

Excellencies, distinguished guests, and fellow youths; we are Sofia Corradi from Brazil, and Ezekiel Nyanfor from Liberia delivering this statement on behalf of the Children and Youth. We stand in this room representing every geography, gender, race, and faith.

As we advance this second week of COP28, we call for a shift in the current pace we are tackling the climate emergency.

Until today, youth have collectively volunteered 55,000 hours of work to deliver their demands in the Global Youth Statement - we ask you not to disregard our efforts, to listen to us now, and to read the demands we are handing you throughout these decisive days.

We also call for the creation of structural changes aimed at safeguarding children and equipping them with “green” skills, recognizing them in the present and future world, particularly through the just transition work programme.

We are pleased to see the focus on energy and the need to tackle our reliance on fossil fuels as the root cause of climate change in this year's GST (Global Stocktake). We are therefore calling for a dedicated energy negotiations track at COP and for the final text to including:

Commitments to tripling renewables by 2030, and to transition to a just and equitable full fossil fuel phase-out by 2050, accompanied by a significant decline in all fossil fuel production of 43% by 2030 - taking into account global responsibility. The GST decision should also commit to no new investments, financing, permitting, and operationalization of new fossil fuel projects.

The GGA (Global Goal on Adaptation) must address local and regional realities. Therefore, we call for a double increase in grant-based adaptation finance for all countries, especially Least Developed Countries and Small Island States.

We acknowledge existing environmental degradation due to slow action and nonexistent implementation and highlight nature-based solutions as adaptation measures.

In addition, we ask for the promotion of equality for youth in spaces of advocacy and negotiations for the environment to build bridges between the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the yet-to-be institutionalized Water Action Agenda. We need an innovative approach to rethink how we work across these frameworks on climate, biodiversity, land use, and water.

If this COP has made anything clear, it's that we need a commitment to transparency and processes uninfluenced by actors that seek to undermine the pursuit of effective climate action. A common goal towards this must be achieved without any conflicts of interest, including at the highest levels of this process.

We find ourselves in a crucial period of necessary transformation. Our duty as a society is to bridge the gap between the current state of the world and the ideal world we envision and will live in.

Considering the statement, we advocate for global peace, emphasizing its role in fostering a prosperous planet, leaving no one behind.