



AFRICA CLIMATE WEEK 2022

YOUTH AFFILIATED EVENT

31 August & 1 September

Summary Report



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INTRODUCTION

1.2 List of Acronyms

ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
ACW	African Climate Week
AfDB	African Development Bank
ATC	Advanced Training Course
AYICC	African Youth Initiative on Climate Change
CB	Capacity-building
CE4A	Clean Energy for Africa
CGE	African Centre for a Green Economy
COP	UNFCCC Conference of the Parties
COY	UNFCCC Conference of Youth
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MGA	Micro Grid Academy
NDCs	National Determined Contributions
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
RCW	Regional Climate Week
RES4Africa	Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa
RMU	Regional Meetup
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nation Development programmeme
UNEP	United Nations Environment programmeme
UNFCCC	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
YOUNGO	Children and Youth COnstituency of United Nations
YTF	Youth Task Force

INTRODUCTION

1.2 Organizers & Partners



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

REGIONAL
CLIMATE
WEEKS

AFRICA
29 August-02 September 2022



COP27
SHARM EL-SHEIKH
EGYPT 2022



YOUNGO
OFFICIAL YOUTH CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNFCCC



**RES4
AFRICA**
FOUNDATION



MINISTERO DELLA
TRANSIZIONE ECOLOGICA

INTRODUCTION

1.3 Background

With 60% of the population under the age of 25, youth are significantly exposed to climate change in Africa. At the same time, youth have exceptional potential for climate action, and this represents an opportunity for the region. The African Climate Week, thus, opens a platform to engage, mobilize and empower youth, policymakers and key stakeholders to join solution-oriented dialogues, and find common ground and possibilities for collaboration across countries, communities and economies.

In the context of the UNFCCC 2022 Africa Climate Week, the UN Climate Change Secretariat in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition, YOUNGO, RES4Africa and the COP27 Presidency, brought together, at a youth affiliated event, over 80 youth participants from various regional youth organizations and other stakeholders on August 31st and September 1st, in Libreville, Gabon. To explore the challenges and opportunities to enhance meaningful engagement in climate policymaking and action in the region. The affiliated event provided a space to exchange experiences and ideas to get a better, reciprocal understanding of youth needs and put forward recommendations.

The youth affiliated event is also organized as part of the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Hub, which is a collaboration launched in 2022 between the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the secretariat. The ACE Hub aims to increase public support to, and engagement in, climate action activities that can help accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Its activities will contribute to the implementation of the Glasgow work programme on ACE, including supporting meaningful youth engagement in climate policy and action.”

YOUTH AFFILIATED EVENT

2.1 Objectives

Over the two days, through seven different sessions ranging from consultations, roundtables, panels, exhibitions or networking sessions, the affiliated event sought to:

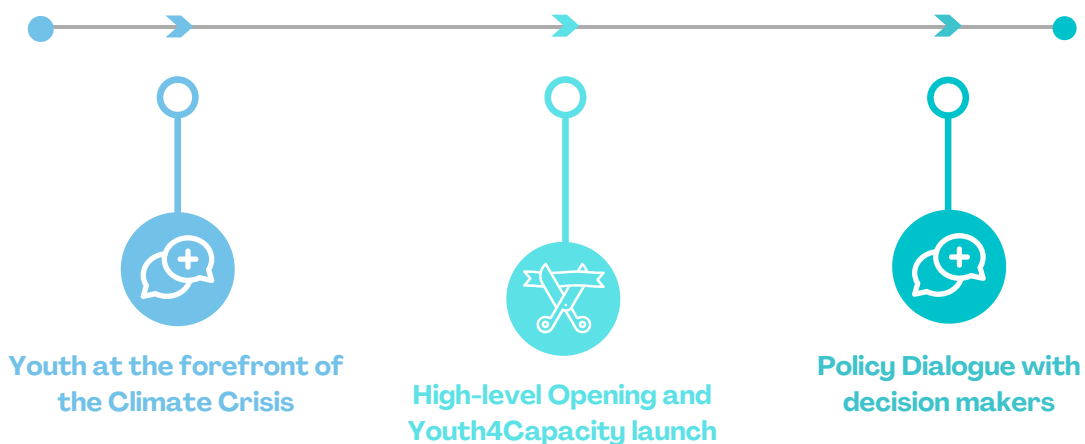
- 1** Assess and address the capacity needs of young people in the region and launch the Youth4Capacity initiative.
- 2** Translate young people's needs and experiences into outcomes to support the integration of youth into the COP27 process.
- 3** Provide a space for dialogue between youth and decision-makers and put forward recommendations.
- 4** Connect African youth with relevant stakeholders from the public and private sector, funding partners, research and civil society that prioritize green job creation and entrepreneurship.
- 5** Showcase youth-led innovations and capacity-building programmes to encourage peer-to-peer learning.

