

EVENT
REPORT

YOUTH4 CLIMATE

Powering Action

GLOBAL
FLAGSHIP
EVENT

20-21 September 2022
New York City, USA



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Youth4Climate is an initiative co-led by the Italian Government and UNDP, the leading United Nations organization in fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change.

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THE 'YOUTH4CLIMATE: POWERING ACTION GLOBAL FLAGSHIP EVENT, IN NUMBERS

(COLLECTED ON 27 OCTOBER 2022)

200
IN PERSON
ATTENDEES,
FROM
92
COUNTRIES

491 online participants who joined the event on Zoom online seminar

743 views of the Y4C live streaming (YouTube)

5.8k unique visitors on youth4climate.info

31k impressions on Twitter with hashtag #youth4climate in the week surrounding the event

117 posts on Instagram with hashtag #poweringaction since May 2022

400+ tweets with hashtag #poweringaction since May 2022

30+ articles on Y4C event since 19 September 2022

8.1k+ impressions on Twitter on 20 September 2022

300+ profiles created on community.youth4climate.info (Y4C Engagement Platform)

In-person participants by countries of origin:

AFRICA

Madagascar, Sao Tome e Principe, Angola, Malawi, Burundi, Nigeria, Niger, Benin, Burkina Faso, Seychelles, Mauritius, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda.

ARAB STATES

Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Somalia, Oman, UAE, Syria, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan and Qatar.

ASIA PACIFIC

Feds. Sts of Micronesia, Lao, Bangladesh, Fiji, China, Kiribati, Japan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, India, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

EAST EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan, Slovakia, Albania, Moldova, Cyprus, Serbia, Romania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tajikistan, North Macedonia, Georgia and Ukraine.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Brazil, Dominican Republic, Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Belize, Costa Rica, Colombia, Argentina, Barbados, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Grenada, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia and The Bahamas.

WESTERN EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND OTHERS

Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, UK and USA.

BACKGROUND

Youth4Climate (Y4C) is a global initiative, launched in May 2022, co-led by the Government of Italy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The initiative has its Secretariat in the UNDP Rome Centre for Climate Action and Energy Transition. Y4C brings together existing and new online and offline resources, tools, capacities, partnerships, networks, and movements led by and designed for youth, with a strong focus on implementation of solutions, for more sustained impact on climate on the ground. It aims to foster an inclusive, safe and enabling environment for youth to lead and partner with other stakeholders on climate action through three main components:

Component 1 – The Youth4Climate flagship global event. The annual Youth4Climate flagship global event builds on the Youth4Climate Manifesto and it is dedicated to enhancing the results achieved by the initiative, focusing on youth-led climate action and implementation of solutions.

Component 2 – Youth4Climate Solutions. A Call for Solutions was launched during the Youth4Climate: Powering Action 2022 event. The Call for Solutions focuses on the development of solutions and provides an opportunity to generate and implement innovative approaches to drive climate action around 4 areas: Food and Agriculture; Urban Resilience; Education; Energy.

Component 3: The Youth4Climate Engagement Platform to sustain meaningful and long-term engagement with and for youth, by making possible the generation and exchange of knowledge, opportunities, experiences, and resources in a new global virtual space.

OBJECTIVES OF THE YOUTH4CLIMATE: POWERING ACTION EVENT 2022

- Present the Youth4Climate (Y4C) initiative to a variety of stakeholders, including Y4C participants, other young climate leaders active in their communities, youth networks, newcomers in the climate space, social enterprises, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, and other partner organizations.
- Share promising practices on and deep-dive in the four areas of the Youth4Climate Manifesto (Youth Driving Ambition, Sustainable Recovery, Non-State Actors' Engagement and Climate Conscious Society) with a focus on youth-led solutions.
- Reflect on challenges and opportunities linked to implementation and provide peer-to-peer learning.
- Launch new opportunities for support and engagement (Youth4Climate call for solutions, Youth4Climate engagement platform).

GOVERNANCE OF THE EVENT:

- Secretariat: The Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition and UNDP jointly coordinate activities, as mandated by the Youth4Climate Steering Committee.
- Advisory Committee: This youth-inclusive body shapes relevant activities and is co-chaired by the Secretariat. It includes the UNFCCC Secretariat, Connect4Climate - World Bank Group, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the Children and Youth constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (YOUNGO), the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change, and four young representatives from the previous Youth4Climate event in Milan.

THE PREPARATION FOR THE EVENT:

- Announcement of the Youth4Climate initiative on 20 May 2022
- Virtual workshops covering all four thematic areas of the Youth4Climate Manifesto - e.g., Youth Driving Ambition; Sustainable Recovery; Non-State Actors' Engagement; A Climate-Conscious Society (6 and 20 July 2022).
- Preparatory meeting (virtual) with young participants (info-session): 15 September 2022.
- Awareness-raising on meaningful youth engagement on the Youth4Climate initiative through relevant youth and climate events in the context of:
- Stockholm+50, where Connect4Climate - World Bank Group hosted a social media corner, interviewing young climate leaders. Some of these interviews were featured in Youth4Climate video clips during the Africa Climate Week and Youth4Climate: Powering Action flagship global event. UNDP also hosted [UNDP Hour](#) in collaboration with We Don't Have Time at the STHLM+50 Climate Hub interviewing young members of the Advisory Committee.
- The Latin America and Africa Climate Weeks
- [Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform](#) (YECAP), which supported communication and engagement of young climate leaders from Asia and the Pacific
- [The Youth4Climate website](#)
- [The Youth4Climate engagement platform](#)
- The Youth4Climate video [challenge](#) campaign launched in July 2022
- A Youth4Climate [Trello Board](#) launched in May 2022 and a Social Media toolkit disseminated before the event.

