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**ARAB**  
YOUTH  
CENTER

**Capacity Building Module:  
Understanding and Utilizing the Policy Report**

# Participant Handbook

**"Empowering Youth Voices in Arab Climate Policy: Policy Implications from the Technical Review of Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs) in the Arab Region"**



**MODULE 1**

# Disclaimer

This capacity-building module is designed to help participants understand and utilize the policy report “Empowering Youth Voices in Arab Climate Policy.” Its primary focus is explaining the report's findings and recommendations and how these can be applied to enhance youth engagement in climate governance. This module is not intended to provide guidance on organizing Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs) or to replace any official YOUNGO processes. For all matters related to LCOY organization, structure, and official procedures, please refer to the official YOUNGO guidelines and resources. The content of this module should be viewed as complementary to, not a substitute for, YOUNGO's established frameworks. Our goal is to enhance understanding of the policy landscape and empower youth to engage effectively with climate policy while respecting and supporting the existing structures within the youth climate movement.



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# Chapter 1 | Introduction to the Policy Report

## 1.1 Context and Purpose of the Policy Report

The report "**Empowering Youth Voices in Arab Climate Policy**" was developed to address the urgent need for inclusive climate action strategies in the Arab region. It explicitly focuses on harnessing youth energy and innovation.

This report is based on **an independent Technical Review of Local and Regional Conferences of Youth in the Arab States**, which analyzed the emergence and impact of these crucial mechanisms for the youth climate movement in the region.

### 1.1.1 Key Context Points

#### ROLE OF YOUTH

- The Arab region's dynamic youth population is crucial for developing effective climate adaptation strategies.
- Youth-led initiatives, like the Arab Youth Climate Movement, are vital in advocating for sustainable practices and building community resilience.

#### EMERGENCE OF LOCAL CONFERENCES OF YOUTH (LCOYS)

- LCOYs, established by YOUNGO, gather youth climate policy positions at the national level.
- These conferences foster youth partnerships, provide education, and produce statements of climate priorities.

#### CLIMATE CRISIS IN THE ARAB REGION

- The Arab states face severe climate change impacts, affecting water availability, food production, health, and biodiversity.
- These changes have profound socio-economic implications across all aspects of life.
- The region's vulnerability, especially to water stress, underscores the urgent need for adaptive strategies.

#### Definition Box: YOUNGO

YOUNGO is the official youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It represents the collective voice of youth organizations and individuals in international climate processes.

Source: YOUNGO. (n.d.). About YOUNGO: <https://youngoclimate.org/about-us/>

## 1.1.2 Objectives of the Report

The report aims to achieve the following objectives by creating a more inclusive and practical approach to climate action in the Arab world. This approach seeks to harness the innovative potential and energy of the region's youth population to address its unique climate challenges.



### AMPLIFY YOUTH VOICE AND IMPACT

- Align youth-led initiatives from Local and Regional Conferences of Youth (LCOYs and RCOYs) with national priorities, such as those outlined in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- Enhance the impact of youth contributions to the regional climate agenda.



### BRIDGE YOUTH INITIATIVES WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Provide a framework for aligning youth-led climate initiatives with broader national goals and commitments.



### STRENGTHEN CLIMATE STRATEGIES THROUGH YOUTH INTEGRATION

- Contribute to making national and regional climate strategies more dynamic, inclusive, and resilient in the long run through youth integration.



### EMPOWER ARAB YOUTH IN CLIMATE POLICY-MAKING

- Enable youth to take a central role in crafting climate policies.
- Ensure that policies are responsive to youth needs and perspectives.
- Equip youth to address the region's pressing climate challenges effectively.

#### Tip Box: Understanding NDCs and Climate Policies

NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement. They represent each country's efforts to reduce national emissions and adapt to climate change impacts. While not all countries have submitted NDCs, most have national climate policies and strategies that guide their climate action. When engaging in climate discussions, consider familiarizing yourself with your country's NDC and/or national climate policies to align your advocacy with national climate goals.

Source: UNFCCC. (n.d.). Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs>

## 1.2 Introduction to LCOYs and RCOYs

Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs) and Regional Conferences of Youth (RCOYs) are pivotal platforms for youth engagement in climate action.

### 1.2.1 Definitions and Purpose

#### RCOYS



Regional Conferences of Youth (RCOYs) are similar events but encompass multiple countries within a specific region.

#### LCOYS



Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs) are national-level gatherings of young people focused on climate change issues.

#### BOTH LCOYS AND RCOYS ARE DESIGNED TO:

- 1 Provide platforms for youth to discuss climate-related challenges and solutions
- 2 Develop youth positions on climate policy
- 3 Prepare young delegates for participation in broader climate negotiations

#### Note



For official guidelines on organizing and conducting LCOYs and RCOYs, please refer to YOUNGO's resources. This handbook provides an overview based on the policy report findings.

## 1.2.2 Historical Context and Evolution








The concept of youth conferences on climate change emerged from the recognition that young people's voices were underrepresented in global climate discussions.

