

United Nations
Climate Change



RCC West and Central Africa
Collaboration for Climate Action



unicef



YOUNGO
OFFICIAL YOUTH CONSTITUENCY OF THE UNFCCC

Youth Climate Action Webinar Series

Part I: Youth Solutions Shaping and Implementing National Climate Policies (NDCs and NAPs) in West and Central Africa

English webinar for West and Central Africa

Date: Thursday 27 March 2025

Time: 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM (UTC + 00)

Mode: Virtual

Welcome Remarks



Walters Tubua

Regional Lead

UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre
for West and Central Africa



Objectives of the Youth Webinar series

1. **Give spotlight to youth-led climate solutions** that contribute to shaping and implementing climate action within the West and Central Africa region.
2. Provide a platform for **youth climate entrepreneurs, youth climate startups, etc. to present their work, initiatives, challenges as well as share of experiences and opportunities** among peers.
3. Discuss strategies and opportunities to enhance youth agency in the formulation and implementation of NDC 3.0 and NAPs for the region.
4. Foster discussions and meaningful youth engagement with UNFCCC Parties, as well as matchmaking between youth and partners and any other [Non-Party Stakeholders \(NPS\)](#) working on empowering youth in climate action in West and Central Africa.



Housekeeping

- MS Teams:
 - Kindly mute your microphone and turn off your camera when not speaking;
 - Leave the “Chat” window open;
 - Type your questions and comments in the Chat window;
 - Before taking the floor, raise your hand;
 - When given the floor, please unmute your microphone; and if your bandwidth allows, turn your camera on.



- Slides will be shared after the webinar and can be accessed <https://unfccc.int/event/youth-climate-action-webinar-series-part-i>



Mentimeter: What are RCCs?

Go to mentimeter.com

Insert this code # **4282 4408** #

Answer questions
OR

Scan this QR code



Agenda

Duration	Agenda / Discussion Flow	Speakers
7'	Welcome remarks + Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and What are the RCCs? Youth engagement works of the RCC WAC Africa 	Walters Tubua, Regional Lead, UNFCCC RCC WACA
10'	The Role of Youth in Climate Action and the UNFCCC Process	Hyunjin Chang, Associate Programme Officer, UNFCCC Secretariat (ACE Team)
20'	<p><u>Panel Discussion:</u> Climate initiatives from Youth: Youth initiatives supporting NDCs and NAPs in the countries of the region</p> <p>Climate Solutions from Youth: Youth initiatives supporting NDCs and NAPs in West and Central Africa Region: An Example from Nigeria</p> <p>Youth engagement in NDCs process in Liberia: Experiences, challenges, lessons learned, good practices and possible way forward</p>	<p>Moderator: UNFCCC RCC WACA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharon Oyelayo, Director, Innovations & Partnerships, EcoSciGen Nigeria Ezekiel Nyanfor, Executive Director, Liberian Youth for Climate Actions (LYCA)
15'	Q & A	All Participants
35'	<p>Meaningful engagement of youth for climate action in West and Central Africa: climate policy development and practice</p> <p><u>Guiding questions</u> What are the opportunities for meaningful engagement of youths in shaping and implementating climate policies (NDCs, NAPs) in countries in the region? (15 min)</p> <p><u>Opened Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges of youth involvement in climate action in the region (10 min) Needs and priorities of youth to advance climate action in the region (10 min) - <i>Mentimeter</i> 	<p>Moderator: UNFCCC RCC WACA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Knaute, UNICEF Alice Estelle Nkongo Nchare, Youth Engagement Lead, WWF-AAH, YOUNGO <p>All Participants</p>
3'	Closing remarks	Walters Tubua, Regional Lead, UNFCCC RCC WACA





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Speakers & Panelists

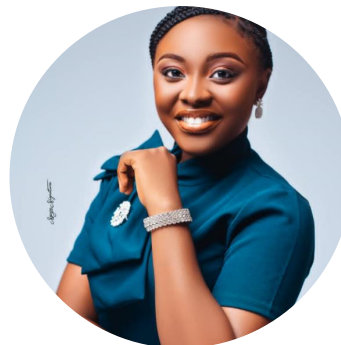


Moderator

Walters Tubua
Regional Lead,
UNFCCC- Regional
Collaboration Centre for West
and Central Africa



Hyunjin Chang
Associate Programme Officer, ACE Team,
UNFCCC



Sharon Oyelayo
Innovations & Partnerships,
EcoSciGen Nigeria



Ndifongwa Ngumsi Suh,
NDC Working Group, YOUNGO



Alice Estelle Nkongo Nchare
Youth Engagement Lead, Africa
Adaptation Hub (WWF)



Ezekiel Nyanfor
Executive Director, Liberian Youth for
Climate Actions (LYCA).



David Knaute
Climate Specialist, Climate and
Children rights
UNICEF

The Role of Youth in Climate Action and the UNFCCC Process



Hyunjin Chang
Associate Programme Officer, ACE Team,
UNFCCC





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The Role of Youth in Climate Action and the UNFCCC Process

Hyunjin Chang

Associate Programme Officer, ACE Team,
UNFCCC

27 March 2025

Children and Youth in the UNFCCC Process

- Within the UNFCCC process, youth refer to those **under the age of 35** (inclusive).
 - This is also the age criteria of YOUNGO – children and youth observer constituency of the UNFCCC.
- There is an evolving discussion around **children** (0–18) as a unique group.
 - For instance, the expert group on children and climate change took place at SB 60 (2024) following the conclusion of the first global stocktake (GST).
- The **preamble of the Paris Agreement** provides an overarching framing on children and youth within the UNFCCC process:
 - Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right of (...) **children** (...) and **intergenerational equity**.

Children and Youth in the UNFCCC Process

- Over the years, Parties have acknowledged the **important role** and **active engagement** of children and youth **in supporting Parties** and **contributing to the significant collective progress** towards the Paris Agreement goals.

**Expanding Scope of Recognition of
the Role of Children And Youth**

**Vulnerable and marginalized groups
requiring special attention**



Agents of change leading climate action

**Notable Agenda Items regarding
Children and Youth Engagement**

Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)

Observer Engagement (AIM)

Presidency Youth Climate Champion

Children and Youth at COPs

- Children and youth participate at UN climate change conferences in varying capacities and for various purposes:
 - **Party delegation** (including Party overflow)
 - **Observer delegation**
 - Youth from YOUNGO and other observer constituencies (young farmers, Indigenous youth, young academia...)
 - **UN and IGOs** (UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO...)
 - **Child- and youth-focused organizations** (Save the Children, Plan International...)
 - **Host country** (such as guests and volunteers)



Children and Youth Engagement at COPs

- Increasing number of children and youth-focused and youth-led events and spaces.

COP26, Glasgow

**Youth and Public
Empowerment Day**

COP27, Sharm el-Sheikh

**Youth and Future
Generations Day**

COP28, Dubai

**Youth, Children,
Education and Skills Day**

COP29, Baku

**Human Capital, Children
and Youth, Health and
Education Day**

**Youth4Climate Summit
at pre-COP**



YOUTH-LED CLIMATE FORUM

CHILDREN & YOUTH PAVILION



Children and Youth Engagement in the UNFCCC Process

- COPs and SBs are important forums for engaging in international decision-making, but the UNFCCC process **extends beyond** biannual conferences.
 - The work of **constituted bodies** and **work programmes** as well as some **mandated events** continues in between sessions.
 - **Submissions** also important avenues to inform the work under the process.
- Under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, there exist several instruments where engagement of children and youth should be enhanced **at the national level**.
 - Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term low emission development strategies (LT-LEDS);
 - National adaptation plans (NAPs);
 - Biennial transparency reports (BTRs).

