

You(th) in capacity-building

Enhancing youth engagement in climate action through capacity-building

Recognizing the transformative role of youth, the recent dialogue and information-sharing event 'You(th) in capacity-building: Enhancing youth engagement in climate action through capacity-building' provided a platform for regional dialogue to highlight the role of youth as powerful agents of change - both as capacity builders and recipients. Organized by the PCCB in collaboration with the PCCB Network at the Virtual Thematic Sessions of Latin America & the Caribbean Climate Week on May 11th, the first event in a series of regional side events took the format of a panel discussion to reflect on what is needed to enhance youth capacity-building initiatives in the region. Members of the PCCB Network and youth activists from LAC had the chance to share their experiences and exchange knowledge and best practices of their work with regards to capacity-building and engagement in climate action.

Despite being the generation with the most access to information, the youth of today continues to face inequalities and inequities. This has further been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis. Hearing the demands of youth in official spaces is only the initial step, there is a pressing need for a permanent approach; to ensure that young people are actively engaged in the climate action space. The role of regional, sub-regional and even international partnerships and networks in enhancing youth access to capacity-building and strengthening their presence was highlighted.

The PCCB side event explored how capacity-building for youth in the region can be facilitated through networks and partnerships with academia and research institutions. There is a need for academic institutions to rethink the unidirectional way of repurposing, communicating, producing and building knowledge to make young people partners and co-participants in the teaching-learning process. This relationship between research and society was highlighted in an intervention that focused on FLACSO and International Development Research Centre (IDRC)'s "Building leadership for LAC cities in a changing climate", a leadership program that aims to address the challenges of climate change in Latin America by building capacities among young leaders in the region, particularly women.

The side event concluded with a call to action in the form of a presentation on the "Youth 4 Climate: Driving ambition" event, to be hosted in Milan in late September, which seeks to provide a platform for youth all over world to engage in a dialogue with ministers and deliver their expectations at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26)