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Ministry of Green
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PAN-AFRICAN YOUTH ADAPTATION FORUM IN ZAMBIA ON THE SIDE OF THE NAP-EXPO 2025

“Youth Leadership to Build Climate-Resilient Economies”
8–9 August 2025, Lusaka, Zambia

Youth Communiqué

Preamble

We, the youth participants of the Youth Adaptation Forum in Zambia, gathered in Lusaka from 8–9 August 2025 ahead of the NAPEXPO 2025 with representatives from all 10 provinces of Zambia and several African regions.

We express our deep appreciation to the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), Inclusive Education for Sustainable Development, the University of Zambia, and the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment for making this Youth Adaptation Forum possible.

We, the youth, are stepping up as leaders today, not tomorrow.

In Zambia, we represent 65% of the population, and in Africa, 70% of people in sub-Saharan Africa are under the age of 30.

We are already on the front lines—implementing change, supporting communities, and forging a climate-resilient future for our nations and our continent.

Our Reality

- We are facing pollution from human and industrial activities such as mining, and the devastating impacts of climate change, including prolonged drought:
- Destroying over 40% of maize crops, threatening food security and youth livelihoods.
- Drying up water sources, making it hard to sustain crops, livestock, and meet daily needs.
- Dependence on hydroelectric power generation, means we experience blackouts that disrupt education, work, and essential services.
- Poor waste management which contributes to climate degradation.
- Worsening inequalities, especially for vulnerable groups—particularly girls and women—by increasing risks to safety, health, and education.

Our Vision

We envision a planet where:

- Climate adaptation is mainstreamed into all sectors—from agriculture to education.
- Youth are empowered as climate champions and green entrepreneurs implementing adaptation solutions.

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- Local communities are climate-resilient, food-secure, and economically empowered.

Our Call to Action for Global Leaders

1. Strong Adaptation Policies

- Ensure every country develops and implements an inclusive and robust National Adaptation Plan (NAP).
- Embed youth participation at every stage of the NAP—from design to evaluation.
- Strengthen accountability, monitoring and evaluation of government.

2. Adaptation Finance

- Fulfil all international adaptation finance commitments to the most vulnerable nations.
- Allocate a dedicated share of national budgets to adaptation.
- Fund youth-led initiatives directly, through simplified and accessible processes.
- Encourage the private sector to support youth-led initiatives through corporate social responsibility programs that are backed by law.

3. Adaptation Literacy and Education

- Integrate climate adaptation into school curricula at all levels and organize adaptation programs in schools including school- and community-clubs.
- Scale up capacity-building for youth and youth-led organizations.
- Partner with universities and university students to scale adaptation training in circular economy, climate-smart agriculture, green technologies, and early warning systems.

4. Green Jobs & Entrepreneurship

- Support job creation in climate-resilient sectors.
- Provide entrepreneurship training and market access for youth-led green businesses.

5. Youth Participation & Intergenerational Partnerships

- Strengthen youth participation, especially vulnerable youth such as those with disabilities, in the decision making process, including in local planning.
- Expand the Youth Adaptation Network globally and engage in the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day on 12 October.
- Foster intergenerational partnerships to scale up adaptation solutions.

6. Awareness & Cultural Engagement

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- Raise adaptation awareness and use radio, TV, social media, and cultural activities, youth forums to reach all members of society.
- Elevate youth voices in storytelling and advocacy.
- Use traditional knowledge and local languages.

7. Youth Empowerment & International Solidarity

- Strengthen peer-to-peer learning, Pan-African youth exchanges, and mentorship.
- Provide small grants and incubation for innovative youth adaptation solutions.

Our Commitments

We, the youth, commit to:

- Educate peers and raise awareness on climate resilience.
- Mobilize communities for locally-led adaptation solutions.
- Innovate and scale technologies for climate-smart agriculture, water management, nature based solutions, renewable energy, and disaster preparedness.

Let us drive the Adaptation Agenda together. This is our time!

We invite leaders and communities to partner with us – not behind us, not ahead of us, but side by side – as we build a climate-resilient planet where no one is left behind.

Thank you!