YOUTH AFFILIATED EVENT

2.2 Event Agenda

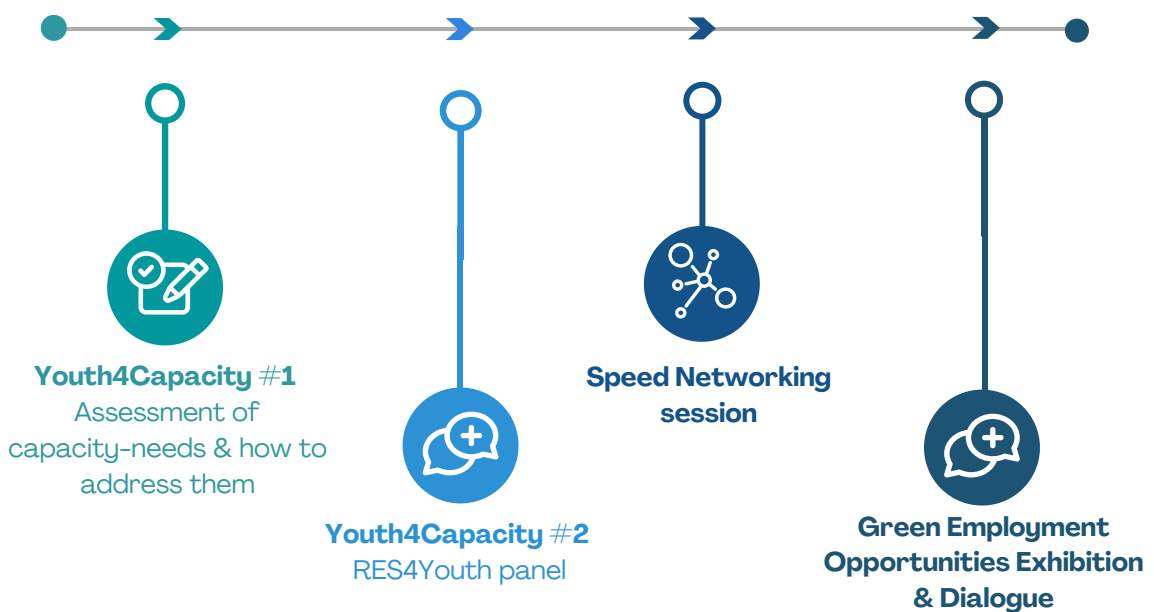
Youth Event Day 1

31st August 2022



Youth Event Day 2

1st September 2022



SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Day 1



3.1.1 Youth at the Forefront of the Climate Crisis

Consultation for Meaningful Youth Participation and Intergenerational Equity at COP27



The COP27 President’s Envoy on Youth, Omnia El Omrani, aimed to facilitate and translate young people’s needs, perspectives and experiences, as well as the actions and policy outcomes to transform the integration of youth into the COP27 process during the first segment of the youth affiliated event.

The following key consultation areas were addressed in roundtable discussions.

Capacity-building for youth

Capacity-building for youth to understand policy-making processes and contribute to meaningful participation of youth were explored. The key outcomes of the roundtable included:

- Capacities of young people can be enhanced by providing more education on climate action and encouraging youth to take part in climate action. Especially, guidelines for youth engagement dedicated to youth coordinators and negotiators can facilitate the process and increase young people’s impact on climate action.
- To overcome teaching and knowledge gaps in local communities, building local platforms to exchange knowledge and enable peer-to-peer learning contributes to meaningful youth engagement.
- Engaging businesses and the private sector in capacity-building processes by providing specialized training programmes, for instance, can create more incentives for youth engagement in climate action.

