

Draft Concept Note

ROAD TO STOCKHOLM +50
REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN
CLIMATE ACTION
6 & 7 APRIL 2022



OVERVIEW OF CLIMATE AND YOUTH IN ASIA PACIFIC

The Asia and the Pacific region is facing the disastrous consequences of the climate crisis. Temperatures are increasing, floods and droughts are becoming more intense, and sea-levels are rising, with dire impacts for young people across the region. However, the climate crisis is not inevitable and youth, who see climate change as a regional priority, are an important part of the solution.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to more than 660 million young people. Asia and the Pacific remains the fastest-growing region in the world. It represents immense opportunities with high levels of mobile connectivity and innovation, education systems poised for transformation, and a thriving private sector. The impacts of climate change are compounded further for youth from underserved communities including youth with disabilities, Indigenous youth and LGBTQ+ youth, who are at further risk of being left behind. Nonetheless, there are complex challenges and risks holding young people in the region from reaching their full potential, and advocating for a cleaner, safer environment.

Many of the challenges relating to youth engagement around climate change issues, can all be traced back to broader human rights, democracy and governance challenges. Climate justice, in addressing human rights as well as social and economic inequalities, has become of pressing significance with the pandemic augmenting them. Marginalized groups, including young women, youth from indigenous communities, young persons with disabilities, and youth from ethnic and minority communities, already at the frontlines of the climate crisis have been overset by the challenges of the pandemic. Existing inequalities mean people may face climate change not only differently, but more intensely and in the absence of resources, continue to face its impacts for a longer term, reducing their chances of recovering. This is further impacted by the shrinking civic space in the region which has exacerbated the risks faced by environmental defenders and activists in their defense of human rights relating to the environment.

Inclusive and sustainable recovery plans require greater recognition of interconnectivity of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework as they build post-COVID-19 plans. Green recovery plans must ensure an integrated approach in which no one is left behind through supporting and enhancing young people's agency as well as through the creation of an enabling environment. Youth remain underrepresented in decision-making processes while being one of the groups most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and threats from related activism. As such, it is crucial to effectively communicate these challenges and work with young environmental human rights activists, elevating their voices to advocate for climate action priorities and systematic change.

WHAT IS CLIMATE PROMISE?



The Climate Promise is UNDP and partners' response to this challenge. Tackling the climate crisis requires that all countries make bold pledges under the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gasses that cause global warming. The Climate Promise is our commitment to ensure that any country wishing to increase the ambition of their national climate pledge is able to do so.

This initiative draws upon UNDP's extensive portfolio of expertise across priorities such as energy, forests, water, resilience, agriculture, health, youth, finance, governance, gender equality and green jobs. It also builds upon UNDP and partners established track record in supporting governments to discuss, design and deliver climate action under Paris Agreement.

For more updates please visit: [UNDP Climate Promise | Helping countries reach their climate goals.](#)

WHAT IS STOCKHOLM +50?



On 2 and 3 June 2022, a crucial international environmental meeting will be held in Stockholm, Sweden. Anchored in the Decade of Action, under the theme “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity,” this high-level meeting will follow months of consultations and discussions with individuals, communities, organizations and governments around the world. A one-day preparatory meeting will also be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 28 March 2022.

Stockholm+50 will commemorate the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Environment and celebrate 50 years of global environmental action. By recognizing the importance of multilateralism in tackling the Earth's triple planetary crisis – climate, nature, and pollution – the event aims to act as a springboard accelerate the implementation of the UN Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, including the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement on climate change, the post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework, and encourage the adoption of green post-COVID-19 recovery plans.

For more information please visit: [Stockholm+50.](#)

WHAT IS THE ASIA REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FUTURE GENERATIONS?

The United Nations recognizes the key role that children and youth play in tackling climate change and works closely with youth-led and youth-focussed organizations. In 2020, the UN Secretary-General released a “Call to Action for Human Rights” which is the Secretary-General’s transformative vision for human rights. The Call to Action recognises human rights as central to the UN’s most pressing issues including the rights of future generations and, especially, climate justice.

The Office of the UN High Commission for Human Rights, the UN Environment Programme, UNICEF, UNDP, and partner organizations are convening the Asia Regional Dialogue on Climate Justice for Children, Youth and Future Generations to provide a platform for children and young persons to learn, exchange, and discuss strategies for participating in climate action and be a part of the solutions.

