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ARAB
YOUTH
CENTER

Empowering Youth Voices in Arab Climate Policy

Policy Implications from the Technical Review of Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs) in the Arab Region



2024 Edition

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Disclaimer:

The designations and presentation of the material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of COP28 Youth Climate Champion (YCC) and Arab Youth Center (AYC). This policy report also draws insights from an independent technical review conducted by Arab youth researchers. While efforts were made to gather diverse perspectives, the views expressed may not represent all LCOYs or that of YOUNGO. The report aims to provide constructive insights to strengthen youth engagement in climate action across the Arab region. The COP28 YCC and AYC assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained within.

CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS

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ORGANIZATION NAME	COUNTRY	
Together for Blue and Green	Algeria	
Youthinkgreen Egypt	Egypt	
Moroccan Youth Negotiators Council	Morocco	
Basmtna Gheer	Oman	
Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar	Qatar	 Arab Youth Climate Movement Qatar أرب يوث كلايمنت موفمنت قطر
Reco	Syria	
Syrian Climate Pioneers	Syria	

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1



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. OVERVIEW

This policy report draws insights from an independent Technical Review of Local and Regional Conferences of Youth (LCOYs and RCOYs) in the Arab States to advocate for the vital integration of youth in climate policy across the Arab states. It emphasizes young people's profound impact on climate strategies' robustness, sustainability, and inclusiveness, driven by their unique insights and innovative potential. The report analyzes the development of LCOYs, a platform created and governed by YOUNGO (the official youth constituency of the UNFCCC), as a mechanism for youth input into climate decision-making at the national level. It demonstrates how LCOYs have expanded in the Arab States, delineates youth engagement and contributions through these conferences, identifies policy gaps that limit their potential, and outlines strategic recommendations for enhancing youth involvement in national and regional climate frameworks.

1.2. IMPACT OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Implementing the recommendations detailed in this report can transform national climate policies by making them more responsive to young people's needs and perspectives. This alignment is expected to increase the policies' overall effectiveness and community acceptance. The report envisions a dynamic, responsive, and resilient climate governance framework by recognizing and empowering youth through established channels like LCOYs and RCOYs. Moreover, it advocates for including youth in the planning and execution phases of climate strategies, ensuring these strategies are sufficiently robust to meet the challenges posed by climate change.

1.3. ENHANCED YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The report documents a marked increase in youth participation, driven by significant events such as COP27 in Egypt and COP28 in the UAE, which have elevated the profile of young climate advocates within the regional and global arenas. The expansion of LCOYs from six in 2022 to twelve in 2023, potentially nearly 20 LCOYs approved by YOUNGO in 2024, along with the initiation of the first Regional Conferences of Youth in the MENA region in 2022, underscores a growing movement that harnesses youthful energy for climate advocacy and policy influence. These platforms foster engagement and capacity building and facilitate direct interaction with policymakers, which ensures youth contributions are integrated into broader climate strategies.

1.4. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The report outlines strategies to enhance youth involvement in formulating and implementing climate policy. These include formally recognizing youth platforms within national policies, establishing youth advisory boards, and integrating youth-led initiatives into national climate strategies. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of establishing a structured self-youth representation at the regional level as a liaison with policymakers, particularly within frameworks like the League of Arab States. Such a coordinated approach aims to empower youth as key stakeholders in climate governance, ensuring their voices are heard, and their ideas are incorporated into actionable strategies that address the unique challenges of the Arab region.

Legislative support for youth climate action is also crucial in this context. This report underscores the indispensable role of youth in the climate policy landscape of the Arab states, advocating for structured, meaningful engagement that aligns with national priorities like the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

The report aims to ensure that youth's innovative potential and perspectives significantly enhance climate policies' effectiveness, resilience, and inclusiveness and pave the way for the region's sustainable and resilient future.

2



INTRODUCTION

2.1. CONTEXT

Climate change is a global crisis, with severe impacts forecasted for the coming decades. These effects are felt acutely in the Arab states, where disruptions in water availability, food production, health, and biodiversity are intensified by unique geopolitical and geographical challenges. More than environmental, these changes have profound socio-economic implications permeating all aspects of life. The Arab region's vulnerability to climate-induced challenges, especially water stress, underscores the urgent need for inclusive climate action strategies that harness the energy and innovation of its youth.

