



United Nations  
Climate Change



RCC West and Central Africa  
Collaboration for Climate Action



## Youth Climate Action Webinar Series

### Part I: Youth Solutions Shaping and Implementing National Climate Policies (NDCs and NAPs) in West and Central Africa

*UN Climate Change Regional Collaboration Centre for West and Central Africa (RCC WACA)*

#### Webinar for West and Central Africa

**Date and time:** 27 March 2025 from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM (UTC+00) in English  
and 11:00 AM to 12:30 AM (UTC+00) in French

**Platform:** MS Teams

**Portuguese and Spanish speakers are free to join any of the two segments at their convenience.**

## I. Background

The urgency posed by the climate crisis requires efforts from all walks of life and a whole-of-society approach. Youth can contribute to climate action through their energy, innovative spirit and entrepreneurship, and eagerness for change and a better life. They also have the right to participate to today's decisions, which will affect their future.

In the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)), the youth constituency is formally recognized to allow the voices of children and youth to be represented in UNFCCC processes and climate negotiations and discourses via the youth NGO constituency ([YOUNGO](#)). Youth participation in climate action is encouraged in UNFCCC and the Conference of Parties ([COP](#)) decisions. Youth empowerment for participation in the formulation and implementation of national climate policies such as Nationally Determined Contributions ([NDCs](#)), National Adaptation Plans ([NAPs](#)) and Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategy ([LT-LEDS](#)) is encouraged by the Convention (Art. 6) and emphasized in the Paris Agreement (Art. 12). Youth can play a vital role in contributing to the formulation and implementation of these policies.

Youth represent an important demography in the world and most importantly in Africa. According to the [World Youth Report \(2020\)](#), there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years, accounting for 16 per cent of the global population. On the other hand, Africa's youth population is rapidly expanding. Sub-Saharan Africa has a very young population, with a significant proportion of its inhabitants being under 30 years old, with approximately 70% of the population under the age of 30. In 2015, 226 million youth aged 15 to 24 lived in Africa, accounting for 19% of the worldwide youth population. By 2030, the number of youngsters in Africa is expected to have increased by 42%. Africa's youth population is predicted to expand steadily over the rest of the twenty-first century, more than doubling by 2055<sup>1</sup>.

On the ground, youth are community mobilisers for climate action (adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer) and play a critical role in providing solutions to their communities, which

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<sup>1</sup> UNDESA (2015).

[https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/files/documents/2020/Jan/un\\_2015\\_factsheet1.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/files/documents/2020/Jan/un_2015_factsheet1.pdf)

face the devastating effects of climate change, through innovation and initiatives that help to either mitigate or adapt to climate change while catering for green jobs creation, access to sustainable energy, and circular economy to reduce pollution and promote clean air for all, thus contributing to the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) agenda.

A recent survey by the UNFCCC RCC West and Central Africa from 250 youths in West and Central Africa indicated that even though youth are actively contributing to implementation of climate solutions and projects in their own ways, their contributions are not given much spotlight to enable learning, expansion, and replication across the region to meaningfully support NDCs and NAPs formulation and implementation in the region.

Against this background, the UNFCCC RCC West and Central Africa is hosting in collaboration with partners, a quarterly webinar called **Youth Climate Action Webinar Series**, which seeks to offer a valuable platform for youth in the region to showcase initiatives they are championing to address the climate crisis in their respective countries either through policy formulation and advocacy or implementation of climate projects.

In doing so, this webinar series will contribute to re/positioning youth as real solutions providers and relevant actors that should be given more attention in the shaping and execution of climate policies (NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDS, etc.). As many countries are in the process of formulating their NDC 3.0. and NAPs, this webinar series will contribute to these two processes by promoting solutions that can serve countries for the formulation and implementation of their climate policies.

By facilitating this webinar series, youth across countries of the region can learn from each other, network and exchange knowledge and explore ways to collaborate and extend their initiatives. In addition, this series will also be an opportunity for youths to be seen as active actors – allowing for youth meaningful engagement with countries in shaping of and implementation of climate policies - as well as - for matchmaking with partners which might be interested in supporting youth climate action in the region.

## **II. Objectives**

The objective of the **Youth Climate Action Webinar Series**, including its first part, entitled ***Youth Solutions Shaping and Implementing National Climate Policies (NDCs and NAPs) in West and Central Africa***, is to:

- Give spotlight to youth-led climate solutions that contribute to shaping and implementing climate action within the West and Central Africa region.
- Provide a platform for youth climate entrepreneurs, youth climate startups and activists to present their works, initiatives, challenges as well sharing of experiences and opportunities among peers
- Discuss strategies and opportunities to enhance youth agency in the formulation and implementation of NDC 3.0 and NAPs for the region
- Foster discussions and meaningful youth engagement with UNFCCC Parties, as well as matchmaking between youth and partners and any other Non-Party Stakeholders ([NPS](#)) working on empowering youth in climate action in West and Central Africa

### III. Methodology

Two 90 min back-to-back interactive online session via webinar Platform MS Teams (see agenda below for more details) for the two groups: i) 90 min in English; and ii) 90 min in French.