MODERATOR



Omnia El Omrani,
COP27 President's
Envoy on Youth

3.1.1 Youth at the Forefront of the Climate Crisis

Consultation for Meaningful Youth Participation and Intergenerational Equity at COP27

Youth policy asks

Youth policy asks in the agenda setting for COP27 and how to put them into action were explored. Outcomes of the roundtable discussion included:

- Designing and implementing a youth action plan can add significant value to the impact of youth policy asks during policymaking processes and increase the overall recognition of youth needs.
- The inclusion of youth needs to be seen as a necessary factor for e.g., events like the RCWs or COP and emphasized in means of communication.
- Designating a YOUNGO task force with two representatives per country can also contribute to put youth policy asks into action.

Youth local and grassroots activities

As means to support and amplify local grassroots youth in their climate action ideas and activities, the roundtable discussion participants emphasized the importance of simplifying information and making them accessible.

- A synchronized message regarding youth capacity-building needs to be forwarded to the local youth.
- An embodiment and understanding of possibilities for the youth to avoid confusion are crucial.
- Establishing possibilities for grassroots youth to participate in dialogues and negotiations with other youth delegates from different regions at COP enables them to amplify their local youth capacities.

3.1.1 Youth at the Forefront of the Climate Crisis

Consultation for Meaningful Youth Participation and Intergenerational Equity at COP27

Youth delegate system

The youth delegate system represents a major opportunity for youth to engage in the climate action policymaking process and was discussed as means to optimize and support it.

➤ The necessity of transparency was emphasized in the selection process of young experts, along with the importance of an open access process to engage a broader range of youth. It was explicitly noted that the youth experts should be selected only based on their expertise and not on politics.

➤ Collaboration between youth and local governments is crucial to the youth delegate system e.g., regarding governmental funding and other funding possibilities.

CLOSING REMARKS

The session was closed by COP27 Presidency Team Counselor and Senior Adviser, Amr Essam, who presented the cross-cutting youth perspective as one of the most important interactions at the ACW. The representation of the perspective of the African youth at the upcoming COP27 in Egypt is set as a priority to empower and support the voice of African youth.



Amr Essam,
Team Counselor &
Senior Adviser,
COP27 Presidency

3.1.2 High-level Opening

Youth4Capacity launch

The High-level Opening session brought together High-level representatives of relevant stakeholder groups who recognized the role of youth in the climate action space. Speakers took stock of the current and upcoming needs, gaps, challenges and policy asks of youth in the region. As well as current pathways and opportunities to transform youth participation in tackling climate change and the potential of African youth in their engagement and defining the future of climate action.



Recognizing the instrumental role of youth for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda while also underlying the need to build the capacities of youth to realize their full potential, the Youth4Capacity initiative was launched. Supported by the UN Climate Change secretariat and the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition, the programme seeks to build the capacities and skills of youth to meaningfully engage them in climate action and implement solutions.

3.1.2 High-level Opening

Key Quotes

“ African youth is particularly vulnerable to climate change. However, young people are scaling up their efforts and using their skills to accelerate climate action and leading climate action around the world proposing innovative solutions and driving progress. Capacity-building is key to enabling the potential of youth as agents of change, but it is important to acknowledge that young people are not just recipients of capacity-building, but they are also capacity builders themselves.

”

SPEAKER



Ovais Sarmad,
Deputy Executive
Secretary, UNFCCC

SPEAKER



Marco Garau,
Deputy to the
Ambassador of Italy
in Gabon

“ Having heard young people loud and clear, the ambition of the Government of Italy is to keep supporting youth ideas, and work closely with the UN Climate Change secretariat on the Youth4Capacity programme. We will design and implement targeted virtual knowledge and skill enhancement events, webinars and training sessions, in collaboration with international and regional partners, as well as in-person hands-on capacity-building events.