This event also provides an opportunity for children to engage with the drafting of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child General Comment No. 26 on children’s rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change.

WHAT IS THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION PLATFORM (YECAP)?



In recent years, we are witnessing increased interest, engagement, and activism by youth on the climate agenda. Through climate strikes, conferences, coalitions, etc., young people have demanded governments and other relevant stakeholders to take urgent and collective actions on the climate crisis. However, young people are still often marginalized and excluded from important decision-making processes that will shape their very futures.

With this in mind, UNDP Asia-Pacific and the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia-Pacific, RCC Bangkok, in collaboration with UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, UNICEF South Asia, the British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme and the 2030 Youth Force initiated discussions during the end of 2020 to establish a regional platform for youth empowerment in climate action, YECAP.

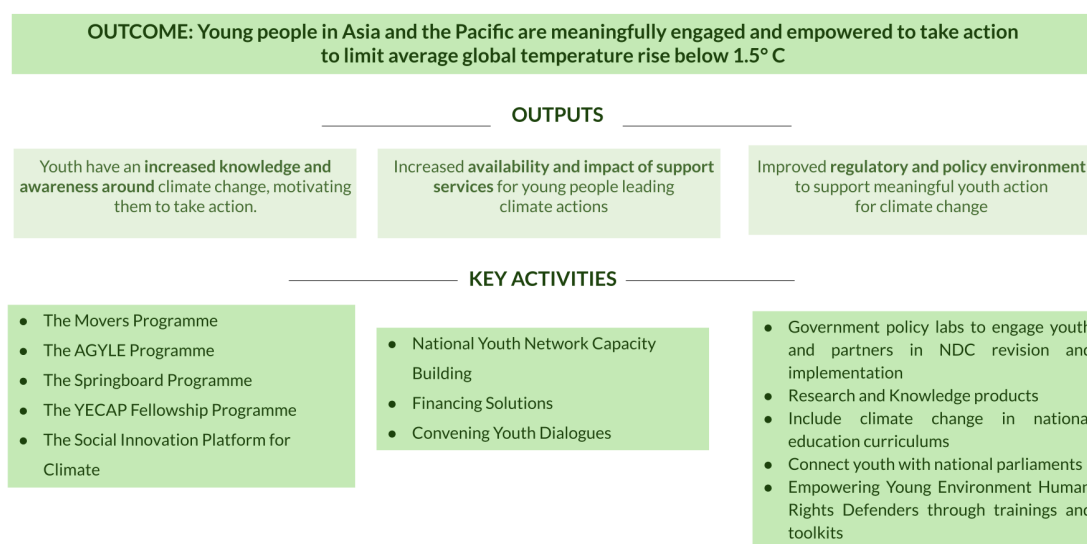
The strength of YECAP is to, instead of trying to create something entirely new, build on existing networks, structures and knowledge in the region, leveraging the unique assets of the convening partners to empower youth in climate action. This unique platform of collaboration between UN Agencies, non-party stakeholders and youth organizations in the region lays the foundation for a unique window of opportunity for youth empowerment and direct participation in the NDC revision, implementation and monitoring processes.

OUR STORY SO FAR

Over the past one year, YECAP has reached 12,000+ youth climate leaders by conducting 262 sessions across Asia Pacific. Through the UNDP Climate Promise initiative, 8 countries supported national governments in engaging and prioritizing Youth empowerment in NDC processes: Viet Nam, Malaysia, Pakistan, Iran, Maldives, Cook Islands, Niue and Tonga. Also the regional dialogue last year reached over 2000 participants.

Building on past successes and learnings, YECAP plans to deepen engagement in different countries across the region from 2022 to onwards. The programme will also focus on creating a strong base of young environmental human rights activists in taking climate actions and effectively communicating with young people to address local issues to solve by, elevating their voices to advocate for climate action priorities, human rights development and systematic change by scaling up locally rooted initiatives to implement climate action throughout the Fellowship Journey.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



To ensure youth participation in taking climate action, an integrated approach that aims to strengthen individual and institutional capabilities while building for an enabling environment that promotes young people's agency in shaping tomorrow's world and achieving a sustainable future.

