

# YOUTH-LED CLIMATE FORUM HEADLINE EVENT



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

# YOUTH-LED CLIMATE FORUM HEADLINE EVENT

## EVENT MODERATORS



**VICTOR ANDREI**  
Children's Board - UNICEF Romania



**ROAA ALOBIED**  
YOUNGO

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**LEYLA HASANOVA**

Presidency Youth Climate Champion for COP29



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
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## GLOBAL YOUTH STATEMENT SPEAKERS



**MARA GHILAN**  
YOUNGO POLICY TEAM



**SAIKAT DAS**  
YOUNGO POLICY TEAM



# THE GLOBAL YOUTH STATEMENT

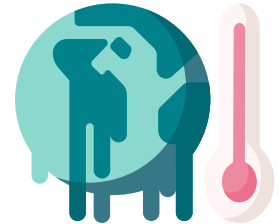
Declaration for Climate Justice  
Negotiations Aligned Demands  
Baku, November 2024



## 2024 Global Youth Statement



**YOUNGO**  
OFFICIAL YOUTH CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNFCCC



## 2030



# The Global Youth Statement History

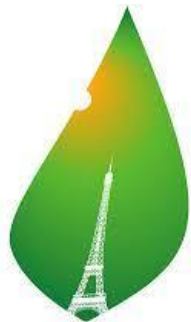




# GYS Through COP Cover Decisions



The **Preamble** of the Paris Agreement acknowledged the need for "the widest possible participation of all countries" and emphasizes the importance of engaging various stakeholders, including CSOs and NGOs.



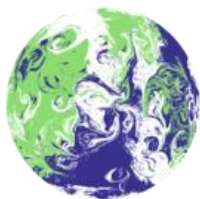
**PARIS2015**  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE  
COP21•CMP11

- "Recognizing the importance of the engagements of all levels of government and various, in accordance with respective national legislations of Parties, in addressing climate change ..."
- "Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on ... **intergenerational equity**."

# GYS Through COP Cover Decisions



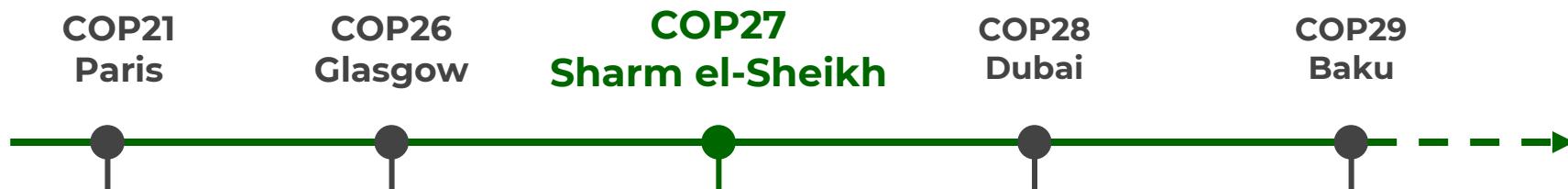
## Glasgow Climate Pact:



**COP26  
PRESIDENCY  
UK 2022**  
DELIVERING THE  
GLASGOW CLIMATE PACT

- Para. 63: "Expresses appreciation for the **outcomes of the sixteenth Conference of Youth**, organized by the constituency of children and youth non-governmental organizations and held in Glasgow in October 2021, and the "Youth4Climate2021: Driving Ambition" event hosted by Italy in Milan, in September 2021"
- Para 64: "Urges Parties and stakeholders to ensure **meaningful youth participation and representation in multilateral, national and local decision-making processes**, including under the Convention and the Paris Agreement."

# GYS Through COP Cover Decisions



## Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan:



- Para 55: "[...] encourages Parties to include children and youth in their processes for designing and implementing climate policy and action, and, as appropriate, to consider **including young representatives and negotiators into their national delegations**"
- Para 56: " [...] co-organizing the first **youth-led climate forum** (the Sharm el-Sheikh youth climate dialogue), hosting the first **children and youth pavilion** and appointing the first **youth envoy** of a Presidency of the Conference of the Parties and encourages future incoming Presidencies of the Conference of the Parties to consider doing the same;"
- Para 57: " [...] notes the **outcomes of the seventeenth Conference of Youth**, organized by the constituency"