### CASE STUDY: THE EVOLUTION OF YOUTH CLIMATE CONFERENCES IN THE ARAB REGION



The first Global Conference of Youth (COY) was held in 2005, preceding the annual COP to the UNFCCC. Since then, LCOYs and RCOYs have evolved to bring these discussions to national and regional levels, allowing for more focused and context-specific youth engagement.

**IN THE ARAB REGION, YOUTH CONFERENCES HAVE GAINED MOMENTUM IN RECENT YEARS, WITH AN INCREASING NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HOSTING LCOYS AND PARTICIPATING IN RCOYS:**

| YEAR | NUMBER OF LCOYS   | NUMBER OF RCOYS   |
|------|---|---|
| 2019 | 1    |   |
| 2020 | 2    |   |
| 2021 | 5   |   |
| 2022 | 6   | 1  |
| 2023 | 14  | 1  |

\* 20 LCOYS WERE APPROVED BY YOUNGO.



## 1.2.3 Role in Shaping Climate Action and Policy

LCOYs and RCOYs can play several crucial roles in influencing climate action and policy, including:



### POLICY INPUT

They provide a structured way for youth to contribute ideas and recommendations to national climate policies and NDCs.



### NETWORK BUILDING

They facilitate connections between young climate advocates, fostering collaboration and collective action.



### AWARENESS RAISING

LCOYs and RCOYs help to increase public awareness of climate issues and the importance of youth engagement.



### REPRESENTATION

They help identify and prepare youth representatives to participate in national delegations to international climate negotiations.



### CAPACITY BUILDING

These conferences offer training and knowledge-sharing opportunities, enhancing youth understanding of climate science, policy processes, and advocacy strategies.



### INNOVATION INCUBATION

These platforms often showcase youth-led climate solutions and innovative approaches to addressing environmental challenges.

**LCOYs and RCOYs are critical bridges between grassroots youth advocacy and formal policy-making processes, amplifying youth voices in the fight against climate change.**

## 1.2.4 Potential Impact of LCOYs

Based on the policy report findings, LCOYs have shown potential to:

- 1 Gather diverse youth perspectives from across nations, which may be considered by national, regional, and local government bodies.
- 2 Produce statements that can include recommendations on national climate efforts. These may contribute to discussions at Regional and Global Conferences of Youth, which engage with international UNFCCC processes.

### Note

LCOYs' specific processes and impacts may vary. For official guidance on LCOY outcomes and their integration into broader youth climate movements, please refer to YOUNGO resources.

## 1.3 Key Takeaways



- 1 LCOYs and RCOYs are vital platforms enabling youth to contribute to climate policy discussions
- 2 These conferences play a crucial role in shaping climate policies by providing structured input, fostering networks, and incubating innovative ideas.
- 3 The policy report aims to enhance youth engagement in climate governance across the Arab region.

## 1.4 Reflection Questions



- How do you think this policy report's objectives align with your country's climate action needs?
- How could LCOYs and RCOYs be improved to have an even more significant influence on national climate policies in your country?

Thoughts ...

## Chapter 2 | Key Findings of the Policy Report

### 2.1 Current Engagement: Evidence from LCOYs

Based on the policy report's analysis, LCOYs have demonstrated significant youth engagement in climate action across the Arab region.

#### 2.1.1 Notable Observations

LCOYs have demonstrated significant youth engagement in climate action across the Arab region. They serve as vital platforms for capacity building, networking, and raising awareness in the climate space. The policy report highlighted several achievements observed across various LCOYs, including:

##### 1 DIRECT ENGAGEMENT WITH POLICYMAKERS

Some LCOYs have facilitated interactions between youth and policymakers.

Young people have contributed fresh ideas and perspectives crucial for robust climate governance.

##### 2 FOCUS ON PRESSING REGIONAL ISSUES

Many LCOYs have addressed critical climate issues such as water and food insecurity.

Youth have been empowered to propose innovative solutions to these challenges.

##### 3 ENHANCED CAPACITY BUILDING

Development of educational toolkits and organization of training boot camps.

These initiatives have enhanced youth advocacy skills and fostered a greater understanding of climate policy.

##### 4 LARGE-SCALE YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The Arab Youth Center's initiatives, particularly hosting COY18, exemplify successful youth engagement.

They supported and trained 800 youths worldwide, managing complex logistics like visas and accommodations.

##### 5 ADDRESSING BROADER CLIMATE-RELATED THEMES

Themes like climate-related peace and security gained prominence in LCOYs in Morocco, Sudan, and Egypt.

This focus showcases Arab youth's role in shaping comprehensive climate policy.

##### 6 DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY POSITIONS

In certain cases, youth delegates have organized workshops and developed position papers.

These efforts have addressed specific climate-related issues within their countries.

#### Tip Box: Understanding NDCs and Climate Policies



When presenting your ideas to policymakers, use clear, concise language and back up your points with data. Remember, you're the expert on youth perspectives – don't be afraid to speak up!