Climate Solutions from Youth: Youth initiatives supporting NDCs and NAPs in West and Central Africa Region: An Example from Nigeria



Sharon Oyelayo
Innovations & Partnerships, EcoSciGen Nigeria





Theme: EcoSciGen's initiative in supporting NDCs and NAPs in Nigeria.

Date: 27 March 2025

Speaker: Sharon Oyelayo
Director, Innovation & Partnerships



Visit: www.ecoscigen.org



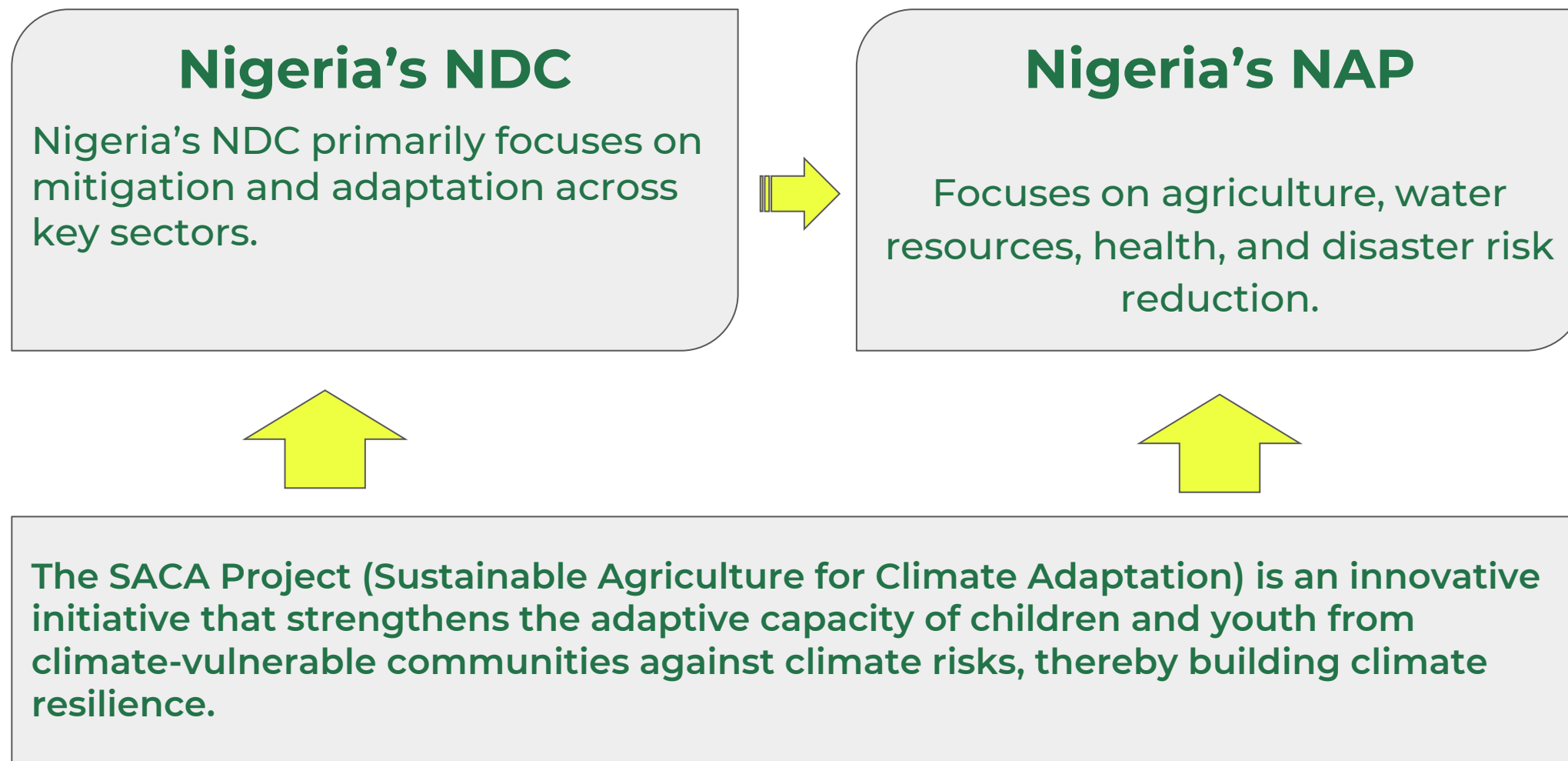
About EcoSciGen

We are a youth led organisation focused on providing actionable solutions to the climate crisis through empowerment, education and leadership development.

Our goal is to create a platform for communities and individuals to gain knowledge, skills and the confidence to shape our world and work together towards a climate resilient future.



Our contribution to NAPs formulation



Our implementation on NAPs formulation

About SACA Project

SACA empowers children and youth to become intelligent and curious climate leaders through climate adaptation, education, capacity building and hands-on training in sustainable agriculture using indigenous materials, composting techniques and water conservation methods thereby enhancing food security, reducing regular farming costs and reducing climate vulnerabilities.

SACA Project Gallery



Pictures: First pilot of SACA Funded by US Consulate in Lagos.

Our challenges during the implementation

SACA Project

Gallery (cont'd)

- Community Indifferences
- Economic Constraints
- Mindset limitations



Pictures: The Second pilot of SACA funded by SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) and the IMYAC.

With SACA Project we are raising a new generation of well informed youths that are equipped to enhance their community climate resilience and improve food security in Nigeria.

Other EcoSciGen Projects Supporting Nigeria's NAPs

Project Athena: Train women to use their voice and climate stories to inspire action in their communities.

Climate Research Workshop: To enhance the research skills and leadership of young indigenous Africans to drive responsive climate adaptation solutions

Climate Communication Workshop: Train youths in novel skills to communicate climate science to any stakeholder across diverse communities

INOCLIMATE: Equips young children with education on Earth processes, history, and climate science.

.....all towards driving our vision of a truly climate resilient and prosperous world.

Feel free to reach out to us via: info@ecoscigen.org
For partnership: Sharon@ecoscigen.org

Follow us on social media [@ecoscigen](https://www.instagram.com/ecoscigen)
on all platforms