”

“ The African COP27 is a possibility for young leaders, not just from Africa but from all over the world, to showcase their incredible efforts and have their specific cause to action and policies set into place.

”

SPEAKER



Omnia El Omrani,
COP27 President's
Envoy on Youth

3.1.2 High-level Opening

Youth4Capacity launch

SPEAKER



Chido Cleopatra Mpemba,
Special Envoy on Youth to African Union Chairperson & Cabinet, African Union

MODERATOR



Elizabeth Gulugulu Machache,
Global South Focal Point, YOUNGO

“

The need for future job identification in a green economy should be taken into account by providing leadership capacity for youth and incentives for youth experts to address climate change professionally.

”

“

We must support youth-led and youth-focused action to address the risks and harness the opportunities associated with climate initiatives in Africa. Young people are affected by a wide range of issues as a result of climate change and therefore we should spare hand a network of local catalysts supported by regional advocacy and policy influencing.

”

“

Youth, we should not be portrayed as part of the future, rather we must (...) define the future. With determination, activism, ideas and energy, let us put youth at the forefront. YOUNGO aims at understanding, mobilizing and responding to the needs of Africa's young people.

”

“

The effort put into the meaningful engagement of youth in climate action is a source of inspiration. But the highlighted need in progress ensures that youth voices still need to be included permanently at the decision-making table.

”

SPEAKER



Yvonne Pambo,
Country Head programme, UNDP Gabon

SPEAKER



Karishma Ansaram,
Youth4Climate Delegate & YOUNGO member

3.1.3 Policy Dialogue with decision makers

Roundtable Discussions



The interactive dialogue with decision-makers opened a space for youth to discuss how decision-makers can support youth participation in climate action and were able to address them directly.

- 1 How can youth be engaged in the development and implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)?

Outcomes

Previous experience has shown that NDC implementation at the national level through NDC Partnership's initiatives e.g., Global Green Growth Institute, was successful in engaging youth. Currently, the linkage between the national and the sub-national governmental level is one of the bigger regional challenges. Other necessities in engaging youth in the development and implementation of the NDCs raised were addressing the funding needs of youth, as well as the overall awareness and knowledge about NDCs.

Follow-up action & commitment

Through the NDC Partnership, a Youth Engagement Plan (YEP) will be integrated for a country's meaningful youth integration. More cooperation to integrate youth is needed to involve youth policy asks e.g., in form of designated youth advisory boards and councils by the NDC Partnership, webinars to share knowledge, experiences and best practices.

MODERATOR



Claudia Ondo,
UNDP National
Coordinator for
Youth Connect

DECISION MAKER



Amanda McKee,
Director of
Knowledge and
Learning,
NDC Partnership

3.1.3 Policy Dialogue with decision makers

Roundtable Discussions

- 2 What are the existing and recurring programmes to train youth in preparation to the COP? How can we support youth participation at COP?

Outcomes

Initiatives such as the Conference of Youth (COY) and YOUNGO's programmes, should be used by youth to engage in the climate process. In preparation for COP the areas of interests for negotiation should be prioritized beforehand by the youth delegates, as well as the list of activities they would like to attend. Moreover, it was recommended to identify their country's interests, the current and past position on negotiations, and to search guidance from their country's delegates which have experience in attending COP. Countries and organizations can support youth participation at COP by providing structures for information and guidance, as well as capacity for youth delegates.

Follow-up action & commitment

Simple guidelines for youth representatives at COP on "How to survive COP" to support their abilities in strategy development and provide a toolset for negotiations are currently in the drafting process by the COP27 Youth Envoy. Moreover, efforts are put in to provide an extended translation to French and Arabic at the COP27 in Egypt.

DECISION MAKER



**Omnia El
Omrani,**
COP27
President's
Envoy on Youth

3.1.3 Policy Dialogue with decision makers

Roundtable Discussions

- 3** How can all climate adaption projects integrate involvement of youth?

