

**Notification to Parties - Meaningful Youth Engagement in NDCs 3.0**  
***Virtual Session for the Youth in Pacific Island Countries***

**9 August 2024 (Friday)**  
**10:00 am (GMT+7)**

**Concept Note**

**Background**

In this critical decade, climate change continues to pose differentiated and disproportionate impacts on populations and communities, including the youth. In Pacific Island Countries (PICs), youth require special attention given their proportion in the national population and susceptibility to existential threats and longer-term climate impacts.<sup>1</sup>

Efforts to empower the youth, including through engagement in decision-making, planning, and implementation are being made, with various mechanisms and platforms set up to strengthen their involvement further. In COP28, the outcome of the first Global Stocktake (GST) was adopted, reaffirming the importance of meaningful and effective social dialogue and participation of all stakeholders, including the youth, in addressing the climate crisis.<sup>2</sup>

The GST outcomes likewise recognized the important role of non-Party stakeholders (NPS), including youth, in supporting Parties in determining strategies to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

The next round of NDCs is due next year (2025). With the latest science from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicating the need to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% in 2035,<sup>3</sup> it has become more critical for countries to revisit their strategies, to ensure alignment of climate action with sustainable development pathways.

Pacific Island Countries have submitted their NDCs – 14 countries have submitted their first NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution),<sup>4</sup> 11 of which have been revised and updated as second NDCs,<sup>5</sup> and in addition, five (5) countries have submitted their NAPs (National Adaptation Plans).<sup>6</sup> While climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and action plans are in place, PICs remain confronted with challenges, including resources, information and knowledge, and monitoring and coordination across local, national, and regional levels, disrupting the full realization of nationally-determined climate goals.

In tackling what course-correcting and raising ambition means for PICs, the youth, as agents of change, must be given a space in the discussions.<sup>7</sup> Exchanging views on best practices and lessons learned, gaps and challenges, and opportunities to ensure more meaningful youth engagement in processes such as in developing NDCs 3.0 is important to outline the next courses of action and as part of the inclusivity of the process.

## **Objective**

This is being organized by the UN Climate Change Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RCC Asia Pacific) and the Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform (YECAP), with the following objectives:

- To review important concepts to further the understanding of the youth on its role in climate action, highlighting the importance of engaging them in accelerating climate action and just and inclusive transition;
- To initially determine the level/extent of youth engagement in previous NDC processes by the governments;
- To discuss entry points for meaningful youth engagement, beyond checklists and advocacy aspects, and
- To further strengthen regional support and collaboration, including ensuring meaningful youth engagement in shaping the NDCs 3.0.

## **Indicative Agenda** (90 mins)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Moderator/Speaker (TBC)</b>
5 mins	<b>Welcome and Housekeeping</b>	<i>Regional Lead, RCC Asia Pacific</i>
10 mins	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	<i>UNFCCC Secretariat</i>
10 mins	<b>Overview lecture on Meaningful Youth Engagement in NDC and UNFCCC Processes</b>	
30 mins	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Importance of meaningful youth engagement in NDC processes (<i>with particular focus on Article 6, CPI</i>)</li> <li>2. Youth engagement in previous NDCs (<i>PIC experience</i>) (<i>YECAP may suggest 1-2 speaker/s on this; speakers to note what they look forward to in the Pacific Forum</i>)</li> <li>3. Efforts/initiatives to strengthen meaningful youth engagement in these processes</li> </ol>	<i>Moderated by RCC Asia Pacific</i>
20 mins	<b>Question and Answer (Q&amp;A) Session</b>	
10 mins	<b>Closing and Next Steps</b>	