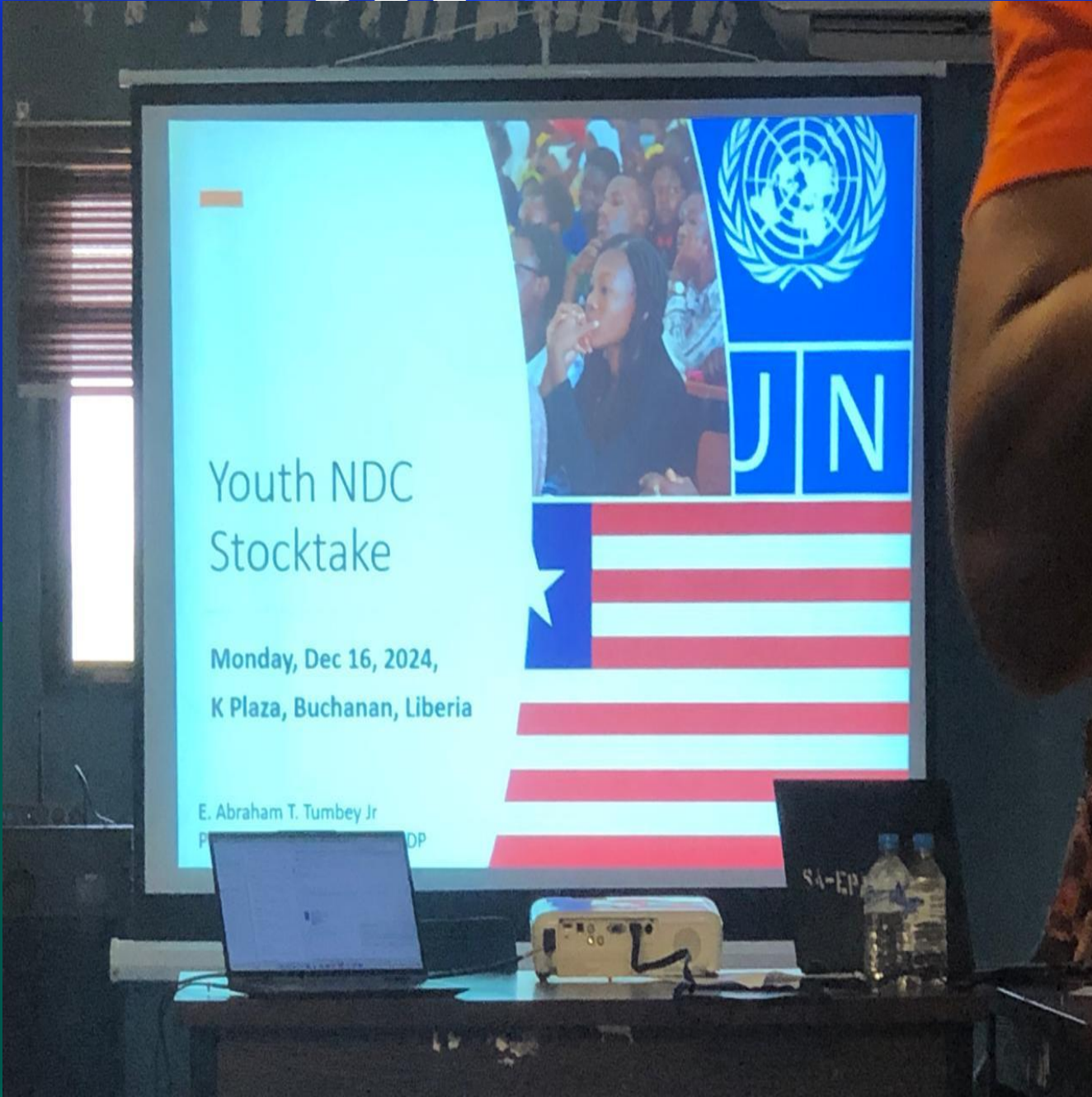
Thank you for listening!

Youth engagement in NDCs process in Liberia: Experiences, challenges, lessons learned, good practices and possible way forward



Ezekiel Nyanfor
Director, Liberian Youth for Climate Actions
(LYCA)





Youth NDC Stocktake

Monday, Dec 16, 2024,
K Plaza, Buchanan, Liberia

E. Abraham T. Tumbey Jr
P... DP

Youth Engagement in NDC Process in Liberia: Experiences, Challenges, Lesson Learned, Good Practices and Way Forward

PRESENTED BY: EZEKIEL NYANFOR,
Executive Director, Liberian Youth for Climate
Actions - LYCA

What is NDC?

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are climate action plans submitted by countries under the Paris Agreement.

NDCs outline actions and targets to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change impacts.

Why NDC 3.0?

To enhance Liberia's commitment to climate action.

Reflect the latest national priorities, data, and international climate goals.

Strengthen Liberia's climate resilience and contributions to global sustainability.

Context: Requirements from the Paris Agreement

- Article 4.2 requires ratifying countries to submit successive NDCs to the UNFCCC communicating each country's climate goals, actions as well as other arrangements for meeting the goals.
- Article 4.3 stipulates the countries to communicate enhanced NDCs every 5 years reflecting its highest possible ambition, and its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), in light of different national circumstances.
- Successive NDCs are to be informed by the outcomes of the global stocktake referred to in Article 14.
- The next round of NDCs detailing countries' intended climate actions through 2035 – ‘NDC 3.0’ are due in 2025.

Liberia Context

Despite the negligible contributions to climate change (0.03 GHG Emission), Liberia demonstrated leadership in climate action.

Submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) in 2015.

Ratified the Paris Agreement in 2018.

Submitted its revised NDC with enhanced targets in 2021.

Plans to update its 2021 NDC and submit NDC 3.0 to the UNFCCC by the second quarter of 2025, specifically June 8.

NDC 2.0 Youth Stocktake Process

Gaps

Youth representatives highlighted the limited involvement of youth and children in the NDC process, as well as the inadequate participation of marginalized groups like youth, women, and persons with disabilities.



NDC 2.0 Youth Stocktake Process

Recommendation

- Strengthen youth engagement by establishing formal channels for youth participation in decision-making.
- Increase funding for youth-led projects by setting up funds and micro-grants and increasing the national budget for NDC projects targeting young people.
- Focus on education and capacity building by integrating climate change education into school curricula and offering specialized training programs on climate policy and project implementation.
- Create employment and economic opportunities by developing green job programs and entrepreneurship opportunities focused on NDC-related activities.

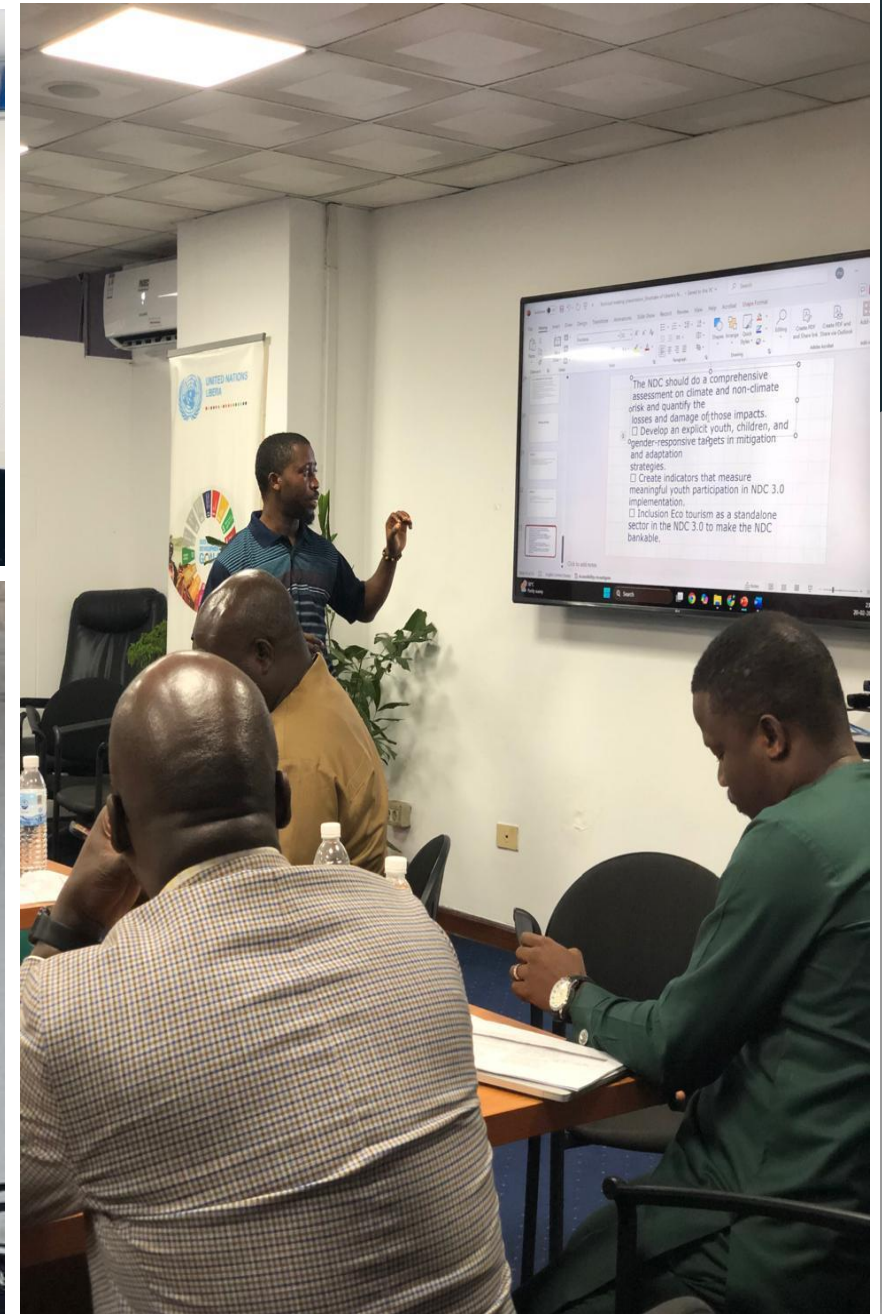
NDC 2.0 Stocktake Technical Review Meeting

