

# Tracking Youth Inclusion in UNFCCC Process:

*A YouthStocktake  
Initiative*



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**Authors :**

**YOUNGO YouthStocktake Team**

**- Elizabeth Gulugulu, Karishma Ansaram, Sifa Kinoti**

**YOUNGO**   
OFFICIAL YOUTH CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNFCCC

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# 1 Introduction



The Youth Stocktake (YST) report is a significant and the first document that maps the journey of youth inclusion in UNFCCC processes. It underscores mainly the importance of youth engagement through Governments, climate processes and YOUNGO's flagship events such as the Local, Regions and Global Conferences of Youth. It also investigated the prime document and voice of youth showcased as the Global Youth Statement (GYS). The report highlighted caveats mainly in

monitoring and reporting the youth inclusion in UNFCCC processes. Recurrent work on youthstocktake should be backed by monitoring and evaluation and in the same line, YOUNGO is proposing a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework emphasising on regular, structured data collection. This shall enable different stakeholders to systematically document and report on youth engagement.

This M&E framework includes:



## 01

A checklist that act as a practical tool for Parties to track youth inclusion, not only enhancing transparency in reporting under the Global Stocktake (GST) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) but also showcasing national efforts toward inclusive climate action.



## 02

A survey on Local, Regional and Global Conferences of Youths targeting for participants and organisers. The survey aims to appraise youth participation in those conferences, their influence on climate policies and the nature of stakeholders' collaboration during the conferences.



## 03

Global Youth Statement (GYS) tracker, a tool introduced to assess the influence of youth demands on the outcomes of climate negotiations. Developed by YOUNGO's Policy Team, the tracker documents the evolution of the GYS over time, assesses the impact of youth contributions, and holds Parties accountable for their commitments.

Figure 1: Overview of the YST M&E Framework (Source: Authors)

Together, the YST report and its M&E framework shall provide both a historical account and a forward-looking strategy for youth inclusion in climate policy processes. By detailing these structured approaches to monitoring, accountability, and institutional support, the technical report serves as a foundational document for fostering a more inclusive, transparent, and effective inclusion of youth. Through such efforts, the YST aims to ensure that youth voices are not only heard but meaningfully mapped over the years.

YOUNGO welcomes contribution and feedback on developing the Youthstocktake M&E Framework. So far three virtual consultations have taken place and we're aiming to host multiple consultations at COP29. This document is open for inputs from diverse stakeholders.



## 2. Summary of Youth Stocktake Report 2023



The Youth Stocktake (YST) report, launched in 2023 at the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) in Dubai, highlights the history of youth participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, particularly through the Children and Youth Constituency (YOUNGO) of the UNFCCC. The report provides an overview of youth advocacy through the Local, Regional, and Global Conferences of Youth, YOUNGO's flagship events held before COP. The YST also showcases the evolution of the Global Youth Statement (GYS), YOUNGO's key advocacy document, which has grown from a few pages with inputs from a small group of individuals into a more inclusive, global consultative process that allows many young people to contribute. The YST Report further assesses youth engagement on climate change at the national level, with countries such as Barbados, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Zimbabwe showcasing best practices

The report also highlights successful youth advocacy by making reference to **Glasgow Climate Pact (FCCC/CP/2021/12/Add.1), paragraph (64) which urges** Parties and stakeholders to ensure meaningful youth participation and representation in multilateral, national and local decision-making processes. **paragraph (65) of Glasgow Climate Pact which invites** future Presidencies of the Conference of the Parties, with the support of the secretariat, to facilitate the organisation of an annual youth-led climate forum for dialogue between Parties and youth.

### **The Sharm El-Sheikh implementation plan (FCCC/CP/2022/10/Add.1), paragraph(60)**

which acknowledged the importance of the first children and youth pavilion within COP and the first appointment of a Youth Envoy of the Presidency of the COP. YOUNGO's granted position on the advisory board of the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN) amongst others. The decisions have made an impact in the youth space, reducing the gap between young people and policy makers and making it easy to access technical information for their advocacy.

Key recommendations identified in the Youth Stocktake Report (YST) include monitoring and reporting, building trust and accountability, creating structure and institutionalisation, and securing funding for youth inclusion. Based on these recommendations, YOUNGO aims to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework to assess meaningful youth engagement and inclusion in UNFCCC processes.

This technical paper provides further insights into the objectives of the M&E Framework, outlining its structure and who it will benefit. The paper briefly highlights the three main components of the framework. The first is a checklist for assessing youth inclusion in climate policy, which can be adopted by Parties and stakeholders working with youth in the climate change space. The checklist seeks to evaluate existing reporting mechanisms within the UNFCCC processes and explore how youth activities can be better reported by Parties.



