



United Nations
Climate Change



RCC West and Central Africa
Collaboration for Climate Action

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YOUNGO
OFFICIAL YOUTH CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNFCCC

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) for the English session
and from 11:00 AM to 12:30 AM (UTC+00) for the French session

Platform: MS Teams

Introduction

On 27 March 2025, the UNFCCC's Regional Collaboration Centre for West and Central Africa ([RCC WACA Africa](#)) hosted the Part I of a Youth Climate Action Webinar Series, on the theme: Youth Solutions Shaping and Implementing National Climate Policies. This event is part of a webinar series which focuses on youth engagement in climate action aimed at empowering the youths to shape and implement climate policies in the region. The webinar also served as 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/or implementation of climate projects on the ground.

Objectives of the webinar

The objectives 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***, are to

- Put 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 work, 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

Attendance

The webinar included a dedicated session in English attended by 152 participants followed by one in French attended by 183 participants (based on MS Team reports). Participants comprised of youth climate advocates, youth climate entrepreneurs, youth-led organizations and CSOs representatives, [ACE NFPS](#), climate experts, [YOUNGO](#) reps, UN Agencies ([UNICEF](#), [UNEP](#), etc.), universities, think tanks, and partners involved in youth climate action in west and central Africa.

Structure

The two sessions (English and French) followed the same structure. Each session was structured around three main presentations, followed by a panel discussion, and an interactive Q&A session.

Presentations

Amongst the presenters were the UN Secretariat's ACE Team, who presented on the Role of Youth in Climate Action and the UNFCCC, as well as reps. from UNICEF and YOUNGO. We also received excellent contributions from youth speakers from the region during the two sessions who shared projects and experiences, and some in-country case studies – spotlighting initiatives of youth engagement in climate action in the region. Youth reps included from: English session- Eco Science Generation Nigeria, Liberian Youth for Climate Actions; French session: OJEDD Togo, Pensons Environnement Côte d'Ivoire.

The presentations covered per session are described as follows:

- English session

UNFCCC Processes and Youth Role: reaffirmed the increasing role of youth (under 35) recognized as agents of change within the UNFCCC framework and climate action broadly, notably in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Youth-Led Climate Initiatives: Youth speakers highlighted practical examples of youth driving climate solutions, from sustainable agriculture in Nigeria and shared their engagement experiences in NDC revision processes (with an example from Liberia).

Advocacy and Engagement Opportunities for youth to shape/implement NDCs and NAPs: Discussions focused on empowering youth through capacity building and providing them with platforms to influence policies and ensure their voices shape national and regional climate strategies.

Partners and institutions engaged on youth empowerment for climate action like UNICEF, World Wildlife Fund – Africa Adaptation Fund (WWF-AAH) presented on advocacy strategies and practical examples within/outside of the region youths can learn from to influence national climate policies. Speakers also seized the opportunity to highlight the urgency of adaptation in NDCs/NAPs and the need to strengthen youth climate coalitions in the region.

- French session

The French session followed the same structure as the English session for the presentations:

UNFCCC Processes and Youth Role: reaffirmed the increasing role of youth (under 35) recognized as agents of change within the UNFCCC framework and climate action broadly, notably in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Youth-Led Climate Initiatives: Youth speakers shared their engagements with their countries' NDC revisions processes. An example from Togo was presented. In addition, climate initiatives/solutions from youths on e-mobility with a case from Cote d'Ivoire was spotlighted. The importance of sport and culture was mentioned in the case of Cote d'Ivoire as a means to increase climate awareness among youths and society in general.

Advocacy and Engagement Opportunities for youth to shape/implement NDCs and NAPs: Discussions focused on empowering youth through capacity building and providing them with platforms to influence policies and ensure their voices shape national and regional climate strategies. Partners and institutions engaged on youth empowerment for climate action like UNICEF, World Wildlife Fund – Africa Adaptation Fund (WWF-AAH) presented on advocacy strategies and practical examples within/outside of the region youths can learn from to influence national climate policies. Speakers also seized the opportunity to highlight the urgency of adaptation in NDCs/NAPs and the need to strengthen youth climate coalitions in the region.

As part of the challenges faced by youths, limited youth participation/inclusion in the whole process of climate policy formulation and implementation came out strongly during the two sessions. In

addition, difficulty to accessing funding and limited knowledge about climate finance were another hurdle for youths to meaningfully contribute to climate action.

