



GLOBAL  
CENTER ON  
ADAPTATION

# Global Youth Call to Action on Adaptation

Recommendations on Nationally Determined  
Contributions, and National Adaptation Plans

Conference Edition



**#Youth4AdaptationActionDay**

# Acknowledgements and Authors

This report was produced under the guidance of Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen, President & Chief Executive Officer of the Global Center on Adaptation. The report was developed by the GCA Youth Leadership and Education program under the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP).

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## About the Global Center on Adaptation

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is an international organization that promotes adaptation to the impacts of climate change. It works to create climate-proof development by instigating policy reforms and influencing investments made by international financial institutions and the private sector. The goal is to bring climate adaptation to the forefront of the global fight against climate change and ensure that climate change remains prominent. Founded in 2018, GCA is the first international organization to maintain dual headquarters in both the Global North in Rotterdam and in the Global South in Nairobi, underscoring the equal partnership between regions and the conviction that climate adaptation solutions must be co-designed and co-owned. Its regional hubs in Abidjan, Dhaka and Beijing leverage local expertise to pilot and scale context-specific approaches. Together, these centers ensure a continuous, two-way exchange of knowledge and best practices that empower communities and drive resilient and inclusive growth worldwide.

The Youth Leadership and Education program connects and empowers young people to create a climate-resilient future, while spotlighting African youth leadership around the globe. The mission of GCA's Youth Leadership & Education Program is to mobilize the next generation of adaptation leaders around the world, empowering young people to make the case for adaptation on the global stage and ensure their communities as more climate resilient.

Learn more at [www.gca.org](http://www.gca.org) or follow GCA's social media accounts:



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@GCAadaptation



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Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

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President and CEO of GCA

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# Foreword from the President and CEO of GCA

This report captures a simple but powerful truth: young people have something powerful to say, and the world must listen.

Across the globe, young leaders have stepped forward for the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day to shape how nations plan, finance, and deliver climate adaptation. Building on the Guide to Organizing Youth Consultations on Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans, they have transformed consultation into collaboration and collaboration into influence. The results gathered here are strategic insights that can strengthen national policies and global action.

From Asia to Africa, from Europe to the Americas, young people have united to demand better — better financing for adaptation, better inclusion in decision-making, and better pathways to a resilient, just, and sustainable future. Their consultations have uncovered what works, what's missing and what must change if we are to meet the urgency of this moment.

As we head into COP30 in Brazil, this report is a statement, a statement that the next phase of global climate action must be shaped with young people at the table and in leadership for the generations who will live with every decision made today.

At the Global Center on Adaptation, we are proud to stand beside this generation, a generation that transforms ideas into action and action into impact. Their energy, knowledge, and persistence remind us that adaptation is not only about protecting our planet: it is about reimagining our shared future.



The youth-led consultations captured in these pages are rewriting the playbook for climate adaptation. They are setting a new standard, one where participation means influence, where ambition means accountability and where action is measured not in words, but in impact.

The time for symbolic gestures is over. Young people are not the future of climate adaptation, but the driving force behind it. Through this report, the youth are reshaping not only the conversation, but the course of global policy itself.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Verkooijen". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized.

**Professor Patrick V. Verkooijen**  
*President & CEO, Global Center on Adaptation*

## 1

# Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day: Introduction

The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day, organized by the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) around 12th October, is the largest-running annual youth adaptation event that takes place in over 100 countries around the world.

In 2025, the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day invited young people, youth-led organizations, students, and grassroots collectives to organize consultations on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), youth, and adaptation. The theme of “NDCs, NAPs, Youth and Adaptation” emphasizes the role young people play in building resilient economies and achieving these national commitments. The outcomes of these youth consultations are presented in this report.

The Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day aimed to



**Build the youth adaptation movement** with schools, universities, and youth organizations.



**Raise awareness** and **increase the knowledge** of young people on climate adaptation.



**Drive knowledge sharing** for youth-led adaptation actions in Africa and around the world.



**YOUTH CLIMATE  
ADAPTATION ACTION DAY**

**2025** | *NDCs, NAPs,  
Youth & Adaptation*

## Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day in Numbers



Our message was seen  
**119,522,650**  
times on social media,  
raising awareness on  
youth engagement  
with NDCs, NAPs, and  
adaptation



A total of  
**31,856,479**  
people were directly  
reached on social media



**172** countries around  
the world were engaged on  
social media



Young people in  
**over 90** countries  
participated in youth  
consultations



Youth-led organizations  
in **45** African countries  
received small grants to  
organize consultations

# 2 Youth Consultations on Nationally Determined Contributions, and National Adaptation Plans

Youth consultations are a vital mechanism for ensuring inclusive, equitable, and forward-looking stakeholder engagement in the development and implementation of NDCs and NAPs.