Key aspects covered by the checklist include mechanisms and platforms for youth engagement, the scope and thematic involvement of youth, the demography and inclusivity of youth representation, capacity building and support for youth engagement, and government tracking and evaluation of youth inclusion, among others.

The second component of the paper highlights the survey on youth participation in the Local Conferences of Youth (LCOY), Regional Conferences of Youth (RCOY), and the Global Conference of Youth (GCOY), which are YOUNGO's flagship events. The objective of this analysis is to monitor and evaluate youth demands at national and regional levels and assess their influence in climate policy processes across various contexts. Another objective is to map stakeholder engagement to foster youth inclusion in climate policies through the L/R/GCOYs. In order to facilitate this, the section is organized into four parts to provide a clearer overview and

understanding of the impact these events have at different levels. The parts include, i) youth participation, ii) youth demands, iii) stakeholder engagement, and iv) climate policy.

Finally, this paper focuses on developing a tracker for the Global Youth Statement (GYS), which serves as YOUNGO's advocacy tool shared with Parties and other stakeholders during Subsidiary Bodies and Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings. The primary purpose of the tracker is to examine the impact of global youth demands on the decisions made at COP. By documenting the evolution of the GYS, the tracker aims to track its development over time while highlighting the changing priorities and aspirations of youth in climate policy. Additionally, the tracker seeks to evaluate how effectively youth demands are acknowledged and addressed by decision makers, holding Parties accountable for their commitments to youth inclusion in climate discussions.



Pic 1. YOUNGO Youth stocktake researchers at COP28. PC YOUNGO Comms team

### 3. Rationale for Developing Monitoring and Evaluation Framework



The Youth Stocktake report (2023) had key outcomes which motivated the M&E framework.

#### Alignment of the M&E Framework to the key outcomes from Youth Stocktake report

##### Key outcome 1: Monitoring and Reporting



One of the most critical barriers identified in the youthstocktakes process is the lack of comprehensive data on youth engagement. While youth participation in the UNFCCC has increased, documented evidence remains scarce and scattered. Therefore, the M&E framework shall prioritise data collection as a foundational element. Additionally, the framework should support Parties in their efforts to provide documented information on youth inclusion. As many governments are still familiarising themselves with youth engagement strategies, guidance on reporting standards and expectations can enhance their capacity to contribute effectively. The information collected through this M&E process will be critical for future youth stock takes and will help assess the impact of youth involvement on climate policy processes.

##### Key outcome 2: Building Trust and Accountability



Establishing trust between youth and key stakeholders, particularly Parties, is vital for effective engagement. The M&E framework shall incorporate mechanisms to assess the trust dynamics within the stakeholder ecosystem. This can involve developing tools for feedback collection and analysis, allowing both youth and Parties to share their experiences and perceptions regarding collaboration. Accountability must also be bi-directional. Youth should be encouraged to take ownership of their engagement and report on their contributions and progress. Simultaneously, Parties must commit to supporting youth and ensuring that they have the resources and opportunities needed to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes.

##### Key outcome 3 Structuring and Institutionalization of Youth Inclusion



While numerous initiatives aimed at youth inclusion have emerged, many lack a long-term vision and clear structure. The framework will also encourage Parties and stakeholders to adopt long-term planning approaches, moving away from ad hoc initiatives that lack continuity. Furthermore, the M&E framework shall incentivise peer learning among Parties, enabling them to share best practices and successful models of youth engagement.

## Building the M&E Framework and Way Forward

The successful establishment of an M&E framework for the Youth Stocktake requires a collaborative effort among all stakeholders, including youth representatives, Parties, and supporting organisations. The following steps can guide the implementation process:



Figure 2: YST M&E Framework Way Forward (Source: Authors)



## Youth Stocktake M&E Framework




 M&E – Parties Checklist	 M&E – Survey on L/R/COYs and YOUNGO flagship events	 M&E– GYS Tracker
Targeted for Parties	Targeted for participants and organisers of conferences of youth	Targeted for YOUNGO Working Groups and other youth groups
<p>Sections covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Mechanisms and Platforms for youth engagement</li> <li>» Scope and Thematic Involvement of Youth</li> <li>» Demography and Inclusivity of Youth Representation</li> <li>» Influence and Impact of Youth Involvement</li> <li>» Capacity Building and Support for Youth Engagement</li> <li>» Continuity and Sustainability of Youth Engagement</li> <li>» Government Tracking and Evaluation of Youth Inclusion</li> <li>» Building on case studies</li> </ul>	<p>Sections covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Youth Participation</li> <li>» Youth Demands</li> <li>» Stakeholders' Engagement</li> <li>» Youth Demands and Climate Policy</li> </ul>	<p>Sections covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Metrics for tracking</li> <li>» Progress scale of the demands</li> <li>» GYS demands along different thematics.</li> </ul>

Figure 3: YST M&E Framework Map (Source: Authors)



Pic 2: Youth CSO's Action at COP28. PC YOUNGO Comms team

## 4. M&E on Youth Inclusion in Climate Policies by Parties



### Overview:

The first Youth Stocktake (YST) Report, published in 2023, focused on the core issue of youth inclusion in climate policies by Parties. This initial report provided a detailed examination of how youth are being integrated into climate policy processes by national governments, highlighting successful practices and case studies.

