. Speaker 1 - Lucy Plummer YST Researcher, YOUNGO
3. Speaker 2 - Ragy Saro, Program Manager, COP28 Youth Climate Champion
4. Speaker 3 – Alejandro Kilpatrick, Manager of Means of Implementation Division, UNFCCC

Schedule

Duration	Schedule
11:00-11:05	Opening remarks & introduction of speakers by moderator
11:05-11:15	Introducing YOUNGO and YCC by Lucy Plummer and Ragy Saro.
11:15-11:25	Introducing the Youth Stocktake by Lucy Plummer and Ragy Saro.
11:25-11:30	Youth inclusion within UNFCCC by Alejandro Kilpatrick
11:30-11:45	Question & Answer
11:45-12:25	Workshop: consultations on MENA youth participation in UNFCCC processes
12:25-12:30	Closing remarks by moderator

Partners

YOUNGO, COP28 Youth Climate Champion