Outcomes

Integration of youth in climate adaptation projects can be achieved through implementing national youth councils, boards for adaptation or coalitions to bring young people's asks forward and breach the gap between youth and policymakers. Additionally, institutional and political strategies need to be reviewed for more inclusion of youth as key actors, not only as beneficiaries. Marketing and financing strategies must be considered in a broader range to increase youth participation in order to increase the consequent representation of youth in politics. Motivating youth on a personal level through means such as social media, and mobilizing a climate change adaptation budget for youth beyond the UN financing, are strategies that must be integrated for youth to achieve an effective, reliable and significant impact on policymakers.

Follow-up action & commitment

To strengthen the role and voice of youth, the UNDP Gabon will designate youth advisory and funding boards. The existing High-level Steering Committee will be reshaped to actively include youth representatives by seeking consultation on structural information on how to designate them and to construct better governance mechanisms for the demands of youth to be addressed. Furthermore, there will be a wide and open selection process at the local COY in Gabon to appoint two youth representatives for COP27.

DECISION MAKER



Yvonne Pambo,
Country Head
programme,
UNDP Gabon

3.1.3 Policy Dialogue with decision makers

Roundtable Discussions

- 4** How can the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) as a constituted body unlock young people's capacities and potential in enhancing the coherence and coordination of capacity-building efforts in the UNFCCC process?

Outcomes

It is a necessity to set up platforms for youth to make capacity-building content easily accessible. The PCCB can initialize feedback and reporting mechanisms to measure its impact and develop a tailored capacity-building programme for youth. Extending communication outreach of the PCCB to youth to create more awareness for capacity building is also an instrument which was proposed to follow.

Follow-up action & commitment

The PCCB will continuously commit to engaging and motivating youth organizations in capacity-building through the PCCB Network to form an interactive, ongoing connection between them and to educate youth, in line with the Paris Agreement, regarding the need for climate action efforts, interaction and exchange of knowledge. The commitment will also include the empowerment of youth capacities through capacity-building programmes.

DECISION MAKER



Roberta Ianna,
PCCB co-chair,
UNFCCC

3.1.3 Policy Dialogue with decision makers

Roundtable Discussions

- 5** How do we involve and integrate youth on government processes and interventions?

Outcomes

For active participation in government processes and interventions, young people need to familiarize themselves with the current stakeholders e.g., by stakeholder mapping and the chain of credibility to know where to engage. At the same time, governments should provide official, easy ways for youth to involve themselves in government processes.

Follow-up action & commitment

The government of Zimbabwe will meet Zimbabwean youth requests by providing training and supporting youth representatives to attend COP27 and participate in local conferences. These implementations are already being partially transformed into action plans.

DECISION MAKER



Tafadzwa Dhlakama,
Climate Change Management Department, Government of Zimbabwe

CLOSING REMARKS

“ Events like the African Climate Week are very important to provide a platform for exchange so that the needed youth engagement can be achieved. ”

ACTIVIST



Remy Zahiga
Acitivst, Congo Basin

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

3.2 Day 2



3.2.1 Youth4Capacity #1

Assessment of capacity-needs of young people in the African Region and how to address them

The session opened with an introduction to the Youth4Climate initiative from Roberta Ianna, Senior Expert at the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition, which was designed to increase the impact of young climate leaders and celebrate their ability to drive ambitious climate action by building on lessons from the Youth4Climate manifesto and supporting youth-led and youth-inclusive concrete and innovative solutions. The Youth4Climate initiative provides a global platform for young climate leaders to share their knowledge and experiences, and exchange opportunities and resources.



SPEAKER



Roberta Ianna,
Senior Expert,
Italian Ministry
of Ecological
Transition



Alejandro Kilpatrick, manager of the Capacity-building Sub-Division at the UNFCCC secretariat, followed with a presentation of Youth4Capacity as an offspring of the Youth4Climate initiative

which aims to enhance youth in their capacities and engagement. The Youth4Capacity will support youth in achieving youth-inclusive solutions in climate action by providing virtual knowledge and skill enhancement events, in-person capacity-building events, mentorship programmes as well as the constant dissemination of information and knowledge through various outreach channels.