Major youth focus
gap

Insufficient participation of youth, women, and other vulnerable groups in the NDC drafting and implementation process.

Youth focus
recommendations

- Include youth, women, and other vulnerable groups, ensuring gender-balanced representation in decision-making bodies.
- Develop explicit youth, children, and gender-responsive targets in both mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- Create indicators to measure meaningful participation and track progress, using sex disaggregated data and gender-sensitive metrics.



National Youth Focus Recommendations and way forward for NDC 3.0

Ensure inclusivity in NDC process: The NDC process should be inclusive, ensuring the participation of women, youth, other vulnerable groups, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector in drafting, implementing, and monitoring the NDC 3.0. This approach will help build ownership of the NDC among all sectors of society and contribute to better outcomes. Whole-of-society engagement will be essential for fostering societal ownership and ensuring successful implementation.

Youth-focused adaptation strategies: The NDC 3.0 could develop child- and youth focused adaptation strategies, particularly related to education, health, and livelihoods in the face of climate change.

Capacity building: Expanding training programs for women and youth in climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, energy, and natural resource management will empower them as agents of change. These programs should focus on skill-building and ensuring their long-term involvement in climate action.



NDC 3.0 Engagements and Way Forward

- Create a youth agenda/position paper ahead of NDC 3.0.
- Know your NDC in country facilitator.
- Gain trust from the lead government institution.
- Identify and engage political and technical youth champions who are high influence stakeholders in the process.
- Understand and analyze your country current NDC.
- Get access to your country NDC 3.0 road map.
- Reach out to donors to support your participation.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

Q&A



Panel: What are the opportunities for meaningful engagement of youths in shaping and implementing climate policies (NDCs, NAPs) in countries in the region



Alice Estelle Nkongo Nchare
Youth Engagement Lead, WWF-AAH



David Knaute
Climate Specialist, Climate and Children rights,
UNICEF



Ndifongwa Ngumsi Suh,
NDC Working Group, YOUNGO



What are the opportunities for meaningful engagement of youths in shaping and implementing climate policies (NDCs, NAPs) in countries in the region



David Knaute
Climate Specialist, UNICEF





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YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION WEBINAR SERIES

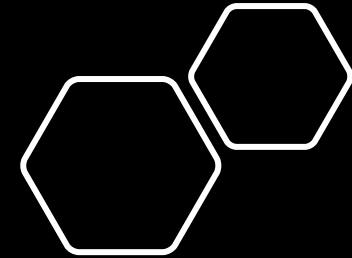
YOUTH SOLUTIONS SHAPING AND IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL
CLIMATE POLICIES (NDCS AND NAPS) IN WEST AND CENTRAL
AFRICA

PANELIST



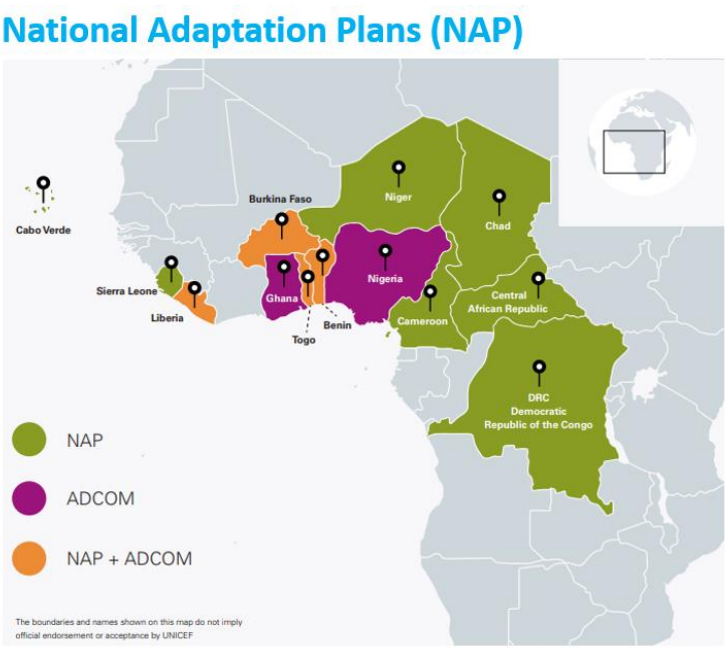
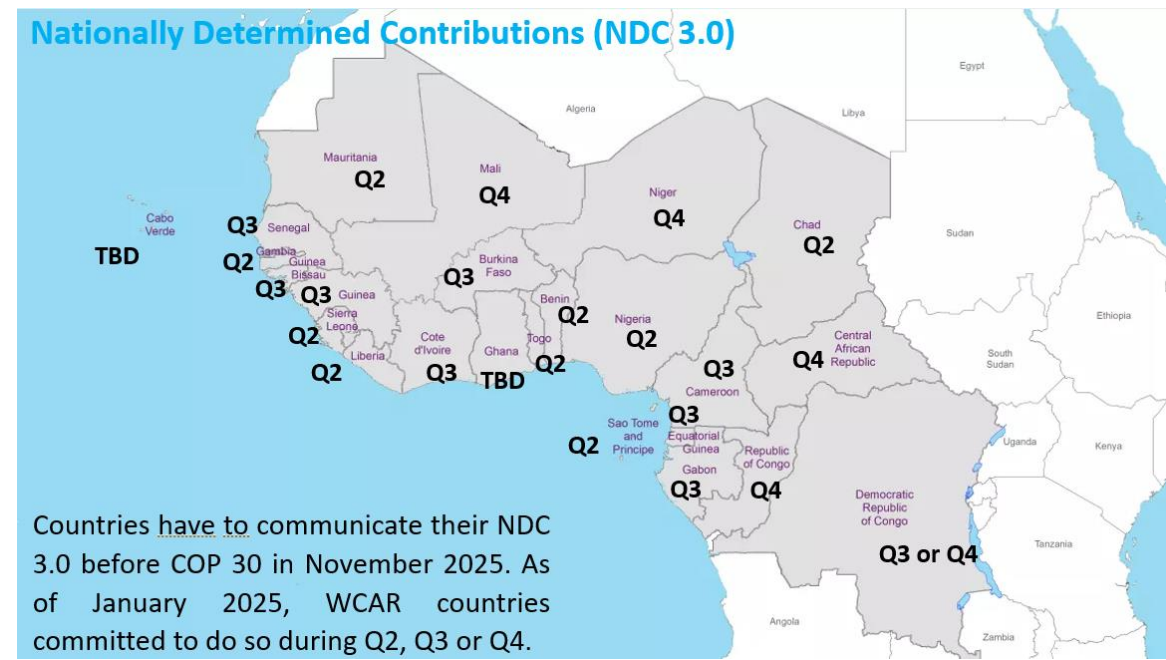
David Knaute

