

You(th) and NDCs



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You(th) and NDC

3.0

Importance, Global Status, and Role
of Youth

Why NDC 3.0 Matters

- Countries are expected to enhance ambition across mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation, not just update prior commitments.
- Scientific consensus (IPCC AR6) shows that emissions must peak before 2025 to keep 1.5°C within reach.
- Most current NDCs are not aligned with this trajectory—raising the stakes for NDC 3.0.
- Delays or weak submissions mean irreversible damage to ecosystems, livelihoods, and vulnerable communities.
- This is a "last-mile" moment to course-correct globally—technical, political, and financial ambition must converge now.

Current Global Status of NDC 3.0

- Many countries are still in the drafting/finalizing phase of their NDCs.
- There are gaps in ambition, transparency, and sectoral coverage.
- Some countries have shown promising efforts (e.g., climate education, energy justice), but others lag.
- Few NDCs reflect just transitions, youth inclusion, or localized vulnerabilities.
- The current moment offers a strategic opening for youth and civil society to shape the final submissions.

Where Countries Stand on NDC 3.0 Submissions

- As of mid-2025, fewer than 40 countries have submitted their NDC 3.0.
- Major emitters and vulnerable nations still finalizing drafts.
- Some countries have begun public consultations, offering youth entry points.
- Regional differences in ambition—some progressive, others stagnant.
- Strategic window remains open for youth engagement ahead of COP30.

What Youth Can Still Influence

- Final submissions still open in many countries.
- Youth can engage ministries, focal points, and local consultations.
- Advocate for climate education, adaptation funding, and youth targets.
- Shape ambition and equity language in final drafts.
- Influence through shadow reports, public campaigns, and direct engagement.
- Set the tone leading into COP30.

Regional Consultations on Meaningful Youth Engagement in NDCs

Voices of Young People from 92 Countries

What is it???????

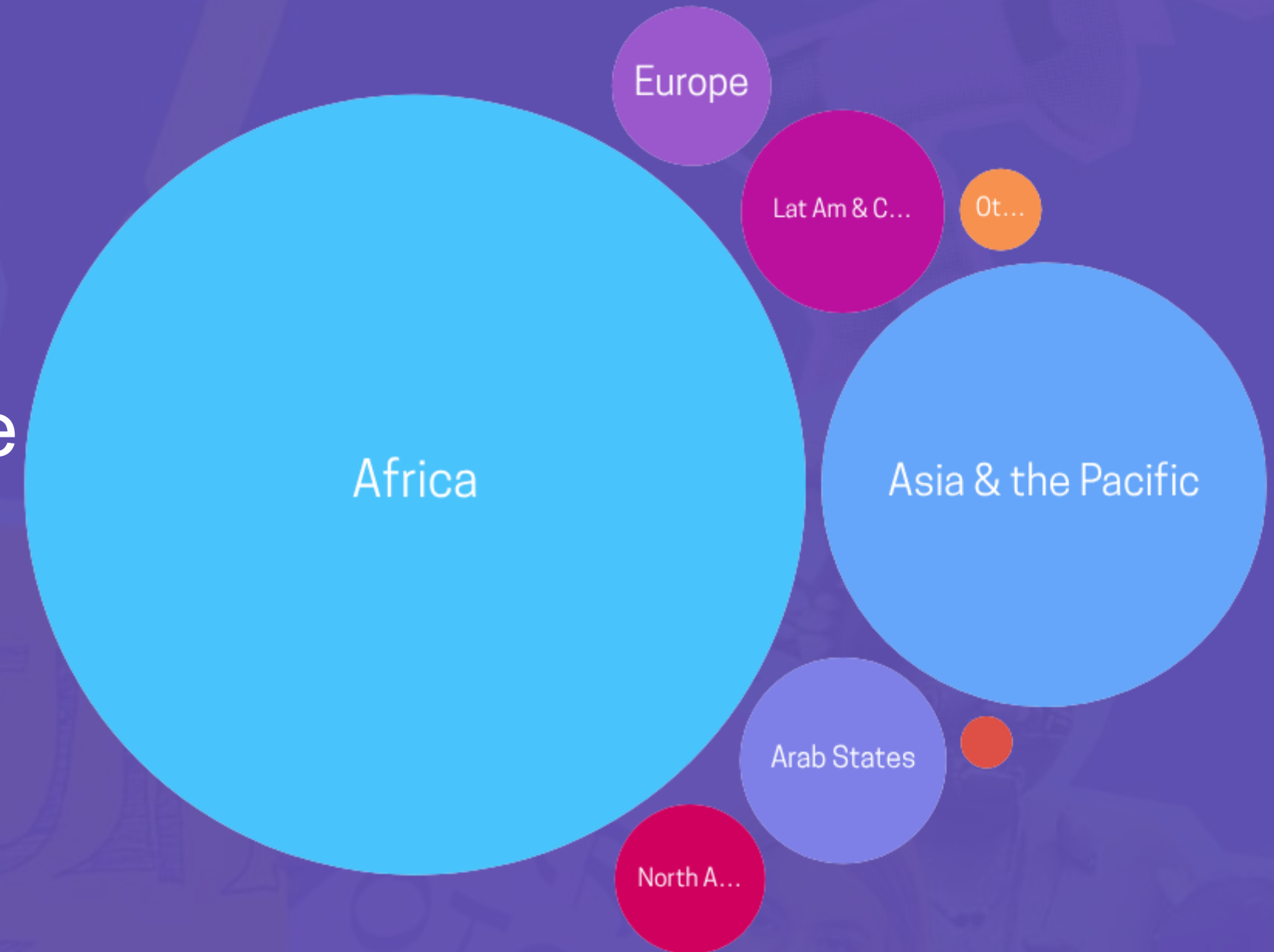
The Regional Consultation on Meaningful Youth Engagement in NDCs are VIRTUAL, OPEN FOR ALL YOUTH ACROSS THE GLOBE, consultations to identify specific regional issues and barriers of youth engagement and to create key regional youth policy recommendations for meaningful youth engagement in the NDC processes.