The region's dynamic youth population is crucial for developing adaptive strategies, as evidenced by initiatives like the Arab Youth Climate Movement, which emerged following COP18 in Qatar. These youth-led efforts are vital in advocating for sustainable practices and building resilience within community and national frameworks. A trend of particular note is the establishment by YOUNGO, the Children and Youth Constituency to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, of a system of Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs) which serve to gather youth climate policy positions for consideration in formal decision-making processes at the national level.

LCOYs foster interconnection and partnerships from youth across a country, provide education and capacity-building opportunities, and typically produce a statement of youth climate priorities, amalgamating the perspectives of youth from across the nation for the consideration of national, regional, and local government bodies. These statements can include recommendations on national climate efforts and feed into Regional and Global Conferences of Youth, which comment on the international UNFCCC processes.

The independent Technical Review of Local and Regional Conferences of Youth in the Arab States analyzes how LCOYs, established and guided by YOUNGO, have emerged as a crucial mechanism for the youth climate movement in the Arab States. LCOYs follow YOUNGO's guidelines and principles to ensure consistency and effectiveness in youth engagement. The review examines how these youth-led conferences could improve their impact through stronger best practices and support to address common gaps and challenges, while recognizing the foundational role of YOUNGO in shaping these platforms.

2.2. MOBILIZATION OF ARAB YOUTH

Despite facing significant obstacles such as high unemployment and political instability, Arab youth are establishing themselves as indispensable stakeholders in the climate dialogue.

In response to pervasive challenges, Arab youth have become increasingly active in grassroots, community, and national climate action and policy dialogue, particularly within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) framework. Significant milestones, including the establishment of the YOUNGO constituency at COP15 and the consistent presentation of Global Youth Statements, underscore the evolving and increasingly influential role of youth in the climate dialogue. The youth climate movement in the Arab region has significantly strengthened in recent years, fueled by pivotal events such as the Conference of Parties (COP27 in Egypt and COP28 in the United Arab Emirates) and their concurrent Global Conferences of Youth (COY17 in Sharm El Sheikh and COY18 in Dubai).

These gatherings have dramatically amplified youth engagement in climate action across the Arab States, providing a robust platform for young voices and fostering a deeper awareness of climate issues. The growing engagement of Arab youth illustrates a clear trajectory toward more robust and inclusive climate governance and the increasing recognition of youth's potential to contribute to climate policy. The number of Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs) hosted in the region has doubled from seven in 2022 to fourteen in 2023, reflecting a surge in youth involvement. Moreover, the inaugural Regional Conferences of Youth in the MENA region (RCOY MENA), held in Dubai and Cairo parallel to COY17 and COY18, have catalyzed further youth participation. Many youth-led climate entities and organizations have been instrumental in this movement. They have mobilized and empowered young activists and ensured their contributions are integrated into broader climate policies and strategies.

This increasing trend in youth engagement presents significant opportunities for shaping future climate action and policy across the Arab region. The enhanced organizational capacities and the growing number of active participants are a testament to a maturing movement ready to influence regional and global stages, making the youth a pivotal force in harnessing grassroots movements for environmental advocacy and leveraging their unique insights for developing effective and sustainable climate strategies capable of addressing the unique challenges of the Arab region.

2.3. OBJECTIVE

This report aims to advocate for and facilitate the effective integration of youth in climate governance and policy actions across the Arab states. By aligning initiatives from Local and Regional Conferences of Youth (LCOYs and RCOYs) with national priorities, such as those outlined in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), this report seeks to amplify the voice and impact of youth in the regional climate agenda.

The ultimate goal is to empower Arab youth and enable them to take a central role in crafting policies that are responsive to their needs and perspectives and capable of addressing the region's pressing climate challenges. This integration may strengthen national and regional climate strategies and make them more dynamic, inclusive, and resilient in the long run.

3

THE CASE FOR YOUTH IN CLIMATE POLICY

3.1. CURRENT ENGAGEMENT: EVIDENCE FROM LCOYS

The Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs) have showcased remarkable youth engagement in climate action across the Arab region. The independent technical review highlights several case studies where Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs) in the Arab states have become vital platforms for youth engagement, capacity building, networking, and raising awareness in climate space. For instance, the LCOYs have facilitated sessions where young people could directly interact with policymakers, contributing fresh ideas and perspectives crucial for robust climate governance. The Arab Youth Center's initiatives exemplify this engagement, mainly through hosting COY18. The conference supported and trained 800 youths worldwide, managing significant logistics like visas and accommodations to foster inclusive participation.