THE ROAD TO STOCKHOLM+50: REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION - 6 & 7 April 2022

This year, the Road to Stockholm+50: Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action, co-organized by UNDP in partnership with, UNICEF, UNFCCC, UNEP, OHCHR, UNV, UNESCO, The British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme and 2030 Youth Force, will serve as one of the key activities in the lead up to Stockholm+50 conference in June 2022.

The Road to Stockholm+50 Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action will not only focus on direct participation in the NDC revision, implementation and monitoring processes, but it will also highlight environmental multilateralism works, global partnerships and collaboration for the planet, immediate action for the environment to create a better future on a healthy planet, and an opportunity to improve the quality of life for billions of people.

In other words, it will bring together stakeholders (individuals, communities, organizations and governments) across Asia and the Pacific to step up our collective efforts to support young environmental human rights activists and their transformative solutions to lead the way in our journey beyond recovery, towards 2030.

The Road to Stockholm+50 Regional Dialogue is envisioned to spotlight, inspire and recognize the role of youth aligning on the theme of “Only One Earth” to push youth towards taking an action in realizing their vision of the future, aligned with one of Stockholm+50’s key messages: “We have Only One Earth, and time is running out. Everyone’s actions count.” The theme can provide a base to curate the specific agendas, showcases and ecosystem partners.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

When it comes to achieving the SDGs, the progress in Asia-Pacific is uneven. While important gains have been achieved, progress has often been made amongst those groups that are easiest to reach, leaving many of the poorest and most vulnerable – including youth – behind. The COVID-19 pandemic has also undoubtedly exacerbated the inequality gap further. To be able to fully prosper as a region, it is paramount that vulnerable and marginalized communities and youth are given the tools and means to thrive.

Given the specific context, we will incorporate the element of inclusivity throughout the agenda by including speakers, attendees, and planning sessions and workshops. To ensure that the participant profile includes all youth in Asia Pacific, special efforts to direct the outreach and communications to vulnerable communities.

The objectives of the Road to Stockholm+50 Regional Dialogue are to:

1. Raise awareness, create a call-to-action and prepare young climate advocates across Asia and the Pacific for larger, global dialogues in the lead up to Stockholm+50 conference;
2. Provide a platform for young environmental human rights activists at national and regional levels to discuss experience of climate change and environmental advocacy strategies;
3. Encourage stakeholders to participate in a meaningful and diverse way to address the underlying opportunities, obligations, and delivery of unfulfilled pledges;
4. Strengthen the collaboration between youth from the Asia Pacific region, development organizations, policy makers and other stakeholders;
5. Launch key YECAP programmes such as Fellowship Cohort #3, Climate negotiator programme, Indigenous youth support programme;
6. Highlight local and regional youth-led climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives;
7. Promote green jobs and green businesses available in the Asia-Pacific region.

To scale up the youth engagement after the regional dialogue, there will be multiple national level consultations convened by UNDP and other partners to facilitate the participation of children and youth in the Regional Climate Justice Dialogue, as one of the follow up activities leading to the Stockholm +50 conference in June 2022.

WHO WILL PARTICIPATE?

The YECAP Regional Dialogue will be a virtual event, open to youth between the ages of 18 and 30. It will be held over a period of two days with 1000+ young environmental human rights activists and professionals (Background Covering: Researcher, NGO, Science-Policy Interface, Policy, Youth Network working on the following issues related to climate change/biodiversity/energy/ocean i.e. Indigenous Peoples, Ethnic Minority groups, Gender, People with Disabilities, Economic, Finance, Media, others that are relevant to climate change issues) will participate in the Regional Dialogue.

PROFILE OF YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

1. YECAP Fellows from Cohort 1 and 2;
2. Young environmental human rights activists and climate champions;
3. Youth in APAC aspiring to take action, create change and work towards SDG 13;
4. Youth in APAC, who are curious about climate change, the future of green career, inclusivity and gender, who want to know more and understand the causes better.

KEY SESSIONS OF THE DIALOGUE FOR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

- Youth advocacy and participation at the global level including Stockholm +50;
- Strategies to be part of the solutions – sharing of results of national discussions;

- Improving the youth representation in new NDC plan and developing effective action plans;
- Launch of knowledge products and opportunities for Youth;
- Experiences with assessing the risks of youth advocacy and how to ensure that youth are protected.

KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK

- How to ensure a green and inclusive recovery from Covid-19?
- Which systemic actions are required to achieve a healthy planet?
- How to accelerate the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs?
- Beyond Stockholm: what do you hope this conference will achieve?

