

Ethiopian Youth Adaptation Communiqué

Youth Leadership
to Build
**Climate-
Resilient**
Economies



7, September, 2025
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Preamble



In 2025, ahead of COP30, the Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA), in partnership with The Youth Print, Ministry of Planning and Development, and Addis Ababa University, convened the Ethiopian Youth Adaptation Forum as part of the African Youth Adaptation Forums under the African Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP).

We, the youth gathered at the Youth Adaptation Forum, express our gratitude to The Youth Print, Addis Ababa University, and the Ministry of Planning and Development of Ethiopia, with the support from the Global Center for Youth Adaptation, for hosting us.

This Forum was a landmark moment to bring together young people across Ethiopia, students, youth-led organisations, experts, and government representatives, and to build a shared understanding of climate adaptation while presenting our solutions and experiences.



The high-level segment included the participation of the Minister of Planning and Development, senior government officials, and academic leaders.

The Forum also showcased youth-led innovations in agriculture, renewable energy, water management, health, and urban resilience, highlighting entrepreneurship models and scalable solutions that demonstrate the **creativity of Ethiopian youth**.

We welcomed commitments to integrate our recommendations into Ethiopia's national adaptation strategies and into ACS-2 outcomes, ensuring that our voices are carried from Addis Ababa to national, continental, and global stages.

OUR REALITIES

Ethiopia is already experiencing the severe impacts of climate change. Droughts displace families and force migrations; floods destroy infrastructure and farmland; unpredictable rainfall weakens food systems; and water scarcity deepens competition over resources. Our people face biodiversity loss, soil degradation, reduced agricultural productivity, and an increasing burden of disease. In urban areas, rapid growth has brought new vulnerabilities, extreme heat and poor sanitation.

We, the youth, represent the majority of Ethiopia's population. We are the backbone of our society, yet we face unemployment, underemployment, poverty, and displacement. Climate change magnifies these vulnerabilities, threatening our education, our livelihoods, and our opportunities for a secure future. Despite these challenges, Ethiopian youth continue to rise as innovators, activists, and leaders. We are uniquely positioned to drive adaptation solutions that secure food systems, restore ecosystems, improve health, and build resilient cities.

Our Aspirations

We envision an Ethiopia where adaptation is not a burden but an opportunity to build a green economy that creates jobs, protects ecosystems, and enhances human well-being. We envision an Ethiopia where farmers access climate information through digital platforms, where youth entrepreneurs transform waste into valuable resources, where renewable energy powers homes and businesses, where urban green corridors mitigate heat and pollution, and where health systems are resilient to emerging climate-driven diseases.

We imagine an Ethiopia where young women, children, and marginalized groups are full participants in decision-making, and where traditional knowledge from our diverse cultures is respected and integrated with modern science. We aspire to contribute to an Ethiopia and beyond where adaptation strengthens public health, unity, prosperity, and justice for current and future generations.

WHAT WE NEED TO CHAMPION ADAPTATION



To accelerate adaptation in Ethiopia, youth need:

- Platforms to connect with government, academia, civil society, and the private sector, ensuring our perspectives are embedded in decision-making.
- Capacity-building and training that equips young people with knowledge of adaptation policies, project design, proposal writing, fundraising, monitoring, and reporting.
- Access to finance that allows youth-led businesses to pioneer adaptation solutions, scale up innovations, and create green jobs.



- Mentorship and peer-to-peer learning, with national, regional, and global exchange opportunities to strengthen youth expertise and solidarity.
- Technology and communication tools, from social media to music, arts, and video storytelling, can help reach more young people and raise awareness in our communities.
- Stronger partnerships with ministries, universities, development partners, and private companies to turn ideas into large-scale projects that benefit communities.



WHAT WE COMMIT AS YOUTH

We, the youth of Ethiopia, commit to strengthening the Youth Adaptation Network in our country and linking it to regional and global platforms. We commit to being adaptation champions in our families, schools, and communities, sharing knowledge in simple and accessible ways. We commit to building on our creativity from climate-smart agriculture and renewable energy projects to eco-entrepreneurship and digital climate tools to drive transformative change. **We will participate in global youth initiatives,** including GCA's Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day, to ensure our perspectives inform Africa's adaptation journey.

We commit to advancing adaptation solutions that create jobs, boost incomes, and open opportunities for young people, while promoting nature-based approaches that safeguard ecosystems and strengthen communities.

We will continue to advocate for education, awareness, and inclusivity, ensuring that women, rural youth, and marginalized groups are not left behind.

We strive to build a climate-resilient economy by strengthening the Youth Adaptation Network, expanding knowledge and sharing it widely, creating youth employment opportunities through adaptation solutions, and advocating for climate education.

Our Call to Leaders



We call on the Government of Ethiopia, African leaders, and the international community to:

- Invest in adaptation finance and ensure youth organisations have direct access to funds.
- Support youth-driven solutions and scale them into Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy (CRGE), National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) implementation.
- Promote adaptation education in schools and universities to prepare the next generation for climate challenges.
- Expand green entrepreneurship and job creation in renewable energy, agriculture, and urban development, targeting unemployed graduates and marginalized youth.
- Strengthen intergenerational partnerships, creating permanent spaces for youth to participate in policy and program design.
- Ensure equity and inclusion, prioritizing the voices of women, rural youth, and communities most vulnerable to climate change.
- Provide education opportunities on climate change to the most vulnerable population, such as farmers and pastoralists

Strengthening Youth-Driven Adaptation Ambitions for COP30

As youth, we stress that in the lead-up to COP30 in Belém, the following priorities must be addressed with urgency:

1. Adaptation Finance – Deliver on the global commitment to double adaptation finance, ensuring transparent tracking and direct access for youth-led organizations and communities on the frontlines.

2. Funding for National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Implementation – Mobilize predictable and accessible resources to accelerate the implementation of NAPs across developing countries, with youth meaningfully engaged as partners in design, delivery, and monitoring.

3. Stronger Integration of Adaptation into NDCs – Embed clear and ambitious adaptation targets within updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), elevating adaptation as a central pillar alongside mitigation.

4. Measuring Adaptation with Youth Inclusion – Develop robust indicators under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) to quantify progress, with explicit metrics tracking youth participation, leadership, and impact in national and local adaptation initiatives.



We, the youth of Ethiopia, affirm our role as the generation that will shape a climate-resilient Ethiopia within a thriving African continent.