Objectives.

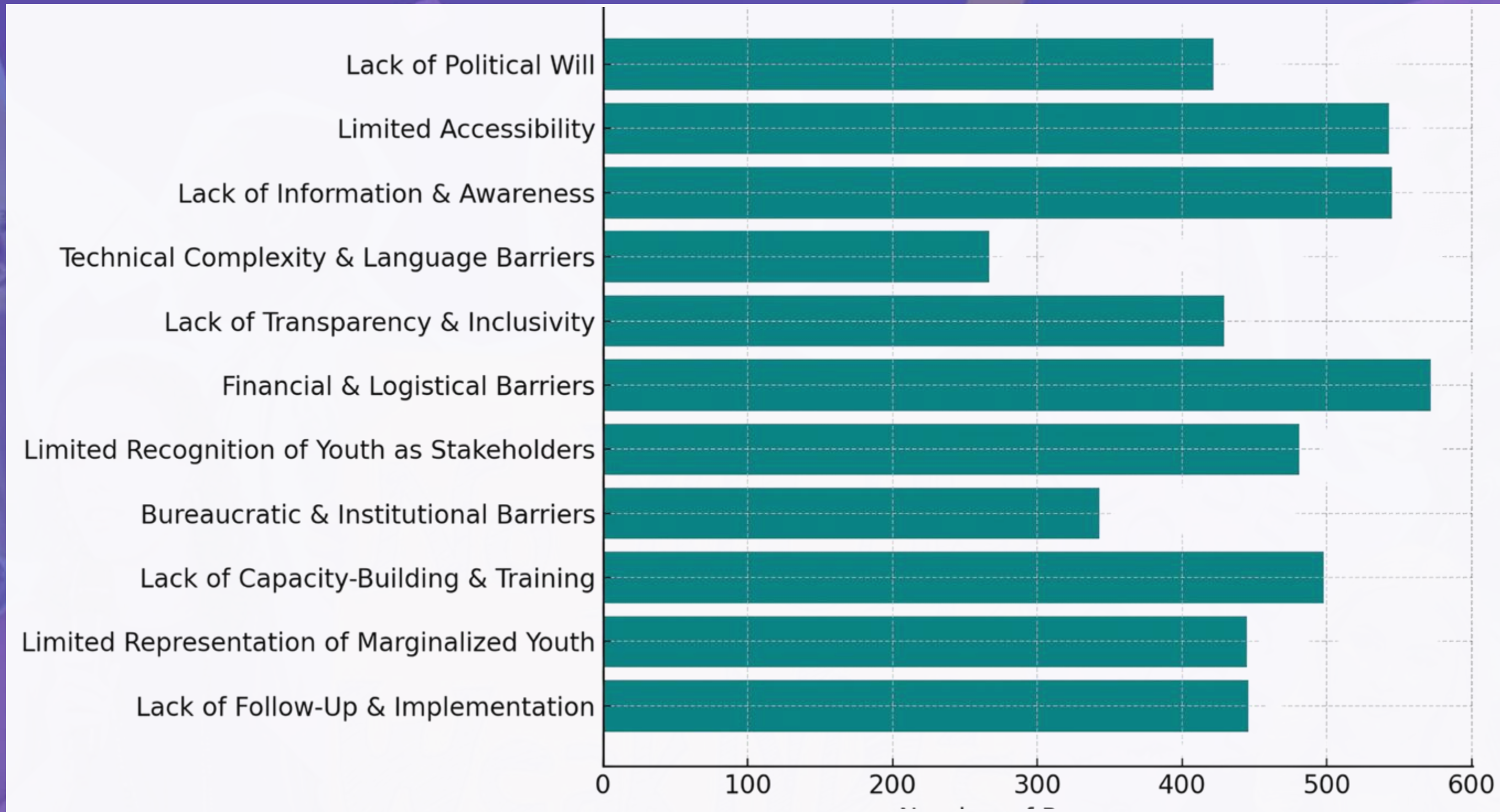
- Strengthen children and youth engagement in NDCs
- Gathering Children and Youth Perspectives
- Inform Policy Change
- Bridging the Gap Between State Actors and Non–State Actors (Specially children and youth)