YOUTH4CLIMATE: POWERING ACTION 2022 KEY HIGHLIGHTS - DAY 1

The Youth4Climate: Powering Action flagship global event took place on 20 September in New York City at Jay Suites (15W 38th Street, Manhattan, New York City).

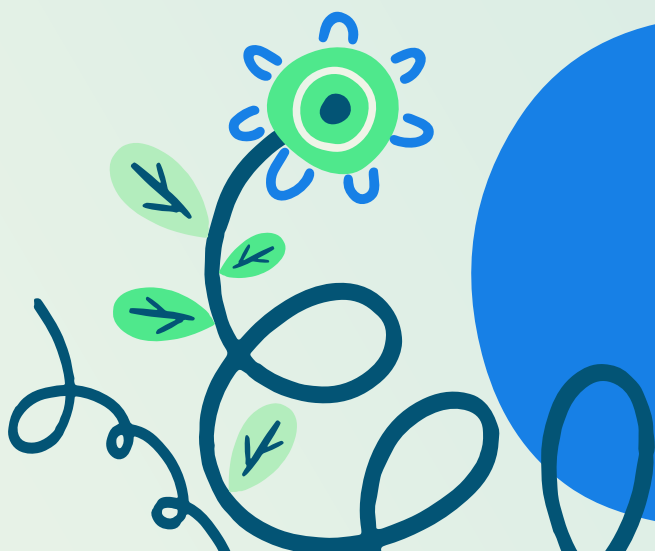
Overview of the event:

The event featured 150 young people from all regions of the world. The programme was organized around plenary sessions with young speakers, high-level representatives from Italy and UNDP and other high-level speakers from the United Nations (UN) and other entities.

Key themes included youth meaningful engagement in climate action, climate justice and a deep-dive into youth-led implementation of solutions, around the four areas of the Youth4Climate manifesto, allowing for peer-to-peer exchange and a reflection on how to enhance support to youth and impact, and partnership-building and funding.

The last plenary session included key Youth4Climate launching moments and other announcements related to opportunities for youth in this area before the closing of the event.

The event's Masters of Ceremony (MCs) were two youth leaders, Ms. Sara Cognuck-González, Youth in Climate Action, from Costa Rica and Mr. Chiagozie Udeh, Youth Climate Activist, from Nigeria.



OPENING SESSION

The opening session was joined by young climate leaders **Mr. Jeremiah Thoronka** from Sierra Leone, **Ms. Louise Mabulo** from the Philippines, and high-level representatives of the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition and UNDP, co-conveners of the Youth4Climate: Powering Action event. **H.E. Minister Roberto Cingolani**, from the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition, and **Mr. Haoliang Xu, Assistant Administrator from UNDP**, addressed the audience and welcomed participants to the event. **H.E. Ms. Amina J Mohammed**, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, addressed the audience through a powerful [video message](#).

PERSONAL STORIES OVERVIEW

- Jeremiah is from Sierra Leone, a country highly affected by floods, energy scarcity and other climate related issues. He started a project aimed to explore additional energy options, outside of the fossil fuels industry. He developed an alternative device based on a climate friendly energy system. He currently works with 150 households and 15 schools, with around 10 thousand people.

"Go back to your homes and look for a problem to solve. Create networks, do not be scared to share their ideas, stop waiting for someone to come, act."

Jeremiah Thoronka
Founder Optim Energy, Sierra Leone.

- Louise presented the work she is conducting within the food systems in the Philippines. As she said, food systems are complex and involve several stakeholders, including farmers, producers, and others, who are usually the most vulnerable to climate change consequences. Louise works with projects to restore ecosystems, with several young people, virtually and in-person. She emphasized the fact that it is crucial to tackle the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger before acting on any other SDG.

"We can't bring awareness nor education to people who have an empty stomach"

Louise Mabulo
Founder, The Cacao Project /
United Nations
Environmental Programme (UNEP)
Young Champion of the Earth,
the Philippines

Masters of ceremony, Sara Cognuck-González,
and Chiagozie Udeh. Photo credits: Connect4Climate



KEY MESSAGES

- Young people bring creativity and innovation to tackle the climate crisis. Youth should feel empowered to present concrete proposals and solutions to decision-makers, as well as receive the necessary support to implement them.
- Young people must exercise their right to hold leaders accountable for their promises to fight climate change and invest in renewable energy and green solutions. Greenwashing should not be accepted.
- Meaningful youth engagement is a crucial element within the climate agenda. While decisions are made by politicians and governments, young people make a real practical difference. Young people present and implement solutions towards advancing ambitious climate action.
- The United Nations and partners, including the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition, are committed to ensuring that young people have a seat at the table where decisions are made, making sure youth are empowered to take action.