SPEAKER



Alejandro Kilpatrick,
Manager
Capacity-building
Sub-Division,
UNFCCC

3.2.1 Youth4Capacity #1

Assessment of capacity-needs of young people in the African Region and how to address them

Follow-up Questions & Comments included ...

... requests for translation for the francophone community and availability of youth engagement possibilities on which the PCCB network is working to overcome language barriers, as well as information and participation gaps by providing online resources, local in-person events and knowledge transfer training programmes.

... the need for official endorsement letters from the Youth4Climate initiative.

... the need for a platform providing funding and resource opportunities for youth delegates was raised. Without financial incentives, it is difficult to achieve the requested representation of grassroots youth at high-level discussions and actual active implementation of capacity-building efforts.

... the need for inclusion of more youth with disabilities.

... the need for continuous communication of event results was raised by the audience.

3.2.1 Youth4Capacity #1

Assessment of capacity-needs of young people in the African Region and how to address them

Fireside Chat

Are youth capacity-recipients, capacity-builders, or both?

In this segment, youth shared their experiences related to key capacity-building gaps and needs of young people in the African region as capacity recipients, builders as well as challenges in recognizing and coordinating these two roles. Solutions to address these gaps were raised in breakout group discussions.

Youth as capacity recipients

Capacity-building needs and challenges for youth as capacity recipients in the African region:

The capacity-building needs raised by Karishma Ansaram included the need for easy information access e.g., via an App and training on how to inform and engage fellow youth in capacity-building which would contribute to overcoming language barriers and necessary online access.

Solution-oriented breakout group discussion:

Addressing the capacity-building needs of young people

- In order to provide youth with sufficient content information, it was suggested that initiatives like Youth4Capacity could provide leadership courses to increase youth leadership capacity, as well as courses in entrepreneurship and project management. Those youth-inclusive proposed solutions were followed by the request for guidance in NDC implementation, negotiations, monitoring, evaluation and policy advocacy.
- Regarding capacity needs in communications, the asks for a platform to exchange experiences and reports covering more languages besides English, French and Spanish were emphasized. Further proposals included knowledge transfer, resource mobilization and gender equality, together with the suggestion of local focal-point representatives.

MODERATOR



Olumide Idowu,
Executive
Coordinator,
AYICC

SPEAKER



**Karishma
Ansaram,**
Youth4Climate
Delegate &
YOUNGO member

3.2.1 Youth4Capacity #1

Assessment of capacity-needs of young people in the African Region and how to address them

Fireside Chat

Youth as capacity builders

Capacity-building needs and challenges for youth as capacity-builders in the African region:

Jabri Ibrahim highlighted the dependence on successful undertakings of African youth for innovative climate action. As consequence, the topic of climate change is still a privilege for people on the grassroots level. Additionally, the illusion of access to meaningful engagement was pointed out e.g., land use and energy sectors need very specific information for capacity-building.

Solution-oriented breakout group discussion:
Scaling up youth-led solutions and initiatives

- In means to scale up youth-led capacity-building, knowledge must be leveraged in academic institutions and combined into harmonized information for tangible solutions. Centralized initiatives should reach out on a local level to increase the inclusion and empowerment of grassroots youth, together with fostering partnerships between youth projects. A peer-to-peer learning platform would make knowledge and experience easily accessible for everyone. Additionally, to support youth in their impact on policymaking an incubation Hub in cooperation with governments can enhance their impact.
- Initiatives like Youth4Capacity can provide translated, simplified information and holistic inclusivity in programmes. This access to information will allow youth to have a valuable impact on decision making, as well as following approaches to empower local communities.

SPEAKER



Jabri Ibrahim,
Green Hydrogen
& Youth
Engagement
Manager for
Africa,
UNFCCC
Climate
Champions

3.2.1 Youth4Capacity #1

Assessment of capacity-needs of young people in the African Region and how to address them

Fireside Chat

Mobilizing and building young people's capacities

challenges in recognizing and coordinating the role of youth as both capacity-builders and capacity-recipients in the African region:

Sthella Ngolet emphasized the need for more language inclusion and financial incentives to overcome the lack of youth engagement. A reinforcement for capacity-building for climate action and an interactive, common platform for discussion and definition of objectives is needed.