Demographic Data

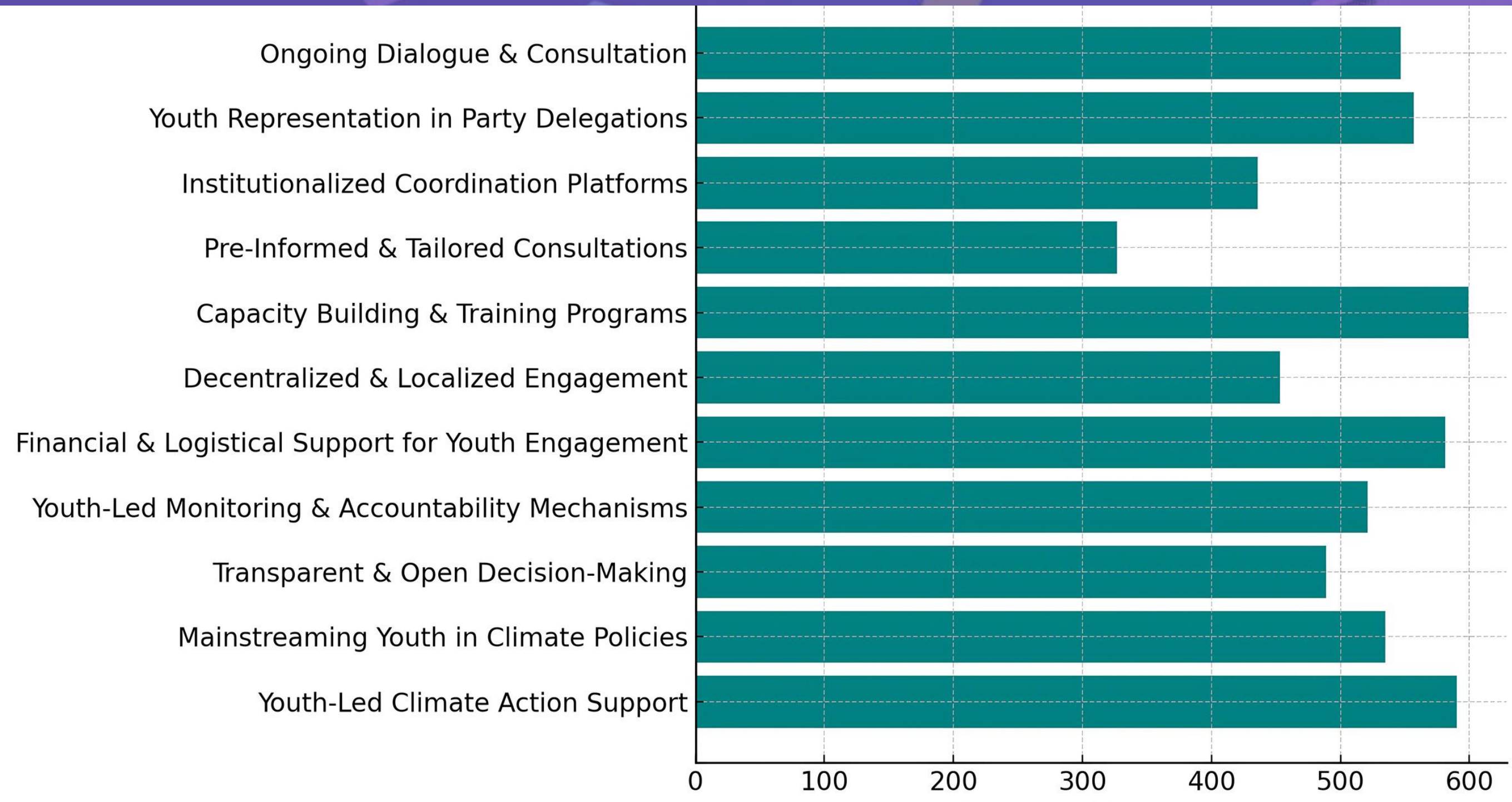
- 714 Children and Youth from 92 countries shared their thoughts in the consultation
- Average age of the Participants are 28



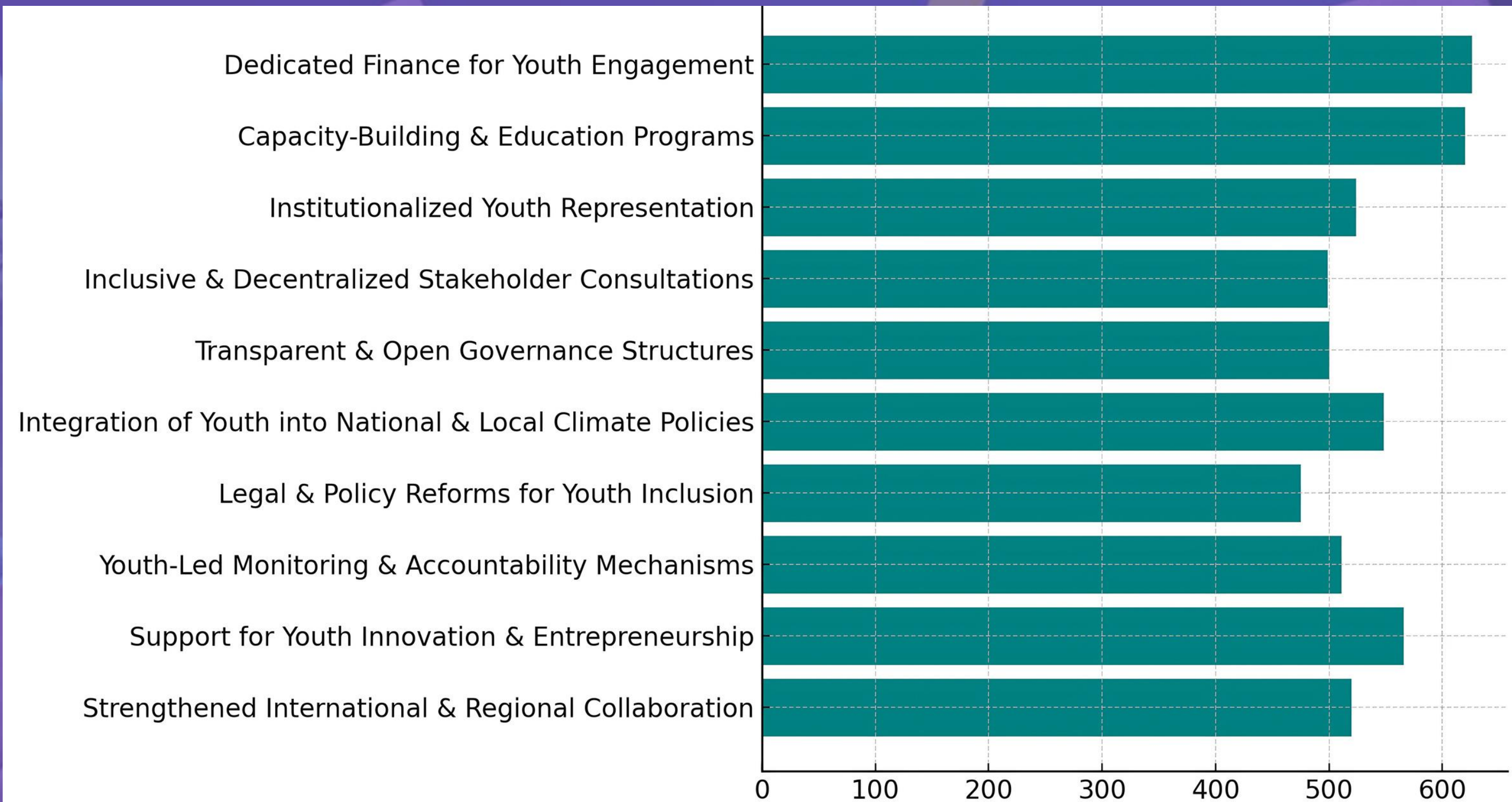
Barriers to Meaningful Youth Engagement in NDCs



Strategies for Effective Youth engagement



Policy Recommendations for meaningful Youth Engagement in NDC 3.0



Support Needed for meaningful Youth Engagement in NDC 3.0



Recommendations identified from the consultation

- Establish formalized Youth bodies linked to NDC governance at national and local levels.
- Mandate Youth engagement in climate policy consultations and Party delegations.
- Allocate Dedicated Funding for youth-led climate action, training, and regional collaboration.
- Simplify Access to NDC processes via youth-friendly, translated documents and toolkits.
- Strengthen Monitoring Role of youth through publicly supported, independent accountability mechanisms.
- Support Indigenous youth, youth from most exposed communities, and young people with disabilities.



