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YOUTH ADAPTATION FORUM IN UGANDA

"Youth Leadership to Build Climate-Resilient Economies"

3rd-4th April 2025, Makerere University

Youth Communiqué

Preamble

In 2025, ahead of COP30, the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), in partnership with youth organizations, universities and governments is launching the "African Youth Adaptation Forums" to build the largest network of youth championing climate adaptation across Africa as part of the African Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP).

We, the Youth gathered at the Youth Adaptation Forum in Kampala, Uganda on 3rd-4th April, 2025. We wish to thank the organizers GCA, the Ministry of Water and Environment, the Climate Change Adaptation Innovation (CHAI), and Makerere University for organizing the Forum.

The Forum offered us a platform to connect students, youth-led organizations, universities and government representatives, and to learn about adaptation and showcase our solutions and experiences.

The high-level segment had the participation of the Minister of Youth Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, and members from the Parliament.

We celebrated the innovation and creativity of the best practices presented at the Forum including job creation through youth entrepreneurship, climate-resilient agriculture, young women leadership, waste-preneurship, and the engagement of youth-led organizations in raising awareness and in building a climate-resilient future.

Across Africa, we the Youth represent over 60% of the population, making the continent the world's youngest.

While we are the backbone of the continent, we face major hurdles, including high unemployment, poverty, limited access to education and opportunities, low levels of awareness and knowledge about adaptation and resilience, displacement, and the growing threat of climate change. This crisis only makes things harder, putting our livelihoods, food security, and economic stability at even greater risk.

We, Young Africans are uniquely positioned to lead both adaptation and sustainable economic growth across the continent.

We, recognizing the urgent need for adaptation action, present this communiqué as our collective voice, highlighting our aspirations, challenges, and commitments to building climate-resilient economies.

We take pride in the rich cultural diversity of Africa, a wealth of natural resources .

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We envision an African continent that prioritizes the development of climate-resilient economy for the present and future generations, ensuring the creation of jobs, the implementation of nature-based solutions and adaptation projects taking into account indigenous knowledge and traditional practices and inclusivity of youth in decision-making.

We are facing the impacts of climate change such as:

- Increasing rainfall, flooding, loss of crops and infrastructure, displacement, conflict over resources, biodiversity loss, increase of diseases, and threats to livelihoods and ecosystems.

To champion adaptation action, we need:

- Platforms to connect with young people and decision makers.
- Access to capacity-building and training programs tailored to youth and young women needs.
- Access to funding for young entrepreneurs to pioneer adaptation solutions.
- Peer to peer learning, mentorship and exchange programs for youth across Africa and the world.
- To use technology, social media, music, arts, videos and to combine in-person and virtual events to reach and engage more young people.

We, as Youth, can be agents of change in our communities and seek to learn more about:

- Climate adaptation concepts, policies, best practices in multiple sectors such, agriculture, green entrepreneurship, nature-based solutions.
- Leadership skills and learning how to prepare a project proposal, raise funding, and track and report progress.
- Learn about community and youth engagement methodologies.
- Developing our communication skills and learning how to translate technical adaptation knowledge into simple messages to raise awareness about climate adaptation in our local communities.

Our commitment to building a climate-resilient economy is:

- Being active members of and strengthening the Youth Adaptation Network.
- Learning more about adaptation and climate change.

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- Being adaptation champions and sharing what we have learned with our families, communities and networks in a simple language.
- Participating in the GCA's Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day.
- Developing adaptation solutions that can generate jobs and income for young people.
- Advocating for climate adaptation and education.

We call on global leaders to invest in adaptation finance and youth-driven adaptation solutions, support intergenerational partnerships and dialogues, scale green jobs for Youth across all sectors, and support adaptation education and entrepreneurship.

Together, we are working for a climate-resilient Africa.

#Youth4Adaptation #Africa #Uganda