Photo credits: Connect4Climate



"We have to ensure that climate action is rooted in human rights and meaningful engagement with youth."

Amina J. Mohammed
Deputy Secretary-General
of the United Nations



Haoliang Xu
Photo credits: Connect4Climate

Jeremiah Thoronka
Photo credits: Connect4Climate



Noella Richard, Rose Kobusinge, Emir Delić
Photo credits: Connect4Climate

PLENARY SESSION 1: YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF CLIMATE ACTION - YOUTH MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

Plenary session 1 was co-moderated by:

Ms. Archana Soreng, member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change (YAG), from India & **Ms. Noella Richard**, Global team leader on youth empowerment, from UNDP.

The key speakers who joined the session were:

Ms. Kehkashan Basu MSM, Founder-President of Green Hope Foundation, Canada; **Mr. Johannes Goudjanou**, UN Young climate champion, CEO of PREMIUM HORTUS, COY17 Global Affairs Unit - country contact point (CCP), Benin; **Mr. Emir Delić**, Youth Environmental and Climate leader, Bosnia and Herzegovina; **Ms. Rose Kobusinge**, Climate Justice Advocate, Uganda; **Ms. Paloma Costa**, Member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group (YAG), Brazil; **Ms. Kantuta Conde**, Indigenous Youth Climate Activist, Bolivia; **Ms. Sarah Rattray**, Global Policy Specialist for Human Rights, UNDP Crisis Bureau; **Mr. Elijah James**, National Coordinator for the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) in Antigua and Barbuda, CEO / Founder - The Local App; **Ms. Nisreen Elsaïm**, Chair of the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change (YAG), Sudan

and **Ms. Maria Eugenia Di Paola**, Environment and Sustainable Development Coordinator, UNDP Country office in Argentina.

The key respondents of the session were: **H.E. Ms. Tina Stege**, Climate Envoy for the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; **Mr. Zitouni Ould-Dada**, Deputy Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO and **Mr. Probin Tripura**, Fellow, YECAP (Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform).

The session aimed to discuss meaningful youth engagement, climate justice and governance, and youth leadership. With diverse sets of speakers, the session was divided into three sub sessions:

1. Meaningful youth leadership
2. Climate crisis and human rights
3. Ensuring that meaningful youth leadership is embedded in institutional infrastructures, pushing implementation forward.



KEY MESSAGES

1. What does meaningful youth engagement mean to young people?

- Recognizing youth expertise and including youth as collaborators, equal partners, and co-designers at all levels is crucial.
- Children and young people represent the majority of the global population. They need to be included in discussions and decision-making tables, and to influence and shape decisions that affect their lives and future.
- Meaningful youth engagement means generating awareness and providing education for all. One of the speakers, Rose Kobusinge from Uganda, shared her experience conducting a survey on how much the population knew about climate change in her country. Results from the survey showed that 90% of the respondents had limited knowledge of climate change, despite facing its impacts on a daily basis.
- Meaningful youth engagement means including youth as collaborators/leaders of projects. For example, Emir Delić, a young climate leader from Bosnia and Herzegovina, partners with UNDP in the implementation of the [Strengthening of Green Network initiative](#) funded by the Italian government. This project promotes education and awareness on climate change, while teaching people that individual action matters, such as planting trees.
- Capacity development is an essential element to promote meaningful youth engagement. The [Strengthening of Green Network initiative](#) in Bosnia and Herzegovina aims to build capacity and teach youth how to write project proposals. It enables ideas to be translated into concrete solutions.

"There is no talking of climate without talking about climate justice."

Paloma Costa
Member of the United Nations
Secretary-General's Youth
Advisory Group (YAG), Brazil

2. Why is the climate crisis a human rights issue?

- Several violations of human rights still happen in all parts of the world. Although youth are at the frontlines of climate action, and play a crucial role in tackling climate change, there is a lack of safe civic spaces for youth.
- Young environmental defenders stand up for communities, ecosystems, and biodiversity, and they need both protection and support.
- Although indigenous youth have a responsibility to ensure that their traditional knowledge of environment, culture and relationship with nature is passed through generations, they are often marginalized and excluded from discussions and decision-making tables.
- The climate crisis is a human rights crisis because it affects all human rights. There is no life, health, education, strong food system, without tackling climate change. The actions and promises made today affect current and future generations. Policies need to take all generations into account and ensure a human rights-based, inclusive approach.

"Indigenous peoples should be leaders of climate action, not victims of climate policies."

Archana Soreng
Member of the United Nations
Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group
on Climate Change (YAG), India

"Climate change is a human rights issue because it affects all human rights, be it the right to life, health, education, it affects all of them."

Sarah Rattray
Global Policy Specialist for Human Rights,
UNDP Crisis Bureau

"To address the climate crisis, means to ensure the indigenous peoples' rights: rights to their land, self-determination and traditional knowledge."