Question & Answers, Interactive session and Opened discussions

During these sessions, participants were able to ask questions, raise their concerns, and make contributions after presentations. They also had the opportunity to answer a set of questions to better understand youth needs and priorities in the region. Answers to these questions, comments/contributions as well as the needs and priorities gathered are found in the Annex section of this report (page 4 to 9).

Some takeaways

- **UNFCCC Processes and Role of Youth:** The webinar reaffirmed the increasing role of youth as agents of change within the UNFCCC.
- **Knowledge Exchange, sharing of experiences and Networking:** UNICEF, YOUNGO and UNEP and the RCC agreed that stronger collaboration was needed to give youth the support they needed for climate action.
- **Capacity building and Engagement Opportunities:** Empowering youth through education and capacity building by integrating climate change education into school curricula and offering specialized training programmes to youth on climate policy and project implementation is critical.
- **Inclusivity in NAPs and NDCs Processes and Regional Focus:** Establish formal and sustainable platforms to ensure youth voices shape national and regional climate strategies.
- **Youth Climate Action from an Economic Lens:** NDCs and NAPs are investment tools, thus there is a need to leverage Africa's informal sector to reframe climate action as an economic opportunity to develop green job/entrepreneurship programmes for youths focused on NDCs/NAPs related activities.
- **Tracking youth inclusion in climate policies:** There is a need to develop indicators to measure meaningful participation and track progress of youth inclusion in NDCs/NAPs.

Some achievements

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Youths gained insights into UNFCCC processes and youth-led innovations. Insights into NDCs, NAPs, and youth roles were shared, with resources like UNICEF's advocacy guide and YOUNGO's platforms distributed.
- **Networking:** The event connected youths with organizations like UNICEF, WWF-AAH, YOUNGO, and UNEP, fostering future collaborations to drive climate action.
- **Actionable Outcomes:** Recommendations included formal youth participation channels, funding mechanisms, and climate education integration in school curriculums, including specialized training on climate issues.

Next Steps

Participants were encouraged to engage with RCC WAC Africa (contact: RCCWACAfrica@unfccc.int) and other partners who were present in the webinar for support and explore shared resources.

Future webinars in this series will continue to help amplify youth voices in climate action.

Annexes

Questions (Q) from participants with respective answers (A)

1. Q: What are the youth parliaments or groups involved in developing NDCs in Nigeria and other West African countries that we can join to contribute our input?

A1: From UNICEF side, we ran a climate change poll for a youth report to understand how children and young people would want to be involved in climate action in Nigeria. The following link provides some of the results that came out ... <https://nigeria.ureport.in/opinion/7797/>. UNICEF will be assisting the National Climate Change Committee of Nigeria to host a Youth Summit and a Youth validation of the report before the NDC 3.0 June deadline set by the country.

A2: Another way to get involved in NDCs processes is to engage with the ministry leading the NDC Process of your country – mostly these are ministries of environment or climate change. You can also reach out to the [UNFCCC National Focal Points](#) to express your interest in getting involved in this process and he/she will direct you.

2. Q: Do you implement reforestation activities taking into account local, resilient cultures capable of adapting to climate change?

A1: Youth speaker from Côte d'Ivoire presented a school-based initiative called “Green School” in Côte d'Ivoire. This initiative aims to raise students' environmental awareness through fruit tree cultivation and gardening. From this initiative, an innovative pencil has been developed for this purpose: made from recycled paper, it contains a seed capsule instead of an eraser. Each pupil using the pencil can plant a tree or fruit tree adapted to his or her region. The seeds were selected in partnership with SODEFOR (Société de Développement des Forêts de Côte d'Ivoire), based on local ecological characteristics. For example, the kits distributed in Korhogo and Diaké include species adapted to these areas.

A2: Another response to that question was that there is a need to contact the technical departments responsible for reforestation and forestry in his country (examples given: Forestry Departments, often attached to the Ministry of the Environment). These departments can advise on the types of crops to promote in different regions. It is recommended favoring: crops with ecosystem benefits, crops resilient and adapted to local conditions. These types of crops are considered highly beneficial, notably because they enable: local economic activities (such as fruit processing) and improved rural livelihoods.