Solution-oriented breakout group discussion:

Strengthening the enabling environment to empower youth to employ their capacities and develop them further

- To mobilize regional youth, creating interactive youth platforms at the grassroots level supports an enabling environment for capacity-building for climate action. Additionally, the generation of capital and knowledge through entrepreneurship also adds to mobilizing and building young people's capacity.
- For further development of youth capacities, education for addressing climate change and capacity-building from a very young age can be beneficial to inherently acquire experience and knowledge.
- Initiatives like Youth4Capacity can support building young people's capacities through conferences like the ACW. The gained knowledge from such conferences can be applied afterwards and encourage exchanges between youth.

SPEAKER



Sthella Ngolet,
Director of
Jeunes
Volontaires
pour
l'environnement

3.2.2 Youth4Capacity #2

RES4Africa Youth Panel

The RES4Africa youth panel pursued the question of how youth can be engaged, educated and supported regarding their efforts to capacity-building for climate action in the energy sector. During the session, the RES4Africa foundation shared innovations developed by the Africa youth through various capacity-building initiatives.



MODERATOR



Martin Masiya,
YTF member,
Sollys
Energy Ltd

Engage

In regard to express RES4Africa's efforts to engage youth in capacity-building for climate action in the energy sector, Mohamed Alhaj presented the Youth Task Force (YTF), which is designated to enhance youth engagement with four central themes:

- social inclusion: especially for women and youth
- socioeconomic impacts of climate change
- young innovators
- sustainable policies

SPEAKER



Mohamed Alhaj,
CE4A

SPEAKER



Maame Boateng,
YTF member,
Africa-Europe
Foundation

3.2.2 Youth4Capacity #2

RES4Africa Youth Panel

Educate

In means to empower African youth capacities, Etumuka Amamize highlighted one of the main gaps in capacity-building knowledge of youth in the renewable energy sector. Currently, there is a disconnect between technical understanding and youth activities. Enhanced knowledge and skill capacities, along with decision-making competence are required to overcome the barrier to the energy transition led by youth. RES4Africa is tackling this gap with two programmes:

- Micro Grid Academy (MGA):
Focus on youth knowledge of energy access, training and job creation.
- Advanced Training Courses (ATC):
Focus on high-level professionals in the African energy sector.

SPEAKER



Etumuka Amamize,
YTF member,
SDG7 Youth
Constituency

Support

Regarding the support of youth entrepreneurs in their capacities by RES4Africa, Esther Githinji and Mohamed Alhaj introduced the MGA talent of the year award and the RES4Africa Youth Fund.

SPEAKER



Esther Githinji,
YTF member,
CE4A

- MGS Talent of the Year Award:
For three young talents each year, including 5,000 USD to scale up their innovations and a mentorship programme. Awarded project needs to address renewable energy, women empowerment, economic feasibility and has to provide a financial plan.
- RES4Africa Youth Fund (launch in 2023):
Designated to support young entrepreneurs in renewable energy, water, and food security.

SPEAKER



Mohamed Alhaj,
CE4A

3.2.2 Youth4Capacity #2

RES4Africa Youth Panel

Shared Experience

The MGA was the seed point for the development of clean energy technology for remote communities and fulfilled Africa's need for affordable energy access. Moreover, the MGA empowered building capacity by job creation and venture building, along with encouraging mentorship for innovative ideas with technical and financial support. Particularly in the beginner stage, communication is key to building trust with collaborators through grants and wards.

SPEAKER



Norah Magero,
YTF member,
Drop Access

Follow-up Questions & Comments

In follow-up questions and comments, RES4Africa encouraged the audience to reach out directly to them for private sector collaborations with youth and to join their growing network. The RES4Africa alumni network includes mentors sharing and teaching sustainable business models. It was emphasized that local-led initiatives inherit a key role in climate action and that the need for scaling up capacity-building with regard to financing and training in Africa is essential.

3.2.3 Speed-Networking Session

Two truths & a Lie

During the speed-networking session, led by the Youth4Capacity initiative and the ACE Hub, all participants had the opportunity to engage with each other by playing the game "Two Truths & a Lie", which allowed them to discuss topics of interest, get to know each other and gain a better, mutual understanding.