## 2.1.2 Case Studies

### CASE STUDY: ARAB YOUTH CENTER'S COY18 INITIATIVE



The Arab Youth Center's hosting of COY18 demonstrated the power of large-scale youth engagement. By managing the logistics for 800 youth participants worldwide, they created an inclusive platform for global youth voices in climate action. This initiative provided training and facilitated cross-cultural exchange and networking, essential for building a global youth climate movement.

### CASE STUDY: EGYPT'S LCOY IMPACT



In Egypt, LCOYs have been held annually since 2019. In 2023, they expanded to seven governorates, enhancing inclusivity and mobilizing youth nationwide. This nationwide approach has significantly increased youth participation in climate discussions at various levels of governance.

#### Note



These case studies reflect specific instances and may not represent all LCOYs. For comprehensive information on LCOY processes and outcomes, please refer to YOUNGO resources.

## 2.2 Benefits to Policy: Advantages of Youth Contributions

The policy report suggests that youth contributions through LCOYs have shown potential to enhance climate policy effectiveness, resilience, and innovation.

### EXAMPLES OF IMPACT

The following examples illustrate potential impacts observed in specific contexts. The actual outcomes of LCOYs may vary:



#### **SYRIA: PROPOSED POLICY FOR INVOLVING CIVIL SOCIETY IN SHAPING NDCs**

In Syria, effective communication between LCOY organizers and government officials led to a proposed policy for involving civil society in shaping the NDCs.

## 2.2 Benefits to Policy: Advantages of Youth Contributions



### LEBANON: DIRECT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY DECISION-MAKERS, INFLUENCING NDC REVIEWS

LCOY Lebanon 2023 provided a platform for youth to engage directly with key decision-makers, including the Minister of Environment and government negotiators. This engagement is expected to influence the following NDC review.



### JORDAN: INVOLVEMENT OF CHILDREN IN LCOY, LEADING TO THE INAUGURAL RCOY MENA

LCOY Jordan 2023 involved children in the conference, emphasizing the importance of nurturing awareness from an early age. This has led to Jordan hosting its inaugural RCOY MENA.



### YEMEN: INCREASED FOCUS ON YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN CLIMATE POLICYMAKING

In Yemen, the Ministry of Water and Environment joined the Climate Youth Negotiator Program (CYNP) in response to LCOY Yemen 2023's success, increasing focus on youth involvement in climate policymaking.



### OMAN: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OMANI YOUTH FOR CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

In Oman, LCOY played a significant role in advancing youth engagement in climate action. The success of LCOY Oman led to the establishment of the Omani Youth for Climate Change group. This group has been actively involved in various initiatives, including participating in COP28 and engaging with policymakers.

#### Definition box: Climate Resilience

You will hear a lot this word!

Climate resilience refers to the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate. Building resilience is crucial for communities facing climate change impacts.

Source: IPCC. (2022). Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>

## 2.3 Key Takeaways



- 1 The policy report's findings show that LCOYs have become crucial platforms for youth engagement in climate action across the Arab region.
- 2 The policy report's findings highlight the need for better alignment between LCOY themes and national climate priorities (NDCs and NAPs).
- 3 Youth contributions have the potential to significantly enhance climate policies' effectiveness and innovation.
- 3 Successful youth engagement has led to tangible policy outcomes in several Arab countries.

## 2.4 Reflection Questions



- How can LCOYs in your country better align with national climate priorities outlined in NDCs and NAPs?
- What unique opportunities do you see for youth to influence climate policy in your specific context?
- How might the insights from this policy report complement official YOUNGO guidance in enhancing youth engagement in climate action?

Thoughts ...

## Chapter 3 | Strategic Recommendations for Youth Integration

### 3.1 Integrated Framework for Youth-Led Climate Action

The Integrated Framework for Youth-Led Climate Action is a comprehensive approach designed to enhance youth participation in climate governance across the Arab region. It consists of three interconnected components, working together to create a holistic strategy for empowering youth in climate action and policy-making:

- 1 General Recommendations for Youth Integration in Climate Policy
- 2 Specific Recommendations for Enhancing LCOYs/RCOYs
- 3 Multi-stakeholder Collaboration



### Case Study: Yemen's Climate Youth Negotiator Program



In Yemen, the success of LCOY Yemen 2023 led to a significant policy change. The Ministry of Water and Environment joined the Climate Youth Negotiator Program (CYNP), directly responding to the LCOY's outcomes. This initiative increased the focus on youth involvement in climate policymaking at both national and local levels. The CYNP is designed to train young negotiators to actively participate in UNFCCC negotiations, answering persistent calls for a more inclusive decision-making process. This case demonstrates how LCOYs can directly influence government actions and increase youth representation in formal climate policy processes.

#### Note

The following recommendations are based on the policy report's findings and are intended to complement official YOUNGO guidelines for LCOYs and RCOYs. For official processes, please refer to YOUNGO resources.