This level of organization and support underscores the capacity of youth to engage substantively in global climate discussions, enhancing their impact and visibility in international arenas. The Arab Youth Center has further amplified the impact of youth contributions through other educational and capacity-building initiatives.

The Center has developed educational toolkits and organized training boot camps, enhancing the advocacy skills of youth. These efforts foster greater understanding and engagement with climate policy. The structured support and education also enable youth to propose and implement practical solutions that address local and regional challenges and empower them to contribute substantially to climate policy, leading to actionable and sustainable outcomes.

During the LCOYs, many organizers focused on pressing climate issues such as water and food insecurity, allowing youth to propose innovative solutions. For instance, themes such as climate-related peace and security gained prominence in LCOYs in Morocco, Sudan, and Egypt and were highlighted at COP28, showcasing Arab youth's significant role in shaping climate policy and promoting conflict-sensitive climate strategies.

Youth delegates have organized workshops and developed position papers addressing specific climate-related issues within their countries, increasing their understanding of the complex climate policy landscape and empowering them to advocate for inclusive and equitable climate action. Although the independent technical review highlighted that organizers often needed more awareness of their country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), it underscores the importance of reviewing these documents prior to LCOYs. The independent technical review includes a chapter summarizing key takeaways from Arab states' NDCs, emphasizing the necessity of aligning LCOY themes with national climate priorities.

3.2. BENEFITS TO POLICY: ADVANTAGES OF YOUTH CONTRIBUTIONS

Youth contributions through LCOYs have the potential to significantly enhance the effectiveness, resilience, and innovation of climate policies.

By bringing unique insights and energy, young people help ensure that policies are environmentally sound and socially equitable. Notably, young people are the most affected demographic by climate change yet are often left out of climate policymaking spaces.

LCOYs provide a crucial platform for youth to offer their recommendations and actively participate in shaping climate policies. In Egypt, LCOYs have been taking place since 2019, helping to raise awareness about climate change, facilitate knowledge, and provide space for youth to put forth key recommendations to the national government.

Although they are not officially recognized within the UNFCCC ecosystem, LCOYs were hosted in 2023 by Egypt across seven governorates, showcasing a commitment to inclusivity and engaging youth from diverse regions and cultural backgrounds.

Expanding the host locations to key cities helped enhance inclusivity, mobilize youth, raise awareness about climate change, and facilitate knowledge sharing throughout the country. This large youth-led undertaking, compounded by the strong cooperation with the national government through the Ministry of Youth and Sports, significantly contributed to the event's success.

The final LCOY, which summarized all outcomes and inputs from the 7 governorates, was supported by international, regional, and local partners, including but not limited to the COP27 Presidency, COP28 Youth Climate Champion, the United Nations offices in Egypt, academic institutions, and civil society organizations.

In Syria, effective communication between LCOY organizers and government officials led to the proposal of a policy aimed at involving civil society in shaping the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This proposed policy emerged from recommendations made during LCOY Syria and was further developed through subsequent meetings with key officials.

LCOY Lebanon 2023 provided a vital platform for youth to engage directly with key decision-makers in their country. According to the organizers, LCOY Lebanon allowed young people to voice their priorities to the Minister of Environment and government negotiators.

This engagement is expected to influence the next NDC review, ensuring that the concerns of the youth and the LCOY Lebanon statement are integrated into the national climate strategies. This initiative empowered the youth and demonstrated a solid commitment to incorporating their perspectives into the country's climate policies.

Similarly, LCOY Jordan 2023 marked a significant advancement in engaging the younger generation in climate action by actively involving children in the conference. Nearly ten children participated, emphasizing the importance of nurturing awareness and participation among young people from an early age.

Acknowledging the need for greater inclusivity, LCOY Jordan is dedicated to expanding this initiative further, guaranteeing that more children can participate and have their designated space for learning, engagement, and contribution to the climate change dialogue. Initiatives like this have sparked heightened interest in climate change among the youth and have led to Jordan hosting its inaugural RCOY MENA this year.