## The ACE Action Plan:

- Decisions 23/CP.27 and 22/CMA.4: empowering all members of society, **including children and youth** to engage in climate action



# GYS Through COP Cover Decisions



- International Youth Climate Delegate Program
- Youth Climate Forum
- Children and Youth Pavilion



**COP28  
UAE**

## Decision 16/CP.28 Presidency youth climate champion:

- “Reiterate their acknowledgement of **the role of children and youth as agents of change in addressing and responding to climate change** and recognize the opportunity for future Presidencies of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement to **enhance the meaningful engagement of youth in the UNFCCC process ...**”
- “**Note the outcomes of the eighteenth Conference of Youth**, organized by the official children and youth constituency of the UNFCCC and held in Dubai in November 2023, which were informed by **local and regional conferences of youth**”

# GYS Through COP Cover Decisions



**COP29**  
Baku  
Azerbaijan

## Desirable outcomes

- Stronger provisions regarding children, youth and future generations
- Stronger implementation of the existing provisions
- **Better clarity on the role of the PYCC and collaboration with YOUNGO**
- Recognizing the **Global Youth Statement** and the Local and Regional conferences of youth
- Recognizing the Youth stocktake

# Overview of The 2024 GYS





# The Global Youth Statement (GYS)



- **The Global Youth Statement synthesizes the collective demands of children and youth across the world, represented by YOUNGO, to global leaders**
  
- **Key policy document for youth:**
  - In YOUNGO interventions
  - In bilateral meetings
  - In conversations with you - the decision makers!

# The Global Youth Statement (GYS)



## GLOBAL YOUTH STATEMENT

**Declarations for Climate Justice:  
Negotiations Aligned Demands**



**READ NOW**



You can read the full statement here: [www.bit.ly/GYS2024](http://www.bit.ly/GYS2024)

