

Event: Youth & Local Stocktake- An Opportunity for Ambition for Children & Youth

Africa Climate Week - Thursday 7 September 4:30pm -5:30pm

Background:

The global stocktake is a pivotal moment in measuring progress against the goals set in the Paris Agreements. Stock take exercises are necessary at various levels to determine progress in various sectors and at different scales. Some of the critical processes in the fight against climate change must include a **youth stocktake** and **local stocktake**. To begin with, the global stocktake and work towards it began at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021. Governments signed up to the Paris agreement in 2015, committing to Paris' mandatory process of accessing progress and gaps in line with driving ambition towards emission reduction. After substantial work, we are now entering the home stretch before taking center stage where party stakeholders would gather at the COP28 climate talks identifying whether enough has been done on cutting emissions, adapting to climate change, funding climate action and rolling-out technology. Moving forward, the implementation of GST would be a significant moment to shape and influence key actions in the future.

In a similar manner, local and sub-national governments have a first-ever direct role shape to the Paris Agreement through the Global Stocktake. Climate action in all contexts, happens at the ground level in communities. The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement and the 2021 Glasgow Climate Pact recognized the importance of collaborative participation. The networks of local and regional governments gathered under the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency, emphasized the need for the process to be participatory in a manner that receives inputs from the local, national and international levels ([links to para.6 of the UNFCCC Conclusion in June 2022](#)). As part of this process recognising local solutions in the implementation of NDCs is key.

Moreover, youth participation in the UNFCCC processes has increased over the past years. Young people are demanding to be heard and to be engaged meaningfully, not only at COPs but pre and post-Climate Change Conferences. However, besides the increase in participation, young people still face several challenges, including but not limited to, lack of funding, limited knowledge on technical topics to engage meaningfully, visa and accreditation challenges, and limited human resource capacity (YOUNGO report, 2022). In order to reduce some of these gaps Article 63 of the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#) (2021) 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. Moreover, Article 65 of the same Pact invites future Presidencies of the Conference of the Parties, to facilitate an annual youth-led climate forum for dialogue between Parties and youth in collaboration with YOUNGO, the Children and Youth constituency of the UNFCCC. Realistically, having these articles alone without financial and technical capacity makes it impossible for children and youth to be engaged meaningfully.

Objectives:

- To discuss the need for promotion of intergenerational equity from the local to the global level
- Determine how the **local stocktake** combined with **youth stocktake** can best deliver comprehensive commitments and results that highlight children and youth demands
- Explore urban/city components of NDCs that are included in national plans and how these can be operationalised for the benefit of children and youth
- Create a space for participants to learn from good practices locally on how to foster social inclusion in the operationalisation of NDCs & NAPs

PROGRAMME:

Duration	Schedule
4:30-4:40	<i>Opening remarks & Introduction of speakers</i>
4:41-4:51	<i>2 Speakers will provide an overview of the Youth Stocktake and the Local Stocktake</i>
4:52-5:22	<i>Panel discussion detailing the paramount importance of the Youth & Local Stocktake processes parallel to the GST</i>
5:23-5:30	<i>Question & Answer</i>

Session Flow:

16:41 – 16:51: Opening Speakers will provide an overview of:

- ❖ the Youth Stocktake
- ❖ & the Local Stocktake

The Youth Stocktake and what it entails

The Local Stocktake - How we create local ownership of the Paris Agreement and the urgent need for multi level cooperation against the backdrop of GST and NDC ambition cycle, ensuring a strong focus on opportunities to scale up climate ambition and implementable solutions that speak directly to national level policy makers and stakeholders in every country.

16:52– 17:22 Panel discussion along guiding questions

SPEAKER 1

Q.How do we put equity at the heart of the **global** and **local stocktake**? What does it mean for the GST process to be equitable and what more needs to be done to ensure a successful, fair conclusion of the GST at COP28?

SPEAKER 2

Can you give us a snapshot of what has been done at the local level to enhance the representation

of children and youth voices around implementation of NDCs and NAPs in particular? Where are opportunities for **children and youth** to get involved and become actual “shapers”?

SPEAKER 3

Q. Under the backdrop of the youth stock take, what is the vision, what does the ideal scenario look like, where young people are mainstreamed in UNFCCC and regional decision making processes?

SPEAKER 4

*Young men and women are key drivers for inclusive growth and sustainable development for the globe. When young people are engaged and empowered, societies will be, hence the **youth stocktaking** process.*

Q. What are the adjustments that can be made by *Parties* or key areas of improvement that can fast track proceedings for the Youth Stocktake to be formally recognized?

All Panelists Questions

1. Is there a possibility to measure 'African Youth in Climate' Mainstreaming Inventory at a national level being meaningfully engaged by their governments (as stakeholders, negotiators, partners) and if present where and how is it being done and to what extent is it delivering tangible results?

2. The GST provides an opportunity to craft a collective climate story that includes everyone - everywhere. This is possible through collecting as much information as possible, comprehensively and accurately assessing the state of global climate action.

Q. How best can young people leverage COP28 as a forcing event to drive the Youth

Stocktake and needed real-world action to raise the ambition of parties' next round of commitments to be more youth-inclusive from the local level?

3. Would you have any good practice examples about how African countries are developing, monitoring and evaluating their climate action measures in a participatory and fully transparent manner considering vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems? Are the approaches similar? And what are the advantages of broad inclusion of all such distinct groups in decision-making?

OPEN THE FLOOR (17:15-17:30 Q&A)