

YOUNGO Submission ***on the next five years of the Global Climate Action Agenda***

YOUNGO, the Children and Youth Constituency of the UNFCCC, comprised of children- and youth-NGOs and children and youth worldwide, welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of the 2025 Work Programme and the evolving vision for the next five years of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA), as outlined in the recent letter from the Climate High-Level Champions (HLCs). As the HLCs embark on shaping a forward-looking strategy, our submission offers insights, recommendations, and reflections grounded in our experience and engagement with the GCAA by a diverse child and youth network and constituency. We recognize the urgency of accelerating systemic change across sectors and geographies, and we support the Champions' commitment to driving enhanced collaboration, accountability, and impact through the Marrakech Partnership and beyond.

Our input aims to inform the High-Level Champions' vision with practical pathways, bold ideas, and inclusive approaches that can help unlock progress at scale. We believe the next phase of the GCAA must be defined by deeper integration with national processes, stronger alignment with science-based targets, and a renewed focus on equity, justice and resilience to ensure that no one is left behind.

The GCAA must step up their commitment to equality and intergenerational equity

The 4th Letter from the COP30 Presidency published outlines an Action Agenda, structured around six thematic axes and 30 “super-leverage points” aimed at accelerating the implementation of the Paris Agreement. It emphasises on systemic transformation, multilevel cooperation, and a “global mutirão” reflects a bold and inclusive vision for climate action. However, it is deeply concerning that **among the 30 priorities identified, there is neither explicit mention of gender equality, children, or youth**. This omission is not merely symbolic, **it means sidelining the very groups who are both disproportionately affected by climate crisis and who will also be left to deal with the cost of inaction!**

The new Work Programme must correct this mistake and shape a GCAA that is truly inclusive, lives up the realities and needs. We urge to put gender-transformative approaches, rooted in human rights, gender justice, and intergenerational equity at the core of all their activities and key objectives!

What should success look like for the GCAA in the next five years, and how can it be measured effectively?

Success for the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) over the next five years must be defined not by the volume of pledges or plans, but by the tangible, equitable, and science-aligned transformation it catalyzes - especially at the grassroots level. It must reflect a shift from rhetoric to results, from centralized planning to decentralized impact, and from exclusion to full inclusion.

Key indicators of the GCAA include and can be measured as following:

- Grant-based Climate Finance that reaches the grassroots

- Track the actual amount of grant-based climate finance received by non-Party stakeholders, especially underrepresented groups such as children, youth, women, gender-diverse people, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities;
- Measure the percentage of funding allocated directly to climate actions - not just planning documents - that deliver adaptation, recovery, and GHG emissions reductions;
- Ensure equitable, transparent, gender-transformative and efficient finance flows;
- Ensure subnational and community-level allocation is prioritized and transparently reported.
- Alignment with global frameworks and science
 - Evaluate progress against the goals of the CMA, Global Stocktake (GST), and the latest IPCC findings;
 - Monitor how non-Party stakeholder (NPS) efforts are formally integrated into NDCs and NAPs, with clear pathways for accountability and scaling.
- Systemic transformation rooted in Human Rights
 - Recognise the rights of children and future generations as a foundational principle for all activities, plans and publications under the GCAA.
 - Health: Climate change must be officially recognized as a major public health threat, with strengthened health systems and universal access to care.
 - For example, enhance V(16) to read: “promoting resilient health systems, and integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health (MNCHA), mental health, and psychosocial support as core components of climate resilience and adaptation strategies”
 - Include address non-economic loss and damage
 - Education: Ensure inclusive access to climate-related education, especially for marginalized communities.
 - Including, but not limited to V(18): “education, capacity-building, and job creation to address climate change with special focus on children, youth and marginalized groups”
 - Include address non-economic loss and damage, e.g. education loss
 - Energy: Track the complete phase-out of fossil fuels and the elimination of subsidies, with a shift to clean, renewable energy.
 - Including but not limited to IV(11): “multilevel governance which actively and meaningfully includes children, youth, women, gender-diverse people, Indigenous people and vulnerable communities”
 - Food Systems: Promote resilient, equitable food systems and encourage low-carbon diets, reducing reliance on high-emission meat production.
 - Enhance to include equitable access to land, resources and finance
 - Nature: Measure progress in ecosystem restoration, deforestation halts, and synergies between biodiversity and climate conventions.
 - Technology: Support and scale smart housing and sustainable agriculture technologies that are accessible and locally adapted.