COP29 Edition Launch

## THE GLOBAL YOUTH STATEMENT

Declaration for Climate Justice

Baku, November 2024



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VERSION NOW**



# The Global Youth Statement (GYS)



**+76,000  
hours**



**+50  
Hackathons**



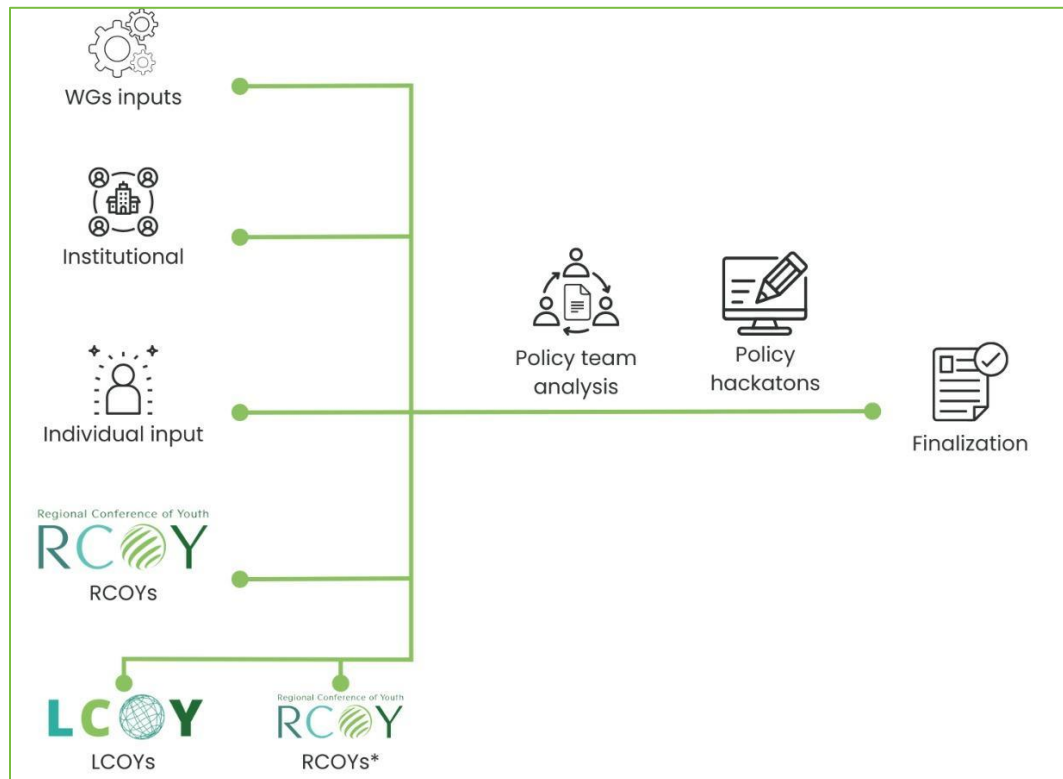
**+100  
Countries**



**2,215  
Children and Youth**



# The Process for the GYS



**80+ Regional and Local Statements**

# First Ever Negotiations Aligned Demand GYS

- Demands for COP 29
- Demands on the CMP Agenda
- Demands on the CMA Agenda
- Demands on the SBSTA Agenda
- Demands on the SBI Agenda
- Demands for the Secretariat

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# GYS Themes for 2024

- Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)
- Adaptation & Resilience
- **Arts, Culture, and Heritage**
- **Article 6**
- Children
- Climate Finance and Markets
- Climate Justice and Human Rights
- Climate Peace and Security
- **Climate Science**
- Energy
- Food and Agriculture
- Governance, Climate Action Plans/ NDCs and GST
- Health
- **Just Transition**
- Loss and Damage
- **Migration**
- Mitigation
- Nature & Biodiversity
- Oceans
- Technology and Innovation
- Water
- Women and Gender

# GYS improvements this year



- ★ Aligning the Statement with the negotiation tracks and the **UN cover decision draft language**.
- ★ Completing the Global Youth Statement in advance of the negotiations to facilitate the **consideration and incorporation of the policy priorities by Party delegations** and negotiators.
- ★ Shorter and condensed demands.
- ★ Having English, Arabic, Spanish , French, Portuguese, and Russian in addition to a Child-Friendly language of the GYS.
- ★ Dynamic Website page that can allow negotiators, youth and children to access the demands based on search.



# Global Youth Statement (GYS) Key messages



# Key demands from COP29



- Integrate children's rights into NDCs
- Prioritize children in climate adaptation strategies
- Establish early warning systems for vulnerable areas

# Key demands from COP29

## Recognizing the Conferences of Youth

- *Recalling* the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, paras 55 and 56, the Glasgow Climate Pact, paras 63 and 64, and Decisions 23/CP.27 and 22/CMA.4, we encourage Parties to:
  - Express appreciation to the children and youth Constituency (YOUNGO) for co-organizing the youth climate dialogue with the Presidency of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties and note the Global Youth Statement of the Nineteenth Conference of Youth, organised by the constituency (YOUNGO) and held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024.
  - Take note of the outcomes of the Local and Regional Conferences of Youth and meaningfully engage with children and the youth at these conferences;

## Key demands from CMA 6 Agenda

- Ensure environmental integrity in carbon markets
- Implement robust safeguards for human rights and indigenous peoples
- Allocate proceeds from carbon markets to mitigation and adaptation efforts



# Key demands from CMA 6 Agenda

## Item 4: Matters Relating to the Global Stocktake (GST)

- Recalling **Decision 19/CMA.1** and acknowledging the Youth Stocktake report that was published in 2023 at COP28,
  - Recognise the Youth Stocktake process and embed reporting on youth engagement and inclusion in existing processes such as NDCs, NAPs, Biennial Transparency Reports, etc. These reports should feed into the recurrent Youth Stocktake reports, which aim to measure and monitor youth actions nationally, regionally and globally to ensure accountability.
- Include indigenous peoples in nature-based solutions and NDCs
- Strengthen disaster risk reduction and climate migration policies
- Triple global energy transition investment to \$4.5 trillion annually by 2050

# Key demands from CMP 19 Agenda



- Allocate funding for youth-led adaptation initiatives
- Implement fast-tracked access to climate funds for community-based applicants
- Establish capacity-building programs for youth in climate adaptation

# Key demands from SBSTA 61

## Agenda



- Integrate child-specific protection measures into climate strategies
- Develop a taxonomy of climate-related mental health impacts
- Prioritize climate-sensitive diseases in disaster management plans

## Key demands from SBI 61 Agenda



- Establish mechanisms to fund Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)
- Create a dedicated platform for ACE to foster global collaboration
- Ensure youth participation in climate policies