## 3.2 General Recommendations for Supporting Youth Integration in Climate Policy

Based on the policy report's findings, these recommendations could be considered to support youth integration in climate policy:

### 1 FORMAL RECOGNITION OF YOUTH PLATFORMS IN NATIONAL POLICIES

- Ensure that youth platforms like LCOYs and RCOYs are officially recognized within Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- Implement regular consultations and direct contributions to the policy development process.

### 2 ESTABLISHMENT OF STRUCTURED SELF-YOUTH REPRESENTATION

- Set up advisory boards, including representatives from LCOYs and RCOYs, to provide insights directly to policymakers.
- Foster structured self-youth representation at the regional level, coordinating with bodies like the League of Arab States.

### 3 INTEGRATION OF YOUTH-LED INITIATIVES INTO NATIONAL CLIMATE STRATEGIES

- Promote the inclusion of solutions from youth-led initiatives in national climate strategies.

Provide dedicated support for projects addressing specific resilience or mitigation challenges.

### 4 LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION

- Facilitate the drafting of legislation supporting youth climate action.
- Enhance access to funding, educational resources, and participation in decision-making bodies.

### 5 ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- Improve the openness of climate governance processes.
- Ensure easy accessibility of information to youth, including regular updates on policy developments.

### 6 CAPACITY BUILDING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Develop educational programs and workshops to enhance young people's skills in climate advocacy, policy analysis, project management, and negotiations.



## 3.3 Specific Recommendations for Enhancing LCOYs/RCOYs



The policy report offers the following insights that could be considered for enhancing youth climate conferences in alignment with YOUNGO guidelines:

### 1 STRENGTHENING REGIONAL-LOCAL COLLABORATION

- Enhance linkages between LCOYs and RCOYs with broader regional and global climate policy discourse.
  - Building on recommendations and themes from local youth statements
  - Consolidating common priorities across LCOYs
  - Creating regional synthesis of local youth demands
- Establish structured platforms to elevate local youth voices to higher decision-making levels.

### 2 USING UNFCCC LANGUAGE IN LCOYS/RCOYS

- Train participants to use UNFCCC terminology effectively.
- Educate youth on crafting policy demand statements and adopting scientific methods for reviewing texts.

### 3 CREATING SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MECHANISMS

- Establish centralized or regional funding mechanisms to ensure sustainable support for LCOYs and RCOYs.
- Address issues of governance, transparency, and fund sustainability.

### 4 SELECTION OF THEMES BASED ON LOCAL NEEDS AND NDCS

- Guide LCOYs to align their themes and activities with the country's NDCs.
- Focus on the most pressing local environmental and socio-economic challenges.

### 5 ENHANCED REPORTING MECHANISMS

- Implement a harmonized reporting approach across the region.
- Include standardized templates and precise data collection and analysis guidelines.

#### Definition Box: UNFCCC Language

UNFCCC language refers to the specific terminology and phrasing used in official UN climate documents. Familiarizing yourself with this language can help your statements resonate more effectively with policymakers.

Source: UNFCCC. (n.d.). Decoding UNFCCC Language.

[https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Presentation\\_Decoding\\_UNFCCC\\_Language.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Presentation_Decoding_UNFCCC_Language.pdf)

## 3.4 Framework for Multi-stakeholder Collaboration



The policy report offers the following insights that could be considered for enhancing youth climate conferences in alignment with YOUNGO guidelines:

- 1 NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES/EMBASSIES**
  - Provide essential endorsements, strategic guidance, and funding.
  - Facilitate policy alignment and offer platforms for youth-led outcomes to influence policy decisions.
- 2 CIVIL SOCIETY AND NGOS**
  - Host and organize LCOYs under the YOUNGO umbrella.
  - Partner with universities and private sector entities to extend reach and resources.
- 3 SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATE SECTOR**
  - Provide financial resources and technical expertise.
  - Engage in partnerships to translate youth-led solutions into scalable climate actions.
- 4 UNIVERSITIES**
  - Offer venues, technical expertise, and research support.
  - Bridge theoretical research and practical application in climate discussions.
- 5 UN AGENCIES**
  - Provide international connectivity and support.
  - Help scale local initiatives to global platforms.

### Definition Box: Multi-stakeholder Collaboration

Multi-stakeholder collaboration involves the cooperative efforts of various stakeholders, including government bodies, NGOs, private sector entities, and civil society organizations, to address complex issues like climate change.

### Tip Box: Building Effective Partnerships

When seeking partnerships, look for organizations that align with your values and goals. Don't be afraid to start small – even local partnerships can have a big impact!

## 3.5 Implementation Guidelines

The policy report suggests the following guidelines for implementing its recommendations:

- 1 Develop a detailed roadmap for youth integration in climate policy.
- 2 Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of youth integration.
- 3 Foster inter-generational dialogue between youth and senior policymakers.
- 4 Encourage regional and international collaboration among youth organizations.
- 5 Provide institutional support for youth initiatives within government agencies.
- 6 Ensure transparency and accountability in integrating youth into climate policies.
- 7 Implement capacity-building and educational programs to enhance youth climate advocacy and policy analysis skills.