In Yemen, the Ministry of Water and Environment joined the Climate Youth Negotiator Program (CYNP) in direct response to the success of LCOY Yemen 2023. This initiative increased the focus on youth involvement in climate policymaking at both national and local levels. CYNP is designed to train young negotiators to actively participate in UNFCCC negotiations, answering persistent calls for a more inclusive decision-making process.

Despite historically limited opportunities for youth-led initiatives in Yemen, the success of the LCOY Yemen movement highlighted the positive impact of young people in driving change. As a result, government authorities have increasingly recognized the importance of youth engagement, leading to greater support for LCOY events and related activities.

Additionally, LCOY Oman 2022 utilized the LYS to advocate for youth inclusion in climate decision-making and climate education at the national level. As a direct outcome of youth efforts in Oman, in 2022 youth were included in the national delegation to COP27 for the first time. This inclusion marked a significant step towards recognizing and incorporating youth perspectives. Following the success of these advocacy efforts, the government established a working group dedicated to youth participation within the UNFCCC processes.

Youth-led initiatives often emphasize transparency and accountability, inspiring trust and greater public support for policy measures. The youth stocktake report, which systematically reviews and documents youth contributions to climate action, highlights that systemic transformations depend on the actions of those in power.

Young people have actively advocated for change by participating in climate action through rallies, entrepreneurial ventures, capacity building, and directly influencing the negotiation process through policy statement submissions, interventions in climate change policymaking fora, and the Global Youth Statement, a comprehensive document led by YOUNGO, outlining youth demands and recommendations for climate action which reflects the collective voices of thousands of youth worldwide and is presented at international climate conferences.

Overall, these initiatives demonstrate the vital role of youth in driving climate action, emphasizing their potential to contribute significantly to developing and implementing effective climate policies.

D

Context and Rationale for Example Selection

While the examples provided focus on recent LCOY activities within the Arab region, it is crucial to understand the context in which these conferences are currently operating.

LCOYs in the Arab states are still nascent, with an emphasis on laying a strong foundation for youth engagement in climate action. This includes bringing youth together across diverse regions, fostering a culture of participation, and building the necessary infrastructure and networks essential for future success. At this stage, the primary focus has been on procedural aspects and establishing robust organizational frameworks rather than immediately generating policy outcomes.

This foundational work is critical to ensuring that, as LCOYs continue to mature, they will be well-positioned to effectively influence local and national climate policies. While tangible impacts on policies and NDCs may take time to materialize, the groundwork being laid now is vital for the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of youth-led climate initiatives in the Arab region. As these conferences evolve, we expect to see more documented examples of their direct influence on climate policies.

4



POLICY GAPS AND YOUTH POTENTIAL

4.1. GAPS IN YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Current climate policies across the Arab region, while increasingly comprehensive, often fail to fully harness youth's potential. The independent technical review of the Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs) in the Arab Region highlights a critical gap:

The lack of explicit mechanisms for consistent and meaningful youth engagement within formal climate policy frameworks. What we mean by "meaningful youth participation in climate action" is "a broad array of mechanisms to influence climate change governance where youth share power to steer the process and outcome of their participation. This entails their empowerment and involvement, individually or collectively, to express views, narratives, and solutions in ways that are compatible with large-scale system transformations needed to achieve climate-neutral and resilient futures, overall contributing towards a sustainable society" (UNDP, 2022).

Most Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) do not specify roles or opportunities for youth, which restrains their ability to influence climate strategies effectively. This omission limits the integration of innovative perspectives and solutions that young people are uniquely positioned to offer, especially in areas that directly affect their futures. Not only are potential solutions and perspectives missing, but this also impacts the overall effectiveness and community acceptance of climate strategies, underscoring the need for a robust framework to ensure a resilient future.

4.2. ENHANCING POLICY THROUGH YOUTH INCLUSION

To bridge the policy gaps in youth engagement effectively, the pivotal roles of Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs) and Regional Conferences of Youth (RCOYs) must be leveraged and expanded.

The engagement of youth through LCOYs and RCOYs, supported by structured pathways for interaction with policymakers, can transform youth into powerful stakeholders in climate governance. This approach addresses the immediate need for innovative climate solutions while preparing the ground for long-term sustainable development and aligning local actions with regional and global climate objectives.

Recognizing LCOYs and RCOYs platforms in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as essential components of the policymaking process is a crucial first step. This should include support for broadening their reach and formalizing their input to ensure that the innovative solutions and local knowledge generated are integrated into national and regional climate strategies.

