

Youth4Capacity Host Series at the 58th Session of the Subsidiary Bodies

6 June 2023 in Bonn, Germany

Summary Report



INTRO

Youth4Capacity hosted five sessions that contributed to building the capacities of youth at SB 58 in Bonn, Germany in collaboration with diverse partners - **United Nations CC:Learn**, the **BMZ Youth Advisory Council**, the **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)**, the **Arab Youth Center**, **Youth4Climate**, **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, **EarthDay** and the **ACE Observatory**. Topics that were addressed ranged from Loss and Damage, access to finance for young innovators and entrepreneurs, institutionalizing youth participation, climate solutions, youth climate champions and networking session for a whole-of-society climate action.

Climate Classroom @SB58 – Loss and Damage

This session gathered panelists and youth participants from the **Loss and Damage Youth Coalition (LDYC)** and the **United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)**, that are involved in loss and damage issues to engage in discussions regarding the current negotiation viewpoints while seeking to define the elements that characterize loss and damage.

Shreya K.C. (LDYC) brought attention into the urgency to address loss and damage, emphasizing that it goes beyond the scope of adaptation efforts.

- Loss and damage includes slow-onset events and sudden and extreme events. There are two categories of loss and damage: irreplaceable (ex: entire villages being wiped away by floods) and replaceable events (ex: the destruction of developmental infrastructure).
- The distinction between monetary and non-monetary loss and damage drew attention to the challenges of quantifying and valuing the impacts of climate change.

Eva Peace Mukayiranga (LDYC) provided insights on how loss and damage has been approached and discussed within international negotiations.

- At COP25, Parties established the Santiago network as part of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) to provide technical assistance in developing countries, particularly those vulnerable to climate change impacts.
- COP 26 saw the establishment of the Glasgow Dialogue to discuss the Loss and Damage finance facility in vulnerable countries. The Second Glasgow Dialogue will focus on the operationalization of the Loss and Damage fund arrangement at COP28.

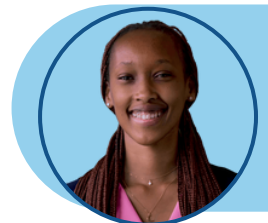
Alvaro Rojas Ferreira (UNU-EHS) emphasized the significant gaps in conceptual understanding, evidence, and technical tools related to loss and damage.

- These gaps include quantification and valuation methods, attribution of impacts, regional and sectoral variations, data limitations, and the understanding of social and non-economic losses.
- To address these gaps, analytical tools, technical assistance, capacity-building, government engagement and technology transfer facilitation were emphasized as well as youth involvement in research and pushing for solutions.

The event called for joint efforts, youth involvement, and scientific research to find effective solutions and strategies for mitigating loss and damage.



Shreya K.C.,
LDYC



Eva Peace Mukayiranga,
LDYC



Alvaro Rojas Ferreira,
UNU-EHS

Youth4Climate: What Does It Take to Develop an Impactful Solution



Agostino Inguscio,
UNDP

Agostino Inguscio (UNDP), Cassie Flynn (UNDP) and Erika Xananine Calvillo Ramírez (YOUNGO) explored the key pillars and various funding opportunities for developing impactful solutions in youth-led climate action and to support climate related projects. These pillars contribute to successful and effective initiatives, emphasizing financial resources, innovation characteristics, and elements of success

1.Contextual factors

- Financial resources enable environment that influence whether a solution can be implemented. Youth4Climate provides seed funding for youth-led solutions in areas such as urban sustainability, energy, education, and food and agriculture.
- Providing youth with good advice, resources and partnerships to support the success of innovative ideas. They should be encouraged to participate in policy discussions, negotiate, and express their opinions in order to receive the necessary support.



Cassie Flynn,
UNDP

2.Innovation characteristic

- UNDP's small grants program, which supports communities on various topics, including climate change, saw that inclusive processes, community ownership, and integration across different levels are important elements for long-term support.
- Diversifying the format and dissemination of calls for solutions to assist grassroots communities at the local level is important for determining the suitability of solutions. Effective communication with communities is crucial for assessing the impact of the work, including non-quantifiable aspects such as environmental and social changes.

3.Elements of success

- Networking, collaboration and partnerships are necessary elements to scale up solutions, generate impact at the local, national, or international level, and accomplish long-term impacts.
- Scaling up should focus on "scaling the how" rather than simply expanding the scope; it is necessary to consider not only what to do, but also how to do it, and the significance of scaling the way we work to make significant progress.



Erika Xananine Calvillo Ramirez,
YOUNGO

Language barriers were identified as a barrier in participation, and building upon existing initiatives instead of starting from scratch was proposed to promote efficiency and maximize impact. Additional capacity-building programs and funding were identified as essential to support youth-led initiatives. Lastly, local community understanding, and engagement are crucial before scaling up projects to ensure successful implementation.



Access to Finance for Youth-led-Start-ups & Innovations in Renewable Energy and Climate Technology

This session, the IRENA Youth Talk, was co-hosted by the **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** and the **Arab Youth Center (AYC)**. Their presentations aimed to empower youth innovators and entrepreneurs in renewable energy and advocacy, encourage their active involvement in pitching their ideas, and showcase innovative solutions for renewable energy and climate challenges.

Francesco La Camera (IRENA) emphasized that IRENA believes the future of our planet rests in the hands of the youth and acknowledges the power of innovation in advancing the energy transition

- IRENA continues its efforts to empower young people by providing them with the resources, mentorship, and support they need to lead the transition to a sustainable energy future.

Haya Al Aseer (AYC) emphasized equipping youth with the instruments necessary to implement youth-led climate change actions and the value they contribute to climate discussions. He created an elevator pitch demonstration that emphasizes the importance of soft skills.