THE CLIMATE CRISIS

is an intergenerational problem,
it requires **INTERGENERATIONAL LEADERSHIP**



PART I

The NDC Equity Tracker

THE PROBLEM

Young people are leading movements for change, yet they're **rarely included** in **climate policy-making spaces** or trusted to **lead climate initiatives** in the workplace.

94% of young people **feel unsupported in multilateral forums**, with 81% describing their participation as **tokenistic**.

82% don't know what their government is doing to tackle climate change.

45% have already or plan to **change jobs** due to concerns about how their employer is negatively impacting the climate.

Sources: UNICEF Innocenti Voices for Impact Report 2024, Deloitte, Plan International

YOUTH INCLUSION IN THE UNFCCC

COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact

"Urges Parties and stakeholders to ensure meaningful youth participation in multilateral, national and local decision-making processes, including under the Paris Agreement"

COP27 ACE Action Plan

"Young people are stakeholders in climate decision-making and implementation"

COP28 Presidency Youth Climate Champion

"Aims to enhance and encourage the inclusive engagement of children and young people in climate decision-making and policy processes by utilising the unique position of each COP Presidency"



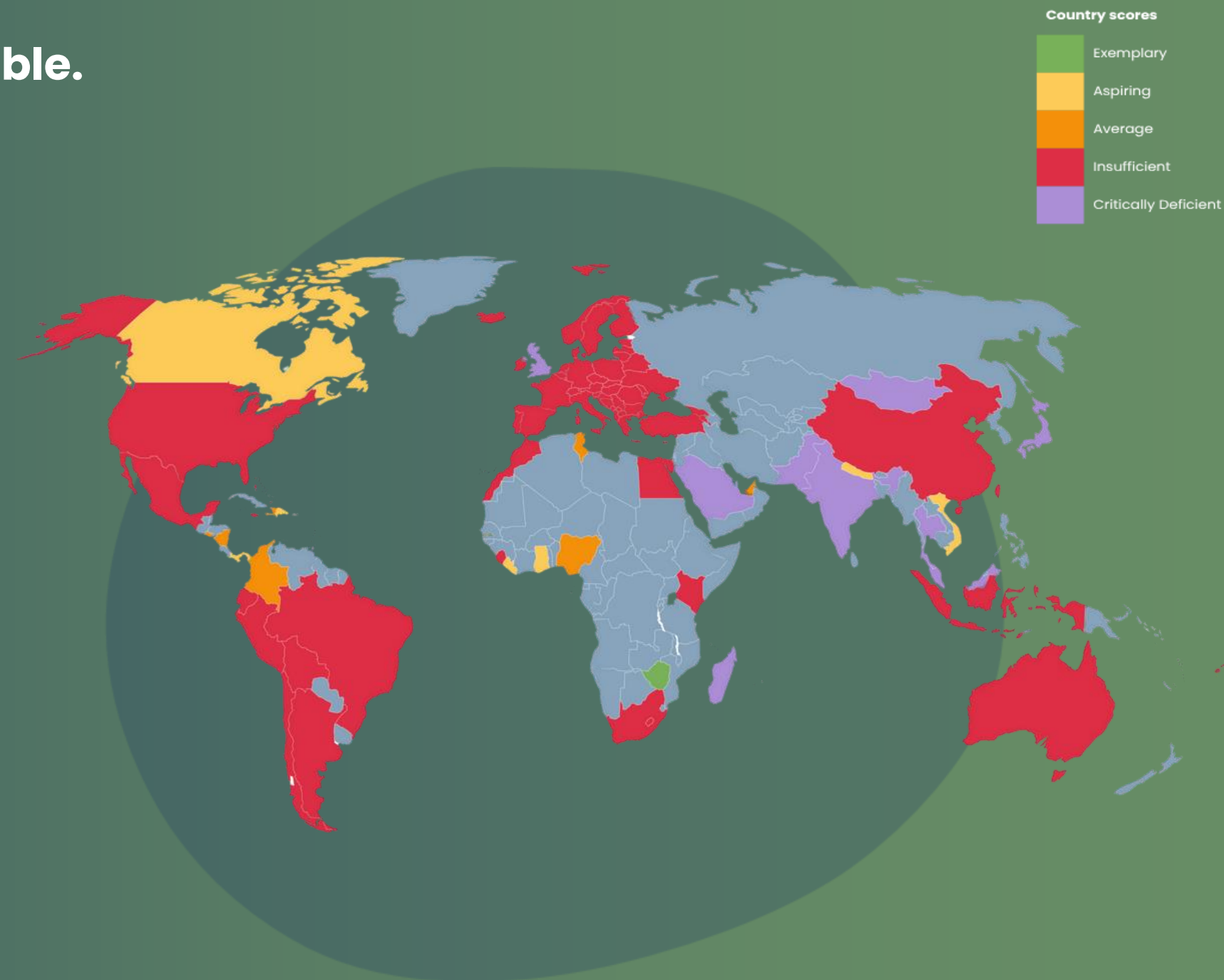
THE NDC EQUITY TRACKER

When NDCs leave people out, they leave solutions off the table.