Climate Specialist - UNICEF
Office for West and Central
Africa



YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION WEBINAR
SERIES / PART I, 27 March 2025

NDCs and NAPs communication calendar in West & Central Africa



→ 11 countries from West and Central Africa have communicated their NAP (from 2015 to 2022)

→ All countries are encouraged to submit their NAP by the end of 2025

* ADCOM = Adaptation Communication (update report on NAP)

Options for action depending on NDC updating process

(source: GPE/Save the Children)

Option 1 <i>Country at the beginning of updating the NDC</i>	There are lots of opportunities! Go through all the STEPS below.
Option 2 <i>Country in the process of updating the NDC</i>	There is still time! Focus on STEP 3 onwards.
Option 3 <i>Country towards the end of updating the NDC</i>	There is limited time! Utilize STEP 4 to assess if there are still entry points to include education in relevant <i>existing</i> sectors or sections. Ideally, it is important to include <i>activities</i> and <i>indicators</i> in the NDC to ensure they are implemented when finalized.

Option 4 *Country's updated NDC has already been approved and endorsed*

If your country's NDC has already been approved *without* education included, there are still options to promote the role of education in delivering the NDC.

It is possible to utilize **STEPS 4 and 5** below to find entry points for the education sector. For example, if early warning systems have been identified as an action under the NDC, it is important for the Ministry of Education to work with the relevant department to ensure early warning information reaches schools.

You can also begin to look at **STEPS 1 and 2** to build and strengthen relationships with the relevant Ministries responsible for the NDC, to ensure they are effectively consulted in the next round of updates in 2030 (NDC 4.0).

Steps to advocate for child-sensitive NDCs



Step 1

Understand and learn more about your country's context



Step 3

Learn about existing actions



Step 5

Develop an advocacy strategy



Step 7

Mobilize community support:



Step 9

Monitor and evaluate:



Step 2

Analyze your country's NDC



Step 4

Set clear goals and objectives



Step 6

Engage with key stakeholders and policymakers:



Step 8

Action and outreach:

What makes you a great advocate (1/2)

1. Passion, confidence, and commitment:

Demonstrate deep care for the cause and a strong dedication to making a difference.

2. **Knowledge and expertise:** Build a comprehensive understanding of the issue to become an informed advocate.

3. **Be strategic:** Develop a clear advocacy objective and a detailed plan with timelines for achieving influence on NDCs. Ensure a specific strategic focus on desired changes you want to suggest and see within the NDCs.

4. **Speak up for others:** Represent and voice the concerns of your peers.

5. **Mobilize and influence others:** Inspire and encourage fellow young people to take action.

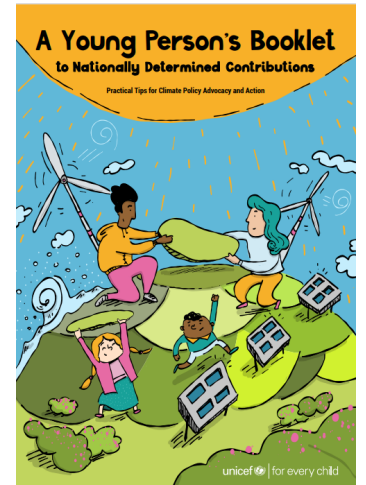
6. **Build relationships and collaborate:** Connect with like-minded individuals and organizations.

7. **Be persistent and resilient:** Maintain determination, knowing that change takes time and effort.

8. **Adapt to different situations:** Demonstrate flexibility and the ability to adjust strategies when facing obstacles.

9. **Effective communication:** Clearly and persuasively express ideas.

10. **Seek support:** Establish meaningful connections and seek guidance from mentors or organizations.



What makes you a great advocate (2/2)



Ashley Lashley,
a UNICEF
climate
advocate



Example 1: Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) in Mauritania, October 2024



National youth statement focusing on sectoral actions, Action for Climate Empowerment, the NAP, and NDCs.

Recommendations on NDCs:

- Active Inclusion of Youth in NDC Development
- Climate Education and Awareness Raising for Youth
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms
- Strengthening Partnerships and Collaboration
- Funding and Resources for Youth Initiatives
- Youth Evaluation of Climate Policies

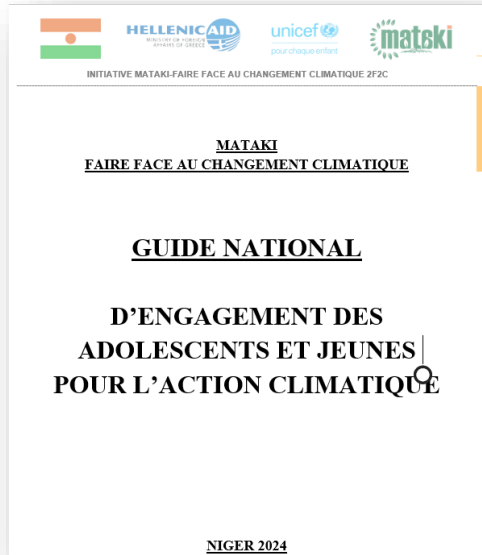
Example 2: Niger's national guide for adolescents and youth in support of climate action



The MATAKI project mobilizes children and adolescents to raise awareness about the climate emergency.

Areas of action in which you can contribute to environmental protection:

- Awareness-raising and education
- Reforestation and green space management
- Waste management
- Sustainable agriculture
- Community involvement
- Capacity building
- Ecological practices in everyday life



Example 3: Climate Youth Leadership training (in English and French)

- The training focused on strengthening a youth movement, awareness raising, advocacy and policy negotiation).
- In July 2024, 68 Francophone youth from 15 to 24 years old and from 19 countries attended

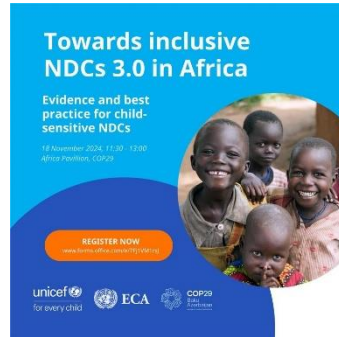


Other examples

African youth
at COP 29



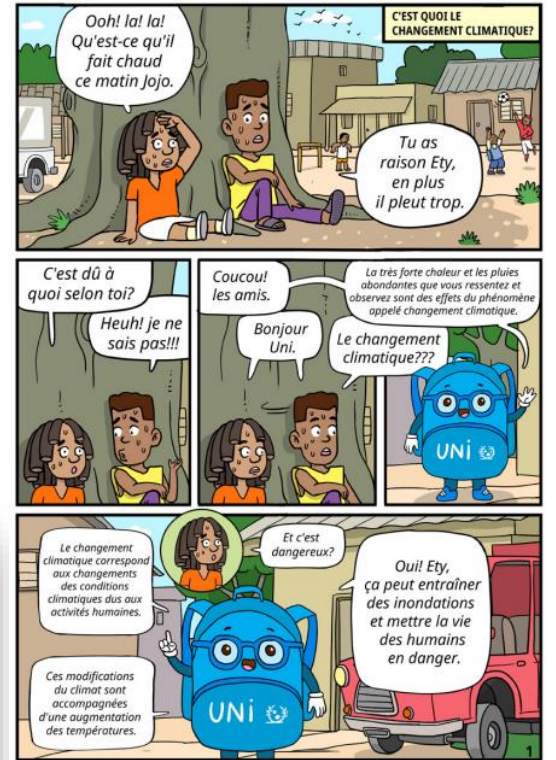
Congo



unicef
for every child

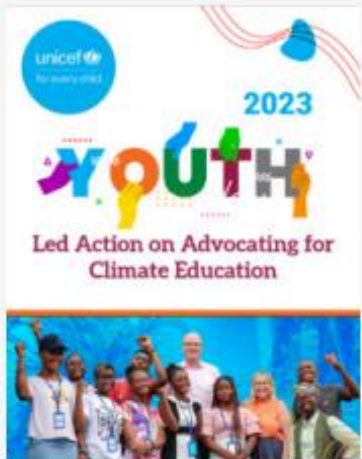


Guinea-Bissau



Gabon

Togo (26/03/2025)



Cover pages of
Youth Manifestos
from the Republic
of the Congo and
Sierra Leone.