3. Q: As a young researcher, how can I participate in the COP? Do we have to belong to an NGO or State Organization? Finally, is there a link between the COP and your research or university?

A: Everybody can attend COP, but participation to COP follows some rules and procedures that are available on the UNFCCC website (via this [link](#)). Everyone can get to COP by following those guidelines. In addition, liaising with your country's [UNFCCC Focal Point](#) is always ideal to get the support you need. Of course, the UNFCCC RCC WAC Africa can help you to also reach out to your country's [UNFCCC Focal Point](#) if you find any difficulties in trying to do so.

4. Q: What impact have young people had on the formulation of climate policies to date?

A: The youth speaker from OJEDD responded by saying that the involvement of young people in the formulation of climate policies is essential, based on a quote: “What's done for me without me is done against me”. If young people are not directly involved in decision-making, their needs may not be considered. Youth participation remains a constant battle, as they need to engage more to get a place in international conferences, national workshops, the drafting of strategic documents etc. Finally, this involvement also has concrete effects, such as the financing of some youth-led projects following some consultations, and the strengthening of the role of youth organizations, for instance. In short, there is a real impact of youth participation, even if it sometimes remains intangible.

5. Q: Can you help us build our capacity as young people who have not had enough experience in drafting NAPs and NDCs? Also, can you help us integrate into youth climate networks in Africa?

- A: The UNFCCC RCC WAC Africa is well positioned to provide youths with such capacity building and training. In addition, partner organizations such as YOUNGO, UNICEF, WWF-AAH who are present in this webinar have been supporting youths in that regard, so you can follow up with us after the webinar to investigate your specific needs in terms of your capacity building needs on that.
6. Q: I am from Congo-Brazzaville, how can I contact my country's focal point?
A: The list of National Focal Points of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is available on [National focal points | UNFCCC](#)
7. Q: Could we have links (online) and training programs (even face-to-face) on climate change, adaptation, and mitigation mechanisms...?
A: There are links that we can direct you to: e.g. [Education and Training: Resources | UNFCCC](#) ; [courses on climate science, climate negotiations and diplomacy](#) ; [IDEP e-learning platform](#) ; [climate governance, diplomacy and negotiations leadership programme of AGNES](#) ; [UNESCO-UNFCCC Webinar Series](#). Our upcoming webinar series which will focus on UNFCCC negotiations processes is also a good opportunity for you to learn on climate change topics.
8. Q: What's really holding up the implementation of the Paris agreements since their inception?
A: The implementation of the Paris Agreement should be a collective effort of all actors of society. We know that means of implementation are the real enablers of climate action. That's why the Convention holds annual COPs to discuss these issues. The topical issue now for a moment now at COP has been focusing more on operationalizing frameworks, decisions, and all the provisions of the Paris Agreement to raise ambition and enable the full implementation of the Paris Agreement.
9. Q: We all know that young people can have the ideal solution to the many challenges posed by climate change, but why is it that governments, in their national development policies, hardly integrate young people, or even listen to them? Take, for example, a collapse that occurred in Cameroon and caused very heavy damage, yet the government had been alerted by young people?
A: Response from David (UNICEF): It's a complex issue, but governments are still talking about young people as agents of change, e.g., Congo, which has declared 2024 (then 2025) as the year of youth.
Example of NDC 3.0, which includes a detailed analysis of children/youth ("Women and Youth" chapter): [UAE-NDC3.0.pdf](#) (source: [Nationally Determined Contributions Registry | UNFCCC](#))
10. Q: The link to the plan drawn up by the young people of Mauritania?
A: Link available based on request.
11. Q: I would like to know when CDN 2.0 will be rolled out.
A: Response made by UNICEF: Countries have been working to implement NDC 2.0 since 2021, but in many countries, funding is still lacking! Your advocacy must include a request to accelerate climate financing in our region (according to UNICEF, 17 of the 30 countries where children are most exposed to climate risks are in West and Central Africa). For more details, consult "the Plateforme d'analyse des NDC 2.0" available: <https://ndcsforeverychild.unicef.org/>
12. Q: What tools can be used to measure agricultural climate risks? And what are the solutions?
A. Response from a participant: Agriculture is one of the sectors most affected by the direct and indirect effects of climate change (CC): the dissolution of organic matter, the rise in sea level with the salinization of water, the rise in water tables whose waters are becoming increasingly salty, especially in our coastal countries, really affect crops. The biochemical profile of crops is thus affected by CC. Hence the urgency and importance of climate action by young people as an adaptation and mitigation measure to ensure that

communities are at least a little resilient. Improving agricultural practices also reduces water consumption. It also reduces groundwater pollution. Chemical fertilizers reduce soil productivity and change the nature of the soil (hence the need for biofertilizers and biopesticides).