Kantuta Conde
Indigenous Youth Climate Activist, Bolivia

"We need to stop asking to be part of the decision-making table, we need to make our own table and take charge of the issue."

Mr. Elijah James
National Coordinator for the Caribbean
Youth Environment Network (CYEN)
in Antigua and Barbuda, CEO /Founder -
The Local App

"Avoid youth washing. Do not give youth the fish, teach young people how to fish, it is more sustainable, more reliable and they will fish very creatively."

Nisreen Elsaïm
Chair of the United Nations
Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group
on Climate Change (YAG), Sudan

"Science and traditional knowledge should walk side by side; we need both to fight climate change."

Tina Stege
Climate Envoy for the Government
of the Republic of the Marshall Islands

Maria Eugenia di Paola, Nisreen Elsaïm,
Elijah James, Archana Soreng
Photo credits: Connect4Climate

3. Key recommendations on how to enhance the institutionalization of meaningful youth engagement.

- Youth participation, in its diversity, should not be labeled only around activism and protest. Young people need to be recognized for their knowledge and expertise.
- To include youth in discussions and decision-making processes in a meaningful way, intergenerational solidarity and concrete action points are needed.
- Education and financial resources need to be accessible to youth. More education and financial resources should be channeled to young people worldwide. Together, youth have the potential to find a way to fix the energy problem for a sustainable future.
- Agreements such as the Escazu agreement, from the Latin America and the Caribbean region, are an important milestone and should be scaled up in other regions. Such agreements are crucial tools to enable spaces for institutionalized meaningful youth engagement.
- Inclusion and engagement with non-state actors are crucial for success in tackling climate change. Global media, for instance, plays a pivotal role in information and knowledge sharing. It could be a powerful ally to ensure young voices are listened to.
- Media is the most powerful global information sharing tool and should be used for prevention and early warning systems.



SPECIAL ADDRESSES

The special addresses session was moderated by Minister Roberto Cingolani. The Prime Minister of Italy, H.E. Mr. Mario Draghi, UNDP Administrator, Mr. Achim Steiner and Ms. Okalani Mariner, Human Rights Advisor for Children and Youth and 350 Pacific Climate Warriors Spokesperson from Samoa addressed the audience with remarks on meaningful youth engagement and leadership, as well as the importance of working with youth as collaborators and shapers of projects, agendas, and policies.

Roberto Cingolani, Mario Draghi, Achim Steiner, Okalani Mariner/photo credits: Connect4Climate

KEY MESSAGES:

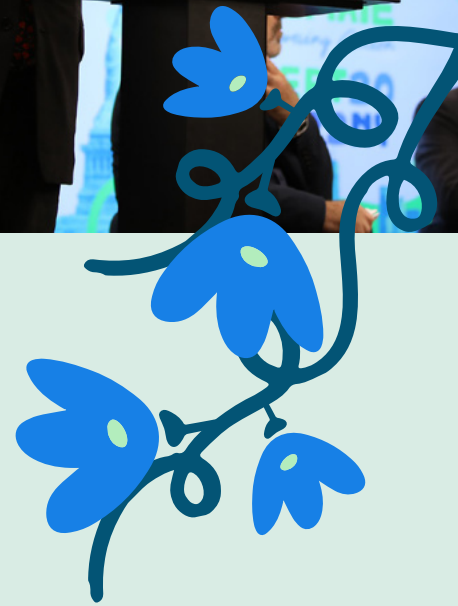
- Collaboration among all stakeholders is key to defeating climate change and ensuring a better future. Leaders need to recognize young people's role, they are the greatest, most imaginative, innovative, and risk-taking allies.
- As part of the most affected by climate change, people from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are pioneering renewable energy practices in diverse communities. We should all pay attention to the work that is being done by grassroots movements and local communities; those examples bring us hope and show us resilience.
- Youth should exercise their civil right to hold leaders accountable and exercise fact checking on promises and deliverables in their country/region. If not delivered, youth should push for change and drive ambition.

"Young people should co-create, co-design and shape responses needed to tackle climate change. We need action on all fronts."

Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator



Achim Steiner
Photo credits: Connect4Climate



Okalani Mariner, Roberto Cingolani, Mario Draghi
Photo credits: Connect4Climate



Roberto Cingolani, Mario Draghi,
Achim Steiner, Okalani Mariner
Photo credits: Connect4Climate



PLENARY SESSION 3A: DEEP DIVE INTO YOUTH4CLIMATE PROMISING PRACTICES

Plenary session 3A was co-moderated by **Ms. Cassie Flynn**, Strategic Advisor on Climate Change and Head of Climate Promise, UNDP; and **Mr. Vladislav Kaim**, Member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group (YAG), Moldova.

The focus of this session was to deep dive into youth-led on-the-ground implementation of solutions, with focus on themes 1 & 2 of the Y4C Manifesto - Youth Driving Ambition & Sustainable Recovery. The session focused on detailed experience sharing, as well as advice, challenges and more discussions around implementation and support for youth-led solutions.

