



GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION

YOUTH COMMUNIQUÉ ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND LEADERSHIP

Pan-African Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership Youth Adaptation Forum

5 September 2025 Nairobi, Kenya

We, the youth of Africa and beyond, representing 50 countries across 4 continents and in-country focal points of the Youth Adaptation Network spanning 46 nations, stand before you today at the Youth Adaptation Forum to mark the closing of the Pan-African Youth Academy on Climate Adaptation and Leadership in Nairobi, Kenya.

We would like to thank the Global Center on Adaptation for providing us this training and gathering opportunity, we are returning to our countries with a family network of brothers and sisters from 50 countries.

With this communiqué, we demand that global leaders step up to this decisive moment for climate action by doubling adaptation finance.

Major emitters must honor their commitments in the Paris Agreement. The world is burning. No more delay. No more empty promises. It is time for bold, urgent action.

Why Youth Must Be at the Center

- Africa is the youngest continent in the world: over 70% of the population is under 30, and by 2030, one in three young people globally will be African.
- Young people are already on the frontlines of climate impacts, from droughts to floods, yet we are also the biggest resource for innovation, resilience, and community mobilization.
- Investing in youth means investing in the continent's future stability, prosperity, and resilience.

Our Priority Areas for the new phase of African Adaptation Accelerator Program

1. **Adaptation Education & Training:** Education is the starting point. We call for investments in skills development for young people. Through the Youth Academy, we will train schools, peers, and communities to replicate climate knowledge and resilience strategies.
2. **Youth Leadership:** We call for the continuation and scaling of the Youth Academy on Adaptation and Leadership as a permanent program. Provide small grants to youth-led organizations to implement adaptation innovations. Support the organization of



intergenerational dialogues, mentorship programs, and peer-to-peer learning platforms. We request youth participation in decision-making processes.

3. **Agriculture & Agribusiness:** Agriculture offers youth a powerful opportunity to create income, feed Africa's growing population, and improve livelihoods. We call for the transformation of agriculture into agribusiness, providing access to land, technology, financing, and markets. With these opportunities, young people can turn agriculture into a driver of job creation and climate resilience.
4. **Adaptation Finance:** Countries must fulfill their commitments under the Paris Agreement. We demand direct access to adaptation finance, including small grants for youth-led organizations, to scale innovations and community-driven projects.
5. **Adaptation Jobs for Young People:** Adaptation is not only a necessity—it is an engine for job creation. We call on leaders to invest in youth employment across climate services, agribusiness, ecosystem management, and green entrepreneurship. A climate-resilient Africa must be built by equipping young people with decent jobs and sustainable livelihoods.
6. **Nature-Based Solutions:** We commit to advancing tree planting, ecosystem restoration, and biodiversity protection as cost-effective, people-centered adaptation measures.
7. **Early Warning Systems & Climate Information:** Communities need timely, accessible, and localized early warning systems to protect lives and livelihoods from floods, droughts, and extreme heat. Young people can help design and disseminate community-based early warning systems, using digital platforms, radio, and local knowledge. We demand investment in youth-led climate information services to close the gap between science and communities.

How to Scale Up and Accelerate Adaptation Action in the New Phase of the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP)

Our goal is clear: by 2030, 1,000,000 young people will be part of the Youth Adaptation Network.

We are very clear on what we want to see happening, based on our experiences as youth leaders, innovators, and community mobilizers. To accelerate adaptation action, we propose:

1. Youth as Partners

Recognize young people not only as beneficiaries but as equal partners and leaders in shaping and implementing adaptation solutions.

2. Sub-Regional Activities

Scale up Youth Academies, Youth Adaptation Forums, and Intergenerational Dialogues at the sub-regional level to reach more communities and foster cross-learning across countries.

3. Train-the-Trainers Approach

Adopt a train-of-trainers model so that graduates of the Youth Academy can transfer knowledge, tools, and skills to peers, schools, and communities, multiplying impact.

4. Partnerships for Tailored Solutions

Build strong partnerships between universities, youth-led organizations, and governments to co-create and implement locally tailored adaptation solutions.

5. Dedicated Fund for the Youth Adaptation Network

Establish and sustain a funding mechanism for the Youth Adaptation Network to support the growth of a vibrant movement and provide direct financing to youth-led innovative solutions.

6. Alumni Network of the Youth Academy

Create an alumni platform for all Youth Academy participants to exchange experiences, provide peer-to-peer training, and continue collaboration beyond the academy.

7. Strong Communication and Narrative Change

Invest in communication campaigns to change the narrative on adaptation, showcase youth-led solutions, and inspire hope and action across Africa and beyond.

Inclusion Matters

Adaptation must be inclusive. We call for:

- Recognition and integration of indigenous knowledge in adaptation strategies.



- Young women's leadership to be prioritized and resourced in climate decision-making.
- Equal opportunities for all youth, regardless of gender, geography, or background, to shape Africa's adaptation journey.

Our Commitment as Youth Leaders

- We request that the Youth Academy Program continue, because here we found inspiration, training, and leadership skills that will shape the future.
- We will replicate the training programs from the Youth Academy in our countries and strengthen the largest Pan-African Adaptation Movement.
- On 12 October, we will celebrate the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day, holding simultaneous consultations on NDCs, youth, and adaptation.
- We will drive intergenerational dialogues, mentorship programs, and sub-regional hubs to build resilience and leadership.

Our Call to Leaders

Excellencies, Africa cannot be left behind in the new phase of the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program.

We call on global and African leaders to:

- **Double adaptation finance and protect it from cuts.**
- **Invest in African youth as innovators, entrepreneurs, and community mobilizers.**
- Scale up early warning systems so no community is left in the dark before disasters strike.
- Recognize that it is our lives and our planet at stake.

A Final Word

- We thank you for this training in leadership, adaptation, and training-of-trainers. In a few years, we will be mayors, CEOs, and decision-makers. What we learn and build today will shape the Africa of tomorrow.

We are ready to partner with you. We are innovators. We are connected. We can mobilize.

Please do not leave young people behind in the new phase of the African adaptation accelerator program. The solutions for Africa are with youth.

We will bring the results of our work to the African Climate Summit in Addis Ababa and to COP30 in Africa.



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We are building the largest Youth Adaptation Movement in Africa — and in the world.

Let us work together. Let us build a new chapter in history.

Let us create hope and opportunities for youth, and let us create a climate-resilient world for all.