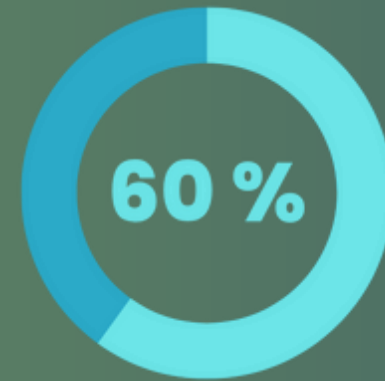
The NDC Equity Tracker is a public accountability tool that tracks government efforts to center **intergenerational partnership and gender mainstreaming in climate policy**.

The project provides **targeted training to youth ambassadors** to analyze and provide recommendations on intergenerational justice and gender mainstreaming for their country's NDCs and equips them with the **skills to advocate for meaningful change**.

Each NDC is given a score that correlates from "critically deficient" to "exemplary," which is mapped into a database for transparency.



NDC 2.0 FINDINGS



More than 60% of NDCs **don't include young people meaningfully** in NDC development processes.



Over 49% of NDCs **don't mention women or gender meaningfully** in NDC development processes.



100% of youth ambassadors **believe their NDCs can be more ambitious.**

Countries with stronger inclusion of gender and youth are more likely to have emissions reductions goals aligned with the Paris Agreement.



WHAT MAKES IT **UNIQUE?**

NON-TRADITIONAL DATA

Unlike scientific or AI-based models used by the UN and academic communities, this project **harnesses grassroots monitoring and citizen-science** to bring **qualitative insights** into NDC assessments

CULTURAL ANALYSIS

By incorporating **context- and culture-specific perspectives**, the project ensures that climate commitments reflect **local realities, knowledge systems,** and **equity needs** often overlooked in mass quantitative reviews.

ADVOCACY-BASED

It empowers youth as **advocates and centers youth-generated recommendations**, recognizing young people not just as stakeholders but as **co-creators of policy solutions** informed by **frontline activism**.

ITS IMPACT

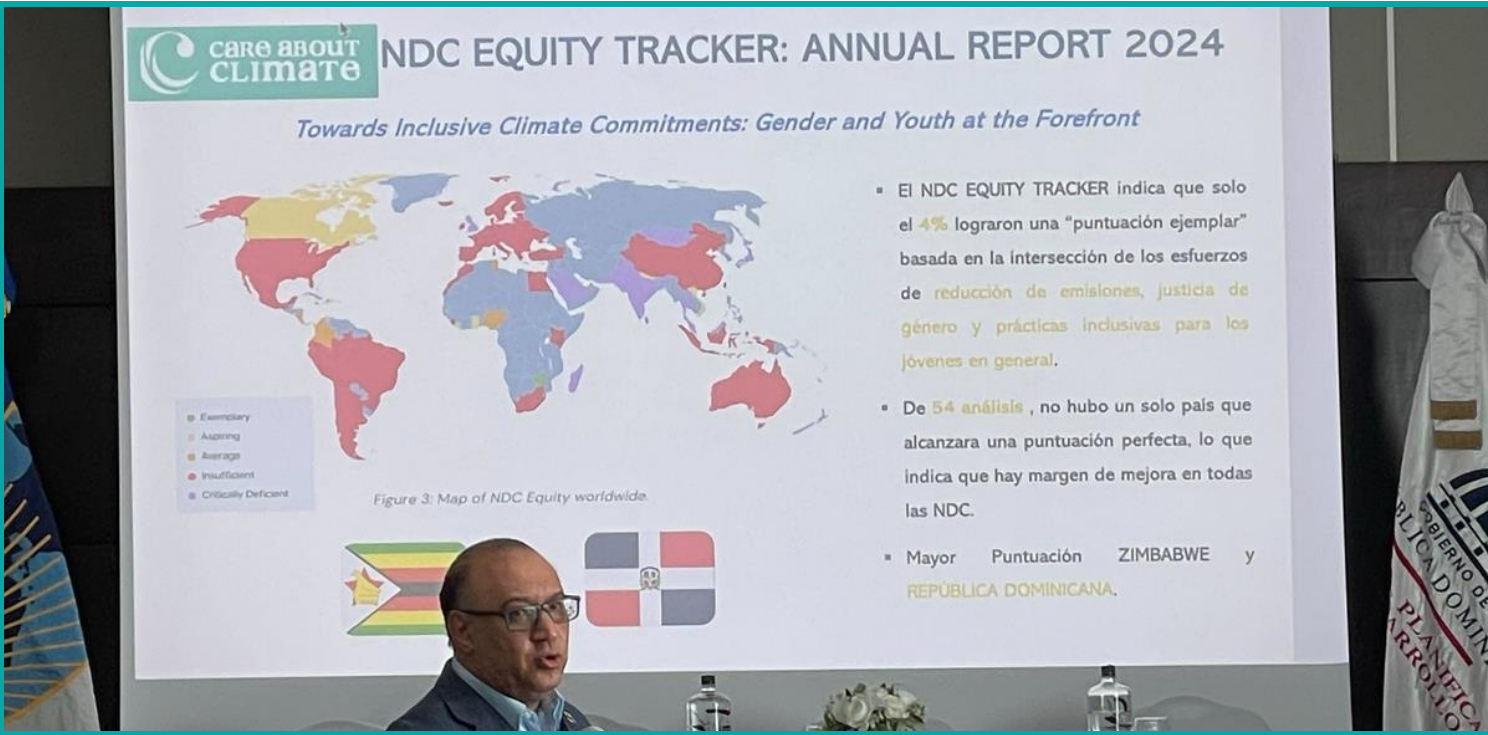


Announced the launch of the **UNIVERSAL NDC YOUTH CLAUSE** at COP29, which provides a set of forward-looking paragraphs countries are encouraged to adopt to advance intergenerational partnership in NDCs.

Featured in the **2023 and 2024 Annual Reports on Action for Climate Empowerment** adopted by parties at COP29.