The YST's broader aim is to build a knowledge base that informs both Parties and other stakeholders about the effectiveness of current youth inclusion strategies. By analysing these strategies, the YST hopes to empower Parties to adopt best practices and address challenges, ultimately ensuring that youth are not only included but play a sustained and meaningful role in climate policy making at all levels.

To gather the necessary data for this assessment, a **checklist** was distributed in 2023. The checklist aimed to evaluate the various mechanisms and strategies employed by governments and Party delegations to facilitate youth inclusion in climate policy processes. This included analysing the role of youth in key climate frameworks such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Global Stocktake (GST), as well as examining support systems for youth, such as financial assistance and capacity-building programs to attend COP and regional climate weeks. The checklist also sought to identify constraints and opportunities for strengthening youth inclusion in these critical processes. It was informed by ongoing challenges raised by YOUNGO, the official youth constituency to the UNFCCC, through speeches, discussions, and statements over the years.



Figure 4: Data collection from Parties for Youthstocktake Report 2023 (Source: YOUNGO Youthstocktake Report, 2023)

UNFCCC National Focal Points and Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Focal Points were invited to complete the checklist and participate in follow-up interviews. Data collection occurred between September and October 2023, coinciding with Regional Climate Weeks in Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia-Pacific. Despite a low response rate, with only 24 responses from Parties, the process yielded six detailed case studies that provide valuable insights and further contribute to this important work on youth inclusion in climate policies.

## About the checklist

The checklist is a key component of the M&E framework for assessing youth inclusion in climate policy processes. Since its initial launch, the checklist has been updated with inputs from relevant stakeholders, ensuring that it remains responsive to evolving challenges and opportunities in youth engagement. ***Moving forward, we are encouraging Parties to adopt this checklist as a standard tool, to be recurrently filled in by governments and other stakeholders involved in climate policymaking.*** By serving as a centralised platform for gathering data, the checklist will consolidate information from various sources, providing a comprehensive and consistent overview of youth inclusion efforts across different regions. This will help track progress over time and inform

strategies for enhancing the role of youth in climate action.

## Contribution of the checklist

The checklist not only serves as a valuable tool for assessing youth inclusion but also provides a practical resource for Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the **Global Stocktake (GST)** and the Biennial **Transparency Reports (BTR)**. By regularly filling in the checklist, Parties can systematically collect and organise data on how they are engaging youth in climate policy processes, from participation in **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** to involvement in climate negotiations and capacity-building programs. The data gathered through the checklist can be directly integrated into Parties' GST reports, demonstrating their progress in aligning national efforts with the global climate goals of the Paris Agreement, particularly in terms of inclusivity and stakeholder engagement. Additionally, the information can be utilised in BTRs to provide transparent, detailed accounts of how Parties are implementing climate policies in a way that includes diverse groups, especially youth. This approach allows Parties to showcase best practices, highlight improvements, and identify areas for growth in youth engagement, reinforcing their commitment to comprehensive, participatory climate action.



Pic 3. YOUNGO at COP28. PC YOUNGO Comms team.



## Sections included in the M&E checklist

### 1. Mechanisms and Platforms for youth engagement

This section explores how governments involve youth in climate policymaking and the specific tools or methods they use to facilitate this participation. It evaluates both institutionalised mechanisms, such as youth advisory councils, online platforms, and town hall meetings, as well as more ad hoc approaches like one-off consultations or events. The goal is to determine whether youth participation is part of a structured, ongoing process or occurs only sporadically.

It also assesses the regularity and formalisation of youth engagement. Regular, institutionalised platforms like youth advisory panels provide consistent opportunities for young people to contribute, ensuring that youth voices are integrated into long-term climate strategies. On the other hand, informal mechanisms may limit the depth and continuity of youth involvement, reducing the effectiveness of their participation.

By understanding these mechanisms, the M&E process identifies effective practices and gauges whether Parties are making youth engagement sustainable and inclusive. It also examines whether platforms are accessible to diverse youth voices, including marginalised groups, ensuring comprehensive representation.