- Including but not limited to IV(13): “resilient and gender-transformative urban development, mobility, and infrastructure while taking into consideration of the needs of children, youth, women, gender-diverse people and vulnerable communities”
- And VI(28): “innovation, climate entrepreneurship and small and micro businesses, with special assistance for youth-led and women-led businesses”
- Addressing Water and Health Emergencies
 - Prioritize funding and action for water pollution and drought crises, especially in the Global South;
 - Recognize and mitigate antimicrobial resistance (AMR) risks linked to water pollution and climate-driven vector migration.
- Effective Measurement Tools
 - Develop a climate finance dashboard that disaggregates data by recipient type, geography, and project type, and ensure comprehensive gender- and age-disaggregated data collection and reporting;
 - Create impact scorecards for NPS contributions, showing integration into national plans and real-world outcomes;
 - Use community-led monitoring frameworks to validate that funding and actions are reaching those most affected, including children, youth, women and gender-diverse people;
 - Establish independent audits of fossil fuel phase-out progress and subsidy elimination.

In essence, success for the GCAA means systemic change that is just, equitable, inclusive, and measurable. It means climate finance flowing not just to institutions, but to people and grassroots movements. It means recognizing climate crisis as a health emergency and responding with urgency. And above all, it means empowering those who have long been excluded to lead the way forward.

How can the GCAA facilitate direct and impactful engagement between Parties and Non-Party Stakeholders (NPS) to support implementation efforts at both national and sectoral levels, in order to advance the full delivery of the Global Stocktake (GST), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)?

To fully deliver on the Global Stocktake (GST), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) must evolve into a platform of equitable collaboration, resource mobilization, and structural reform. True engagement between Parties and Non-Party Stakeholders (NPS), particularly from the Global South, requires more than consultation; it demands co-creation, co-ownership, and co-implementation.

This should look as following:

- Provide technical support and direct funding to NPS
 - Scale local action: Establish dedicated and easy accessible funding streams for grassroots organizations, local governments, and child-, youth-, women-

- and Indigenous-led initiatives to implement climate solutions tailored to their contexts;
- Technical Capacity Building: Offer sustained technical assistance to NPS for designing, executing, and monitoring climate actions aligned with national targets;
- Support for isolated populations: Create grant-based finance facilities specifically for remote and underserved communities to overcome logistical and infrastructural barriers to implementation.
- Remove systemic barriers to participation
 - Visa and travel reform: Collaborate with host countries to streamline free of charge visa processes for NPS representatives to conferences, technical workshops etc., especially from the Global South;
 - Digital inclusion: Invest in digital infrastructure and access tools to ensure remote participation is viable and meaningful;
 - Language accessibility: Provide multilingual translation and interpretation services across all GCAA platforms and events to ensure inclusive dialogue.
- Elevate traditional knowledge and local contexts
 - Respect and prioritize Indigenous voices: Recognize traditional knowledge holders as key contributors to adaptation and mitigation strategies, and ensure their proposals are reflected in national and sectoral plans;
 - Culturally rooted Adaptation: Support adaptation strategies that reflect the cultural, social, and economic realities of vulnerable groups, rather than imposing one-size-fits-all solutions.
- Institutionalize NPS contributions in climate governance
 - Formal integration into reports: Require Parties to document and integrate NPS contributions in their official climate reports under the Paris Agreement;
 - Utilize open tracking tools: Promote and build capacity on the use of platforms like the Global Climate Action Portal to transparently track voluntary and collaborative climate action, especially initiatives in the Global South.
- Strengthen local governance and accountability
 - Empower local governments: Provide direct support to subnational authorities to align local development plans with NDCs and NAPs;
 - Community-led monitoring: Encourage participatory monitoring frameworks that allow communities to track progress and hold stakeholders accountable.