Sierra Leone



Cameroon



What are the opportunities for meaningful engagement of youths in shaping and implementing climate policies (NDCs, NAPs) in countries in the region



Alice Estelle Nkongo Nchare
Youth Engagement Lead, WWF-AAH





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Opportunities for Meaningful Engagement of Youths in Shaping and Implementing Climate Policies (NAPs & NDCs) in West and Central Africa

Alice Estelle Nkongo Nchare

WWF Africa Adaptation Hub

Youth Climate Action Webinar Series: Youth Solutions Shaping and
Implementing National Climate Policies (NAPs & NDCs) in
West and Central Africa

March 27th, 2025

Climate Change Impacts and Risks in West and Central Africa

West and Central Africa (WCA) are among the global hotspots of human vulnerability to climate change. (IPCC AR6, 2022; GCA 2023)



- ✓ WCA are experiencing temperature increases that are projected to reach or surpass **1.5°C by 2040** (IPCC AR6, 2022)



- ✓ forest fire rates have **doubled** in WCA's tropical forests - especially in areas with increasing drought and heat brought on by climate change. (AGU journal, 2024)



- ✓ Climate-induced habitat shifts threaten endemic and endangered species, including primates like gorillas and chimpanzees.
- ✓ Above **2°C**, risk of sudden and severe biodiversity losses becomes widespread in WCA (IPCC AR6, 2022)



- ✓ Small changes in the climate have had a large impact on freshwater ecosystems. Temperatures in WCA freshwater bodies rose by **0.1–0.4°C** per decade. (IPCC AR6, 2022)



- ✓ Nearly **12 000 people** in five countries in WCA were newly displaced due to flooding in July and August, bringing the total number of countries facing flood-related displacement in 2023 to **nine** (WMO, 2024)
- ✓ In 2024, WCA experienced devastating floods, impacting over **7.5 million people** across **18 countries**, with Chad, Niger, Nigeria, and DRC being the most affected. (OCHA, 2024)



© Eric Baccaga / WWF



- ✓ Reduced crop yields and livestock productivity, are contributing to food insecurity and malnutrition.
- ✓ Under the worst-case climate change scenario, a reduction in mean crop yield of **13%** is projected in WCA (WMO 2019)
- ✓ Loss of suitable cocoa-growing areas in WCA by **50% by 2050** due to rising temperatures and rainfall shifts (Agricultural and Forest Meteorology journal, 2025)

The Role of NAPs and NDCs

NAPs and NDCs are key policy instruments under the Paris Agreement that help countries address climate risks and build resilience.

NAPs	NDCs
✓ Voluntary national-level strategies developed by countries to identify and address medium- to long-term climate adaptation needs.	✓ Climate action plans that countries must submit under the Paris Agreement, outlining their commitments to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change.
✓ As of 23 March 2025, only 13 countries under the jurisdiction of UNFCCC RCC for WCA have submitted their NAPs (NAP Central)	✓ Updated every 5 years to enhance ambition ✓ Deadline for submission of NDCs 3.0 was 10/02/2025 ✓ Only 1 African country met the deadline (Zimbabwe) and 1 country (Zambia) submitted after the deadline ✓ None from WCA (NDC registry)

➤ **13 countries under the jurisdiction of UNFCCC RCC for WCA that have submitted their NAPs:** Benin, Cameroon, Liberia, Niger, Chad, Togo, DRC, Madagascar, Cabo Verde, Burkina Faso, Burundi, CAR, Sierra Leon

➤ **13 countries under the jurisdiction of UNFCCC RCC for WCA that have not yet submitted their NAPs:** Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Sa Tome and Principe, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania, DRC, Gambia

Enhancing Adaptation in NDCs: Analysis and Reflections from 19 African Countries – A WWF Policy Brief

Element	Description
Objective	To inform on the development of a strong adaptation component in the next round of NDCs (3.0) and future iterations.
Scope	Assesses the adaptation sections in the NDCs of 19 African countries where WWF has a presence either as national offices or partner offices (including 8 countries from WCA)
Criteria	9 criteria were selected as a basis for the analysis to ensure ambitious and robust NDCs in driving climate adaptation.
Score	✓ 7 out of 19 countries met at least seven of the nine criteria (i.e. indicating a high level of adaptation ambition in their NDCs) ✓ These include: Cameroon, CAR, DRC, Madagascar, Rwanda, Tunisia and Uganda (i.e. 4 from WCA)
Gaps to address	✓ 3 key criteria were poorly addressed in NDCs (i.e. locally-led adaptation, monitoring & evaluation, and alignment with NAPs) ✓ little or no reference on preventing maladaptation practices in the adaptation component of the 19 NDCs
Country with a very high adaptation ambition	Rwanda stands out in the analysis with a strong adaptation component in their NDC and may be used to lead as an example for other countries to follow.

Why Youth Engagement Matters in the Region ?

- ✓ **Key Stakeholders in driving Climate Action:** WCA have a predominantly young population (More than 64% under 24), giving them a critical role in shaping climate solutions.
- ✓ **Innovative Ideas:** Youth-led initiatives bring fresh perspectives, creativity, technology and innovative approaches to addressing climate change.
- ✓ **A voice for future generations:** Active youth participation in policy dialogues ensures that policies reflect the needs and aspirations of future generations.
- ✓ **Bridging the Climate Policy Implementation Gap:** Engaging youth networks in implementing policies like NAPs and NDCs enhances outreach, inclusivity, and the active participation of young people in climate action.



Consider youths as partners in the vision: Co-designers and co-implementers of climate policies and decision-making processes in WCA

A call to Action: Governments, International Organizations, Civil Society etc. must:

- ✓ Create more opportunities/platforms for youth engagement in climate policy and decision-making at local, national, and regional levels. E.g. *capacity building on NAPs and NDC processes (formulation, implementation, MEL, etc.)*
- ✓ Strengthen youth participation in UNFCCC processes, including COP negotiations, ensures their voices shape global climate strategies.
- ✓ Provide access to funding, technology, and other resources that young people need to implement their climate action initiatives. Include capacity building sessions/curricula on resource mobilization for youth led initiatives in WCA
- ✓ Share stories of young people who are making a difference in the fight against climate change.



Opportunities for Meaningful Engagement of Youths in Shaping and Implementing NAPs in WCA.

“Meaningful engagement” implies empowerment and involvement



Capacity building opportunities:

- ✓ Capacity building programs/tools/platforms for youths in WCA to support NAPs processes (formulation, implementation, MEL, etc.)