LEADING DIALOGUES

- Urgent need for a healthy planet and prosperity for all;
- Sustainable and inclusive recovery from COVID-19; and
- Implementing the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

PROPOSED EVENT FORMAT

Time (GMT+7)	DAY 1		DAY 2	
	Program	Speaker/s	Program	Speaker
11:00 - 12:10	Opening Remarks	Organizing Partners	RECAP of Day 1 & flow of Day 2	Organizer
	Plenary Session	UNDP	Plenary Session	BC, UNICEF ROSA, UNESCO, UNV [TBC]
12:10 - 13:00	Lunch Break			
13:00 - 13:30/45	Panel Discussion	YOUNGO and UNFCCC [TBC]	Plenary Session	UNICEF EAPRO, UNEP and OHCHR [TBC]
13:30/45 - 14:30	Fireside Chat	YECAP Fellows	Hot Seat Discussion	Movers Programme and 2030 Youth Force
14:30 - 15:00	WRAP UP Session for Day 1 of the Dialogue	Organizer	Closing Remarks and Call for Action [Way Forward to Stockholm +50 Conference]	Stockholm +50 Youth Task Force and Secretariat Organizing Partners

TENTATIVE AGENDA - DAY 1 [6 April 2022]

Time		DAY 1		
		Program	Content	Speaker/s
11:00	11:05	[PLENARY] Opening Session	Welcome by Emcee and Video Sharing: Introduction to YECAP	Emcee
11:05	11:20		Key Remarks from leaders of Organizing partners	UNDP UNFCCC (TBC) UNICEF (TBC) YOUNGO (TBC)
11:20	11:30		Keynote from government partner	APAC climate week 2022 host (TBC)
11:30	11:40		Youth Keynote	Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (TBC)
11:40	12:10		Dialogue: Climate Promise 2.0 - Our journey beyond COP 26	UNDP Climate Promise Team (TBC)
Break				
13:00	13:30	[PANEL DISCUSSION] The power of climate negotiations	Bringing voices of youth where it matters most	Host: YOUNGO and UNFCCC [TBC]
13:30	14:30	[Fireside Chat] Climate Action and Youth Participation	Climate and Ocean	Host: YECAP Fellows
			Climate and Energy	
			Climate and Biodiversity	
			Climate and Sustainable Lifestyle	
14:30	14:40	WRAP UP Session for Day 1	Youth Keynote: How do young people convince their parents and family to support climate action?	TBC
14:40	14:50		Youth Keynote: Climate Behaviors - love, sorrow and the emotions that power climate action	TBC
14:50	15:00		Overall overview for the Day 1	Emcee

TENTATIVE AGENDA - DAY 2 [7 April 2022]

Time		DAY 2		
		Program	Content	Speaker
11:00	11:10	RECAP of DAY 1	Recap of agenda from Day 1 and Overview of Agenda for Day 2	Emcee
11:10	11:20	[PLENARY] Launch of Knowledge Products and Opportunities for Youth	Active Citizens to drive climate actions	British Council [TBC]
11:20	11:30		The Heat is On!	UNICEF ROSA [TBC]
11:30	11:40		Green jobs/ Young researchers/ AIYP?	UNESCO [TBC]
11:40	11:50		The world of volunteering to support climate action	UNV [TBC]
11:50	12:00		Regional Climate Justice Dialogue/ Latest IPCC Report/ The Earth School between UNEP and TEDEd	UNEP [TBC]
12:00	12:10		Springboard Programme to support young climate entrepreneurs	Springboard
Break				
13:00	13:45	[PLENARY] Climate Justice for Children, Youth and Future Generations	Youth Climate Justice Movement in Asia and updates on the regional dialogue	Host: UNICEF EAPRO, UNEP and OHCHR [TBC]
13:45	14:30	[Hot Seat Discussion] Empowering Young People as Solution makers for Climate Resilience	Perspectives on different aspects of empowerment of young people in taking climate action	Host: Movers Programme and 2030 Youth Force
14:30	14:45	[PLENARY] Closing Session	Way Forward to Stockholm +50 Conference	Stockholm +50 Youth Task Force
14:46	14:55		Closing Remarks	Sida [TBC] UNDP
14:56	15:00		Wrap Up	Emcee

Based on the success of the virtual regional dialogue last year, it is envisioned that the “Road to Stockholm+50 Regional Dialogue 2022” will adopt a virtual format to create a unique and user-friendly experience for participants, while ensuring adherence to health and safety protocols in the context of COVID-19.