The speakers of the session were **Ms. Mai Ngoc Xuan Hoang**, Advisor, Youth for Climate Action Network Vietnam (YNET); **Mr. Kilino Stojkov**, Social Entrepreneur from Serbia, and **Mr. Axell Sutton**, Author of a Sustainable Energy Guide for Young people, and UNICEF Consultant from Mexico.

The key respondents who addressed the session were **H.E. Ms. Shamma Bint Suhail Faris Al Mazrui**, Minister of State for Youth in the United Arab Emirates; **Ms. Caroline Dumas**, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Director General's Special Envoy for Migration and Climate Action, and **Mr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya**, UNDP Head of Team, Natural Capital Environment, Climate and Energy.

KEY MESSAGES:

Young people lead on climate ambition and solutions: what does ambition look like to you?

- Ambition means doing beyond what is expected from you and innovating, creating something new. Mai shared her experience with UN climate work through writing. As a young person, she involved herself with [Climate Tracker](#), she authored stories based on research in Viet Nam. With that knowledge, she then led the process of creating the first special report on Youth for Climate Action in Viet Nam, in collaboration with the UNDP country office.
- Ambition means innovating and finding diverse paths to tackle an issue. Axell shared the story of his childhood, growing up in a highly polluted city in Mexico. His city was so polluted that he felt a need to change things around him. He wanted to drive energy transition and give correspondent education and training aimed at empowering youth. Axell developed a [climate education platform](#) with several applications for education on sustainable development.
- Ambition means to never give up, even if you feel you are not an expert in the topic you are working on. Kilino started his career as a [human rights activist for the Roma community](#). When COVID 19 hit, he started hearing about climate change as one of the causes for the health crisis. His community did not have access to health services and was severely affected by the pandemic. He developed a project on climate adaptation and recycling to fight climate change. After 1.5 years reaching out to diverse stakeholders, he finally received funding from an international organization. His project, Connecting Roma Group, became the biggest national project in Serbia. Kilino is now partnering with UNDP to develop a green agenda in the country, and he is collaborating with the national government to develop policies and projects to tackle GHG emissions.
- Acting with ambition means taking all local needs into account and adapting when necessary. The climate crisis is a complex problem, and it does not affect all communities in the same way. Specific local realities need to be considered when drafting policies and implementing solutions.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is ready to support youth ambition and include youth as equal partners at COP28. They want to design a COP that is relevant for young people, including presenting opportunities for capacity building of youth. Education and capacity building are their top priorities to ensure youth empowerment.
- IOM has been working on capacity building programs to empower young refugees and young people that have been internally displaced.

What are the core aspects that make sustainable recovery in a country youth-friendly?

- The pillar for sustainable recovery is education and making education accessible for all. Axell is currently developing a toolkit on energy education. He stated that everyone needs to understand where energy comes from, since most of it comes from fossil fuels and generates pollution. To drive change, people need to have the tools to understand the complexity of climate change and develop the capacity to think differently.
- Making education, resources, and platforms accessible in all languages is key. The climate agenda, including the climate youth agenda, are dominated by English speakers. If education is not accessible to all, change cannot happen.
- Sustainable recovery can only happen if solutions are applicable locally. Local communities and indigenous peoples need to be included in discussions that affect their daily life as they are better placed to know the reality on the ground.
- Governments and stakeholders should facilitate access to financial resources to scale up youth-led solutions from local to global levels. Collaboration among parties should be strengthened and promoted to ensure sufficient resources are allocated for this purpose.

"You do not need to be a big expert to make a significant impact in the world. Sometimes, small ideas can create a system that the world can adapt and present something for the future. Young people do not want to be the future, we want to be a present."

Kilino Stojkov
Social Entrepreneur from Serbia

How can UNDP support young people that want to scale up the funding to youth-led projects, solutions?

- The [UNDP Climate Promise](#) is the world's largest offer of support to countries on national climate pledges under the Paris Agreement. These pledges, or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), are crucial steppingstones towards net-zero emissions and meeting the Paris Agreement goals. The initiative supports over 120 countries, in collaboration with over 35 partners and is a major contribution to the NDC Partnership. Young people have been an intrinsic part of this NDC enhancement process across the globe, with UNDP's support to youth-inclusive and youth-responsive climate initiatives spanning across 80 countries in all five regions. Notably, approximately 80% of Climate Promise countries' latest NDCs now include considerations of young people compared to 40% of first-generation NDCs.
- UNDP supports youth empowerment in more than 100 countries and implements more than 900 projects targeting youth as beneficiaries. [UNDP's first Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace – Youth-GPS \(2016-2020 - extended 2022\)](#), is a global programmatic offer on youth empowerment, designed to sharpen the organization's response to the challenges young people face worldwide, boost the implementation of [UNDP's Youth Strategy 2014-2017](#) and the [UN Youth Strategy: Youth2030](#), the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the [United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2250, 2419 and 2535](#) on Youth, Peace and Security on Youth, Peace and Security.
- UNDP Youth-GPS adopts a multi-dimensional approach to meaningful youth engagement, focusing on civic engagement and political participation, peacebuilding and resilience building, economic empowerment and positioning youth as key partners in the 2030 Agenda implementation and monitoring.