RCOYs are indispensable in enhancing the connections between LCOYs and the global climate policy discourse. They act as a critical bridge, enabling the integration of locally identified solutions and perspectives into broader regional and global discussions.

By providing a platform for LCOY outcomes and recommendations, RCOYs ensure that the voices of local youth are heard and considered in higher-level decision-making, enriching regional policy positions with insights from the grassroots level.

These processes are designed to feed into the Global Conference of Youth (GCOY), where inputs from LCOYs and RCOYs are consolidated into the Global Youth Statement. This statement, presented at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP), represents the collective voice of youth worldwide, advocating for ambitious climate action and influencing global climate negotiations.

Furthermore, these regional gatherings should be formally recognized within climate governance frameworks, institutionalizing their contributions and supporting their expansion. This recognition can include mechanisms such as creating advisory boards or youth-specific policy committees that include young climate advocates from LCOYs and RCOYs.

Establishing a structured self-youth representation at the regional level as a liaison with policymakers, mainly through organizations like the League of Arab States, would significantly enhance the impact of youth-led climate action initiatives. Such structures would enrich the policy landscape, enhance the resilience and adaptability of climate strategies, and align them with global trends toward inclusive governance.

Integrating youth into the planning and implementation phases of climate policy through these structured channels enhances the relevance and acceptance of these strategies within the broader community.

Youth participation leads to more innovative and adaptive strategies, fosters greater public support, and facilitates smoother implementation of climate initiatives. By empowering young people to contribute their insights and solutions actively, climate policies become more robust. This lays a stronger foundation for sustainable and resilient future developments.

5

STRATEGIC
RECOMMENDATIONS:
INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK FOR
YOUTH-LED CLIMATE ACTION

5.1. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUTH INTEGRATION IN CLIMATE POLICY

5.1.A. 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) as key stakeholders. This includes regular consultations and direct contributions to the policy development process.

5.1.B. Establishment of structured self-youth representation:

Set up advisory boards that include representatives from LCOYs and RCOYs to provide insights and recommendations directly to policymakers, engaging them early in policy formulation. Additionally, fostering a structured self-youth representation at the regional level, in coordination with the League of Arab States and other regional bodies, would further strengthen the connection between youth and policymakers. This would ensure that regional policy documents and local policy insights are effectively communicated and considered in the broader climate governance processes.

5.1.C. Integration of youth-led initiatives into national climate strategies:

Promote the inclusion of solutions from youth-led initiatives in national climate strategies, with dedicated support for projects that address specific resilience or mitigation challenges.

5.1.D. Legislative support for youth climate action:

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

5.1.E. Enhancing transparency and access to information:

Improve the openness of climate governance processes and ensure that information is easily accessible to youth, including regular updates on policy developments.

5.1.F. 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.

5.2. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING LCOYS/RCOYS

5.2.A. Strengthening regional-local collaboration:

Enhance the linkage between LCOYs and RCOYs with broader regional and global climate policy discourse through structured platforms that elevate local youth voices to higher decision-making levels. These platforms should ensure that inputs from LCOYs and RCOYs feed into the Global Conference of Youth (GCOY), where they are consolidated into the Global Youth Segment.

This process amplifies the impact of local and regional youth contributions on the global stage, influencing climate negotiations and advocating for ambitious climate action at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP).

A significant development in this regard has been the increased support and recognition of LCOYs by the COP28 Presidency, particularly through the efforts of the Youth Climate Champion (YCC). The YCC has played a pivotal role in connecting LCOYs with national policymakers, donors, and other key stakeholders, amplifying these youth-led conferences' outcomes.

By fostering these connections, the YCC has helped to ensure that the voices and recommendations of young people are heard and considered in the broader context of national and regional climate strategies (YCC, 2024). This enhanced support underscores the growing recognition of LCOYs as essential platforms for youth engagement and their critical contributions to shaping effective and inclusive climate policies.

5.2.B. Using UNFCCC language in LCOYs/ RCOYs:

Train participants to use UNFCCC terminology effectively, ensuring that the advocacy and contributions of youth are impactful and recognized globally. This includes educating youth on the terminology used in crafting policy demand statements and adopting a scientific method for reviewing texts to ensure accuracy and effectiveness. This alignment with UNFCCC language will help make youth inputs comprehensible and influential within the larger global climate discourse.

