

# Outcome Article

## Africa Climate Week 2021

REGIONAL  
CLIMATE  
WEEKS

### You(th) in Capacity-building

**The role of youth in building capacities to support the coherent implementation of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national development plans.**

Organized by the PCCB in collaboration with the PCCB Network at the Virtual Thematic Sessions of the Africa Climate Week on 29 September, the third side event of the series of regional side events 'You(th) in capacity-building' took the format of a regional panel discussion. The side-event provided a platform for regional dialogue to promote effective resilience-building amongst young people at local, national, and regional levels in Africa, as well as to discuss the role of African youth in building community resilience to climate change impacts through capacity-building. Members of the PCCB Network and experts from Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe were able to share their experiences, recommendations, and best practices of their work related to youth engagement in the NDC processes with regards to their own country and the African region.

To set the scene of youth engagement in the region, the panelists commenced the discussion by highlighting that youth are not just capacity-builders, but are both capacity-builders and recipients. Panelists focused on the importance of peer learning, student-centered learning, information sharing, self-education, the need for government support, and the valuable perspective of living into a climate changed world. Youth start as recipients, but become capacity-builders when they are empowered. The discussion highlighted that youth have a different relationship from previous generations to technology, media, and culture that they can utilize to address climate change more effectively.

Next, the panelists discussed how the integration of resilience into development policies and programs can lead to the coherent implementation of NDCs and the social development goals (SDGs). The panel highlighted the importance of limiting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions alongside building community resilience to climate change, especially in NDC formulation. NDCs need to take a

**You(th) in capacity-building**  
The role of youth and their capacities in enhancing resilience for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) implementation and national development plans

**Moderator**  
Alejandro Kilpatrick  
Team Leader  
Capacity-building, UNFCCC

**Panelists**

- Anthony Okello  
Founder & Executive Director,  
Pearl Native Youth Network Africa,  
Uganda
- Elizabeth Gulugulu  
Programs Manager, African Youth  
Initiative on Climate Change,  
Zimbabwe
- Leigh Cobban  
Education & Capacity development  
Portfolio Manager,  
African Climate & Development Initiative,  
University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Edikite Ochieng' Otieno  
iDUNGO member,  
Kenya

September 29, 2021  
09:00-10:00 GMT+3

**PCCB Network**  
United Nations Climate Change  
Partnership on Capacity Building

**ACDI**  
African  
Climate &  
Development  
Initiative

**YOUNGO**  
AFRICAN YOUTH ORGANIZATION FOR CLIMATE ACTION

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holistic approach that accounts for SDGs, climate-smart agriculture, creation of opportunities for meaningful work, and safeguards to mental and physical health.

Next, the panelists discussed the role of African youth in building resilience. Youth can better understand climate change through self-education, peer-to-peer learning, and spreading of best practices. Additionally, information outreach focused on resilience and active support for youth-led agendas enables youth to participate in government and non-governmental programs that lead to behavior changes, and ultimately resilient communities. The panel emphasized the role of youth in resilience by defining that action begins at the policy level through engagement in policy formation, which can reduce the knowledge gap, increase participation in green jobs, and increase engagement in implementation.

A separate panelist stated that youth can be engaged through research and inclusion in NDCs. It was mentioned that governments and organizations should create more spaces for youth to express their views and innovative ideas in order to best utilize their capacities in NDCs. It was expressed that support is necessary for youth leadership in addition to platforms that give youth opportunities to participate in climate action. It was further proposed that, to engage youth, a system for innovative ideas should be consolidated and tracked to increase capacity-building and create stronger youth engagement with the international organizations working on those issues.

For the last question, the panelists expressed how the capacities of youth can be strengthened for climate resilience and a green recovery post-pandemic. First, they highlighted that climate change can create opportunities, but also requires new skills. Relevant institutions need to ensure that youth have the skillsets necessary to address evolving issues. The panel mentioned that, in the context of the SDGs, there has been a lack of communication on who will address the technical capacities that youth will need to develop. It was mentioned that youth should become climate change experts in their sectors in order to build-back-better and have a green recovery. Furthermore, no one should be left behind, which includes mainstreaming gender issues, people with disabilities, and youth to be fully inclusive.

Finally, a panelist addressed the need for capacity-building, access to financial resources, empowerment, and developing necessary skills. A panelist highlighted a specific example of building resilience by engaging the most vulnerable youth through sports clubs to give them psychological support, which also included income-generating activities. The final panelist highlighted several initiatives in Cape Town that provide a holistic perspective of resilience to participants, including Project 90 by 2030, YouLead Initiative, and SEED.



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