Submission of YOUNGO's Mitigation Working Group on behalf of YOUNGO, the Children and Youth Constituency, regarding the First Global Dialogue and Investment-Focused Event (Decision 4/CMA.4, para 8 and 11) under the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme (MWP)

Progress on mitigation, including both the NDCs as well as their implementation, **remains insufficient to deliver on 1.5°**. However, failing to achieve our joint climate target would be **catastrophic for people, especially future generations, and ecosystems** around the globe. Therefore, **we as young people call for an ambitious, effective and goal-oriented implementation of the Mitigation Work Programme (MWP)** as a foundation for a world that is worth living on for all generations yet to come.

We welcome the decision to focus the first Global Dialogue on accelerating just energy transition, as we see the energy transition as the fundamental building block of every mitigation pathway. Regarding this first dialogue, we would like to reiterate that young people are essential for any pathway to effective mitigation. We are not only the ones whose **future depends on the success of mitigation action**, but as forward thinkers, innovators, craftspeople, and leaders we are also vital to its success. Therefore, it is crucial to include us, our ideas, experiences and perspectives in the discussions on mitigation - because **saving our future works best together with us.** We also encourage the adoption of green hydrogen as a renewable secondary energy source to meet greenhouse gas emissions targets and promote economic decarbonization.

A successful, timely and just energy transition is the key to successful progress on mitigation due to the energy sector's role as the main emitter of greenhouse gases. We would like to highlight the following points for consideration during this first Global Dialogue:

- **Emphasize and consider the crucial role of young people in the energy transition**, due to the importance of their participation in decision making as well as their education, training and innovative ideas for realizing the energy transition. If countries want to be able to successfully scale-up energy transition technologies, the provision of adequate training and education for young people of all genders and from all parts of society is crucial. For the development of new technologies, it is furthermore crucial to provide support for young people's ideas, in particular green startups.
- **Develop energy transition pathways under the guideline of a timely fossil fuel phase out.** While we recognize that negative emission technologies might be unavoidable in the long-term, the emphasis for now has to be the replacement of fossil fuels with net-zero alternatives. In a green and Paris-aligned future, there is no medium-term place for any fossil fuels and developing new fossil fuel technologies and installations is not feasible, both in the climate and the economic sense. Developing such pathways also includes clear planning on the decarbonization of other sectors, such as heating, industry and transportation. Considering the long timeframes of investments in these areas, alternatives need to be fostered as soon as possible, which could include electrification or the use of green hydrogen.

- **Recognize the potential of existing renewable technologies.** Today, a range of renewable sources are already cheaper than most fossil-based alternatives. Depending on each country's context, there should therefore be a clear focus on such alternatives, including off- and onshore wind energy, and building-integrated as well as utility-scale PV. Countries should also consider the establishment of novel ideas in this respect, such as Agro-PV, PV along traffic infrastructure, on industrial facilities and within cities. Waiting for the next technology to come along cannot be an excuse for inaction.
- Reiterate both the need for, and feasibility of, a transition to a **100% low-carbon electricity system for all Parties by 2050**, while simultaneously noting that countries capable of meeting this target earlier must, in line with the principle of **common but differentiated responsibilities**, implement energy policies to decarbonise electricity supplies on accelerated timescales.
- **Encourage the production of green hydrogen projects** in developing markets and economies especially Africa and Middle East. To accelerate the transition from reliance on fossil fuels and shift to new energy technologies that open access to clean, affordable energy supplies to all.
- **Improve access to Energy Transition Finance** in order to ensure that a lack of financing or interest rates do not present barriers for low-income countries in their mitigation efforts. At the same time, international funding for new fossil projects should be stopped, as this only locks-in technologies that are not feasible in the long run and could turn into stranded assets.
- **Ensure that national targets are matched with appropriate energy transition policies.** For now, the focus has mostly been on overarching goals, such as the net zero goals formulated by many countries. Even though these goals are an important step towards reaching the Paris goals, they need to be reflected in national energy transition policies to become realistically achievable. We therefore call on all parties to develop clear pathways towards their long-term goals and to align their energy-transition policies with these goals.
- **Make sure energy transition policies do not lock-in outdated technologies under the disguise of progress.** It needs to be ensured that energy projects being implemented are net-zero aligned from the outset and that non-mandatory commitments, e.g. regarding future additions of carbon capture, are not used to enable projects with no clear and enshrined path towards net zero.
- **Implement laws and regulations for effective renewable expansion.** A long-term planning horizon and clear, simple and rapid approval processes for renewable energy projects are crucial to get the energy transition off the ground. Countries should ensure that the overall policy landscape is conducive to such an expansion, including by developing clear short-, medium and long-term energy expansion targets and by facilitating approval processes, e.g. by pre-selecting areas for development and by offering one-stop-shop solutions for project approval.
- **Guarantee a just transition and work towards public acceptance of renewable policies.** Without considering the well-being of people, the energy transition as a large societal project will face trouble with acceptance. A clear communication regarding projects, sound environmental assessment and strategies to improve acceptance, e.g.

by education of citizens or by enabling financial participation of local citizens in a project, are key to energy transition success.

- **Consider infrastructure development as a building block of the energy transition.** The energy transition is not just about implementing new renewable sources. Accompanying improvements in infrastructure and institutions, such as an expansion of the power grid, digitalization and flexibilization of the grid as well as of the power market can be essential to enable the necessary expansion.
- **Improve bilateral and multilateral cooperation on energy and mitigation topics**. It is essential that countries support each other, both with policy advice, as well as with financial and technological support to make a global energy transition possible. This also includes cooperation on the development of global markets and standards, e.g. regarding the trade in new energy carriers such as green hydrogen.
- Initiate a **dedicated negotiation track** for a just energy transition in UN climate negotiations that engages **all relevant stakeholders** in the dialogue, including the private sector and civil society. The global governance framework lacks mechanisms that effectively govern energy systems and deprives the world of a consensus on energy systems.
- Consider a scaling **carbon takeback** obligation for fossil fuel producers and importers, starting at 10% of upstream emissions in 2025 and scaling to 100% by 2050, with residual emissions to be compensated by point source carbon capture and high-quality nature and tech-based carbon removals.
- Alongside the concurrent elimination of all fossil fuel supply-side subsidies by 2025, implement a global moratorium on financing prospecting and exploration for new coal resources;heavy-polluting oil (suggested to be defined at 450 kg CO2 per 42-gallon barrel); and all fossil fuels in nationally or internationally-protected conservation areas
- Annex 1 Parties should set national energy sufficiency targets at no more than 25,000 kWh-e per capita p.a. by 2050 to mitigate energy demand increases.

The Mitigation Work Program **holds significant potential to close the implementation gap**, which is essential if the global community is to retain a fighting chance to avoid the worst consequences of the climate crisis. But this potential can only be realized if countries commit to the process and openly discuss both their successes and their failures to enable others to learn from their experience. Additionally, it is crucial t**hat there are no taboos when it comes to the discussion of the required steps**, which mainly concerns **the need for a serious debate about rapid fossil fuel phase-out** and about how all countries can achieve significant progress in this regard.

Lastly, for us as YOUNGO it is essential to point out that **supporting and including youth in this debate is crucial.** Without well-educated and empowered young people as innovators and practical implementers of the energy transition and without the inputs of the next generation as trailblazers of demand-side transformation, the significant challenge of rapid mitigation will fail.

Questions about youth positions on mitigation?
Send us a message at youngomitigationwg@gmail.com