The Youth Consultations held for Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day created a supportive platform where young people shared their views, experiences, and ideas on NDCs and NAPs. Engaging more than **6,552** young people from over **90** countries around the world strengthened the inclusivity, transparency, and effectiveness of the NAP and NDC processes.



## Guide to Organizing Youth Consultations on NDCs and NAPs

This report draws on youth consultations held around the world. To enable young people, including youth-led organizations, students, and grassroots groups, to organize these dialogues, GCA developed the **Guide to Organizing Youth Consultations on NDCs and NAPs**. The guide explains NDCs, NAPs, and the purpose of youth consultations and offers a step-by-step approach to building capacity and empowering young people to engage with these policy processes. Participants documented and shared consultation outcomes with GCA, which compiled and analyzed the insights to produce the findings presented in this report.

Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day  
12th October 2025

GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION

#YOUTH4ADAPTATION

**Guide to Organizing Youth Consultations on Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans**

#Youth4AdaptationActionDay

www.gca.org



# 3 Global Youth Call to Action on Adaptation



## Recommendations on Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans

We, young people from over 90 countries, met through the **Youth Adaptation Action Day 2025** and connected via youth networks, climate organizations, and national partners, to raise our collective voice to strengthen adaptation and resilience.

Through this process, we organized **Youth Consultations on NDCs** and **NAPs** to ensure that youth perspectives are reflected in national and global climate action.

We recognize the **urgent need to accelerate the implementation of international climate agreements** and **national climate policies**, including NDCs and NAPs.

**We call on global leaders, policymakers, and institutions to act decisively by considering the following ten recommendations**, emanating from what we believe was the largest simultaneous youth consultation on NDCs and NAPs. Particularly in the world's most vulnerable regions, young people are not only one of the largest constituencies but also the generation that will inherit the consequences of today's policy decisions. Active engagement is essential to driving momentum for lasting, positive change.

The recommendations align with the **Global Goal on Adaptation** and the **Global Stocktake Cycles**, and aim to ensure adaptation delivers tangible benefits for people, economies, and ecosystems:

# 1

## Building Resilient Economies, Jobs, and Well-Being



- ➔ Prioritize the integration of climate adaptation across national climate, development, and sectoral policies.
- ➔ Ensure adaptation measures **to strengthen economic resilience and sustainable community development**.
- ➔ Change the narrative on adaptation: frame it as a driver of resilient development, job creation, social inclusion, health and wellbeing, and hope.



## 2

## Enhanced Adaptation Finance



- ➔ Urge countries to **fulfill climate finance commitments** and continue a rapid finance scale-up by **tripling adaptation funding**.
- ➔ Allocate **dedicated adaptation financing and youth innovation funds**.
- ➔ Enable **direct access to national and international finance mechanisms** for youth-led initiatives.
- ➔ Provide **sustainable and reliable financial support** to scale community-based, sector-specific, and youth-driven projects.

## 3

## Youth as Agents of Change – Meaningful Participation in NDCs and NAPs



- ➔ Recognize that youth are already **delivering adaptation on the ground** through innovation, awareness campaigns, and community action.
- ➔ Institutionalize youth participation at **all stages of NDC and NAP design, implementation, and monitoring**.
- ➔ Establish **national youth advisory councils**, linked to climate governance structures.
- ➔ Recognize youth as **partners**, not just stakeholders.
- ➔ Include youth input in **sectoral decision-making and monitoring frameworks**.
- ➔ **Develop indicators to track youth engagement** in climate policies.



## 4

## Promote an integrated approach that bridges adaptation and mitigation efforts to maximize co-benefits for people and the planet



- ➔ Recognize that **adaptation and mitigation go hand in hand** in achieving sustainable and resilient development.
- ➔ Ensure **NDCs and NAPs are developed and implemented in coordination**, avoiding silos and ensuring policy coherence across sectors.
- ➔ Promote **nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration** that deliver both adaptation and mitigation benefits.
- ➔ Encourage **youth-led innovations that address both adaptation challenges and mitigation opportunities** at community and local levels.