# Key demands for the Secretariat, NDCs 3.0, and NCQG



## Secretariat:

- End corporate sponsorships of COPs by polluting industries
- Implement a Declaration of Interest for all stakeholders
- Ensure fossil fuel representatives are excluded from closed sessions

## NDCs 3.0:

- Include formal mechanisms for youth and indigenous participation in NDC formulation
- Regularly update NDCs to align with 1.5°C target
- Integrate health co-benefits into NDCs

## NCQG:

- Push for a \$1 trillion annual climate finance goal
- Prioritize grant-based, concessional public finance to developing countries
- Ensure transparency in climate finance tracking

# The Global Youth Statement (GYS)

## GLOBAL YOUTH STATEMENT

**Declarations for Climate Justice:  
Negotiations Aligned Demands**



**READ NOW**



You can read the full statement here: [www.bit.ly/GYS2024](http://www.bit.ly/GYS2024)

COP29 Edition Launch

## THE GLOBAL YOUTH STATEMENT

Declaration for Climate Justice

Baku, November 2024



**READ THE FULL  
VERSION NOW**



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**NOURA HAMLADJI**

UN Climate Change Deputy  
Executive Secretary



**DR. DECHEN TSERING**

Director of UNEP's Climate  
Change Division a.i. and Regional  
Representative for Asia-Pacific



**ALICE AMORIM**

Head of COP30 Unit  
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Special Adviser to  
the COP29 President



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## HIGH-LEVEL SPEAKERS



**H.E. AMBASSADOR  
ADONIA AYEBARE**  
G-77 and China Chair



**UGOCHI DANIELS**  
IOM Deputy Director  
General



**VALVANERA ULARGUI**  
Director General of the Spanish  
Climate Change Office



**ANNE RASMUSSEN**  
AOSIS Climate Lead  
Negotiator



**EZZELARAB MOSTAFA**  
Associate Minister  
of Youth and Sports, Egypt

## YOUTH & CHILDREN SPEAKERS



**NADA BERRADA**  
Education  
Development Center



**KAKEMBO BRIAN**  
Centre for Inclusive  
Green Skills



**SELENA MARWAHA**  
Children & youth  
pavilion

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Head of COP30 Unit  
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Special Adviser to  
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**COP29**

Baku  
Azerbaijan

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

# **Reflections from COP29**

## **Presidency Youth Climate**

### **Champion**



United Nations

FCCC/CP/2023/L.13-FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.15

Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

Distr.: Limited  
13 December 2023

Original: English

#### Conference of the Parties

Twenty-eighth session  
United Arab Emirates, 30 November to 12 December 2023

Agenda item 2(f)

Organizational matters

Organization of work, including for the sessions of the

subsidiary bodies

#### Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

Fifth session

United Arab Emirates, 30 November to 12 December 2023

Agenda item 2(c)

Organizational matters

Organization of work, including for the sessions of the

subsidiary bodies

#### Presidency youth climate champion

#### Proposal by the President

#### Draft decision -/CP.28 -/CMA.5

#### Presidency youth climate champion

*The Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,*

*Recalling decisions 1/CP.26, 18/CP.26, 1/CP.27, 23/CP.27, 17/CMA.1, 22/CMA.3 and 22/CMA.4,*

1. *Reiterate* their acknowledgement of the role of children and youth as agents of change in addressing and responding to climate change and recognize the opportunity for future Presidencies of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement to enhance the meaningful engagement of youth in the UNFCCC process through strengthened engagement on this matter with Parties and non-Party stakeholders, in particular the official children and youth constituency and youth within all other non-governmental organization constituencies of the UNFCCC;
2. *Note* the outcomes of the eighteenth Conference of Youth, organized by the official children and youth constituency of the UNFCCC and held in Dubai in November 2023, which were informed by local and regional conferences of youth;
3. *Welcome* the appointment by the Presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement of the first youth envoy of a Presidency of the Conference of the Parties;
4. *Also welcome* the initiative of the Presidency of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the

## The Presidency Youth Climate Champion

The Presidency Youth Climate Champion (PYCC) role was established at COP 28 and requests each incoming Presidency of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement to confirm its appointee for Presidency youth climate champion.