The GCAA must become a bridge - not a barrier - between Parties and NPS. Success lies in dismantling systemic obstacles, redistributing resources, and embedding local wisdom into global strategies.

How can the CGAA promote an inclusive and equitable engagement, in particular from underrepresented groups and regions?

To truly embody the spirit of global climate justice, the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) must be built on a foundation of equity-centered engagement on the foundational principles of gender justice and intergenerational equity. This means not only acknowledging the disproportionate impacts of climate change on historically marginalized groups and

regions, but **actively prioritizing their leadership, knowledge, and participation at every stage of the agenda.**

Gender is a critical lens through which climate impacts and responses must be understood. Women and girls in developing countries are often closely connected to nature through their roles in managing household resources. This connection makes them especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. They frequently bear the burden of walking long distances to fetch water, a task made more difficult by water scarcity and environmental degradation. As a result, their daily lives are significantly affected. More so, the climate crisis is deepening existing inequalities and disproportionately impacting those who are already marginalized: Children, youth, women, and gender-diverse people, especially those who are Black, afro descendent, Indigenous, disabled, LGBTQIA+, or from the Global South. Gender injustice is built on historic and existing social, economic, and political inequalities. Ignoring gender in climate policy design undermines both equity and effectiveness. We demand that gender justice be embedded across the work, agenda and priorities.

Recognise Children & Youth

Children and youth are not only among the population which is directly affected by the long-term consequences of climate inaction yet taking note of their efforts, they are also amongst the most vocal and innovative advocates for change. Excluding them from the core priorities of COP30 sends a troubling message about intergenerational equity, gender justice and the inclusivity of the climate process. It makes us question if COP30 is really the “peoples COP”, or only a COP for certain groups of society.

Children and youth must be meaningfully included and recognized not just as vulnerable groups, but also as strong agents of change. It’s important to remember that within these groups, girls, young women, and gender-diverse children and youth often face even more challenges because of their gender and other factors like race or economic background. Their voices are too often left out of climate conversations.

Address Loss & Damage fully

The COP30 Presidency references the devastating May 2024 floods in southern Brazil in its communications. However, it fails to explicitly link such extreme weather events, whether sudden or slow-onset, to the critical negotiations on Loss and Damage. These events do not only destroy infrastructure, disrupt livelihoods, and undermine development efforts. They also profoundly impact individuals and communities through the loss of lives, health, culture, and other non-economic dimensions that are too often overlooked.

SB62 is already not promising on Loss and Damage where it is still complex for the world leaders to understand that the urgency of responding to loss and damage was yesterday! And today it is a crisis to be responded to. Developing countries, frontline communities, youth, children, and women have been expressing the gap of both mitigation and adaptation, leaving the burden to them as they respond to Loss and Damage.

There will be no Mutirao - If we don’t recognise Loss and Damage. We urge the COP30 Presidency to recognize the urgency and centrality of Loss and Damage in the climate negotiations and their key objectives. Policies in this area must be grounded in the lived realities of vulnerable communities and designed to address their specific needs. This

includes advancing efforts that strengthen resilience at the community, national, and regional levels, and ensuring that knowledge on Loss and Damage is translated into concrete, actionable outcomes.