## 5

## Promotion of Climate Education and Capacity Building



- ➔ Expand programs for **policy literacy, adaptation skills, and technical knowledge**.
- ➔ Support **youth-led awareness campaigns, and formal, non-formal and formal adaptation education and training**.
- ➔ Provide **training, mentorship, and access to data** for youth-led adaptation initiatives.
- ➔ Strengthen youth understanding of **sector-specific adaptation priorities** in NDCs and NAPs.



## 6

## Creation of Adaptation Jobs and Entrepreneurial Opportunities



- ➔ Align NDCs and NAPs with **youth employment strategies** in renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and green infrastructure.
- ➔ Support youth-led **entrepreneurship and innovation projects** in adaptation sectors.
- ➔ Link **skills training programs** to emerging green job markets.
- ➔ Provide **recognition and incentives** for innovative youth climate solutions.



## 7

## Inclusive and Equitable Implementation and Robust Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation



- ➔ Ensure **gender and intergenerational equity** in all adaptation projects.
- ➔ Integrate youth-led **community initiatives** into sectoral adaptation strategies.
- ➔ Establish **transparent monitoring frameworks** for NDCs and NAPs.
- ➔ Engage youth in **tracking progress and reporting outcomes**.
- ➔ Implement **feedback mechanisms** to continuously improve adaptation effectiveness.

## 8

## Integration of Local and Indigenous Knowledge



- ➔ Combine **traditional knowledge with scientific approaches** for effective adaptation.
- ➔ Ensure community and indigenous knowledge informs **national NDC and NAP priorities**.
- ➔ Include youth-led initiatives in **ecosystem management, disaster risk reduction, and resilience-building**.



## 9

## Strengthened Intergenerational Partnerships and National and International Collaboration



- ➔ Foster **partnerships among governments, NGOs, universities, and private sector actors, and youth organizations** for NDC and NAP implementation.
- ➔ Encourage **cross-country youth networks** to share best practices and solutions.
- ➔ Strengthen collaboration for **technical guidance, mentorship, and capacity-building**.
- ➔ Promote **knowledge exchange platforms** to scale successful youth-led adaptation initiatives.



## 10

## Integration of Technology, Innovation, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Adaptation Solutions



- ➔ Harness **technology, innovation, and AI** to analyze climate risks, forecast impacts, and optimize adaptation planning.
- ➔ Support **digital tools and open data platforms** that enhance access to climate information and enable evidence-based decision-making.
- ➔ Encourage **youth-led innovation and tech entrepreneurship** to design locally relevant and scalable adaptation solutions.
- ➔ Foster partnerships between **research institutions, tech companies, and youth networks** to co-develop innovative adaptation technologies and applications.