By implementing these strategic recommendations through the Integrated Framework, the Arab states can significantly enhance youth participation in climate governance, leading to more effective, inclusive, and sustainable climate strategies.

## 3.6 Key Takeaways



- 1 The Integrated Framework provides a comprehensive strategy for empowering youth in climate action and policy-making.
- 2 Collaboration across various stakeholders is essential for effective youth integration in climate governance.
- 3 Formal recognition and structured representation are crucial for amplifying youth voices.

## 3.7 Reflection Questions



- Which part of this framework do you think could have the most significant impact in your country? Why?
- How could you start implementing some of these recommendations in your local context?
- How might these policy recommendations be integrated with existing YOUNGO processes to enhance youth participation in climate governance?

Thoughts ...

## Chapter 4 | Applying the Policy Report to LCOY Activities

### 4.1 Translating Recommendations into Actionable Steps

#### 4.1.1 For LCOY Organizers



**BASED ON THE POLICY REPORT, YOUTH CLIMATE ADVOCATES MIGHT CONSIDER:**

##### 1 STRATEGIC PLANNING

Develop a strategic plan that incorporates relevant policy recommendations.  
Set clear, measurable objectives aligned with the report's goals.  
Establish structured reporting mechanisms to track progress and outcomes.

##### 2 CAPACITY BUILDING

Organize workshops to educate participants on policy recommendations.  
Provide training on policy analysis and advocacy skills.

##### 3 POLICY ANALYSIS

Conduct a thorough review of the policy report.  
Identify key recommendations relevant to your national context.

##### 4 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Identify and engage key stakeholders mentioned in the policy report.  
Establish partnerships with relevant government agencies and NGOs.

#### 4.1.2 For LCOY Participants



**BASED ON THE POLICY REPORT, YOUTH CLIMATE ADVOCATES MIGHT CONSIDER:**

##### 1 KNOWLEDGE ACQUISITION

Study the policy report and understand its implications.  
Participate in capacity-building sessions on climate policy.

##### 2 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Design projects addressing specific policy recommendations.  
Focus on innovative solutions to local climate challenges.

##### 3 ADVOCACY SKILLS

Develop policy communication and negotiation skills.  
Prepare to articulate youth perspectives in policy discussions.

#### Note



The above suggestions are based on the policy report's findings and are intended to complement official YOUNGO guidelines for LCOYs. For official LCOY processes, please refer to YOUNGO resources.

## 4.2 Insights on Aligning Youth Climate Initiatives with National Climate Goals



### POLICY ANALYSIS

- Conduct a detailed review of your country's climate commitments (NDCs and/or national climate policies).

Identify key climate targets

- and priority areas from relevant



### GAP ASSESSMENT

- Analyze gaps between current policies and NDC commitments.

Identify areas where youth

- initiatives can contribute significantly.



### THEME SELECTION

- Choose LCOY themes that address NDC priorities and policy gaps.

Ensure themes are relevant to both national goals and youth

- interests.



### IMPACT MEASUREMENT

- Develop metrics to measure LCOY outcomes' contribution to NDC implementation.

- Create a reporting mechanism to communicate these contributions to policymakers.

#### Note

For official guidance on drafting youth statements, please refer to YOUNGO resources.



#### Tip Box: Crafting Impactful Statements

When drafting your Local Youth Statement, use the SMART criteria: make your points Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. This approach helps create clear, actionable recommendations.



## 4.3 Best Practices for Youth Climate Advocacy



### 1 EVIDENCE-BASED ADVOCACY

Conduct thorough research to support your policy recommendations. Use data and case studies to strengthen your arguments. This approach lends credibility to your proposals and increases the likelihood of influencing policy decisions.

### 2 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

Craft your message with precision and impact. Develop clear, concise messaging that articulates youth climate priorities effectively. Utilize a variety of media platforms – from social media to traditional press – to disseminate youth perspectives widely. Remember, your message is only as powerful as its reach and clarity. By mastering strategic communication, you can ensure that youth voices resonate across diverse audiences and influence key decision-makers.

#### Tip Box: Climate Advocacy Definition

Youth climate advocacy refers to the organized efforts of young people (typically aged 15-35) to influence climate policy, raise awareness about climate issues, and promote sustainable solutions. This can take various forms, including but not limited to participation in COYs, direct engagement with policymakers, grassroots campaigns, and digital activism. In the Arab region, youth advocacy often involves a combination of formal policy engagement and community-based initiatives.

## 4.3 Best Practices for Youth Climate Advocacy

### 3 COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Strength lies in numbers and diversity. Form coalitions with other youth groups and like-minded organizations to amplify your collective voice. Engage in multi-stakeholder dialogues to build consensus and create a unified front. This collaborative approach increases your influence and brings diverse perspectives to the table, enriching your advocacy efforts and making them more representative and impactful.