The role of the Experts is to ensure that the information gained from major events such as the COPs can be disseminated to the field, through workshops and training sessions for private companies working on carbon or carbon reduction projects, so that they can dispense, duplicate, and pass on up-to-date messages about carbon markets. To launch such training processes, for example, it is essential to have experts available to audit, evaluate and validate projects relating to the carbon credit market, or even a local country CDM. This is the price young people and decision-makers must pay to ensure that state-authorized sales are not part of unconditional NDCs. Thank you very much.

13. Q: Would Mr. David Knaute be kind enough to share the contact details of the UNICEF focal point for Niger?

A: You can contact Mariam: mtraore@unicef.org

14. Q: Funds have been allocated for CDNs and NAPs, but why are young people, NGOs and CSO struggling to find partners capable of supporting them technically and financially? The case here in Congo Brazzaville.

15. A: Resource mobilization is one of the greatest challenges countries in our region face due to the limited capacity and knowledge to access climate finance that is available out there. The UNFCCC RCC is cognizant of that and is trying to partner with institutions in the region to see how a webinar can be organized to help actors understand climate finance and how climate finance institutions operate including the existing financial mechanisms

16. Q: NDC 2.0 did not take young people into account when writing, and NDC 3.0 ensures that these young people are involved. How are these young people supposed to write without the necessary knowledge when writing?

A: Capacity building of the youths is critical to allow their meaningful engagement in NDC 3.0 process. That is why we encourage all partners here in this webinar to work together and harder to increase youth knowledge on NDCs and facilitate youth engagement in this process. This webinar is a good platform to start building youth capacities on NAPs and NDCs.

17. Q: Hello, I authored a book for children with the comic strip on the Congo Basin a treasure of the planet. how to accompany and at the base motor disabled and actor on climate issues in Congo Brazzaville. I mean how I can get support because I am a person living with a motor disability and an active player in climate change.

A: Contact Nenita: nbukalo@unicef.org

Comments and Contributions from ALL participants

18. I would like to complement the presentation by Alice with the existence of two promising initiatives for young people interested in adaptation.

<https://gca.org/global-youth-adaptation-network-calls-for-urgent-international-financial-system-reform/>. PACJA and ACSEA have also launched an initiative to involve young people in adaptation finance: YOUTH 4 ADAPTATION FINANCE. <https://pacja.org/acsea-and-pacja-launch-the-youth-for-adaptation-finance-initiative-in-africa/>

19. In my opinion, the challenges are severalfold:

- There's capacity-building (young people have a lot of willpower and are noticeably clear about their commitments), but they do not have enough skills and tools to influence the climate agenda. Young people really need to be strengthened and equipped.

- Financing: young people need financing to encourage stakeholders, especially the authorities, to listen to them and take them into account as major players on the climate agenda.
20. I really think that if we keep coming back to talk about the financing of each country, unfortunately we will not be satisfied. The challenge is to bring these young people's projects to the attention of potential international investors, because in the region there is still a financing gap. Let us take the case of the chemical engineer who produced electricity from the tree for example, thanks to the support of UNDP, whose initiative I salute. What's distressing is the fact that he is not supported in bringing his project to industrial scale. An environmental project market for these young people to find international investors.
21. The challenges young people face fall into two categories:
- Young people themselves who do not seek out information: they are under-informed and poorly trained.
 - Difficulties in accessing information, which is often poorly disseminated or disseminated extremely late...
 - The complexity of the mechanisms involved in implementing climate actions.
 - Weaknesses in support for climate actions
 - Application of the Humanitarian - Development - Peace/Social Cohesion Nexus approach
22. Q: Thank you for your answer. What are the focal points in Côte d'Ivoire where a young researcher can approach and contribute to this research, as well as take part in the COP or climate change issues?
- A: The list of National Focal Points of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is available on [National focal points | UNFCCC](#). In the case you have any difficulty in getting access to your country's focal point, please reach out to us at rccwacafrica@unfccc.int, and we can facilitate that.