5.2.C. Creating sustainable funding mechanisms:

Establish centralized or regional funding mechanisms to ensure sustainable support for

LCOYs and RCOYs, addressing issues of governance, transparency, and fund sustainability. The LCOYs and RCOYs are key YOUNGO events, but YOUNGO faces challenges in managing hosting funds directly due to its non-legal status.

Extensive consultation is crucial to establish a funding mechanism that supports the growth and widespread implementation of LCOYs and RCOYs, enhancing transparency, accountability, and long-term viability.

5.2.D. Selection of themes based on local needs and ndcs:

Guide LCOYs to align their themes and activities with the country's NDCs, focusing on the most pressing local environmental and socio-economic challenges. LCOY organizers should conduct detailed analyses of their country's NDCs to identify critical areas where LCOYs can contribute significantly. This analysis and alignment will help tailor conference themes and activities to address the most pressing climate issues identified in the NDCs, making the governments take the recommendations more seriously.

5.2.E. Enhanced reporting mechanisms:

Implement a harmonized reporting approach across the region to ensure consistency in documenting and evaluating the outcomes of LCOYs. This approach should include standardized templates, precise data collection and analysis guidelines, and regular training for LCOY organizers on effective reporting practices. Such mechanisms will facilitate continuous improvement and adaptation of youth-led climate initiatives and enhance these conferences' overall impact and effectiveness.

5.3. FRAMEWORK FOR MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academic institutions, and international bodies should collaborate to foster a conducive environment for youth-led climate action. This section explains why a framework for multi-stakeholder collaboration is needed to integrate youth initiatives into broader climate action plans and ensure that young voices are heard and are influential in shaping sustainable climate policies. The framework outlines the crucial roles, demonstrates effective strategies, and showcases interactions among various stakeholders involved in Local Conferences of Youth (LCOYs).

5.3.A. Purpose of multi-stakeholder collaboration:

1. Supporting policy recommendations:

The involvement of a broad range of stakeholders is essential for effectively implementing the recommendations for enhancing youth participation in climate action. By engaging diverse actors, the recommendations can be supported and realized beyond governmental policy alone.

2. Amplifying youth action:

Multi-stakeholder collaboration ensures that youth-led initiatives gain the necessary resources, visibility, and support to make a significant impact at local, regional, and global levels. This amplifies the impact of youth action, ensuring their contributions are integrated into broader climate strategies.

5.3.B. Stakeholder roles and collaborative models:

1. Civil Society and NGOs:

Fundamentally involved in hosting and organizing LCOYs under the YOUNGO umbrella.

Collaboration Model:

These organizations frequently partner with universities and private sector entities to extend reach and resources, exemplifying a model of grassroots mobilization coupled with institutional support.

2. National Government Agencies and Foreign Government Agencies/Embassies:

Provide essential endorsements, strategic guidance, and funding.

Collaboration Model:

They integrate youth perspectives into national climate strategies by facilitating policy alignment and offering platforms where youth-led outcomes can directly influence policy decisions.

3. Social enterprises and private sector:

Support LCOYs by providing financial resources and technical expertise.

Collaboration Model:

Private sector companies that are supporting sustainable development initiatives and engage in partnerships that translate innovative youth-led solutions into scalable climate actions.

4. Universities:

Offer venues, technical expertise, and research support.

Collaboration Model:

Academic institutions are crucial in bridging theoretical research and practical application, enhancing youth-led climate discussions' content and scientific rigor.

5. UN Organizations:

Agencies like UNICEF and UNFPA provide international connectivity and support.

Collaboration Model:

These organizations help to scale local initiatives to global platforms, ensuring LCOY outcomes are integrated into international climate action frameworks and discussions.

5.3.C. Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement:

The collaborative efforts of these stakeholders underscore a dynamic support structure for LCOYs, enhancing their capacity to influence both national and international climate policies.

This multi-stakeholder engagement model broadens the impact of individual initiatives and ensures that diverse resources and perspectives converge to support youth-led climate action effectively. The effective collaboration among varied stakeholders highlights the strength of a cohesive, multifaceted approach to climate action. This approach is also crucial for developing an inclusive and adaptable climate governance framework to the evolving challenges of climate change.

The proposed Integrated Framework for Youth-Led Climate Action (figure 1) illustrates the progression from general recommendations, which establish the foundation for youth integration in climate policy, to specific actions designed to enhance the effectiveness of LCOYs and RCOYs.