The PYCC role was decided to act on behalf of the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to facilitate the enhancement of the meaningful, inclusive engagement of youth in climate action, including within the UNFCCC process



# Not including youth in climate decision making is a missed opportunity

## Youth's role today:

Already youth play an essential role in global climate action:

- Mobilizing movements to influence, advocate, and demand for responsible climate behavior
- Pushing for stronger political will from local and national governments
- Leading in green business, entrepreneurship and technology, starting independent projects and driving on-the-ground climate action

## Youth's involvement has helped:



Raise awareness



Advance green entrepreneurship



Discover scientific breakthroughs



Develop tech innovations



Raise ambition



Develop creative policy proposals

Empowering youth to lead climate action unlocks significant potential opportunity

Climate action can be accelerated if Youth are provided with:



Access to higher-influence forums and decision-making on larger scales



Meaningful engagement within climate change processes and policy-making



Funding, resources, capacity building and operational support to realize their potential

**The Presidency Youth Climate Champion role (PYCC) is a key enabler in unlocking the full potential and participation of youth in the UNFCCC process**



# The PYCC terms of reference cover four key pillars across the full chain of youth engagement in climate action and the UNFCCC process

## **Enhance Inclusion**

Advocate for increased participation of children and youth in climate policy and action

## **Amplify Voices**

Elevate children and youth perspectives on climate policy and create spaces and opportunities for them to engage

## **Empower**

Enhance access to capacity-building and education opportunities for children and youth

## **Catalyze Action**

Leverage COP Presidency networks to support children and youth-led climate initiatives

# COP29 PYCC activities:

## The PYCC enhance Inclusion

by working to strengthen inclusion and representation of youth in climate processes, especially those from communities that are most marginalized and affected by climate change.



### Youth policy implementation

Advocate strong implementation of COP decisions related to children and youth inclusion, as well as advocating for initiatives such as the YOUNGO Youth Stocktake process.

### Unlocking opportunities for youth and children participation

Facilitate support for youth and children's participation at COY and COP, including an International Youth Climate Delegate Program and local youth delegate program with UNICEF.

### Championing youth inclusion in Party Delegations

Advocate for national delegations to include youth and facilitating connections and opportunities for young negotiators.

### Children and youth logistical support

Providing essential support for children and youth accessibility at COP, including through support on, accommodation, travel and visas.

## The PYCC empowers

by empowering youth's ability to meaningfully contribute to negotiations and decision-making through awareness and capacity-building.



**Youth capacity building**  
NDC Training at national level



**Fostering education partnerships**

Sharing of information and collaboration on education between Ministry of Education UAE and Ministry of Education Azerbaijan



**Engaging young teachers**

Hosted a climate Summer Camp for young teachers to engage educators in climate education and map pathways to embedding climate change in school curricula.

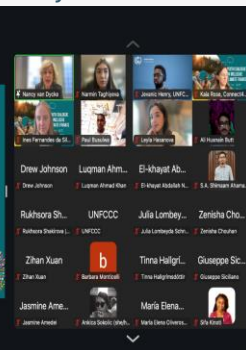


**Hands-on climate awareness**

Empowering youth through expanded in-person opportunities for climate learning at platforms such as the Baku Climate Week and UN Regional Climate Weeks.

# The PYCC amplifies voices

by relaying youth priorities, demands, and policy proposals directly to decision-makers within the COP Presidency, governments, the UNFCCC and beyond



## Elevate youth climate policy ambitions proposals

Amplify youth policy proposals and create spaces for youth input

## Connect Youth to Policymakers

Facilitate opportunities for direct interaction between youth civil society and government negotiators, including creating space for a Youth-led Climate Forum during COP and showcasing

## Engaging youth in NDCs

Raise awareness of local and regional youth policy efforts, and campaign for youth to be embedded in NDC revision and implementation.

## The PYCCs catalyse action

by leveraging COP to advance, resource, and monitor youth-led climate action, enabling funding and ensuring accountability



### Embedding youth in the agenda at COP

Ensuring a thematic day that focuses on children and youth at COP, as well as embedding youth across the full Presidency Action Agenda.

### Securing dedicated youth spaces

Provide operational support for children and youth spaces at COP such as the Children and Youth Pavilion in the blue zone and Youth House in the green zone, as well as at other key UNFCCC gatherings over the year

### Connecting youth to resources

Create opportunities for youth-led projects to connect with potential partners, funders, mentors, and resource providers - Ideathon: Sustainable Youth led Innovations events





# THANK YOU

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