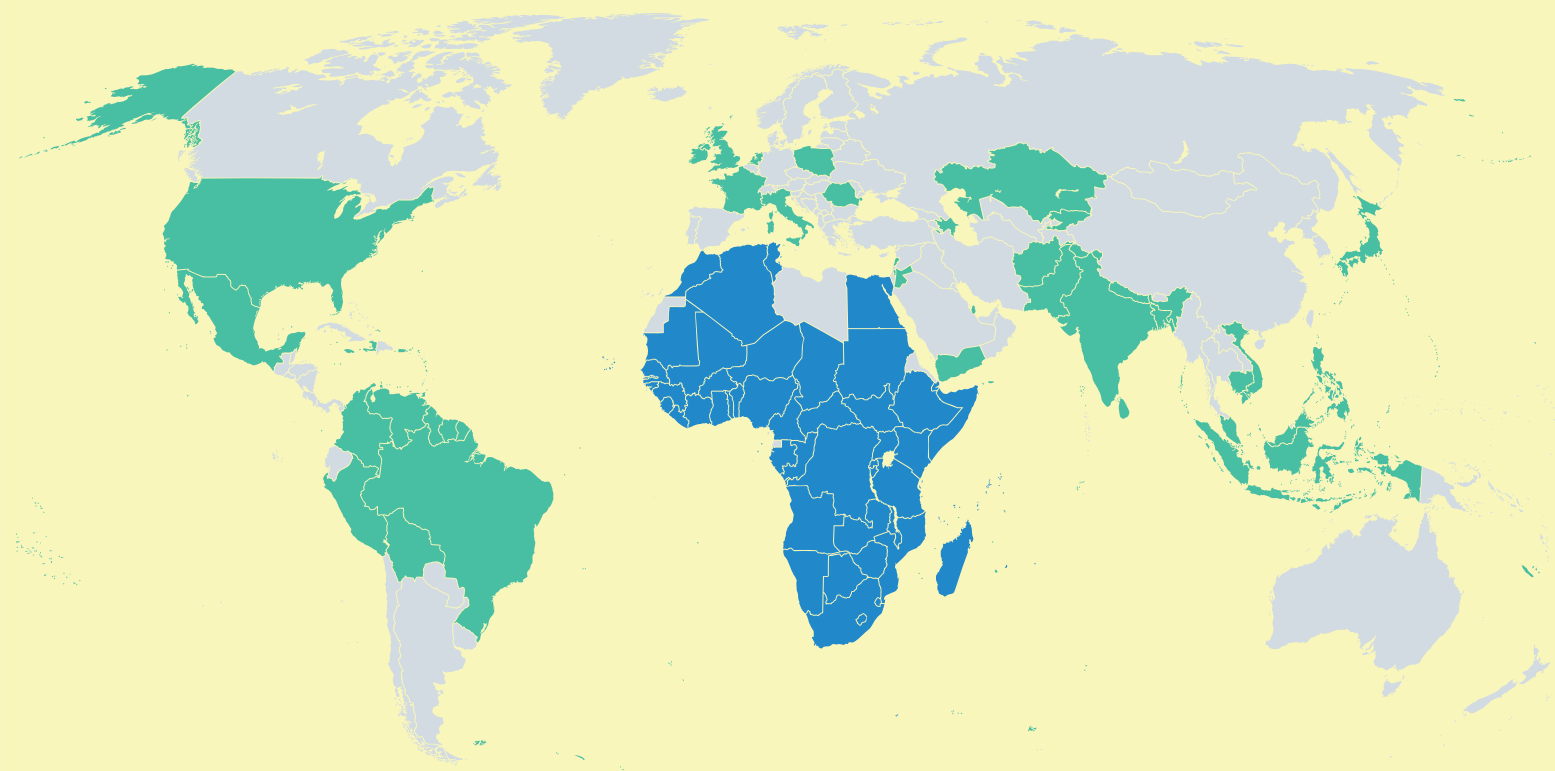
**As young people, we stand united in hope and determination.** We are not only the leaders of tomorrow: we are the changemakers of today. Our generation is ready to turn words into action, ambition into impact, and challenges into opportunities for a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future.

**We call on all leaders to act with the urgency** that this moment demands.

**Together, we can build a world where adaptation is not a response to crisis, but a pathway to justice, dignity, and shared prosperity for all.**

## AROUND THE WORLD

Young people in over 90 countries participated in youth consultations



Afghanistan  
Algeria  
Angola  
Azerbaijan  
Bangladesh  
Benin  
Bolivia  
Botswana  
Brazil  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cabo Verde  
Cambodia  
Cameroon  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Colombia  
Comoros  
Congo, Democratic

Republic of the Republic of Congo  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Djibouti  
Dominica  
Egypt  
Eswatini  
Ethiopia  
France  
Gabon  
The Gambia  
Ghana  
Grenada  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Guyana  
Haiti  
India  
Indonesia  
Ireland

Italy  
Jamaica  
Japan  
Jordan  
Kazakhstan  
Kenya  
Kyrgyzstan  
Lebanon  
Lesotho  
Liberia  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Malaysia  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Mauritius  
Mexico  
Morocco  
Mozambique  
Namibia

Nepal  
The Netherlands  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Pakistan  
Palau  
Palestine  
Peru  
The Philippines  
Poland  
Qatar  
Republic of Congo  
Romania  
Rwanda  
São Tomé e Príncipe  
Senegal  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Africa

South Sudan  
Sri Lanka  
Sudan  
Tanzania  
Suriname  
Timor Leste  
Togo  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Tunisia  
Uganda  
United Kingdom  
United States  
Venezuela  
Vietnam  
Yemen  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

## AFRICA

Youth Consultations were held in 49 African countries, and GCA provided 45 African countries with small grants to organize Youth Consultations.