### IV. Participants

The target audience are youths from youth-led organizations, organizations working on action for climate empowerment ([ACE](#)), climate entrepreneurs and countries' officials or representatives as well as other organizations and partners that provide support for youth involvement in climate action in West and Central Africa. Invitations will be extended to all countries in WACA as listed below:

Benin	Burkina Faso	Burundi
Cameroon	Cabo Verde	Central African Republic
Chad	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Republic of the Congo
Côte d'Ivoire	Equatorial Guinea	Gabon
Gambia	Ghana	Guinea
Guinea-Bissau	Liberia	Madagascar
Mauritania	Mali	Niger
Nigeria	Sao Tome and Principe	Senegal
Sierra Leone	Togo	

### V. Agenda

Duration	Agenda / Discussion Flow	Speakers
7'	<b>Welcome remarks + Housekeeping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Welcome and What are the RCCs?</i></li> <li><i>Youth engagement works of the RCC WAC Africa</i></li> </ul>	Walters Tubua, Regional Lead, UNFCCC RCC WACA
10'	<b>The Role of Youth in Climate Action and the UNFCCC Process</b>	Hyunjin Chang, Associate Programme Officer, UNFCCC Secretariat (ACE Team)
20'	<p><b><u>Panel Discussion:</u> Climate initiatives from Youth: Youth initiatives supporting NDCs and NAPs in the countries of the region</b></p> <p><i>Presentation of 2 initiatives and experiences by youths per language group</i></p> <p><u>English Segment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Solutions from Youth: Youth initiatives supporting NDCs and NAPs in West and Central</li> </ul>	<p>Moderator: UNFCCC RCC WACA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharon Oyelayo, Director, Innovations &amp; Partnerships, EcoSciGen Nigeria</li> </ul>

	<p>Africa Region: An Example from Nigeria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth engagement in NDCs process in Liberia: Experiences, challenges, lessons learned, good practices and possible way forward</li> </ul> <p><u>French Segment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth climate initiatives: Youth initiatives supporting NDCs and NAPs in the region: An Example from Togo</li> <li>- Climate solutions: Youth initiatives supporting NDCs and NAPs in the region: An example from Côte d'Ivoire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ezekiel Nyanfor, Executive Director, Liberian Youth for Climate Actions (LYCA)</li> <li>• Kevin Ossah, Administrator OJEDD, Togo</li> <li>• Andy Costa, Eco-entrepreneur, CEO, Durability, Côte d'Ivoire</li> </ul>
15'	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	All Participants
35'	<p><b>Meaningful engagement of youth for climate action in West and Central Africa: climate policy development and practice</b></p> <p><u>Guiding questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What are the opportunities for meaningful engagement of youths in shaping and implementation climate policies (NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDS) in countries in the region? (15 min)</i></li> </ul> <p><u>Opened Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Challenges of youth involvement in climate action in the region (10 min)</i></li> </ul>	<p>Moderator: UNFCCC RCC WACA</p> <p>For English group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- David Knaute, Climate Specialist, UNICEF</li> <li>- Alice Estelle Nkongo Nchare, Youth Engagement Lead, WWF-AAH,</li> <li>- Ndifongwa Ngumsi Suh, NDC Working Group, YOUNGO</li> </ul> <p>For the French group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- David Knaute, Climate Specialist, UNICEF</li> <li>- Alice Estelle Nkongo Nchare, Youth Engagement Lead, WWF-AAH,</li> <li>- Zra Sini, Adaptation Working Group, YOUNGO</li> </ul> <p>All Participants</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Needs and priorities of youth to advance climate action in the region (10 min) - Mentimeter</i></li> </ul>	
3'	<b>Closing remarks</b>	<b>Walters Tubua</b> , Regional Lead, UNFCCC RCC WACA

**MORE ABOUT the Youth Climate Action Webinar Series:**

The series is planned to happen every quarter through 2025 and will mostly happen in two sessions based on language (1 English et 1 French session). It will cover 4 parts as described below:

**Part I: Youth Solutions Shaping and Implementing National Climate Policies (NDCs and NAPs) in West and Central Africa**

**Part II: UNFCCC Intergovernmental process, Climate negotiations and Youth**

**Part III: Youth and Climate Finance**

**Part IV: Youth Climate Training, Research & Entrepreneurship: What role for Universities and Tertiary Education in West and Central Africa?**