- » How does your government involve youth representatives in the development and implementation of climate policies?
- » What mechanisms or platforms does your government utilize to gather input from youth on climate-related issues?
- » At what frequency does the gathering of input from youth on climate policy development take place in your government?

### 2. Scope and Thematic Involvement of Youth

This section assesses the range of climate policies where youth input has been actively sought, focusing on key frameworks like Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Global Stocktake (GST). It examines the specific thematic areas of climate policy, such as mitigation, adaptation, climate finance, gender, and agriculture, where youth are engaged, determining whether their involvement spans a wide spectrum or is concentrated in particular areas.

The purpose of this section is to map youth participation across different policy and negotiation areas, identifying if their contributions are broad and diverse, or if youth input is limited to certain themes. For instance, while some governments may involve youth comprehensively across all aspects of climate negotiations, others may restrict their participation to narrower topics like gender, ACE or capacity building. By assessing the scope of youth involvement, this section highlights the level of inclusivity and influence that youth have in shaping climate policies.

- » Which specific climate policy development has your government involved youth in?
- » Which thematic areas are youth delegates from your delegation actively involved in during climate negotiations?



### 3. Demography and Inclusivity of Youth Representation

This section tracks the quantity and diversity of youth representation in climate policymaking, emphasising the importance of inclusivity. It examines how many young people are involved in the development and implementation of climate policies, while paying particular attention to the representation of marginalised groups within youth populations, such as young women, Indigenous youth, and youth from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

The objective is to assess whether youth representation is both broad and inclusive, ensuring that the voices of all young people are heard and considered in climate discussions. By analysing participation across various dimensions, such as gender, ethnicity, and other marginalised identities, this section seeks to uncover any disparities in involvement.

- » How many youth representatives has your government involved in the development of climate policies in the past 3 years?
- » How many youth representatives have participated in your government's climate negotiations?
- » Does your government's youth delegation include underrepresented groups (young women, Indigenous youth, people of color, etc.)?

### 4. Influence and Impact of Youth Involvement

This section measures the depth of youth involvement in climate policymaking, focusing on their actual influence in decision-making processes. It looks at how youth contributions are integrated into policy outcomes and assesses the perceived value of their input in the development of climate strategies. The aim is to evaluate the extent to which youth voices are not only heard but actively

shape national climate policies. For instance, questions in this section explore whether youth have a seat at the table during critical discussions, whether their recommendations are considered in policy drafts, and how their insights impact decisions related to climate action. Are youth merely participating as observers, or do they play a significant role in influencing the direction of climate initiatives?

Furthermore, understanding the perceived value of youth input helps gauge how seriously governments regard the contributions of young people. This evaluation is crucial for identifying gaps in engagement strategies and ensuring that youth participation translates into meaningful policy changes.

- » To what extent do youth delegates from your delegation have a say in the decision-making process?
- » How has youth involvement influenced your government's position on key climate policies?
- » On a scale from 1-5, how much has youth inclusion enhanced your government's climate policy development process?

### 5. Capacity Building and Support for Youth Engagement

This section evaluates the support systems established to enhance the capacity of youth, enabling them to effectively participate in climate policy discussions. It examines the availability of various training, mentorship, and skill-building programs designed to equip young people with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate complex climate negotiations.

It attempts to determine whether governments are making meaningful investments in the long-term development of youth capabilities. This includes assessing whether initiatives are in place to provide young people with comprehensive

training on critical topics such as climate diplomacy, negotiation strategies, and technical aspects of climate science and policy.

- » How does your government ensure that youth are well prepared to engage in climate policy discussions?
- » How does your government support the development of skills and knowledge among youth to actively engage in COP events and regional climate weeks?
- » Does your government provide any mentorship or internship opportunities for youth?

## 6. Continuity and Sustainability of Youth Engagement

This section addresses the continuity and sustainability of youth engagement in climate policymaking, particularly in the context of changing political leadership. It explores whether robust structures exist to ensure that the involvement of youth is sustained.

It also assesses whether youth engagement is institutionalised, establishing formal mechanisms that guarantee ongoing participation regardless of shifts in government or political priorities. This may include the establishment of youth councils, cross-party agreements, or mandates for youth representation in national climate bodies, all of which can help create a framework for enduring youth involvement.

Furthermore, this section examines how governments can build a legacy of youth participation by embedding youth engagement into climate policymaking. This could involve developing long-term strategies that prioritise youth involvement, ensuring that the insights and contributions of young people are integrated into the policymaking process over time.

- » How do you ensure continuity in youth involvement in climate initiatives, even with changes in government leadership?
- » Are there mechanisms to ensure sustainability and capacity transfer to other youth?