In addition, just to your knowledge, there are 9 constituencies at the UNFCCC which are listed below:

- BINGO: Business and industry NGOs
- ENGO: Environmental NGOs
- Farmers: Farmers and agricultural NGOs
- IPO: Indigenous peoples organizations
- LGMA: [Local government and municipal authorities](#)
- RINGO: [Research and independent NGOs](#)
- TUNGO: Trade union NGOs
- WGC: Women and gender constituency
- YOUNGO: [Children and youth NGOs](#)

Interactive session and Opened Discussion

Participants were asked to address a few questions on their knowledge about climate change, the challenges faced by youths for their meaningful engagement in climate action, the needs and priorities identified by youths for meaningful engagement in climate action in the region. Based on the responses from mentimeter, summary of answers is as follows:

1. What comes to mind when you think of climate change?

Adaptation - Vulnerability - Raising awareness - Collective action at local and international level - Hot flush - Resilience - Adaptation - Mitigation - Water crisis - Negative impact - Heatwave - Floods - Drought - Raising awareness - Creating a platform for exchange - Environmental degradation - Soil

supply - Crop degradation - Rough seasons - Vulnerability of populations - Temperature rise - Modification of climatic parameters - Global warming - Heat effect - Information - Technical and technological resources - Technical training - Financial resources - Involvement in decision-making bodies - Capacity building - Collective action at local and international level - Water crisis - Floods - Water crisis

2. What kind of resources do you need as young people to do more for climate action?

A framework for exchanges with our supervisory ministries and international institutions in the fight against climate change - Technical and financial resources - Tools and practical training on the effects of climate change - Capacity building - Information - Capacity building - Policy support - Training grants - Experience sharing - Mentoring - Capacity building - Training on advocacy tools and techniques - Financial resources - Involvement at national level - Sustainable forest exploitation by all operators - Water management policy - Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities - Environmental education in our school curricula - Supporting resource mobilization

3. What kind of climate action would you like to see implemented in your country?

Documentation - Raising awareness of climate issues - Ecological camps - Sustainable housing - Promoting green jobs - Climate intelligence - Supporting young people through awareness-raising - Adaptation and mitigation assessments and measures - Renewable energy access project - Involving young people in decision-making bodies linked to climate change - Climate action with a focus on adaptation and resilience - Restoring reforested areas - Resilience action in the agricultural sector - Marine and marine environment protection - Promoting local cultures - Green entrepreneurship - Sport and environmental preservation - Supporting the adaptation of rural communities - Incubation - Reforestation - Enforcement of the law - Technical support for CSOs - Promotion of local crops and native species/cultures - Green entrepreneurship - Sport and preservation of the environment - Support for community adaptation in rural areas - Incubation - Reforestation - Enforcement of the law - Coordinated action integrating all sectors affected by climate change - Climate-resilient water prioritization project - Development of early warning systems- Restoration of degraded lands - A national development plan to combat climate change, framed by a binding law. Include environmental education in schools - Support climate action projects

4. What can governments and other stakeholders do to better support young people in climate action?

First listen to young people's ideas and take them into account - Encourage young people's involvement and participation – Capacity building sessions - Provide young people with research and information centers - Organize forums for the exhibition of work and ideas/projects - Strengthen young people's awareness of climate change and training in climate challenges - Open doors to young people and youth-led organizations - Quota representation in development initiatives - Support young people's initiatives - Involve young people in decision-making, technical and financial support - Financing youth initiatives - Involving young people in environmental policymaking - Concertation and consultation with young people - Platform for regular exchanges between young people, governments, CSOs, and climate stakeholders - Designing and popularizing policies - Integrating climate protection programs into educational curricula - Training, informing, support young people's actions - Facilitate access to micro-credits and subsidies - Initiate young Eco Ambassadors to facilitate advocacy - Mobilize young people around climate issues - Inclusive actions - Finance green employment - Finance - Support youth platforms - Involve young people more in the assessment of harmful impacts and above

all their technical and financial support in the implementation of response measures – Climate change education be popularized.