The GCAA must

- Adopt an equity-centered framework
 - Prioritize marginalized groups: Children, youth, women, gender-diverse people, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, and frontline communities must be recognized as central actors, not peripheral stakeholders;
 - Embed equity in all processes: Equity must be a guiding principle in the design, governance, funding, and implementation of the GCAA - not just a checkbox in consultations.
- Ensure full participation across all stages
 - Inclusive representation: Guarantee meaningful involvement of underrepresented groups in all stages, including the creation, development, and implementation of the GCAA;
 - Co-Design and Co-Leadership: Empower these groups to co-lead initiatives, shape priorities, and define success metrics based on their lived experiences and local realities.
- Ground the GCAA in Intergenerational Equity and Gender Justice
 - Intergenerational Equity: Recognize the rights of future generations by ensuring children and youth are not only consulted but given decision-making power;
 - Fellowships: Continue fellowships to enhance meaningful youth inclusion;
 - Gender Justice: Address structural inequalities by integrating gender-responsive policies and ensuring leadership roles for women and gender-diverse individuals.
- Establish dedicated Focal Points and support mechanisms
 - Regional and group-specific Focal Points: Create dedicated focal points within the GCAA to advocate for and coordinate engagement with specific underrepresented groups and regions;
 - Capacity Building and Accessibility: Provide free of charge resources, training, and accessible platforms, including open calls, in various languages to ensure full participation, especially for those facing systemic barriers.
 - Consultation with Constituencies; UNFCCC recognised constituencies must have regular consultations on the work of GCA, and active consultations in the process of developing the GGCA and presidency priorities.
- Outline transparent and inclusive modalities around the activation groups
 - Inclusive selection process: Establish an open call for initiatives that fulfil the criteria to join. Having constituency nominated initiatives will help strengthen the legitimacy of the activation groups with those on the frontlines and facilitate clear involvement of the UNFCCC Constituencies in the GCAA and activation groups.

- Transparent procedures: Publish, and create with close consultation with relevant stakeholders, the TOR and governance and decision making structure for the activation groups.

True inclusivity is not symbolic - it is structural. The GCAA must be a vehicle for justice, built on the principles of intergenerational equity and gender justice. By centering the voices and leadership of those most affected by climate change, we can transform the GCAA into a bold, inclusive, and effective force for global climate action.

What improvements can be made to ensure better transparency, reporting and follow up of the GCAA, including in existing tools such as the Global Climate Action Portal (a.k.a NAZCA) and the Yearbook of Global Climate Action?

To strengthen the credibility and impact of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA), transparency must be redefined - not just as data availability, but as democratic access, inclusive oversight, and actionable insight. Existing tools like the Global Climate Action Portal (NAZCA) and the Yearbook of Global Climate Action must evolve to reflect the lived realities and leadership of those most affected by climate crisis.

- Establish formal roles for marginalized groups in oversight
 - Inclusive monitoring: Children, youth, women, gender-diverse people and grassroots organizations must be formally included as reviewers and contributors to the Yearbook of Global Climate Action and other key reports;
 - Official monitors, not observers: These groups should have recognized roles in evaluating progress, identifying gaps, and shaping recommendations - ensuring accountability from the ground up.
- Enhance accessibility through capacity building
 - Democratize climate data: Invest in capacity-building programs that empower citizens, especially children, youth, women, gender-diverse people, Indigenous Peoples and people from the Global South, to understand, access and use climate data effectively;
 - Localized training: Partner with organizations like UNDP and GEF to deliver region-specific training on tracking, among others, NDCs, carbon footprints, gender-transformative finance and adaptation efforts.
- Develop citizen-friendly monitoring tools
 - Non-Governmental Platforms: Create and promote tools that allow individuals and communities to monitor their country's climate commitments and local actions - with according capacity building and awareness campaigns;
 - Community-level dashboards: Enable tracking of subnational progress on emissions, adaptation, and finance flows, with user-friendly interfaces and multilingual support.
- Strengthen the Global Climate Action Portal (NAZCA)
 - Expand data coverage: Include more granular data on local and regional initiatives, especially from the Global South, while emphasising disaggregated data on age, gender, disability, indigeneity, race, and socio economic background;

- Interactive features: Introduce filters and visualizations that allow users to explore climate actions by sector, geography, and stakeholder type;
- Feedback mechanisms: Allow users to submit updates, corrections, and insights to improve data accuracy and relevance in appropriate regularity.

Transparency is not just about publishing reports - it's about empowering people to understand, engage with, and shape climate action. By embedding equity into reporting structures, building capacity for data literacy, and creating tools that serve citizens - not just institutions - the GCAA can become a model of inclusive climate governance.

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