3.2.4 Green Employment

Exhibition and Dialogue



The Green Employment segment of the youth-affiliated event at the ACW 2022 focused on the exchange of ideas regarding a green transition for prospective jobs for young Africans.

Youth-led initiatives on green jobs presented at the exhibition:

- Actions for Green Economy and Climate: African Action Plan
- Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA): Climate Justice Torch Campaign
- “One Man, One Hectare” initiative
- “Youth Enterprise Hub”

Expectations of the COP27 Presidency team about the Egyptian COP

The Amr Essam highlighted that it is unacceptable to deprioritize or delay climate action, with U-Turns possible after COP27, along with the positive development for youth during African COPs and reiterated Egypt’s commitment to a youth-friendly COP.

Specific examples of this commitment in action:

- Youth representative at the May Ministerial Meeting, Petersburg Dialogue.
- Inaugural implementation of a youth-led climate forum (Article 64) at COP27.
- Appointment of the COP27 Youth Envoy as a bridge between Presidency and youth (lobbying for youth).
- Youth pavilion in partnership with the HLC and YOUNGO
- Composition of youth in the Egyptian Presidency core negotiations team with 35% below the age of 35.
- Further conversations about the ways in which youth demands can be reflected in final outcomes of COP.

SPEAKER



Amr Essam,
Youth & CSO
officer at MoFA,
COP 27
Presidency team

3.2.4 Green Employment

Exhibition and Dialogue

Panel Outcomes

Guiding Question

How can the public and private sector, funding partners, civil society, research and youth themselves be involved in implementing a job-creating, green transition?

Green transition in the public sector

Example of Zimbabwe: “National task force on just transition”

- Collaboration of government and Youth Initiative on Climate Change in Zimbabwe.
- A youth policy paper was presented to the Parliament which influenced the NDCs, while the government also supported youth through needs assessment, capacity-building, broad-based stakeholder engagement, and concrete action.
- Moving forward, further implementation support will be necessary for other countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali) to turn pledges into action.

3.2.4 Green Employment

Exhibition and Dialogue

Panel Outcomes

Green transition in the private sector:

- Big potential for a job-creating, green transition in the food and energy sector, e.g., in food security, hydropower generation or waste management.
- Need for contextualized solutions given Africa's focus on adaptation, resilience, finance for loss and damage, deforestation, and data.
- Young people should be at forefront of thought leadership, and given the chance to experiment, fail and learn.
- The specific example provided was on "New Economy Accelerator": a business incubator to support youth entrepreneurship.

Green transition funding partners

- Taking advantage of the fact that capital flows to those who can turn a challenge into an opportunity.
- UNEP's 'Innovative Voluntarism': A way to turn passion into profit by capitalizing on untapped opportunities.

Green transition in civil society

- Importance of localized and personalized conversations
- Further scrutiny is required to ensure that these green jobs employ and benefit the local community

SPEAKER



Mao Amis,
African Centre
for a Green
Economy

SPEAKER



Davinah Uwella,
Climate Change
and Green
Growth, AfDB

3.2.4 Green Employment

Exhibition and Dialogue

Panel Outcomes

Green transition in research

- Crowd4SDG project: Explores and assesses whether, to what degree, and according to which scientific standards, citizen science can contribute to the twin tasks of tracking progress toward the SDGs and generating grassroots innovation that enables such progress.
- Importance of bridging the research gap to get to the root of the problems across the spectrum of issues in climate change.

Green transition by youth

- Youth innovations inherit disruptive power
- African youth can provide the language and set the direction in climate change
- Advice to youth (from Richard Munang, UNEP):
 - I. Avoid blame games and focus on solutions.
 - II. Avoid narratives that perpetuate negative self-perception and instead promote youth empowerment.
 - III. Practice selflessness to share information and collaborate across Africa.
 - IV. Follow patience and consistency to achieve strategic objectives.

SPEAKER



Chiagozie Udeh,
YOMA-UNICEF

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