Cassie Flynn, Kilino Stojkov, Axell Sutton,
Mai Ngoc Xuan Hoang, Vladislav Kaim
Photo credits: Connect4Climate



PLENARY SESSION 3B: DEEP DIVE INTO YOUTH4CLIMATE PROMISING PRACTICES

Plenary session 3B was co-moderated by **H.E. Mr Alessandro Modiano**, Special Envoy for Climate Change from the government of Italy, and **Ms. Evgenia Chamilou**, UN Youth Champion for Environment and Peace from Cyprus.

This session mirrored the structure of session 3A, there was a deep dive into youth-led on the ground implementation of solutions. The focus, however, was on themes 3 and 4 of the Youth4Climate Manifesto - Non-State Actors' Engagement & Climate Conscious Societies. The session focused on detailed experience sharing, as well as advice, challenges and more discussions around implementation and support for youth-led solutions.

The speakers of the session **Mr. Máximo Mazzocco**, Founder [Eco House Global](#) & Generation17 young leader from Argentina, **Ms. Careen Joel**, Co-Founder - No Taka Tanzania and **Mr. Pengsan Huon**, Young climate activist, Youth Engagement Manager at Impact Hub, and Movers Envoy of Movers Programme, Cambodia

The key respondents who addressed the session were **H.E. Dr Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya**, Minister of Environment of Rwanda, **Ms. Omnia El Omrani**, COP27 President Envoy on Youth, from Egypt, **Ms. Valerie Hickey**, Global Director, Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy, the World Bank and **Ms. Sheila Aggarwal-Khan**, Director of the Economy Division, UNEP.

KEY MESSAGES:

How do you imagine cooperating with non-state actors?

- Non-state actors are pivotal in the role of society to achieve sustainability. Careen, who is a climate advocate and co-founder of Eco Hub, a mobile tech, affirmed that non-state actors are crucial partners to communicate the impact of the work that is being done on the ground. She would like to collaborate closely with the media to increase the visibility of her project, No Taka, and its social impact. [No Taka](#) provides education on policy and negotiation processes, and it would benefit from this collaboration.
- Collaboration with non-state actors is essential for access to financial support. Financial institutions and civil society should contribute to allocate the necessary funding to youth-led projects and solutions.
- Collaboration with non-state actors is also needed to implement solutions locally. With the right partnership, projects receive the right tools to implement solutions on the ground, taking into consideration the needs of the communities. In partnership with organizations, civil society, youth groups and local entities, the government of Argentina passed a law to formalize climate education as part of the school and university curriculum. As a next step, the government also made climate education mandatory for public servants, so that they are well informed and prepared to support projects, policies, and initiatives.



Alessandro Modiano, Careen, Maximo, Pengsan Huon, Evgenia Chamilou
Photo credits: Connect4Climate



Alessandro Modiano, Careen, Maximo,
Pengsan Huon, Evgenia Chamilou
Photo credits: Connect4Climate

- Collaboration with non-state actors means working with all stakeholders and providing safe spaces for information sharing. Pengsan comes from an education background and highlighted the importance of having platforms and spaces that provide a safe environment for information sharing and communication on climate, SDGs and youth-led projects impacts. He shared that, in Cambodia, the Minister of Education brought books on climate education to the country and made climate education compulsory for children. He is now working on [climate action projects](#) and making climate information accessible in local languages. There are many projects being implemented in his country that tackle food waste and plastic recycling, but they do not receive enough visibility. More platforms are needed for youth to share their impact, scale up their solutions and access more funding opportunities.
- Climate finance is fragmented. People need to communicate with each other to ensure projects are eligible to receive financial resources. To have faster and easier access to funding, there must be a formal structure in place, with the right management and capacity to apply the financial resources.

What are the expectations for COP 27?

- Omnia, the first ever youth representative of a COP presidency, shared that Egypt wants a transformative shift at COP 27, with intergenerational dialogues and solidarity. They want to change the narrative at COP 27 and amplify youth-led solutions. Omnia emphasized that COP 27 will be accessible for youth. She urged participants to share inputs with her on how to make the transformative shift at COP this year.

How should climate conscious societies drive ambition?

- Investors need to allocate funds to areas that are tackling net zero goals.
- Young people, civil society, non-state actors and all stakeholders need to collaborate and support each other as equal partners to ensure that youth have access to the right funding. Accessing funding can be a complex process.

"Rwanda's population is composed mostly of youth. Youth are asking – do not do anything for us without us, and we are listening."

**Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya
Minister of Environment, Rwanda**



Photo credits: Connect4Climate

PLENARY SESSION 4A: ENHANCING FINANCING AND PARTNERSHIPS TO BOOST YOUTH4CLIMATE ACTIONS

After a brief introduction, the World Café format aimed to facilitate an open dialogue in a casual format between youth and partner organizations, with the opportunity for both sides to learn from each other to better facilitate partnerships and financial support.