## 7. Government Tracking and Evaluation of Youth Inclusion

This section examines whether governments have established mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of their youth inclusion efforts in climate policymaking. It seeks to determine if governments are actively assessing their strategies for engaging youth, identifying barriers to participation, and measuring the impact of these efforts. It gauges the commitment of governments to learning and improving their youth engagement strategies. This includes investigating whether governments utilise specific indicators and feedback mechanisms to assess the success of their youth inclusion initiatives.

- » Does your government track and measure the effectiveness of its youth inclusion efforts?
- » What are the biggest challenges your government faces regarding youth inclusion in climate policy processes overall?

## 8. Building on case studies

The checklist also provides opportunity for Parties to submit case studies on their youth inclusion initiatives. Those case studies shall serve as peer-learning. By documenting specific examples of how youth have been included in climate policies, Parties can showcase a variety of approaches, from the establishment of formal advisory groups to collaborative projects with youth-led organisations. Each case study will highlight not only the methods employed but also the outcomes achieved, providing concrete evidence of the benefits of youth involvement in shaping climate action.

## 5. M&E on Youth Participation in Local Conference of Youth (LCOY), Regional Conference Of Youth (RCOY) and Global Conference Of Youth (GCOY), YOUNGOs flagship events



### Overview:

The Youth Stocktake Report (2023) provides an in-depth examination of the Local Conferences of Youth (LCOY), Regional Conferences of Youth (RCOY), and Global Conference of Youth (GCOY/COY) as key YOUNGO flagship events. Organised by youth, for youth, these conferences serve multiple purposes that are crucial to amplifying young people's voices in climate governance. The objectives of these events include: (i) producing policy documents at the national, regional, or global levels that capture youth perspectives (ii) facilitating capacity building initiatives, which may involve peer to peer learning or knowledge transfer from experts representing governments, civil society, the private sector, and international organisations (iii) offering skill building opportunities through workshops that prepare young people for effective advocacy and climate action and

(iv) fostering cultural exchange and networking to strengthen global youth collaboration on climate issues.

These events have evolved significantly as the global youth climate movement has gained momentum, reflecting the growing engagement of young people in the climate discourse. To better understand the impact of these conferences and the extent of youth participation, a comprehensive survey has been distributed in 2024 to organisers and participants of LCOY, RCOY, and GCOY. The survey aims to assess how effectively these platforms support youth advocacy strategies and their engagement with Parties and other stakeholders. By collecting insights on youth-led actions and partnerships, this M&E process will provide critical data to improve future conferences and ensure that youth voices are meaningfully integrated into national, regional and global climate policy discussions.

### Stocktake on the number of COYs

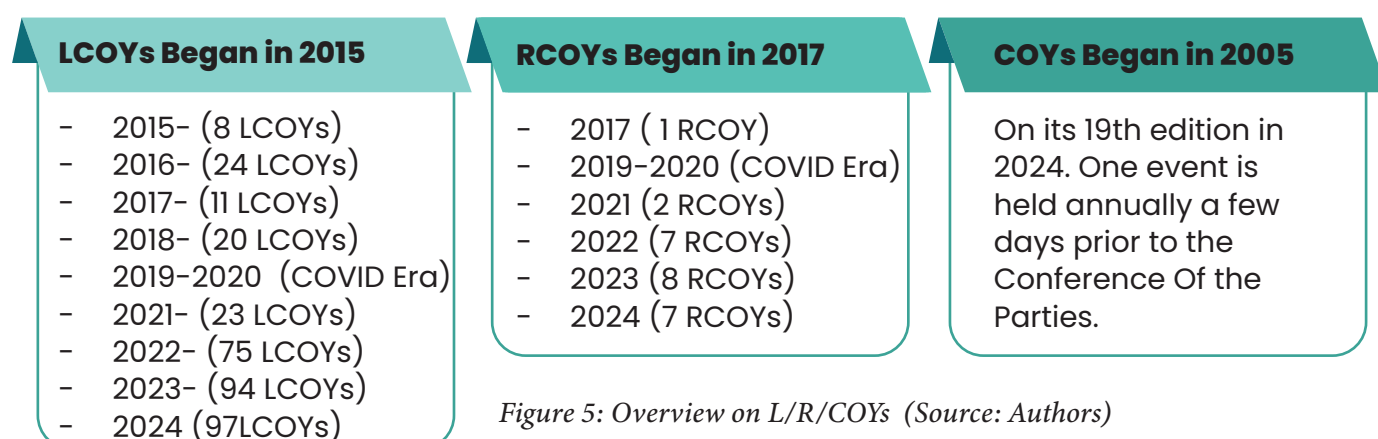


Figure 5: Overview on L/R/COYs (Source: Authors)

