



**COP28**  
**UAE**

**UN CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPIONS**



June 1, 2023

Excellency,

Inclusive engagement is at the heart of COP 28 and the UNFCCC process, underpinning our mission to achieve the transformational progress and action the world demands of us today. We are committed to engaging all stakeholders in implementing the Paris Agreement and wish to include all the groups most directly affected by climate change in the discussions and negotiations at COP, particularly in the context of the Global Stocktake.

We are therefore writing to urge a significant shift this year towards increased participation and meaningful engagement of youth, women, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples as members of Party and observer delegations to COP, and in climate decision-making, policy and action in the lead up to and during COP 28.

Party recognition of the need for enhanced inclusion of these stakeholders is already well-established through commitments made during COP 26 and COP 27, including the Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment, the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and the second three-year workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.

We, as the signatories of this letter, are committed to partnering with Parties and observers to deliver on these commitments. We invite delegations to join us in the following actions:

1. Increase diversity within national delegations (with strong and equitable representation of youth, women, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples and those most impacted by climate change), and provide appropriate and relevant training to develop the capacity of such delegates to lead climate negotiations and participate in decision-making processes, and ensure gender balance in leadership roles and representation across negotiation areas.
2. Organise inclusive consultations with children and young people, women and girls, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples in your countries to inform your negotiation teams, ensuring diverse views are represented.
3. Strengthen efforts to enhance access to finance, education, tools, and other resources that are critical for meaningful inclusion and participation of children and youth, women, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples in climate decision-making and policy design and implementation processes.
4. Consider age-diverse and gender-balanced perspectives, including those of local communities and Indigenous Peoples, across all engagements and initiatives ahead of and during COP 28 and commit to age-diverse and gender-balanced panels, workshops, and other events.



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In response to the above calls to action, the incoming COP Presidency is represented by a negotiations team, which is majority women and over 60 per cent below the age of 35. The incoming COP Presidency has also launched a National Youth Climate Delegate Program, enabling the participation of 10 young people in United Nations Climate Change negotiations, and associated public-private initiatives, building their capacity, and better integrating youth voices and ambitions into the process.

In addition, continuing the successful appointment of a designated youth envoy by the COP 27 Presidency, the incoming COP 28 Presidency has appointed Shamma Al Mazrui to the position of Youth Climate Champion (YCC) as part of the COP 28 leadership team. The YCC will lead youth engagement within the incoming Presidency and work to ensure youth are fully integrated in the negotiation process throughout the year towards the implementation of prior COP decisions, as well as striving to amplify youth voices and mobilise substantive support for youth capacity-building and youth-led projects.

These are simply two examples of initiatives being undertaken this year at an institutional and national level to ensure more meaningful representation and engagement opportunities for all stakeholders within the process, and we invite Parties to share their own.

We thank you in advance for your partnership in accelerating inclusive climate action as an investment in our society, economy, and planet and look forward to the exchange of lessons learned and successful practices over the course of the year.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

*(Signed by)*

Simon Stiell  
Executive Secretary  
UNFCCC

*(Signed by)*

His Excellency  
Dr Sultan Al Jaber  
COP28 President-  
designate  
United Arab Emirates

*(Signed by)*

Her Excellency  
Razan Al Mubarak  
High-Level  
Champion  
Incoming COP28  
Presidency  
United Arab Emirates

*(Signed by)*

Her Excellency  
Shamma Al Mazrui  
Youth Climate  
Champion  
Incoming COP28  
Presidency  
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*(Signed by)*

Jayathma  
Wickramanayake  
Secretary-General's  
Envoy on Youth  
United Nations