Category	Level	Party/organization	Details
Indicator/ metric/ scoreboard	International	Care About Climate	NDC Equity Tracker for reviewing and highlighting issues pertaining to gender mainstreaming in NDCs and youth inclusion in the NDC process, currently covering more than 80 NDCs responsible for 80 per cent of global emissions, with NDC analysis carried out by young people, who allocate a total score to each NDC that is reflective of ambition and inclusivity and provide recommendations for strengthening those areas ^a

Informed **public consultations** for the **Dominican Republic’s 2025 NDC**.



FROM TOOL TO CAMPAIGN

The NDC Equity Tracker led to the “**Universal NDC Youth Clause Campaign**”, a call to action for intergenerational collaboration, which has now been adopted by numerous countries:

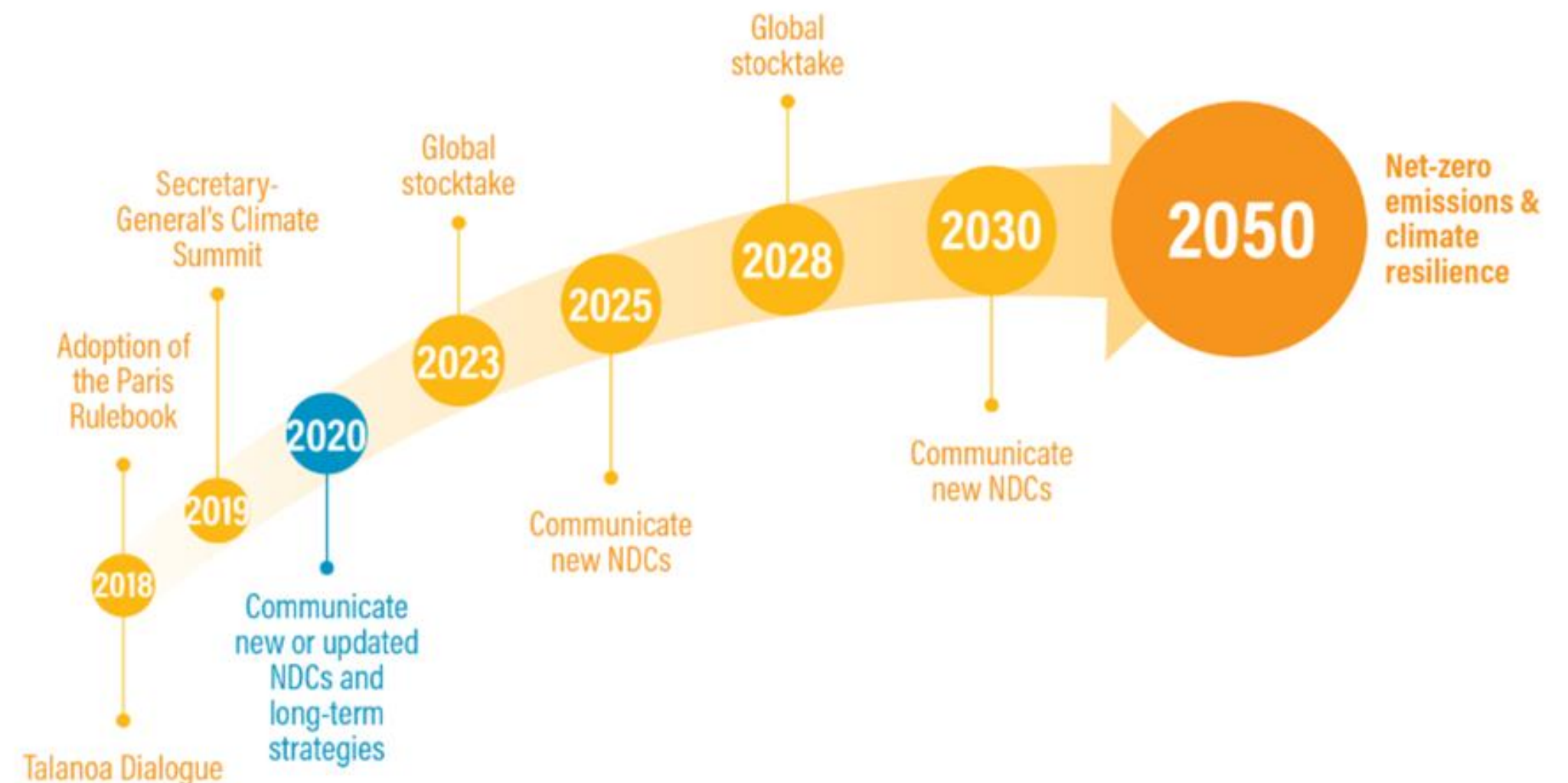
- **APPRECIATE** that children and young people are important drivers of climate action
- **COLLABORATE** with youth stakeholders on the implementation of national climate plans to integrate their perspectives and communities
- **EDUCATE** children and young people on climate change impacts and solutions to empower the next generation of climate champions

Adopt the
**UNIVERSAL
NDC
YOUTH
CLAUSE**

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER 3.0 NDCs?

Every **five years**, parties review their NDCs via a process known as the **Global Stocktake (GST)**. The next GST will take place from 2028–2030.

Without youth awareness, leadership, and access to clear data on NDCs, there's a serious risk that **decision-makers will continue to overlook the long-term consequences of weak climate policies**. As the generation who will live through the outcomes of today's choices, youth must be at the table. This project brings them there.

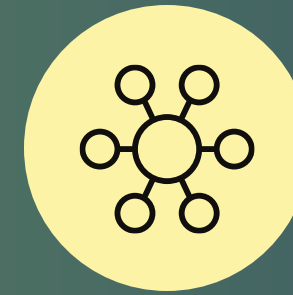


ENTRY POINTS ON INTERGENERATIONAL JUSTICE



YOUTH ADVISORY BOARDS

Establish a youth council with real decision-making power that can support policy advocacy efforts.



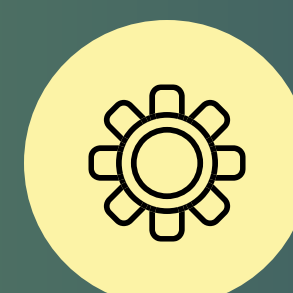
YOUTH NETWORK MAPPING

Map youth-led or youth-serving initiatives taking climate action



YOUTH DELEGATES

Launch youth UNFCCC delegates or Youth Focal Points mandated to connect with youth communities



YOUTH CONSULTATIONS

Host focus groups for young people to define priorities and solutions.