## About the Survey

To establish a robust M&E framework for youth inclusion in UNFCCC processes, it is essential that young people critically assess their participation, impact, and advocacy strategies at the national, regional, and global levels, particularly through the Local, Regional, and Global Conferences of Youth (LCOY, RCOY, GCOY). While the evolution of these conferences indicates increased awareness among youth regarding climate change, it does not necessarily translate into tangible progress in influencing national, regional, or global climate policies. In 2023, a survey titled **"An Assessment of the Development of YOUNGO Processes, through Local, Regional, and Global Conferences of Youth 2021-23"** was disseminated. This survey offered valuable insights into the historical development of these events, highlighting the increased participation of government representatives. However, it also revealed significant challenges, including institutional bureaucracy, gatekeeping, limited governmental support, and a lack of resources to fully implement youth led initiatives.

The ongoing 2024 survey seeks to expand on these findings by specifically monitoring and evaluating the extent to which youth demands are being addressed at national and regional levels and their influence on climate policy processes. Additionally, this survey aims to map the stakeholder engagement that supports these conferences, providing a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics between youth, government bodies, and other critical actors. This data will be instrumental in shaping future strategies for ensuring that youth participation has an impact on climate governance.

## Sections in the Survey

### 1. Youth Participation

This section aims to explore youth participation at the Local, Regional, and Global Conferences of Youth (LCOY, RCOY, GCOY), with a focus on understanding the various capacities in which young people engage in these events. The survey seeks to gather insights on the support mechanisms available to participants, as well as the challenges they encountered both before, during and after their participation. Additionally, it aims to assess how well the participants understood the overall agenda of these conferences and how their involvement feeds into broader national, regional, and global climate change policies.

- Q. Have you participated at an L/R/GCOY and reasons for participation?
- Q. In which capacity did you participate?
- Q. What challenges did you face prior, during and after the conference if any?

### 2. Youth Demands

This section seeks to gain insights into the specific demands that young people are making of their governments in the context of climate change. It recognizes that these demands are not uniform and can vary significantly based on the regional location of the participants. Young people in different regions face diverse environmental challenges and socio-political contexts, which shape their expectations and priorities in climate governance.

The survey aims to capture these perspectives, identifying the key issues that young people are advocating for, whether it be stronger climate policies, access to climate finance, or increased inclusion in decision-making processes. By highlighting these demands, this section will provide a



clearer picture of what young people across the globe are asking from their leaders, and how these asks can inform more responsive and inclusive climate policy development.

- Q. What were the key youth demands from your region presented during the COY?
- Q. To whom were the demands submitted to and did you receive any feedback?
- Q. How were the demands reflected in National, Regional and Global policies?
- Q. In your opinion what are the challenges in integrating youth demands into national/regional/global policy?

### 3 Stakeholders Engagement

Mapping stakeholder engagement is a critical component of this study, as this was not really a priority in last year's research. Understanding the roles and contributions of various stakeholders ranging from government bodies, international organisations to civil society and private sector partners offers insights into the collaborative efforts supporting youth participation in climate governance. By identifying which stakeholders are involved and how they engage with youth-led initiatives, this section aims to fill a crucial gap in the existing literature, providing a clearer picture of the support structures that facilitate or hinder effective youth participation. This analysis will also help identify opportunities for stronger partnerships and resource mobilisation in future youth focused climate actions.

- Q. Which stakeholders supported youth engagement during the COY conference?
- Q. What form of support did they provide in making your event a success?

### 4. Youth demands and Climate policy

This section aims to assess the impact of youth demands on climate policies at the national, regional, and global levels. It seeks to understand how effectively the concerns and recommendations raised by young people through L/R/GCOY are being integrated into climate governance frameworks. By examining case studies and real world examples, we can explore the extent to which youth led advocacy has influenced policy development, implementation, and the overall climate agenda. We encourage Parties, stakeholders, L/R/GCOY participants, and organisers to contribute case studies that demonstrate successes, challenges, and lessons learned. These case studies will be featured as part of the M&E framework to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role youth demands play in shaping climate action.

- Q. Do youth demands have influence in climate policy?
- Q. Examples where youth involvement led to significant outcomes or commitments?
- Q. What could be improved in future COYs to ensure more meaningful youth participation and strategic policy advocacy at national, regional and global level.



*Pic 4. YOUNGO at COP28.  
PC YOUNGO Comms team.*

## 6. M&E on Global Youth Statement



### Introduction

The Global Youth Statement (GYS) serves as YOUNGO's primary advocacy tool at COPs, bringing together children and youth demands from around the world across various negotiation tracks. This framework has been created to effectively track the progress of these demands and keep Parties accountable to their commitment to promote child and youth inclusion.