The agenda will consist of two key segments – Pre-Events and the Regional Dialogue. The Pre-Events will be led by Fellows of the YECAP Platform such as (YECAP Unconference #2 and YECAP Climate Action Week), while the regional dialogue as a road to Stockholm+50 will cater to the wider regional and national audience.

The dialogue will include plenary sessions, focussed hot seat discussion, parallel events and fireside chats, as well as panel discussions focusing on different aspects of empowerment of young people in taking climate actions. The dialogue will also include a segment to showcase the activities led by YECAP Fellows from across APAC.

PRE-EVENTS

Pre-event will consist of several sessions and activities led by YECAP Fellows based on the key stakeholders of the dialogue, which will be done as follow up activities leading to the YECAP Regional Dialogue and S+50 Conference onwards in April and June 2022.

YECAP UNCONFERENCE #2 - [28 February 2022]

Following in the success of YECAP Unconference #1 which brought together more than 120 climate leaders to learn, share and exchange, YECAP Unconference #2 will be organized by Fellows of the YECAP platform.

It will convene young people from diverse youth networks working on various issues within the scope of climate change, including biodiversity, energy and ocean conservation. Moving beyond the traditional conference format, Unconference is fully participant-led and participant-driven, which allows everyone to generate topics and be a contributor of content.

It will be an open invitation for youth to participate in the YECAP Unconference #2. For this particular edition, participants will dive into the following areas in relations with climate change: energy, biodiversity, gender equality, ocean conservation, sustainable lifestyle, Indigenous communities, COVID-19 and many more. Outcomes of these discussions will contribute to the YECAP Climate Action Week 2022 and subsequently YECAP’s Road to Stockholm+50 Regional Dialogue.

YECAP CLIMATE ACTION WEEK - [16 to 20 March 2022]

The YECAP Climate Action Week will be a week-long programme consisting of peer to peer sharing, capacity building sessions, learning about SDGs 13 and 14 through movers programme, throwing light on Stockholm+50, COP 27 and other key opportunities. It serves as part of the pre-event for YECAP's Road to Stockholm+50 Regional Dialogue leading to the Stockholm+50 conference.

The Climate Action Week, organized by YECAP Fellows by engaging young people with the support from the YECAP Action Committee including all YECAP Co-conveners to introduce knowledge, tools and guidance to take further climate actions in locally rooted communities and to connect youth individuals and communities across Asia and the Pacific, with the following objectives:

1. Engage in meaningful conversation with experts from fields of sustainable energy, climate change research, impact evaluation;
2. Address the climate change reality that affects and threatens the futures to young environmental human rights activists;
3. Bring in diverse perspectives of people from vulnerable communities, including Indigenous peoples;
4. Introducing the Road to Stockholm+50 Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Action.

MAIN EVENT - ROAD TO STOCKHOLM+50 REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON YOUTH EMPOWERMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION

DAY 1- LEARN AND SHARE

Day 1 aims to inspire attendees and provide learning and sharing opportunities. Following the opening remarks from co-leading partners, Day 1 will include keynote speeches and plenaries on the themes of the dialogue 2022 including youth in taking climate action to combat climate change and more.

Panel discussion and fireside chat sessions will provide an opportunity to improve awareness and share ideas related to key challenges and opportunities related to the environmental human rights activists participation in the region.

DAY 2 - CALL TO ACTION

The second and last day will focus on convening conversations related to key learning product launching, implementation of potential ideas and building further partnerships. Any significant collaboration announcements could be made on this day. Day 2 will also comprise keynotes and plenaries to share examples and inspire youth to action. The day will culminate with closing remarks from UNDP and key stakeholders of the platform.

Please note that, the above agenda of the regional dialogue is proposed anticipating a virtual component, which is yet to be confirmed.

To understand our YECAP Regional Dialogue better, you can watch Day 1 - Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Actions [HERE](#) and Day 2 - Regional Dialogue on Youth Empowerment in Climate Actions [HERE](#).

To know more about the Youth Empowerment in Climate Actions Platform, please visit: <https://linktr.ee/yecap.ap>.