Opportunities in NAP Formulation:

- ✓ Contribute to the consultation process and provide technical input in NAP formulation.
- ✓ Ensure youth priorities are integrated into NAPs for a more inclusive adaptation strategy.

Opportunities in NAP Implementation:

- ✓ Support WCA countries in executing their NAPs through youth-led climate adaptation projects at local and national levels.

Opportunities in Climate Adaptation Policy Advocacy:

- ✓ Leverage social media platforms to urge WCA countries to submit their NAPs and integrate youth priorities.
- ✓ Space to create a coalition of youth networks from WCA focusing on driving climate adaptation actions for a stronger voice
- ✓ A diverse range of key stakeholders in WCA to engage with in climate adaptation policy advocacy processes

Opportunities for Meaningful Engagement of Youths in Shaping and Implementing NDCs in WCA.

Availability of tools and resources for engaging young people in NDCs:

- ✓ **Capacity-building programs for youth engagement in NDC processes** like workshops organized by diverse stakeholders such as: YOUNGO, WWF etc.; **Policy guidance frameworks & tools** such as UNICEF's Climate Policy Toolkit, the NDC Partnership Youth Engagement Plan; **Digital engagement platforms** like the Africa NDC Hub and the youth4NDCs Platform, which encourage meaningful engagement of youths to influence NDC processes.

Opportunities in NDC Revision process:

- ✓ Contribute to your country's NDC 3.0 revision and advocate for the inclusion of youth-led climate action projects.
- ✓ Champion higher adaptation ambition in NDCs 3.0 by promoting key tools, such as the 9 criteria developed by WWF and others.

Opportunities in NDC Implementation:

- ✓ Position youth as key implementation partners to scale up youth-led climate initiatives.
- ✓ Collaborate with international organizations, INGOs, and other stakeholders to drive implementation.





THANK YOU

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What are the opportunities for meaningful engagement of youths in shaping and implementing climate policies (NDCs, NAPs) in countries in the region



Ndifongwa Ngumsi Suh,
NDC Working Group, YOUNGO



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTHS IN SHAPING AND IMPLEMENTING CLIMATE POLICIES (NDCS, NAPS, LT-LEDs) IN COUNTRIES IN THE WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REGION: CASE OF YOUNGO

NDIFONGWA NGUMSI SUH
NDC WORKING GROUP YOUNGO

PRESENTATION PLAN

- ▶ INTRODUCTION
- ▶ WHAT IS YOUNGO
- ▶ OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN NATIONAL CLIMATE POLICIES AT YOUNGO
- ▶ YOUNGO FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES in NDCs
- ▶ SUCCESS STORIES AND BEST PRACTICES ON MEANINGFUL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN NDCS
- ▶ YOUNGO PARTNER ORGANISATIONS FOR PROMOTING EFFECTIVE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN NDCs
- ▶ OUTLOOKS
- ▶ CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Youth participation in climate action is encouraged in UNFCCC and the Conference of Parties (COP) decisions. Youth empowerment for participation in the formulation and implementation of national climate policies such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) is encouraged by the Convention (**Art. 6**) and emphasized in the Paris Agreement (**Art. 12**). Youth can play a vital role in contributing to the formulation and implementation of these policies.

WHAT IS YOUNGO

YOUNGO is the official youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is a global network of youth organizations, individuals, and movements advocating for meaningful youth engagement in international climate negotiations and policymaking.

Key Aspects of YOUNGO include:

- ▶ **Youth Representation:** YOUNGO ensures that young people have a voice in climate discussions, particularly at **UN Climate Conferences (COPs)**.
- ▶ **Policy Advocacy:** It contributes to policy discussions by submitting youth statements, position papers, and recommendations on climate action.
- ▶ **Capacity Building:** YOUNGO conducts **trainings, workshops, and knowledge-sharing initiatives** to equip youth with climate governance skills. YOUNGO engages with youths at the local level through the LCOY and RCOY.
- ▶ **Working Groups:** Members engage in thematic working groups focused on issues like **climate justice, NDCs, finance, loss and damage, adaptation, and mitigation**.
- ▶ **Grassroots Mobilization:** It supports youth-led initiatives, climate strikes, and advocacy campaigns at national and regional levels.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCs) AT YOUNGO

- ▶ Through the **Regional Consultation on Meaningful Youth Engagement in NDCs** is the mechanism being used by YOUNGO to include youths from all walks of life to meaningfully contribute to their country's NDC.
- ▶ The online consultation on Meaningful Youth Engagement in NDCs was launched on **March 20th, 2025**. Organized by the **NDC Working Group of YOUNGO**, in collaboration with the **International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change (IIYFCC)** and **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**, this consultation is hosted on Youth4Climate Engagement Platform. It provides an inclusive space for children and young people from all backgrounds to share their perspectives.
- ▶ Insights and proposals from the regional discussion rooms will then contribute to a summary report and a set of actionable policy recommendations aimed at strengthening youth participation at every stage of the NDC process.

YOUNGO FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES in NDCs

- ▶ The consultation aims to bridge the gap by ensuring that youth have a seat at the table. Through regional discussions, we seek to:
- ▶ **Strengthen children and youth engagement in NDCs** – Identify pathways for integrating youth into NDC processes, from design to implementation and monitoring.
- ▶ **Gathering Children and Youth Perspectives:** Collect valuable insights and recommendations from diverse young climate activists on how to strengthen youth engagement in NDCs on national and regional levels.
- ▶ **Inform Policy Change:** Advocating for the adoption of youth crafted policy recommendations by governments, ensuring NDCs reflect the priorities and solutions proposed by young people.
- ▶ **Bridging the Gap Between State Actors and Non-State Actors (Specially children and youth):** Even though the urgency of engaging non state actors in NDCs is eminent, the state actors have not been able to bring in non state actors, specially children and youth in the NDC s process so far. These consultations will serve as the bridge between state and non-state actors in NDC processes.
- ▶ The insights gathered through this consultation will directly inform advocacy efforts and policy recommendations, pushing for a future where NDCs are more inclusive, ambitious, and effective.

HOW TO GET STARTED?

Step 1

Learn what Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are:

The NDCs are climate action plans submitted every five years by countries that are parties to the Paris Agreement.

They outline how a country plans to cut emissions and adapt to climate change.



[Learn more about the NDCs!](#)

Step 2

Identify gaps & opportunities! Start by asking yourself:

- What are the biggest climate issues youth face in your country & region?
- Are youth priorities reflected in NDCs?
- What's stopping young people from engaging in NDC processes?



👉 Scan the QR code to access the **Discussion Room**

Step 3

Join the discussion & share your perspectives on:

- Common challenges youth face in engaging with NDCs in your country or region
- Your ideas to bridge the gap between youth & decision-makers
- What support do you need to participate in NDC processes?
- Youth-led solutions & policy ideas
- Highlight missing elements in your country's NDCs
- Connect with other youth climate advocates

Step 4

Join the conversation in your regional discussion room

Step 5

Fill in the Consultation Survey!