The objectives of this tracker are the following: First, it seeks to measure the impact of global youth demands on the decisions made during the COP. This involves assessing how effectively youth voices influence the outcomes of the negotiations. Second, the framework aims to document the evolution of the Global Youth Statement (GYS), tracking its development over time and highlighting the changing priorities and aspirations of youth in climate policy. Third, it seeks to evaluate the reception of youth demands, examining how these demands are acknowledged and addressed by decision-makers. Finally, is to hold Parties accountable to their commitments, ensuring that they remain responsible for fulfilling their obligations to engage with and respond to the concerns raised by youth.

### Methodology

The Global Youth Statement (GYS) demands tracker was developed by YOUNGO's Policy Team in 2023 for use during COP28. The Youth Stocktake Team (YST) is collaborating with the Policy Team to enhance the tracker and analyse the results. Through ongoing

consultations throughout 2024, including at COP29, we aim to establish a robust tracking mechanism.

The tracker, typically a google sheet, includes all youth demands, from the Global Youth Statement, organised by thematic categories such as adaptation, finance, mitigation, loss and damage etc. These thematics follow the YOUNGO Working Groups as well as the themes in the Global Youth Statement for that year.

Each demand will be monitored according to guidelines established by the YST. Progress will be scored on a scale from 0% to 100%, based on the success matrix. The metrics for success is as follows:

#### Acknowledgement of the problem:



Does the outcome document acknowledge, affirm or recognise the problem, as stated in the GYS?

#### Recognition of the solution:



Does the outcome document recognise, note or highlight how this problem can be solved, as stated in the GYS?

#### Implementation of the solution:



Does the outcome document encourage, urge or decide to implement the solution using strong, clear language that reflects the demand in the GYS

The progress scale is as follows:

Progress	Criteria
0%	The problem is not acknowledged, the solution is not recognised, and there is no implementation of the solution.
10%	The problem, solution or implementation is briefly mentioned with weak language.
20%	The problem, solution or implementation is briefly mentioned with fairly weak language.
30%	The problem is acknowledged with fairly weak language, but there is no mention of the solution or implementation of the solution.
40%	The problem is acknowledged with fairly strong language, but there is no mention of the solution or implementation of the solution.
50%	The problem is acknowledged with strong language, but there is no mention of the solution or implementation of the solution.
60%	The problem is acknowledged, the solution is recognised, but there is no mention of implementation of the solution.
70%	The problem is acknowledged, the solution is recognised, but there is little mention of implementation of the solution.
80%	The problem is acknowledged, the solution is recognised, but there is only a small or partial mention of implementation of the solution.
90%	The problem is acknowledged, the solution is recognised, and there is implementation of the solution, with fairly strong, clear language.
100%	The problem is acknowledged, the solution is recognised, and there is implementation of the solution, with strong, clear language.

Figure 6:GYS Tracker Guidelines (Source: YOUNGO Policy Team )

Additionally, the YOUNGO volunteer responsible for tracking the demands will provide a brief overview of the response to each demand, detailing how negotiators reacted, whether the demand or thematic area was discussed, and any lessons learned from lobbying efforts. This data will be collected during COP, with volunteers monitoring negotiations. The progress score will be determined by the final COP cover text that will be published after COP. We will cross check the language adopted alongside the youth demand to decide on the final progress percentage.

Demand	Progress (100%)	Progress (Narrative)	Source
Agree to an ambitious Mitigation Work Programme at COP28; Conscious of Decision 1/CP.27, Paras 9 and 16, which calls for Parties to implement ambitious transitions to low emission development;	10%	Slow since a few parties are stressing that the MWP doesn't have the mandate to do so. Some Parties hope that the GST will give a stronger mandate to MWP	SBSTA 7 / SBI 7   Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition
Parties should expand the MWP to track not only commitments and emission reductions, as in the NDC process, but also track and assess the progress regarding the implementation of mitigation solutions (e.g. policy or technology) as well as their success (e.g. in the form of more frequent sectoral, continental or country-group based stocktakes with best practices and relevant case studies).	35%	This was mentioned by a few parties	SBSTA 7 / SBI 7   Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition
Agree to immediately cut 40–45% of anthropogenic methane emissions this decade; Urging further ambition on Decision 1/CP.27, Para 17, and the Global Methane Pledge, that recognises the need to reduce methane emissions by 2030;	20%	A coalition of companies mentioned that effort	SBSTA 7 / SBI 7   Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition

Figure 7:Mitigation thematic demands tracker snippet  
(Source: YOUNGO Policy Team )



We can see that the demand has been listed, alongside a percentage to quantify the progress of the demand, a narrative to explain the progress, as well as the final COP text on that theme. We encourage the volunteers to fill in the narrative so that we can get as much information and as diverse as possible, that will reflect the reception of these demands.