# 4 Youth Consultations Around the World

## The Launch Event at the Floating Office in Rotterdam, The Netherlands

**Global Virtual Consultation on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Youth**

**Launch of the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day**

**FEATURED SPEAKERS**

|   |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <br><b>ROSA MORALES</b><br>Co-Chair of the Adaptation Committee                                | <br><b>MOTSOMI MALETJANE</b><br>Team Lead, LEG&NAP Unit, UNFCCC secretariat        | <br><b>NICLAS SVENNINGSSEN</b><br>Manager, Climate Plan Campaign, UNFCCC secretariat | <br><b>AHMED FAROLE</b><br>Head of Youth, Children & Gender Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), Somalia | <br><b>ADRIANA VALENZUELA</b><br>Lead, Youth Leadership & Education, GCA        |
| <br><b>SANKARA NYAGAYA</b><br>GCA CEO Youth Advisory Panel Member Kenya                      | <br><b>MITIN SANDRINE YAAH</b><br>GCA CEO Youth Advisory Panel Member Cameroon   | <br><b>DES-ROSE ENGELBRECHT</b><br>GCA CEO Youth Advisory Panel Member Namibia     | <br><b>FEBECHI DESMOND UZOMADIKE</b><br>GCA CEO Youth Advisory Panel Member Nigeria   | <br><b>LÍVIA CHAVES MARCOLIN</b><br>GCA CEO Youth Advisory Panel Member Brazil |
| <br><b>KATRINA KHAN-ROBERTS</b><br>GCA CEO Youth Advisory Panel Member Trinidad and Tobago | <br><b>GENESIS DAQUINAN</b><br>GCA CEO Youth Advisory Panel Member Philippines |   |  |  |

**#Youth4AdaptationActionDay** **9<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2025 | 13:00 - 14:30 CET**

On **Thursday, 9th October 2025**, GCA officially marked the start of week-long celebrations for Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day with a Global Virtual Youth Consultation, held from the world's largest floating office in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

The launch brought together policymakers, partners, and 495 youth leaders from around the world to exchange perspectives and strengthen youth-driven recommendations. Key guest speakers included:

**Rosa Morales**, Co-Chair of the Adaptation Committee

**Motsomi Maletjane**, Team Lead, Least Developed Countries Expert Group and National Adaptation Plan Unit, UNFCCC Secretariat

**Niclas Svenningsen**, Manager, Climate Plan Campaign, UNFCCC Secretariat

**Ahmed Farole**, Head of Youth, Children & Gender Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Somalia

Interventions from the 2025 Cohort of the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel, representing youth voices from all five regions of Africa, Small Island Developing States, Asia, and Latin America

# #Youth4AdaptationActionDay Highlights

A collection of photos from Youth Consultations around the world



Angola



Bangladesh



Benin



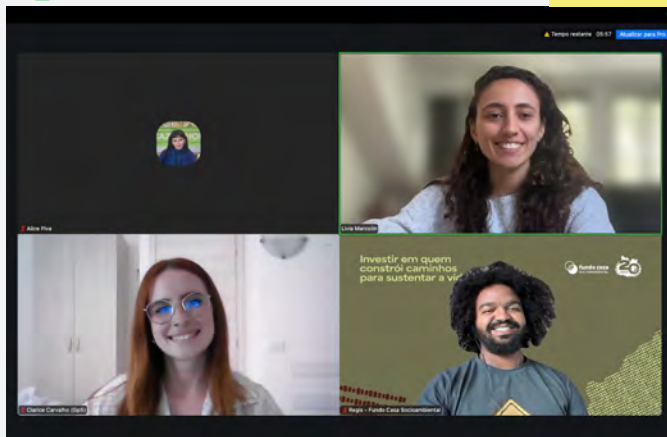
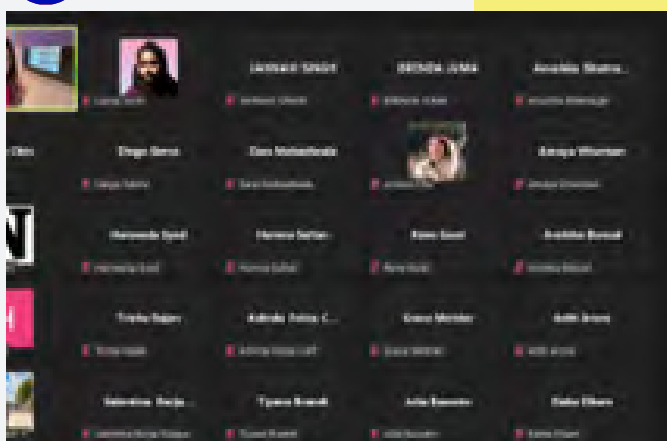
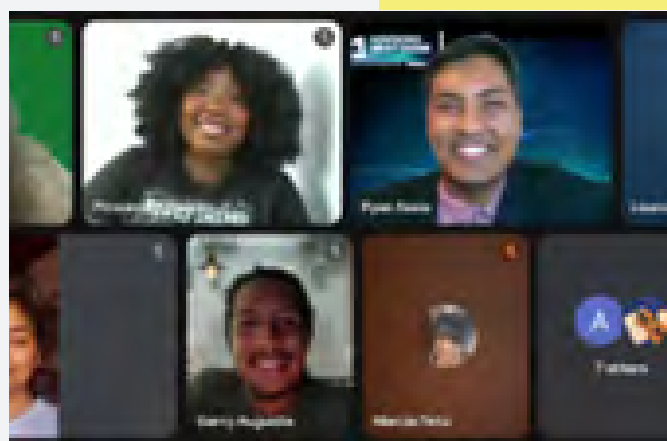
Botswana