These specific actions necessitate a robust framework of multi-stakeholder collaboration to be effectively implemented and to achieve maximum impact. This interconnected approach ensures that youth-led climate actions are not only comprehensive and well-supported but also seamlessly integrated into broader climate strategies at local, regional, and global levels.



Figure 1: Integrated Framework for Youth-Led Climate Action

6



IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

6.1. Developing a Detailed Roadmap for Youth Integration in Climate Policy:

Collaborate with youth leaders to draft a detailed implementation roadmap for integrating youth into climate policy formulation and implementation processes. This roadmap should specify milestones, responsibilities, and timelines to ensure structured and effective youth participation in all stages of climate policy development, from initial planning to execution and monitoring. The roadmap should align with both national and international climate commitments.

6.2. Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms:

Develop robust mechanisms to monitor and assess the effectiveness of youth integration in climate policy. This includes regular reviews of youth participation, the impact of their contributions, and the overall outcomes of youth-led initiatives. Utilize qualitative and quantitative methods to gather data and provide actionable insights for continuous improvement. These mechanisms should include feedback loops to ensure that lessons learned are integrated into future actions.

6.3. Fostering Inter-Generational Dialogue:

Create regular dialogue platforms to bridge generational perspectives and facilitate mutual learning between youth and senior policymakers. These platforms should encourage open communication, shared experiences, and collaborative problem-solving to ensure that climate policies benefit from diverse viewpoints and wisdom. Such dialogues can be structured around thematic workshops, joint policy development sessions, and inter-generational mentoring programs.

6.4. Encouraging Regional and International Collaboration:

Promote and support youth participation in

regional and international climate forums. Foster partnerships with global youth organizations and provide resources for youth to engage in international dialogues. This will help amplify their voices on a larger scale and integrate their perspectives into global climate strategies. Support for travel, capacity-building, and representation at key events should be prioritized to ensure meaningful participation.

6.5. Providing Institutional Support for Youth Initiatives:

Establish dedicated positions or departments within government agencies focused on youth engagement in climate issues. Ensure these entities have the resources and authority to support and advocate for youth-led climate initiatives effectively. This institutional support will strengthen the role of youth in shaping and implementing climate policies. Funding streams and resource centers for youth-led projects should also be created to ensure sustainability and impact.

6.6. Ensuring Transparency and Accountability:

Implement measures to enhance transparency and accountability in integrating youth into climate policies. This includes clear reporting mechanisms on the progress of youth initiatives, transparent allocation of resources, and public access to information on youth contributions to climate strategies. Regular audits and public disclosures will foster trust and encourage broader participation.

6.7. Capacity Building and Educational Programs:

Develop and implement educational programs and workshops to enhance young people's skills. In climate advocacy, policy analysis, project management, and negotiations. Partner with academic institutions, NGOs, and international organizations to provide comprehensive training that empowers youth to take on leadership roles in climate action.

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CONCLUSION

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The engagement of young people in climate governance is beneficial and essential for developing robust, sustainable, and inclusive climate strategies. Incorporating youth's innovative potential and unique perspectives helps policymakers significantly enhance climate strategies' effectiveness, resilience, and community acceptance, thereby ensuring a resilient future for the region.

The independent technical review of Local Conferences of Youth findings underscores the urgent need for integrated, youth-inclusive policy frameworks that align with national priorities, such as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

These initiatives empower youth by giving them a platform for meaningful participation and enabling fresh ideas and innovative solutions to be integrated into the climate dialogue, which is critical for addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change in the Arab region.

The report outlines key recommendations for enhancing youth participation in climate policy. These include formally recognizing youth platforms within national policies, establishing youth advisory boards, and integrating youth-led initiatives into national climate strategies.

Legislative support for youth climate action and improved transparency and access to information are also crucial. Capacity building and educational programs are recommended to enhance youth skills in climate advocacy, policy analysis, and project management.

Additionally, strengthening regional-local collaboration, using UNFCCC language in LCOYs/RCOYs, creating sustainable funding mechanisms, and aligning themes with local needs and NDCs are essential. Multi-stakeholder collaboration involving governments, NGOs, the private sector, academic institutions, and international bodies is vital for fostering a conducive environment for youth-led climate action.

8



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