INTERGENERATIONAL MENTORSHIP

Pair younger and older leaders in mentorship and decision-making roles



INTERGENERATIONAL POLICIES

Leverage existing youth indicators and best practices to advocate for inclusive policies

FINDING YOUR FOCAL POINT!

Google
"UNFCCC
Focal Points"



unfccc.int/process/parties-non-party-stakeholders/parties/national-focal-point						
Home SB 62 Process and meetings Topics Calendar Climate action Documents and decisions About us News						
	Ms. Fatjona Çinaj, Director	Ministry of Tourism and Environment	Bivd. Deshmoret e Kombit, Nr. 1, 1001 Tiranë Tirana			Ministria.MTM@turizmi.gov.al
	Ms. Manel Elayoubi, Director	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Community Abroad	6, promontoire des Anasser Algiers			NFP.Algeria.UNFCCC@mae.dz
Andorra	Mr. Carles Miquel Garcia, Director of energy and transport	Ministry of Tourism and Environment	Edifici Administratiu de Govern Carrer prat de la Creu 62-64 Andorra in Vella	(376) 875 707	(376) 869 833	oecc@govern.ad
Angola	Ms. Cecilia Fernanda Arraz da Silva Bernardo, National Director for Climate Action and Sustainable Development	Ministry of Environment	Rua Direita da Samba, Futungo. Condominio Rosalinda, Building 11B 4th floor Luanda	(244-2) 2201 0755		
Antigua and Barbuda	Diann Black-Layne, Director	Ministry with responsibility for the Environment	1 Prime Minister's Office Drive Factory Road St. John's	(1-268) 562-2568	(1-268) 462-4625	dcblack11@gmail.com

STAY TUNNED!

NDC Youth Clause
Talking Points



NDC Youth Clause
Coalition Chat



A stylized world map in shades of blue and green, serving as the background for the slide.

CASE STUDIES

Dominican Republic | United Kingdom | Brazil

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S NDC

The country **devotes an entire section to youth** and guides readers through the country's legal frameworks supporting the strategic role of young people.

The country makes **significant** strides by **deeming gender equity, youth and human rights cross-cutting elements** of the country's climate change sphere.

Overall NDC Equity Score

ASPIRING



Emission Reductions

Aspiring

Gender Justice

Aspiring

Youth Inclusion

Exemplary

<.1

%

**Country on
global
emissions**

#1

**Place in the
region on
youth**

#2

**Place in the
region on
gender**

UNITED KINGDOM's NDCs

NDC 2.0 vs. NDC 3.0

NDC 2.0

Overall NDC Equity Score

AVERAGE



Emission Reductions
Aspiring

Gender Justice
Insufficient

Youth Inclusion
Insufficient

68% Emission reduction

Vague mention to commitments on gender equality

No commitments, but some **improvements** in practice

In line with the 1.5°C Paris Agreement goal, with no use of carbon credits

Little indication of how women's voices will be amplified

Civil Society and Youth Advisory Council to help shape COP26

NDC 3.0

Two main **milestones**

81%

Emissions reduction commitment
100% unconditional

1st

country in adopting the **Universal Youth Clause**

BRAZIL

The 2025 NDC shows **improved ambition** and **introduces key concepts** like climate justice and just transition, positioning Brazil's commitments within a **broader rights-based framework**. However, **institutional mechanisms for inclusive participation and accountability remain limited**.

59%

**GHG emissions reduction
from 2005 levels (by 2035)**

*Additional **8%** conditional on
international carbon markets*

Intergenerational & gender justice

**Vaguely mentioned, lack of details on inclusion
during the NDC decision-making process**

Although Brazil is not a developed country, nor one of the largest historical emitters, nor an Annex I country under the Kyoto Protocol, it is currently the

6th largest global
emitter

YOUNGO Introduction

YOUNGO is the official Children and Youth Constituency of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), representing children and youth voices in global climate governance.

Why it matters:

YOUNGO is positioned to **influence UNFCCC processes** and **build bridges** between children and youth demands and decision-makers.

Where are we now:

We have seen steep push back on youth involvement in the last year and sharp exclusion of youth inclusion agenda.



Strategic Objectives of Youth Advocacy

- ❖ **Institutionalize intergenerational equity** in all climate governance processes
- ❖ **Advance systemic, inclusive, and rights-based climate action**
- ❖ **Hold Parties accountable** to their climate finance, mitigation, and adaptation commitments
- ❖ **Ensure meaningful and funded child and youth participation at all levels**

Why Youth Climate Advocacy Matters

The Role of Children and Youth in Climate Governance

- ❖ Children and Youth are **key stakeholders** in climate action, yet remain underrepresented in decision-making forums
- ❖ The impacts of climate change will disproportionately affect **current and future generations**
- ❖ Children and Youth bring **innovative, intersectional, and justice-based** solutions to climate policy challenges

Advocacy through the UNFCCC

- ❖ YOUNGO is the official children and youth constituency of the UNFCCC, engaging directly in COPs, Subsidiary Bodies, and Global Stocktake processes.
- ❖ Advocacy is driven by collective policy instruments, including the Global Youth Statement, the Universal NDC Youth Clause, and formal interventions at climate negotiations



- ❖ **Crafting policy asks**
- ❖ **Identifying the right actors**
- ❖ **Approaches for formal/informal influence:
consultations, shadow reports, open letters, and
public pressure**

Policy Tools

Global Youth Statement (GYS)

- Synthesizes 1,000,000+ child and youth inputs throughout the years
- Structured around 18 UNFCCC-aligned thematic tracks
- Formally submitted to COP Presidencies and presented at Pre-COP

Universal Youth Clause

- Advocates for the integration of children and youth in NDCs and national climate strategies
- Endorsed by youth constituencies globally Accessible at universalyouthclause.org

Strategic Policy Position

- Outlines positions on children and youth participation
- Includes cross-cutting themes (equity, just transition, SRHR, adaptation, ACE, finance)

Policy Tools

Global Youth Statement (GYS)

READ THE FULL
VERSION NOW



Universal Youth Clause



Strategic Policy Position



Key Demands to Parties and Stakeholders

Policy & Governance

- ❖ **Amplify national children and youth inclusion efforts** and acknowledge and support child- & youth-led initiatives, such as the implementation of the Universal NDC Youth Clause.
- ❖ **Support the involvement of children and youth in SBs and COPs** by ensuring sufficient access to accreditation and, where feasible, providing financial assistance to enhance their ability to contribute to negotiations and policymaking.