- Delivering an effective elevator pitch requires certain soft skills such as posture, gestures, appearance, eye contact, and facial expressions.
- There is a limited time constraint and only one opportunity to propose an idea, so making a strong impression is crucial.

Ricardo Gorini (IRENA) introduced the NewGen Renewable Energy Accelerator program.

- IRENA's commitment to empowering young energy leaders was showcased, with the NewGen program aimed at providing support and resources for youth-led projects and youthful entrepreneurs with concrete support for their ideas, solutions, and projects.

Abdel Rahmad Fahmy (AYC) discussed the importance of Climate Impact Measurement for advancing youth led start-ups.

- Climate impact measurement tools, such as “Idemat” and “Impact Foresight”, can help entrepreneurs and startups quantify their climate impact and make informed decisions.
- Understanding Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) and its benefits in analyzing the environmental impacts is a useful tool to compare product value and environmental impacts. It also can serve as an effective marketing tool and being an essential tool for industry and regulatory organizations.



Francesco La Camera,
IRENA



Haya Al Aseer,
AYC



Ricardo Gorini,
IRENA

Zagy Yakana (Society of Renewable Energy) discussed how youth advocacy skills can be beneficial in developing and championing climate solutions within organizations.

- There are multiple paths to achieving meaningful youth participation and engagement such as assessing the youth' skills and abilities, understanding the policy and market landscape, reporting results and consequences, and utilizing social media to expand initiatives' reach.
- The role of youth advocacy involves curriculum standardization, knowledge and research capacity building, promoting gender equality and social inclusion, and facilitating connections between job seekers and opportunities.
- To launch a business, it is important to choose a sector and identify key success factors such as advocacy, capacity-building for business creation, rural electrification, and forming partnerships with electricity providers or venture builders to accelerate growth and expand the business model.

At the end of this session, the Arab Youth Center launched the [Arab youth toolkits](#), which will take step by step on how to become a youth advocate, how to capitalize on your resources, and networking. The session emphasized the critical role of youth in advancing the energy transition and addressing climate issues, encouraging continued support and investment in young innovators and entrepreneurs for a more sustainable energy future.



**Abdel Rahmad
Fahmy,**
AYC



Zagy Yakana,
Society of
Renewable
Energy

4th Series: Institutional Youth Participation – Let's Get Together to Build Capacity for Meaningful Youth Participation!

This session, hosted by the **Youth Advisory Council of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**, engaged young participants in group discussions to explore how young people can strengthen their involvement in climate policy decision-making. Panelists provided three topics that focused on strengths and success factors, obstacles, and innovative ideas and strategies for youth engagement in climate policy-making processes and in advocating for climate policies.

The discussions addressed the following key points:

- **Strengths and success** factors of youth engagement include the growing number of opportunities for youth spaces, the initiative and independence of young people in conducting awareness campaigns and creating impactful initiatives, and the enthusiasm and willingness of youth to contribute to climate action.
- **The challenges** for youth engagement in climate policy are due to lack of funding support and limited youth participation, language and acronym barriers, insufficient opportunities for feedback, and institutional challenges.
- **Innovative ideas and strategies** that can be adopted are fostering intergenerational learning, providing channels for dialogue and communication between climate organizations and youth, and ensuring youth have access to necessary information and materials discussed in climate meetings.

The session concluded by emphasizing the importance of creating an inclusive and supportive environment for youth participation, recognizing the value of youth perspectives, and addressing the challenges in their engagement in climate policy decision-making.

Youth Climate Leaders: Building Competencies to be Game Changer

This session was hosted by **Climate Science**, the **CDFA**, the **COP Youth Climate Champion** and **COP27 Presidency Climate Champion**. It highlighted the crucial role of youth in addressing climate change and achieving a sustainable and resilient future by providing the necessary skills, resources, and platforms for youth to lead climate action and drive transformational change at a global level.

Michael Backlund (Climate Science) shared insights on the role of leadership in creating transformational changes.

- Effective leadership and game-changing strategies are necessary in addressing climate issues. It is important to transform the current approach to climate action and advocating for simplifying climate science communication to reach a broader audience.



**Michael
Backlund,**
Climate Science



Fernando Armendaris,
COP Youth
Climate
Champion

Fernando Armendaris (COP Youth Climate Champion) discussed the crucial role to empower youth and encouraged them to showcase their work and initiatives at the global level.

- The importance of **meaningful** youth participation in climate negotiations needs to be differentiated from **more presence** of youth at the negotiating table, which does not guarantee influence over climate politics.
- The COP YCC program supports 100 young people from Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and other minority groups in capacity-building exercises in collaboration with multiple institutions, covering topics such as climate science, understanding reports and negotiation agreements, negotiating skills and attending climate negotiation meetings.



Omnia El Omrani,
COP27
Presidency
Climate
Champion

Omnia El Omrani (COP27 Presidency Climate Champion) discussed the significance of youth leadership and participation in climate action.

- The IPCC report showcases the direct impact of climate change on youth and the influences of climate commitments and the implementation of negotiators.
- There is limited participation of youth in public policymaking processes incorporating youth demands into the negotiation processes.



Veronica Jakarasi,
CDFA

Veronica Jakarasi (CDFA) shared the competencies and skills needed to engage in effective climate negotiations, mobilizing civil society and the private sector to work together to tackle climate change.

- For effective advocacy and engagement, a comprehensive understanding of climate financing, adaptation and climate impact is essential.
- Strong communication skills, leadership skills, partnership building for engagement, and climate science and policy knowledge in climate diplomacy collectively enable individuals to engage in and contribute to significant climate action.

This session concluded by a wrap up of all the shared skills and initiatives from the speakers, inviting participants to continue engaging with and supporting the development of platforms for youth to lead climate action and drive transformational change at a global level.