

## Station Note

World Café at TD 1.3

### Scenarios Station 4: Community organizer for a youth environmental non-governmental organization

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The scenarios are designed to explore elements of mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage all through the lens of low-emission, resilient and inclusive development pathways. Each of the scenarios has questions largely designed to elicit contributions focused on two connected but distinct components of youth-centric perspectives:

- 1) What actions could be pursued, and by whom, that would create enabling conditions for youth to be an active part of the transition towards low emission, resilient, and inclusive development pathways?
- 2) What opportunities might youth have to increase their capacity to contribute low emission, resilient, and inclusive development pathways?

#### **Role: Youth**

In these scenarios Jingjing Gao will play the role of either an individual young person (scenarios 1, 2, and 3) or a youth-led NGO (scenarios 4 and 5). Through her role playing, and the facilitation by Sonja, each of the perspectives above will be explored for each scenario (loosely – it will obviously largely depend on participants). Scenarios have been designed to explore a range of concrete challenges faced by youth embedded in the need for transitions to low emission, resilient, and inclusive development pathways.

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**Scenario One:** You are living in a city in a developed country and are trying to start your career after just graduating from secondary school. Due to your concern about climate change you would like to avoid owning a car. However, the costs of living in the city center have skyrocketed and public transit has not kept pace with the expansion of the urban and peri-urban area. Similarly, you want a job – preferably one that contributes to a low carbon society – but you are concerned that you need to also find a job that can pay off your student debt as wages have not kept up with increased costs of living.

#### ***Question for the Advisors:***

- a) What actions could be pursued, and by whom, to help youth in this position be part of a rapid societal shift towards a low emission, climate resilient and inclusive development pathway?
  - b) What actions could youth do themselves in this situation to facilitate this shift?
  - c) What supports might be needed to make these efforts as effective as possible?
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**Scenario Two:** You have migrated from your rural home community to a peri-urban area in a developing country in which unemployment is upwards of 30% if you include those who have stopped looking for work. You would like to have a meaningful career, and would prefer to work in a green industry but it's not clear that there are sufficient positions available, nor that you would necessarily have the skills required.

***Question for the Advisors:***

- a) What actions could be pursued, and by whom, to help youth in this position be part of a rapid societal shift towards a low emission, climate resilient and inclusive development pathway?
  - b) What actions could youth do themselves in this situation to facilitate this shift?
  - c) What supports might be needed to make these efforts as effective as possible?
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**Scenario Three:** You and your family have always lived in a low-lying coastal rural area. Your family has invested all of their resources in your home and in their small plot of land. Until recently, you had assumed that you would continue this way of life, surrounded by your whole community, in this place so deeply connected to your identity. However, you and the others of your generation in your community have come to understand that because of climate change this entire rural region is likely to become permanently inundated in your lifetime.

Your generation is facing a series of difficult decisions. Do you stay here with your family and community even though you know this area is likely to become uninhabitable? Do you leave now and migrate far away, possibly even to another country so that you can send money back as your family's capacity to support themselves is eroded by salt water intrusion and sea level rise? How would you deal with the grief and potential resistance from older generations in your family when faced with loss of land and community? What options do you have to keep the sense of identity you and your community share even in the face of permanent inundation?

**Question for the Advisors:**

- a) What policies or measures could be put in place, and by whom, to help reduce the level of harm experienced by youth facing these types of climate impacts?
  - b) What actions could youth do themselves in this situation to reduce the harm they are facing?
  - c) What supports might be needed to make these efforts as effective as possible?
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**Scenario Four:** You are a youth organizer in a developing country in which a National Adaptation Plan was launched two years ago. However, implementation of this plan has been difficult: few local adaptation actions are emerging, nor is there finance available at the local level. Your organization is attempting to develop a youth led initiative to use restoration and other nature-based solutions to address climate risks in a small municipality, but have been unable to access finance and continue to have technical questions about the effectiveness of such adaptation efforts. You are trying to find ways of both ensuring the effectiveness of your efforts and scaling up such youth-led initiatives.

**Questions for advisors:**

- a) Who would need to do what at local, national and international levels for such youth-led community initiatives to be successful?
  - b) How can youth or youth-centric organization be empowered to sustain long-term policy advocacy and locally led solutions?
  - c) Can you share some examples of ways to recognize and sustain youth and community-based/NGO actions?
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**Scenario Five:**

You are a youth organizer living in an area where 30% of the glaciers has been lost in the last decade and the ecosystem services provided by high-mountain ecosystems have been affected by climate change. Many youth of your generation are concerned that the resulting water stress is undermining their capacity to find livelihoods in the area and they do not see the opportunity to stay in their home communities. Your youth organization is attempting to develop alternate long-term livelihood options that would focus on other resources and be less sensitive to water stress. However, you are having difficulty finding financial resources that would help generate alternate employment which fits the existing skills sets and educational attainment of youth in this area, and the local infrastructure is not currently well suited for employment tied to access to many knowledge-based economic activities.

**Questions for advisor:**

- a) Who would need to do what at local, national and international levels for such youth-led community initiatives to be successful?
- b) What would have to happen for youth experiences of these kinds of climate impacts to be used in climate resilience actions at local, national or international levels?
- c) How can youth or youth-centric organization be empowered to sustain long-term policy advocacy and locally led solutions in the face of intensifying climate impacts?