

This past Sunday, the first-ever ACE Youth Forum was held here in Bonn. The Forum is a youth-led initiative of the COP23 Presidency, in partnership with the government of Canada, the United Nations Development Program, and UN Climate Change.

It brought together over 110 participants from more than 70 countries all around the world. Its primary goals were to produce concrete youth recommendations to feed into the ACE-related negotiations taking place here at SB-48, and to build the capacities of young people to undertake enhanced actions on ACE back in their national contexts.

A vital component of the Forum was providing Scholarships that enabled 40 young leaders from across the global south to participate in the Forum. A global selection process evaluated over 3,300 applications from 125 countries to select these 40 young ACE leaders.

It is now my pleasure to show you this video from the event.

video plays

Thank you, my colleagues will now present some of the key outcomes from the forum.

1. ACE-NFP (Marie Claire)

The participants of the AYF believe that the National Focal Points are crucial to successfully implement ACE and the Paris Agreement.

Therefore we suggest the following actions to implement and improve the work on ACE and the actions of the ACE National Focal Points:

- Maintain contact and dialogue with national civil society organizations working on ACE through a **dialogue** between ACE FP and national youth embodied by **yearly national summits**.
- Establish a **civil society representative delegate** program encouraging youth participation, to support and advance the nomination of **national ACE Youth Focal Points**.
- Improve the **ACE webpage** in a manner that it serves as a **platform** between ACE related training material and ACE NFP.
- Enable an inclusive access to all the **material** produced by the secretariat on **open source** basis, for instance: braille availability, both online and offline. This will enable the training and support of national practitioners and ACE NFPs to achieve their mandate.
- Create a **supporting group** at a national level for each NFP in which different stakeholders come together to work on ACE matters. These groups should continue with the spirit of Fiji and Talanoa about connecting different stakeholders, working as a

communication and implementation channel. This will also enable top-down and bottom-up communication between international and national ACE practices.

- National Focal Points are encourage to **amplify voices** of people engaged in ACE activities. It would bring forward young people with expertise on ACE and climate related matters. And, it would enhance the accessibility of youth to the governments to negotiate ACE related programs.

2. Youth Involvement (Alessandra)

Young people all around the world are engaged in climate actions. Nevertheless the AYF came up with the following requests to increase youth involvement on all levels:

Official youth delegates within the parties are crucial for capacity building and an inclusive dialogue. Therefore we suggest that NFP encourage other NFP to include youth delegates at COP24 and beyond to support the requests of young people.

As already mentioned, to support ACE NFP we suggest to nominate **ACE youth focal points** to help ease the workload some ACE NFPs are carrying and complement skills and ideas.

Different competitions and contests, especially with a creative approach, open to everyone are an effective way to enhance youth involvement. Good examples are Momentum for Change, UNFCCC Global Video Competition, the Climate Comic Contest and many more - we would love to see more opportunities like this in the future.

NFP should provide financial support in form of funds for projects and scholarships for youth to come to the conferences and engage on an international level.

To reach and engage more young people on the ground and educate and inspire them, **national and regional model COPs and AYFs** should be organized. The AYF thinks that this is an effective approach to involve youth in the process and make their voice heard.

3. Education (Harlino)

One of the key aspects that needs to be highlighted on ACE is the education system. Education has a major role to play in bridging the awareness gap between the success and failure of Climate Empowerment. This form of education does not only include formal education but vocational and other area of informal education system so as to give everyone equal opportunity to get access to education of climate change. Capacity building programs would also be incorporated.

In order to achieve sustainability on ACE, the AYF suggests:

1. To ensure that climate education as well as education for sustainable development is included into the **official school system** by incorporating ACE in the curriculums of all

levels of education through the ministries of education. It needs to be embedded in the DNA of today's very education concept.

2. Integrate climate change education in both formal and informal education materials in terms of the adaptation and mitigation to raise the younger generation's awareness of the key areas of climate change and best practises they should play.
3. Provide and promote attractive **online material** on climate change, sustainability as well as UNFCCC for interested teachers as well as active youth.
4. Build a climate resilient community by having a sustainable capacity building program that will be targeting youth in both formal and informal learning programs.

As part of the capacity building activities, education can work in line with the Paris Committee of Capacity Building (PCCB). The mentorship of youth by the parties also can be implemented to increase the capacity of the youth as well grow the connection between both parties. Implementing sustainable capacity building programs and educations on Climate Change will ensure a smoother, far-reaching and cross-cutting awareness on the hazards of climate change which is very paramount in the ACE and Paris agreement process.

4. Finance (Pierre)

The discussions of the AYF on inclusion of ACE in Climate Finance were drawing on a legitimate relevance in existing provisions (UNFCCC Article 6, PA Article 11 and 12) that mandate Parties to promote ACE. A lot of ACE can be enhanced financially at the national level, by talking directly to the relevant national authorities. However, to secure a decision text that include ACE in climate finance, a number of options were explored:

1. Integrating ACE elements in the NDCs and the NAPs could be a funding opportunity to finance formulation and implementation of ACE-related strategies for mitigation and adaptation goals. Thus, countries could make provisions in NDCs for ACE activities especially in relation to youth as a target group.
2. While numerous ACE elements are already included in specific types of funded projects, such as the Small Grants Programme of the GEF, the Readiness Programme within the GCF or most Adaptation Fund projects, the Parties could explore the ways how, setting participation, ensuring access to information and pushing other relevant ACE-related elements as distinct eligible activities to be recipient of funding would enable to enhance dedicated ACE-programs.
3. Similarly, discussions should be carried out on how elements under ACE could be included as mandatory components (with designated allocation) to existing funding eligible activities, for example participation and access to information within the

formulation of climate change related strategies, such as Gender is, to allow accreditation to the GCF.

4. We recommend to increase transparency standards for funding mechanisms so that youth-led projects could also get a chance to be financed to serve ACE goals at the national and regional level, as youth has a key role in education and peer to peer training.
5. Resources, including through other other work plans and committees such as the work plan of PCCB could also be invested to enhance capacity of youth groups to be able to navigate and formally seek funding from GCF, GEF, Adaptation Fund, etc.

End (Amasai)

Thank you everyone for your kind attention to these outcomes from the ACE Youth Forum. We hope to see these inform the negotiations we are conducting together here in these 2 weeks. And we once again thank the COP23 Presidency, government of Canada, UNDP, and the Secretariat for all there support and hard work in making this Forum possible.

Lets go forward together, thank you.

This was a brief summary of the outcome of the first ever AYF. The participants of the AYF would like to see a continuity of this format of youth involvement and suggest to organize AYF every year the day before the intersessionals. Furthermore should the format of AYF be implemented in the programm of COY - the conference of youth which is taking place 3 days before COP and gatherers young people to discuss and learn about the upcoming COP. A more detailed outcome with further recommendations and suggestions of the participants of the AYF will be provided soon.

All participants of the AYF would like to express their gratitude towards the UNFCCC secretariat, the government of Fidji, government of Canada, UNDP as well as YOUNGO.