Bolivia





**Brazil****Burundi****Cambodia****Cameroon****Cape Verde****Caribbean-wide**





Chad



Côte d'Ivoire



DR Congo



Djibouti







Eswatini



Ethiopia



The Gambia



Ghana



Guinea



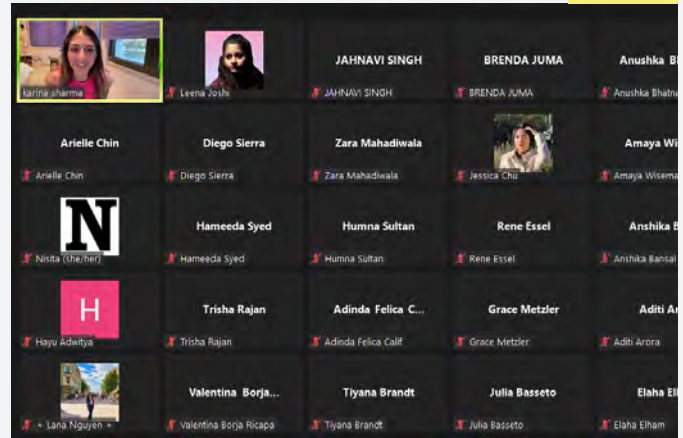




Haiti



India



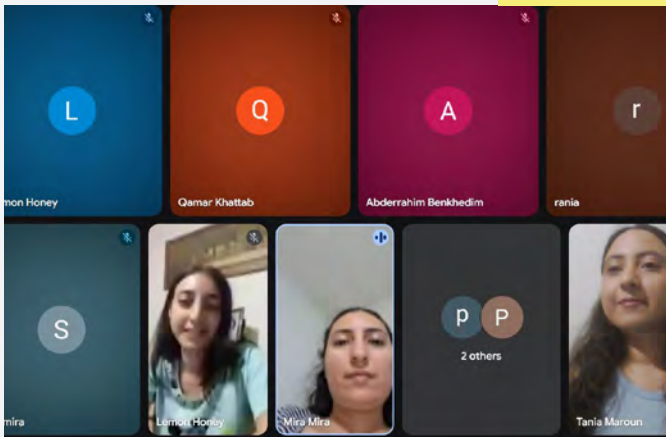
Japan



Kenya



Lebanon



Lesotho







Madagascar



Malawi



Mali



Mauritania



Namibia



The Netherlands







Niger



Nigeria



Rwanda



Seychelles



Sierra Leone







Somalia



South Sudan



Sudan





**Tanzania****Togo****Trinidad and Tobago****Uganda****Tunisia**





Zambia



Zimbabwe



# Partners



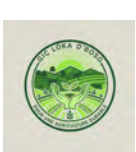
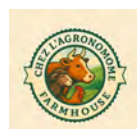
*"I extend my sincere gratitude to all partners who made the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day 2025 possible – the UNFCCC, the LEG Group, the Adaptation Committee, YOUNGO, members of the Youth Adaptation Network, youth-led organizations, universities, schools, and, above all, the young people driving change. The Global Youth Call to Action on Adaptation amplifies youth voices and strengthens intergenerational partnerships to accelerate adaptation solutions. Together, we are shaping a resilient and hopeful future for all."*

**Adriana Valenzuela**, Youth Leadership & Education Lead, Global Center on Adaptation

This conference version of the Global Report includes some of the logos and will be updated after COP30.