The young speakers who framed the topic of the session were **Mr. Nathan Metenier**, Member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Youth Advisory Group (YAG) Young Climate Justice Activist, from France; **Mx Kami Krista**, CEO & Co-Founder of Elio from Austria; **Mr. Chiagozie Udeh**, Youth Climate Activist from Nigeria and **Ms. Sriranjini Raman**, Youth Climate Activist and founding member of Fridays for Future from India.

The participants who joined the group discussions were **Ms. Anna Tunkel**, Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships & Global Engagement, [APCO Worldwide](#); **Ms. Angelica Shamerina**, Climate Change Program Advisor, Regional Focal Point for Latin America and Caribbean and Francophone Arab States, GEF Small Grants Programme, UNDP; **Mr. Eugenio Donadio**, Chief Impact Officer, [Goodwall](#); **Mr. Iain Keith**, Climate Emergency Collaboration Group; **Ms. Jennifer Baumwoll**, UNDP Climate Promise; **Mr. Sam Vaghar**, Millennium Fellowship; **Mr. Xavier Michon**, Deputy Executive Secretary,

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF); **Mr. Sanjiv Sanghavi**, Venture Partner, Climate, [Day One Ventures](#); **Mr. Robin Oakley**, Co-Director, UMI Fund; **Mr. Theo Mitchell**, Director Europe & International, Climate, [Children's Investment Fund Foundation](#); **Ms. Mia Diawara**, Partner - [Lowercarbon Capital](#), and **Ms. Suman Sureshbabu**, Managing Director, Demand, Jobs and Livelihoods at the [Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet \(GEAPP\)](#), [Rockefeller Foundation](#).



Photo credits: Connect4Climate

Kami Krista and Nathan Metenier moderated this informal session.

This session welcomed a variety of organizations and initiatives, including representatives of some of the top climate ventures, such as Lowercarbon Capital, climate fellowships, such as the 776 Fellowship, and philanthropic foundations, such as Rockefeller. The World Café format enabled a focused, candid, and tailored exchange that was on eye-level for all participants, giving attendees the opportunity to shape the direction of the conversation. In return, speakers had the opportunity to learn from the real-life experiences of young climate leaders and reflect on how resources can be better allocated to support them.

The session's interactive nature was its greatest strength, leading to every participant and speaker walking away with key learnings, new partnerships, and perspectives on how to access finance tools.

"Out of all the sessions, Youth4Climate participants were the most focused, engaged, and respectful of the speakers that joined during the World Cafe session. You could see that every circle was completely tuned in to what was being shared and there was a level of curiosity and excitement that meant it was almost impossible to break up the conversations, speakers, and attendees alike. It shows the immense value and importance of creating interactive sessions to build more personal relationships and exchanges between the participants."

This also showed itself in the feedback we received. Youth4Climate attendees came up to me after the session individually, sharing that it was the best session of the day and the one they took the most away from."

Kami Krista
CEO & Co-Founder of Elio, Austria

PLENARY SESSION 4B: NEXT STEPS: WE ARE TOGETHER NEW YOUTH4CLIMATE OPPORTUNITIES, COMMITMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Youth4Climate Challenge: Call for Solutions was announced together with the launch of a new Youth4Climate engagement platform (community.youth4climate.info), also accessible from the main Youth4Climate website (www.youth4climate.info).

- The Youth4Climate engagement platform does not replace or aim to duplicate any existing initiative or virtual spaces created and led by youth. It is simply meant to sustain meaningful and long-term engagement with and for youth, by making possible the generation and exchange of substantive knowledge, opportunities, experiences, and resources in a Youth4Climate global virtual space.

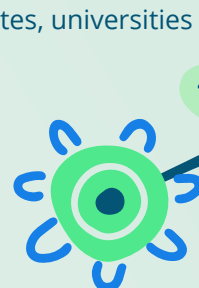
- Call for Solutions:

- o The Youth4Climate Challenge: Call for Solutions focuses on the development of solutions and provides an opportunity to generate and implement innovative approaches to drive climate action.

- o In September 2022, UNDP launched the first call for solutions of the initiative, inviting young innovators, entrepreneurs, and climate leaders from around the world to apply for innovation challenges around four main areas:

- Food and Agriculture
- Urban Resilience
- Education
- Energy

- o The awards include financial support for proposals and non-financial support, such as support to communication, mentoring and training programmes, in collaboration with Italian and international partners, including research institutes, universities and UN agencies.



CLOSING SESSION

KEY MESSAGES:

- UNFCCC announced that the organization will provide spaces for youth to support their advocacy for governments to be held accountable for commitments agreed last year at COP 26, and to ensure governments deliver stronger national plans to tackle climate change. UNFCCC will implement the [Youth4Capacity initiative](#) in 2023, in partnership with the Government of Italy, with in person and online activities and mentorship programs for youth worldwide.
- UNDP urged young people to continue the engagement and exchanges with the various stakeholders.
- Effective implementation of solutions depends on collaboration, support, and investment from all stakeholders.
- A concrete step forward from the Youth4Climate: Powering Action flagship event is the launch of the [Call for Solutions](#), a UNDP led initiative that invites youth to present their proposals to apply for seed funding. The Call for Solutions is now open for applications ending on 2 January 2022. For all details on the various categories, please access the [Youth4Climate engagement platform](#).
- Climate education was mentioned several times during the event, it is a top priority for youth, and it was a top priority of the [Transforming Education Summit](#), which took place on 19 September 2022.