### 4 CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT

Policy influence is not a one-time event but an ongoing process. Establish and maintain communication channels with policymakers to ensure your voice is consistently heard. Participate actively in both formal and informal policy consultation processes. By staying engaged, you remain relevant and can respond quickly to new developments, ensuring that youth perspectives are considered at every stage of policy formulation and implementation.

### 5 CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

Knowledge is your most powerful tool. Continuously improve your understanding of climate science and policy to engage more effectively in discussions and decision-making processes. Develop expertise in specific areas of climate action that align with your interests and your region's needs. The more knowledgeable and skilled you become, the more credible and influential your advocacy will be.

### 6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

What gets measured gets managed. Regularly assess the impact of youth contributions to policy processes to understand what's working and what isn't. Adapt your strategies based on lessons learned and changing contexts. This iterative approach allows you to refine your methods, demonstrate your impact, and make data-driven decisions that enhance the effectiveness of your advocacy efforts over time.

#### Reflection Point:



Which of these best practices do you think would be most challenging to implement in your context? How might you overcome these challenges?



## 4.4 Key Takeaways



- 1 Practical application of the policy report can significantly enhance the impact of youth voices in climate governance.
- 2 Aligning LCOY themes with national climate goals ensures relevance and increases the potential for policy influence.
- 3 Evidence-based advocacy and continuous engagement are crucial for influencing climate policies.

## 4.5 Reflection Questions



- How can you start applying these ideas in your next LCOY?
- What's one policy area where you think youth voices could make the biggest difference in your country?

Thoughts ...

## Chapter 5 | Conclusion

### Conclusion

This handbook provides a comprehensive overview of the policy report **"Empowering Youth Voices in Arab Climate Policy"** and its implications for youth engagement in climate governance.

By understanding and applying the insights from this report, you can enhance the impact of LCOYs and youth-led climate initiatives in your country and across the Arab region.

Remember, your voice and actions are crucial in shaping a sustainable and resilient future. Use the knowledge gained from this module to amplify youth perspectives in climate policy-making and drive meaningful change in your communities and beyond.

Remember to use these insights in conjunction with official YOUNGO guidelines and processes for maximum impact.

## Chapter 6 | Final Reflection

### Final Reflection



- What's the most significant insight you're taking away from this handbook?
- How will you use your LCOY experience to influence climate policy in your country?
- How can you integrate the insights from this policy report with existing YOUNGO processes in your climate advocacy work?

Thoughts ...

**Your journey in climate action starts now.**

**Let's work together to create a sustainable future for all!**

## Chapter 7 | Glossary and Acronyms

### 7.1 Acronyms

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>AYC</b>    | Arab Youth Center  |
| <b>COY</b>    | Conference of Youth  |
| <b>COP</b>    | Conference of the Parties  |
| <b>CYNP</b>   | Climate Youth Negotiator Program   |
| <b>GCOY</b>   | Global Conference of Youth   |
| <b>GYCN</b>   | Global Youth Climate Network   |
| <b>IPCC</b>   | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change                                    |
| <b>LCOY</b>   | Local Conference of Youth  |
| <b>NAP</b>    | National Adaptation Plan   |
| <b>NDC</b>    | Nationally Determined Contribution   |
| <b>NGO</b>    | Non-Governmental Organization  |
| <b>RCOY</b>   | Regional Conference of Youth   |
| <b>SDG</b>    | Sustainable Development Goal   |
| <b>UN</b>     | United Nations   |
| <b>UNFCCC</b> | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change                        |
| <b>YCC</b>    | Youth Climate Champion   |
| <b>YOUNGO</b> | Youth Non-Governmental Organizations (official youth constituency of UNFCCC) |

## 7.2 Glossary

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| <b>Adaptation:</b>                         | Actions taken to adjust to the effects of climate change, aiming to reduce vulnerability to its impacts.   |
| <b>Adaptation Fund (AF):</b>               | A fund established under the Kyoto Protocol to finance adaptation projects and programs in developing countries.   |
| <b>Capacity Building:</b>                  | The process of developing and strengthening the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to address climate challenges.   |
| <b>Climate Action:</b>                     | Efforts to combat climate change and its impacts, including both mitigation and adaptation strategies.   |
| <b>Climate Governance:</b>                 | The processes, mechanisms, and institutions through which climate-related decisions are made and implemented.  |
| <b>Climate Justice:</b>                    | A term used to frame climate change as an ethical and political issue, rather than purely environmental, recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on marginalized and vulnerable communities. |
| <b>Climate Resilience:</b>                 | The ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous climate-related events, trends, or disturbances.  |
| <b>Climate-Related Peace and Security:</b> | The interconnection between climate change impacts and social stability, addressing how climate issues can affect conflict and peace.  |
| <b>Climate Crisis:</b>                     | An urgent situation caused by the current impacts of climate change, threatening ecosystems, human health, and economic systems.   |
| <b>Climate Science:</b>                    | The study of the Earth's climate, including the mechanisms of climate change and the factors influencing it.   |
| <b>Civil Society:</b>                      | Organizations and institutions outside of the government and private sector that represent the interests and will of citizens, often involved in climate advocacy and action.                                  |