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change







Final Size : 1.5" X .09"



# 5 My Adaptation Solution Video Competition

The Video Competition was launched as an integral part of Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day to turn inspiration into action by providing a global platform for young people to share how they are adapting to climate impacts in their own communities. The Video Competition spotlighted solutions that break the heat cycle, safeguard water resources, and buffer communities against both drought and deluge.

Young people's ideas can reshape how we live, farm, and build in an increasingly hot world.



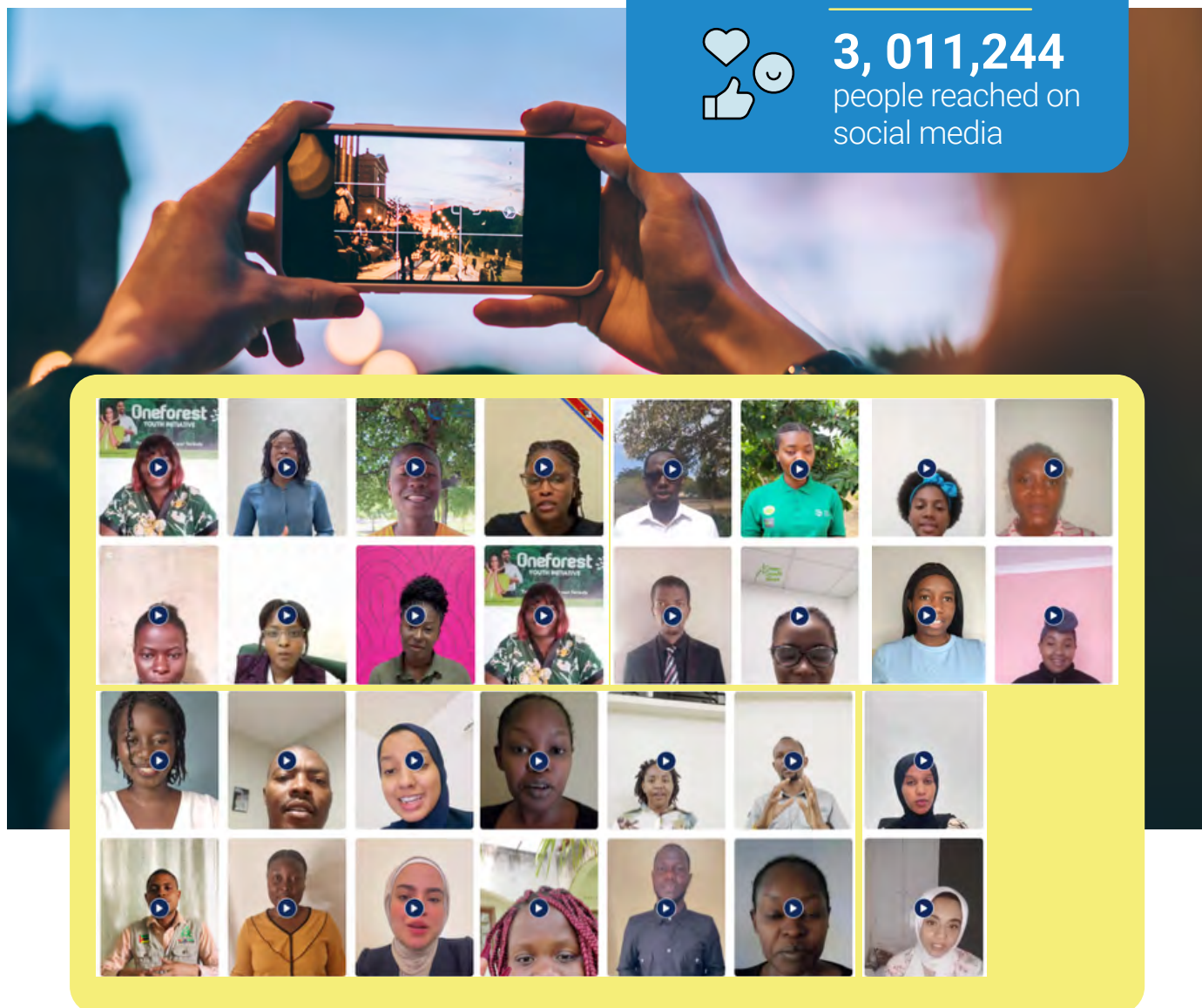
**79** entries From  
**23 countries**  
around the world



**115,422** clicks  
on social media



**3,011,244**  
people reached on  
social media





# 6 Social Media

Through powerful storytelling, digital mobilization, and shared purpose, Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day ignited conversations on adaptation, NDCs, and NAPs on social media.