“Young people are in the frontlines of the fight against climate change, however, the lack of funding for youth-led solutions and projects is a reality. Several young people end up investing in themselves and their projects on their own.”

Haoliang Xu
UNDP Assistant Administrator and Bureau
for Policy and Programme Support Director



Photo credits: Connect4Climate

DAY 2 - CHATHAM HOUSE CONVERSATIONS.

Following this flagship global event, UNDP hosted networking sessions, in smaller groups, on youth, climate, gender equality, biodiversity and enabled opportunities for enhanced collaboration with youth. UNDP and other partners from the Global coalition on youth, peace and security also convened a roundtable discussion on urgent issues with young climate activists and young peacebuilders on the International Day of Peace, which is commemorated globally on 21 September.

UNDP hosted smaller group conversations on the topics:

- Biodiversity, Nature, and Forests
- Gender Equality and Climate Action
- Sustainable Energy
- Climate and Human Rights & Governance
- Climate Adaptation

Key references for further reading:

- [SparkBlue Youth Dashboard](#)
- [Aiming higher: Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action \(UNDP 2022\)](#)
- [UNDP webpage on Governance](#)
- [UNDP webpage on Human Rights](#)
- [UNDP Rome Centre for Climate Action and Energy Transition](#)
- [Youth4Climate Engagement Platform](#)
- [Youth4Climate website](#)
- [Secretary-General's Call-to-Action for Human Rights](#)
- [Our Common Agenda](#)
- [Global Report on Protecting Young people in Civic Space](#)
- [UNDP technical paper on environmental justice](#)
- [UNDP guidance on youth political participation](#)

- [UN YPS Programming handbook](#)
- [Youth4Peace.info global platform](#)
- [UNDP Climate Promise](#)
- [Youth4Climate Call for Solutions](#)
- [STEP-UP! Joint commitment by Heads of UN Entities \(Rights of Future generations\)](#)
- [The Loop: UNDP Youth Empowerment Update \(and The Loop: Youth4Climate Special Issue\)](#)
- [Youth4Climate Trello Board](#)
- [Dear World Leaders Campaign](#)

For more information on the roundtable on youth, peace, security, and climate, please access the key takeaways [here](#).

For more information on UNDP's work on, with and for youth, please check [UNDP youth](#) and [SparkBlue Youth Dashboard](#).

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

Flagship event agenda.

ANNEX II

Recommended blogs, articles, and interviews

- [UNDP Youth4Climate web release](#)
- [UNDP: “Everything is achievable if you just believe in what you are doing.” - interviews with young leaders attending Youth4Climate flagship global event](#)
- [UNDP: Youth4Climate: Powering Action, Opening and closing statements delivered by Haoliang Xu at the high-level side event: Youth4Climate: Powering Action alongside the 77th UN General Assembly](#)
- [ONUITALIA: UNGA77: Youth4Climate 2.0 in New York; Draghi “you are the witnesses of the future”](#)
- [Rappresentanza Permanente Italia ONU: Third Committee, 2nd plenary meeting - Item 25 “Social Development”](#)
- [Italian Government - Presidency of the Council of Ministers: Prime Minister Draghi at United Nations General Assembly](#)
- [Prime Minister Mario Draghi’s speech at opening session, Youth4Climate](#)
- [Africa Times: UNGA and African youth: ‘Climate change is real for us’](#)
- [SOBIFM: UNGA 2022: AZEEZ ABUBAKAR Represented Nigeria at “YOUTH4CLIMATE: Powering Action Summit”](#)
- [Qatar Tribune: QF to engage youth and hold key conversations at UNGA 77 19/09/2022](#)
- [UNEP News: Join young people as they advocate for climate action](#)
- [UNDP: Their future, their turn: Youth are shaping our world](#)

- [UNDP: Tapping into the power of young people for climate action](#)
- [UNDP: In their words: Africa’s young innovators and advocates on the climate crisis — and our best hope to address it](#)
- [UNDP: A young Turkish activist works to keep climate change at bay](#)
- [UNDP Asia Pacific Youth: Addressing Environmental and Climate Advocacy Challenges Faced by Indigenous Youth](#)
- [UNDP: These 5 young leaders from the Arab region give us hope for tackling climate change](#)

ANNEX III

Recommended videos

- [Youth4Climate: Powering Action flagship global event and recap video](#)
- [Youth4Climate Powering Action | Flickr Album](#)
- [Ms. Amina J. Mohammed Deputy Secretary-General of the UN - video message at 2022 Youth4Climate: Powering Action flagship global event](#)
- [Prime Minister Mario Draghi’s remarks at Youth4Climate: Powering Action event](#)
- [Video interview with Youth4Climate: young climate leaders powering action across the globe](#)
- [Youth4Climate Challenge](#)
- [Generation17 young leader Máximo Mazzocco video message](#)