Key Demands to Parties and Stakeholders

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

- ❖ Submit 1.5°C-aligned and economy-wide NDCs that include all greenhouse gases, in line with the latest scientific guidance from the IPCC
- ❖ Adopt modalities to follow up on commitments, notably the transition away from fossil fuels and the First Global Stocktake (GST1) outcome
- ❖ Promote a Second Global Stocktake (GST2) process that includes all civil society stakeholders
- ❖ Ensure that all NDCs are gender-transformative



Best Practices

- ❖ Scope out **local climate-related frameworks** and regulations to see what reforms need to be made
- ❖ **Identify the right actors:** National Focal Points, Ministries, Presidency, MPs
- ❖ **Identify the right partners: local/regional climate organizations** that can potentially be co-sponsors of the policy demands, or at the very least amplify the demands on their social media platforms;
- ❖ If possible, **conduct a literature review of any existing local/regional policy demands** (particularly by youth) to prevent duplication and/or reinforce key demands.

Best Practices

- ❖ **Be concise and clear** in the demand and specify the issue, the target, the responsible entity, and the call to action;
- ❖ **Designate a specific party** responsible of the demand (Fossil fuel industry, UN agencies, Parties, Corporates, Institutions,...);
- ❖ **Avoid redundancy** in ideas between demands and sections of the youth statements;
- ❖ **Push for evidence-based demands** using results from research, reports, grassroots, programs... ;
- ❖ **Write statements easy to lobby for** and to adopt by national authorities and negotiators.

Influence Tools

- ❖ **Consultations**
- ❖ **Shadow reports**
- ❖ **Open letters**
- ❖ **Public pressure**

Drafting exercise

1. **Identify your National Focal Point**
2. **Develop 3 demands** based on the Universal Youth Clause, Strategic Policy Position or the Global Youth Statement
3. **Draft a short e-mail:**
 - Presenting the demands
 - Sharing the documents
 - Asking for information
 - Asking for a meeting

*Pick at least 2/4



How to talk about youth demands? - Know your audience

- **Party delegates**

- Do your research on the country's position in advance - even a 10 minute search can help get a better picture (negotiation group, previous statements, national policy etc.)
- Present the demands shortly (specially those aligned with influencing the negotiations)
- Ask questions about their reaction to the Universal NDC Youth Clause - what did they do to integrate them?

- **UN Agency/INGO**

- Do your research on their programmes and strategy - they have specific targets
- Present the GYS and ask for their support in amplifying our message
- Establish future paths for collaboration - funding, capacity building, coordination

- **Civil Society**

- **Always try to coordinate** - focus on our shared goal and try to pool capacity (note-taking, negotiation tracking, mobilization)

- **Children and Youth**

- Present demands, inspire to become Ambassadors for the GYS and UNYEC, share with their national delegations and on social media, also add the link to sign the petition.

PART

II

Advocating for Your Recommendations

TECHNIQUES FOR TALKING WITH **NEGOTIATORS**

POST NEGOTIATIONS CATCH-UP

Go up to the negotiator you're interested in scheduling a meeting with or having a quick conversation to share your perspective immediately following a negotiation session or event.

ON THE MOVE

Negotiators are busy people – if you see an opportunity to catch them in the corridors, politely engage with them and offer to walk with them to the next destination.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Go to your country office or send an email to schedule a meeting in advance.

TIPS AND TRICKS!

- Have a goal and outcome of the conversation in mind
 - pro-tip: memorize a short “elevator pitch” you cause in any ocation
- Be prepared with talking points and questions
- Remember that negotiators are people too
- Be flexible with the negotiator’s schedule
- Not all negotiators want to talk with civil society; be open minded about the outcome, know when the time isn’t right
- If meeting in person, take a group photo and offer to send it to them: you get their contact information and they have a reminder of who you are



Talking to Negotiators **SIMULATION**

HOW TO TALK TO NEGOTIATORS SIMULATION



INSTRUCTIONS

1

Break out into small groups of four (4) to five (5) people

2

Take turns role playing as a negotiator and a youth constituency member

3

After each person has a chance to do each role, share how the experience made you feel

4

Select two people to perform for the group and receive feedback from negotiators

guiding questions

NEGOTIATOR

- Try to be aloof and in a rush
 - Most negotiators have little time to engage outside their schedules and for many, speaking to young people is not a priority
- Ask poignant questions
 - Negotiators are skilled at conversation and will ask specific questions about your demand
- Don't commit to answers right away
 - Negotiators will not make decisions on the spot, they consult with their teams and delegations and act as a team

YOUTH REP

- Have a practiced opening speech:
 - Who are you?
 - What do you do?
- Have a clear ask:
 - Negotiators have set agendas and very little wiggle room. Be precise with what you are trying to communicate
- Have a plan on how to engage the negotiator:
 - This is *what I need*, and *this is what you can do* about it
- Have a plan for what comes next:
 - Don't let the conversation end there, make plans to communicate after the Conference and follow up. Always try to get their information.

FEATURED NEGOTIATORS

Bastiaan Hassings

Head of Unit International
Climate Policy, Netherlands



Massiel Cairo

ACE Focal Point,
Dominican Republic



THANKS



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 [@careaboutclimate](https://www.instagram.com/careaboutclimate)

 [Care About Climate](https://www.linkedin.com/company/care-about-climate)