A report on the GYS tracker for 2023 and 2024 is under development and will be released in 2025. The report will indicate the overall progress of demands, as well as the average progress per thematic. We will also draw lessons on the feedback received and highlight ways to improve our advocacy and lobby efforts. From the report, we will also be able to identify which thematics are the most inclusive and keep Parties on track in implementing meaningful youth participation in policy formation.

Despite our efforts, implementing the tracker comes with several challenges, particularly when it comes to data collection. There are numerous demands to monitor, and the negotiations can be lengthy and complex, which makes it difficult to keep track of progress over different years and sessions. This is especially challenging as the tracker must account for multiple criterias, each with varying weights. It is also difficult to attribute the success of a demand to youth

advocacy. Determining fair and unbiased scores is also a challenge, however we are continuously updating our guidelines to ensure fairness in evaluation.

We urge Parties to read the report that will stem out of tracking the Global Youth Statements. They will be able to track and score their commitment to achieving meaningful youth engagement in climate policy processes. Through this tracking mechanism, we will also be able to facilitate feedback on how youth driven demands are received by Parties, where they fall short and where they succeed.. Parties will be able to identify gaps that they can work to bridge together with the youth in order to promote their youth statements.

Youth organisations are encouraged to leverage and adopt this framework in their own capacities to strengthen monitoring and evaluation from the local level up to the global level.

For long term tracking, we propose to mainstream this M&E framework within YOUNGO so that we ensure we always have capacity to conduct the relevant processes. We also propose a continuous feedback loop so that we are continuously building onto the tracker and learning lessons from it. We also propose to align it with the GST process.



*Pic 5. M&E Framework Consultations at the Zimbabwean Pavilion, COP 29. PC Takudzwa Chihambakwe*



## 7. How can you support?



Contributing to the Youth Stocktake M&E framework offers a unique chance to be part of a transformative movement, amplifying youth voices and ensuring they play a pivotal role in shaping climate policy. Here are some avenues for contribution:



**Participate in Consultations:** Engage in scheduled consultations and discussions, either online or at events like COP29, to share insights and provide feedback on the framework's development.



**Collaborate with Stakeholders:** Partner with organizations, youth groups, or local governments to align on youth inclusion strategies, contribute knowledge, and expand the framework's reach.



**Share Best Practices:** Document and share successful examples of youth engagement in climate policy processes at local, national, or regional levels to inspire and inform the M&E framework.



**Contribute to Data Collection:** Support structured data-gathering efforts by completing surveys, filling out the checklist, or assisting in creating reliable data sources for youth engagement metrics.



**Promote Awareness:** Help raise awareness about the M&E framework among youth networks and stakeholders, emphasising the importance of transparency and consistent tracking in climate policy.

## 8. Long Term Vision of YST



The long-term vision of the Youth Stocktake is to establish a dynamic and sustainable framework that ensures youth are not only included but are essential, empowered partners in climate policy processes. This vision aims to embed youth voices in every stage of climate policy, from local initiatives to international negotiations, ensuring that young people have the platform, resources, and support to contribute meaningfully to climate action.

Key elements of this vision include:



**Institutionalising Youth Participation:** Transforming youth involvement from an occasional feature to an integrated, continuous process within the UNFCCC and national climate policies, ensuring that youth engagement is a structural part of climate governance.



**Producing Recurrent Youth Stocktake Reports:** Committing to the regular publication of Youth Stocktake reports will provide ongoing assessments of youth engagement, highlight successes, and identify areas for improvement. These reports will serve as essential tools for accountability, enabling stakeholders to track progress and adapt strategies in real time.



**Utilising Data for Reporting:** Encouraging Parties to leverage the data collected through the M&E framework in their reporting processes for the Global Stocktake (GST) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR). This will enhance the inclusivity and transparency of national climate actions while demonstrating progress in youth engagement.



Pic 6. M&E Framework Consultations at the Children and Youth Pavilion.

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*Virtual Consultation from Organisations- C40, ICLEI, Youth4Climate.*

*Physical Consultations at COP29, Zimbabwean Pavilion, African Youth Initiative on Climate Change Zimbabwe.*

*Physical Consultations at COP29, Children and Youth Pavilion.*

# Appendices

*Parties Checklist*

*COY Survey (view format)*

*COY survey to track youth participation in L/R/GCOY YOUNGO Flagship events*

*GYS Tracker Guidelines*

*GYS Tracker 2023 Sample*

# Tracking Youth Inclusion in UNFCCC Process:

*A YouthStocktake Initiative*

**Authors :**

**YOUNGO YouthStocktake Team**

**- Elizabeth Gulugulu, Karishma Ansaram, Sifa Kinoti**



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