**#Youth4Adaptation**  
**#Youth4AdaptationActionDay**



**172 countries**  
around the world were  
engaged on social media.



A total of  
**31,856,479** people  
were directly reached.

Our message was seen  
**119,522,650**  
**times** on social  
media, raising awareness  
on youth engagement  
with NDCs, NAPs, and  
adaptation.



## Logo Competition

Beyond dialogue and action, creativity also took center stage through the Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day Logo Competition, which invited young people worldwide to design a symbol that captures the spirit of youth-led resilience. The winning design — created by **Parfait Kamta Nkontcheu** from Cameroon — embodies the energy, unity, and determination of a generation shaping the future of climate adaptation.



# 7 Media and News

Beyond social media, youth consultations made national headlines — capturing attention across television, radio, and print as stories of youth-led adaptation reached audiences worldwide.

## Malawi

The Youth Consultation organized by Youth Adaptation Network in-country focal point, Mthunzi Trust, was reported on [Luntha Television](#), a national broadcaster in Malawi, and [The Nation](#) newspaper.



## Lesotho

Radio Interview hosted by [Bokamoso FM](#) radio station in Lesotho, hosted the In-Country focal point, Plant One Tree, to talk about their Youth Consultation. Their youth consultation was also featured in the [Weekly Observer](#), a national digital newspaper.



## Seychelles

The Youth Consultation held by SIDS Youth AIMS Hub Seychelles was covered by the national daily newspaper, [Seychelles Nation](#) and broadcasted on [The Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation \(SBC\)](#) — the national public broadcaster of the Republic of Seychelles.



## Ghana

The Youth Consultation held by the Youth Bridge Foundation was featured on one of Ghana's leading digital news and online portal, [GhanaWeb](#).













# Key Message from the CEO's Youth Advisory Panel 2025

In 2025, we, as young leaders from ten nations across the globe, stand together as a united voice, determined to redefine what youth leadership means for our planet. Throughout the year, we contributed to the Global Center on Adaptation's (GCA) Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Guide, sharing monthly blogs exploring key climate topics. These efforts opened spaces for young people and decision-makers to engage directly.

Our collective momentum reached new heights during the **Youth Climate Adaptation Action Day**. During the Global Virtual Launch Event, we delivered interventions that highlighted youth perspectives on environmental justice and mainstreamed meaningful youth participation in policy development. Our Youth Consultations highlighted that justice is a core theme for which young people are calling. Through the inclusion of youth, women, urban poor, farmers, fisherfolk, and differently-abled communities in adaptation planning, implementation, and monitoring, we can ensure that no one is left behind in the adaptation agenda.

Young people want to become involved but lack the capacity and platforms to engage actively. For adaptation to be effective, adaptation finances must be decentralized; youth inclusion should not simply be symbolic. Adequate finance for adaptation is essential to protect lives and to unlock the potential of an entire generation.

As we look toward COP30 and beyond, we call on leaders and institutions to stand with youth in advancing adaptation efforts. Governments must clearly document the role of young people in achieving their NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Adaptation is our greatest hope for withstanding the accelerating climate crisis. We are ready to collaborate and merge fresh ideas with experience, innovation with wisdom, and urgency with action. We invite policymakers, experts, and global partners to prioritize adaptation funding, support youth-led initiatives, and engage young voices meaningfully in shaping NDCs, NAPs, and all climate decision-making processes.



**Mitin Sandrine Yaah**  
Cameroon



**Sankara Nyagaya**  
Kenya



**Des-Rose Engelbrecht**  
Namibia



**Omar Farhate**  
Morocco



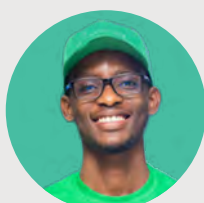
**Katrina Khan-Roberts**  
Trinidad and Tobago



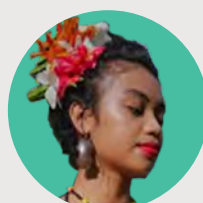
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**Febechi Desmond**  
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Palau



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Philippines







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