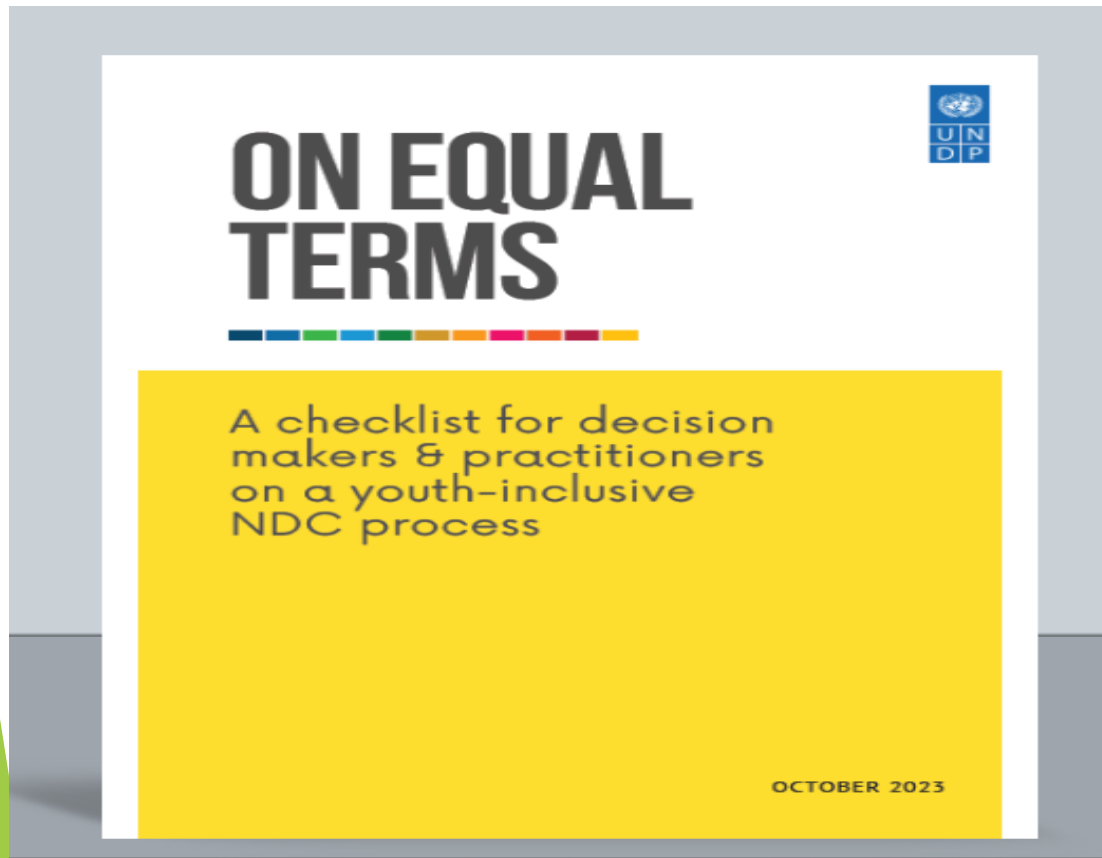
👉 Scan the QR code to access the **Consultation Form**

⚠️ To fill in the consultation form, you must first **REGISTER** on the Youth4Climate (Y4C) platform



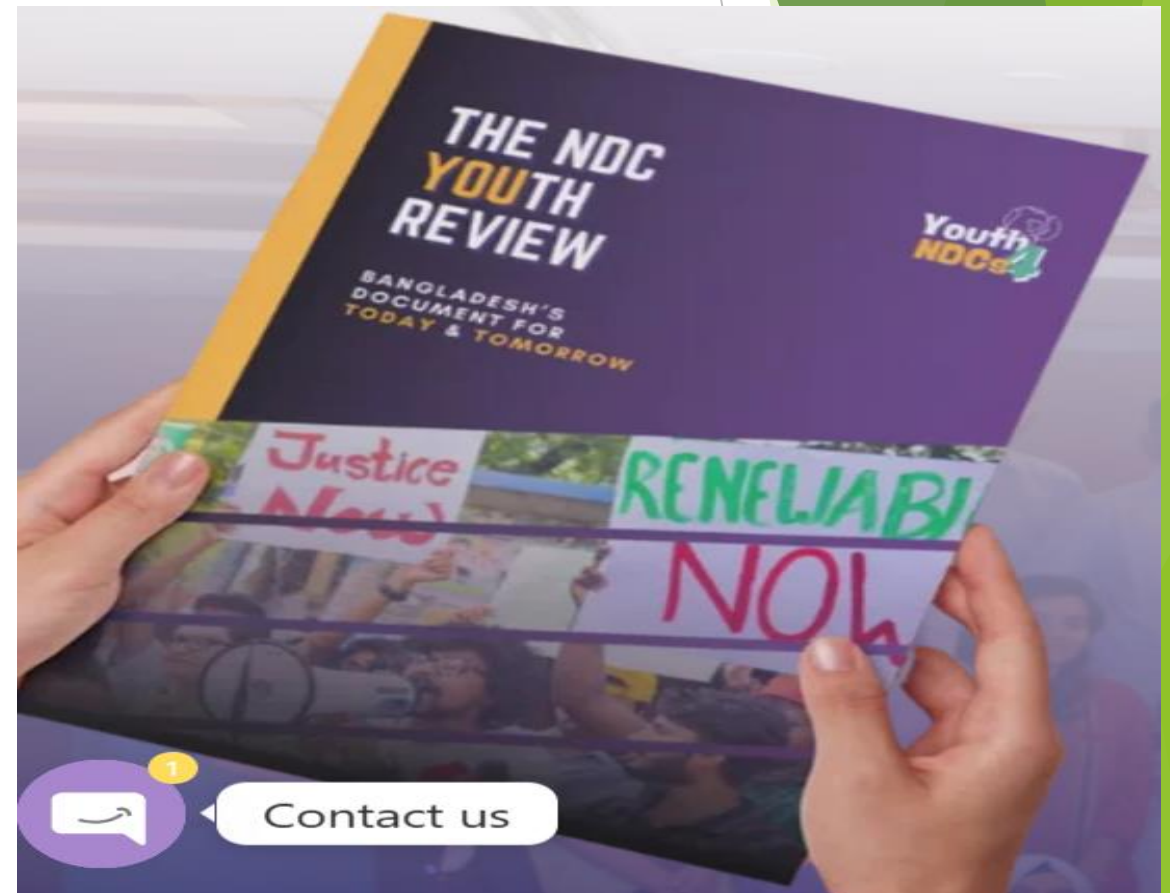
Success stories and best practices on meaningful youth engagement in NDCs

1. The On Equal Terms : A Checklist developed by UNDP for Decision Makers and Practitioners on a Youth-Inclusive NDC Process



Document Type: Guidelines, handbooks, toolkits
Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 10: Reduced inequalities; Goal 13: Climate action
Topics: Capacity development, Nature, Social inclusion, Youth

2. The NDC Youth Review done by Youth4NDCs in Bangladesh
The first comprehensive review of Bangladesh's NDC. Done by the youth, for the government, for the people.



Youths4NDCs sees a world where young people are leading the positive change we need.

YOUNGO PARTNER ORGANISATIONS FOR PROMOTING EFFECTIVE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN NDCs

They include:

- ▶ International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change (IIYFCC)
- ▶ United Nations Development Program (UNDP),
- ▶ Youth4Climate Engagement.

OUTLOOKS

- ▶ The **YOUNGO NDC Working Group** can enhance its impact on youth engagement under the **Paris Agreement by considering** the following recommendations:
- ▶ **Develop structured training programs** on NDC tracking, climate finance, and policy engagement.
- ▶ **Create an online resource hub** with toolkits, case studies, and policy briefs to empower members.
- ▶ **Strengthen its collaboration with governments institutions** which will enable YOUNGO member participation in national workshops that involve the elaboration, revision or implementation of climate policies (notably the NDCs, NAPs, and LT-LEDS)

THANK YOU.



United Nations
Climate Change



Opened Discussion:

Challenges of youth involvement in climate action in the region





United Nations
Climate Change



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Mentimeter:
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youth to advance climate
action in the region (10
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Answer questions

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Closing Remarks



Walters Tubua

Regional Lead

UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for West
and Central Africa



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