## 7.2 Glossary

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| <b>COP:</b>   | The Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, the supreme decision-making body on climate change.   |
| <b>Conference of Youth (COY):</b>                         | An annual gathering of young people, typically held just before the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP), aimed at mobilizing and empowering youth voices in climate negotiations.             |
| <b>Evidence-Based Advocacy:</b>                           | The use of research, data, and case studies to support policy recommendations and influence decision-making.   |
| <b>Green Economy:</b>                                     | An economy that aims for sustainable development without degrading the environment, often focusing on reducing carbon emissions and increasing energy efficiency.                            |
| <b>Just Transition:</b>                                   | A framework for a fair shift to a green economy that leaves no one behind, ensuring that the transition to sustainable energy and low-carbon economies is equitable and inclusive.           |
| <b>Integrated Framework for Youth-Led Climate Action:</b> | A comprehensive approach designed to enhance youth participation in climate governance across the Arab region.   |
| <b>LCOY Statement:</b>                                    | A document produced during Local Conferences of Youth that outlines youth priorities and recommendations for climate action.   |
| <b>League of Arab States Climate Group:</b>               | A regional body coordinating climate action and policies within the Arab states.   |
| <b>Mitigation:</b>  | Efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases, thereby slowing or stopping global warming.   |
| <b>Multi-stakeholder Collaboration:</b>                   | The cooperative efforts of various stakeholders, including government bodies, NGOs, private sector entities, and civil society organizations, to address complex issues like climate change. |

## 7.2 Glossary

|  |  |
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| <b>Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):</b> | Country-specific climate action plans under the Paris Agreement, outlining efforts to reduce national emissions and adapt to climate change impacts.                       |
| <b>NGO:</b>  | Non-Governmental Organization, typically involved in advocacy, relief, and development work, including climate action.   |
| <b>Paris Agreement:</b>                            | A global treaty adopted in 2015 within the UNFCCC framework, aiming to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius.   |
| <b>Policy Input:</b>                               | The process of contributing ideas, recommendations, and perspectives to shape policy decisions.  |
| <b>Position Paper:</b>                             | A written document outlining the stance of an organization or group on a particular issue, often used in climate advocacy.   |
| <b>Resilience-Building:</b>                        | The process of increasing the ability of communities and ecosystems to recover from climate-related disturbances.  |
| <b>RCOY:</b>                                       | Regional Conference of Youth, which gathers youth from multiple countries to discuss regional climate action.  |
| <b>Stakeholders:</b>                               | Individuals or groups that have an interest in the outcomes of a particular process, often including governments, private sector, civil society, and affected communities. |
| <b>Sustainable Development:</b>                    | Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.  |
| <b>UNFCCC:</b>                                     | The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, an international treaty established to combat climate change and its impacts.                                   |
| <b>UNFCCC Language:</b>                            | The specific terminology and phrasing used in official UN climate documents and negotiations.  |

## 7.2 Glossary

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| <b>UNFCCC Paris Agreement Stocktake:</b> | A periodic review of collective progress toward achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, conducted through a global stocktake every five years.  |
| <b>Vulnerable Populations:</b>           | Groups that are particularly at risk due to climate change, such as small island states, low-income communities, indigenous peoples, and others who face greater exposure to climate-related hazards. |
| <b>Youth-Driven Policy:</b>              | Policy initiatives and strategies that are significantly shaped by the contributions and perspectives of youth.   |
| <b>Youth Integration:</b>                | The process of incorporating youth perspectives, ideas, and participation into climate policy-making and action.  |
| <b>NAP:</b>                              | National Adaptation Plan, which outlines strategies for adapting to the impacts of climate change.  |

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## Chapter 8 | Additional Resources List

### Technical Reviews and Reports

| Source   | URL   |
|--|---|
| Arab States Youth Collectives in Climate Action (2024). Technical review on the local conferences of youth (LCOYs) in the Arab states.           | <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1G4szJfsMFRvBi_UrC3BlqG78bj-TY2U0?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1G4szJfsMFRvBi_UrC3BlqG78bj-TY2U0?usp=sharing</a>   |
| Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC. (2022). Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability.                              | <a href="https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/">https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/</a>   |
| Youth Climate Champion (YCC) (2024). COP28 Youth Climate Champion Report 2024.   | <a href="https://prod-cd-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/Project/2024/Files/YCC-Report-Feb-2024.pdf?rev=11259ebee28f4a7ba7beda6f3a594447">https://prod-cd-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/Project/2024/Files/YCC-Report-Feb-2024.pdf?rev=11259ebee28f4a7ba7beda6f3a594447</a> |
| YOUNGO (2023). Youth Stocktake of UNFCCC Processes [Ansaram Karishma, Gulugulu Machache Elizabeth, Mucha Shamiso, Plummer Lucy and Joshi Leena]. | <a href="https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/YOUTH%20STOCKTAKE%20on%20UNFCCC%20PROCESSES%208%2012%2023.pdf">https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/YOUTH%20STOCKTAKE%20on%20UNFCCC%20PROCESSES%208%2012%2023.pdf</a>                         |

### Toolkits and Guides

| Source   | URL   |
|--|---|
| United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF (2022). The Young Climate Activists Toolkit in the Middle East and North Africa Region/Arab States Region. | <a href="https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/youth-climate-activists-toolkit">https://www.unicef.org/mena/reports/youth-climate-activists-toolkit</a>   |
| United Nations Development Programme UNDP (2022). Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action.                                      | <a href="https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-05/UNDP-Elevating-Meaningful-Youth-Engagement-for-Climate-Action-2.pdf">https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-05/UNDP-Elevating-Meaningful-Youth-Engagement-for-Climate-Action-2.pdf</a>                       |
| Arab Youth Center (2021). Arab Youth Council for Climate Change: Mobilizing Youth for a Sustainable Future.                                      | <a href="https://arabyouthcenter.org/en/download-file/research/500/arab-youth-council-for-climate-change-mobilizing-youth-for-a-sustainable-future">https://arabyouthcenter.org/en/download-file/research/500/arab-youth-council-for-climate-change-mobilizing-youth-for-a-sustainable-future</a> |

### Interactive Learning Resources

| Source  | URL   |
|---|---|
| UNCC:Learn (n.d.). Climate Change: From Learning to Action. | <a href="https://unccelearn.org/course/view.php?id=7&amp;page=overview">https://unccelearn.org/course/view.php?id=7&amp;page=overview</a> |

## UNFCCC Language and Terminology

| Source  | URL   |
|---|---|
| United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC. (n.d.). Decoding UNFCCC Language. | <a href="https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Presentation_Decoding_UNFCCC_Language.pdf">https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Presentation_Decoding_UNFCCC_Language.pdf</a> |
| UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators UICCA (2023). UICCA Climate Change Glossary.        | <a href="https://uicca.ae/resources/tools/uicca-climate-change-glossary">https://uicca.ae/resources/tools/uicca-climate-change-glossary</a>   |

## NDCs and National Climate Policies

| Source  | URL   |
|---|---|
| UNFCCC. (n.d.). Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).                             | <a href="https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs">https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs</a> |
| Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED) (2022). Arab Environment in 10 Years. | <a href="http://www.afedonline.org/en/reports/details/arab-environment-in-10-years">http://www.afedonline.org/en/reports/details/arab-environment-in-10-years</a>   |
| UNDP Climate Promise. (n.d.). NDC Support Programme Overview.                           | <a href="https://climatepromise.undp.org/research-and-reports/ndc-support-programme-overview">https://climatepromise.undp.org/research-and-reports/ndc-support-programme-overview</a>                                   |

## Youth Organizations and Movements

| Source                                       | URL   |
|--|---|
| YOUNGO. (n.d.). About YOUNGO.                | <a href="https://youngoclimate.org/about-us/">https://youngoclimate.org/about-us/</a>   |
| Arab Youth Center. (n.d.). About Us.         | <a href="https://arabyouthcenter.org/en/about">https://arabyouthcenter.org/en/about</a> |
| Global Youth Climate Network (GYCN). (n.d.). | <a href="https://y2ycommunity.org/gycn/">https://y2ycommunity.org/gycn/</a>             |

## Regional Resources for Arab Youth

| Source   | URL   |
|--|---|
| United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ESCWA (2021). Arab Sustainable Development Report 2024. | <a href="https://www.unescwa.org/publications/arab-sustainable-development-report-2024">https://www.unescwa.org/publications/arab-sustainable-development-report-2024</a>                   |
| Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) (2022). Climate Change Policy.   | <a href="https://www.isdb.org/publications/isdb-climate-change-policy">https://www.isdb.org/publications/isdb-climate-change-policy</a>   |
| League of Arab States (2019). Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030.  | <a href="https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/arab-strategy-disaster-risk-reduction-2030">https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/arab-strategy-disaster-risk-reduction-2030</a>     |
| Arab Youth Center (n.d.). The State of Arab Youth on SDGs.   | <a href="https://arabyouthcenter.org/en/article/our-research/state-of-arab-youth-report-on-sdgs">https://arabyouthcenter.org/en/article/our-research/state-of-arab-youth-report-on-sdgs</a> |

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**Capacity Building Module:  
Understanding and Utilizing the Policy Report**

# Participant Handbook

**"Empowering Youth Voices in Arab Climate Policy: Policy Implications from the Technical Review of Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs) in the Arab Region"**



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October 2023

Global Youth Statement  
presented for the first time during

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