



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Horn of Africa
Regional Environment
Centre and Network

October, 2016

Youth workshop Report

‘Youth contribution on implementation of Paris agreement’

**Pre-event of Climate Change and Development Conference (CCDA6)
United Nations Conference Center, Addis Ababa**





Acknowledgement

Youth Negotiation on Climate Change Convention (YNCCC) would like to sincerely thank African Climate Policy Center Officers for fully support this event to happen. All official have been kind and cooperative throughout the two days session, especial thanks goes to Dr.James , Dr.Frank, Dr.Nkem , Mr.Charles and Ms. Christin.

Emile Bruckmann from French embassy is always available whenever we called her to take part on our programs. -Thank you for that.

Climate Interactive representative, Pomi Ayalewu was there from planning to execution of this workshop. YNCCC is pleased to work with you and much appreciation to your effort.

Photograph by Gemechu from HoAREC has helped YNCCC to capture the event.

Dr.SatishKumar Bellethathan- managed to give presentation on short notice and facilitated the activity starting from the beginning. Thank you for your always support.



Executive Summary

Youth Negotiation on Climate Change Convention has been working to link the youth with ongoing climate change solution. Part of this effort is to host events where youth from various regions come to interact, discuss and develop common statement which reflects the interest of the youth.

The youth workshop hosted by the theme ‘youth contribution for Paris agreement implementation’ is intended to provide youth inputs for Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference that will ultimately be part of African working group report for COP22 Marakesh. As this year Conference of Parties will be held in African soil, Morrocco , YNCCC believed the importance of incorporating the youth voice into implementation process of Paris agreement.

With collaboration and support from African Policy Center, UNECA, YNCCC hosted two days of workshop on October 15th and October 16th in United Nations Conference Center. The aim of the workshop to achieve three goals. 1. Provide the highlight of **current negotiation leading to COP22 Marakesh** and conduct a negotiation training using a **software based program** to make the youth experience climate Negotiation 2. Make participants understand the existing intragovernmental setups on climate change and **develop a working project for youth** that can benefit the community 3. **Draft an outcome** that comprises the demands, interests and suggestions on youth engagement into climate decision making, climate science and green entrepreneurship.

The participation of the workshop is gender balanced and respective of institution of Addis Ababa University. 54 % of participants were women. The maximum age being 32 and minimum 20 years old. Youth participated from graduate class of environmental science Center, Undergraduate students from science and social science department, alumina graduates and member of YNCCC and Youth from various private educational institutions.

The event was concluded with two outcome documents. 1. The outcome position of youth for COP22 which illustrates the needs and demands of youth participation on post-Paris agreement action. 2. An agreed project on the youth to community media campaign. The draft of this two document is attached with the annex in this report.

On the way forward, YNCCC will strive to work to contribute for the implementation of Paris agreement in its endeavor. Article 12 of Paris agreement is highlighted to be on focus of this year’s YNCCC activity.



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1. Panel discussion

Panelists

Dr. Frank Rutabingwa- Senior Climate expert , African Policy Center -UNECA

Emilie Bruckmann – Second Counselor, French Embassy

Nahom Zeleke – Coordinator, YNCCC

Pomi Ayalewu – Representative of Climate Interactive

Facilitator – Betre Menegestu

The first day of the workshop launched by a panel discussion of representatives from French Embassy, ACPC-UNECA and Climate Interactive. Dr. Frank representing ACPC has given his remarks and words of appreciation for the youth group gathered for the workshop. He highlighted the need for engaging the youth in multi-sectoral climate change solutions. Gender balanced participation of the workshop was encouraged by Dr. Frank, and also stressed the need to involve women in any climate change response.

After thanking Dr. Frank for his enlightening speech, The moderator of the day has invited the panel for reflection on two major questions of the youth. 1. How can youth be engaged with the implementation to Paris agreement? 2. What are the expectations of Marrakesh for Africa?

Emilie Bruckmann forwarded that being precise on the emission level of countries brought a tangible impact on countries. She has also mentioned that the French developmental agency has funded 20 developing countries, of which most are African countries, on building green energy. She has also suggested countries to come up with well-done projects and transparent budget allocation structure so as to get funding. The India and French- solar energy project was mentioned as a good testimony for practical actions so far taken. She has also underlined the importance of availability of list of ready green projects to work with the ministers and civil societies to make allocation quickly and even increase France budgeting.

Mr. Nahom added the core point to focus is on how the youth can change it into opportunity. It is true that governments are urging for green entrepreneurship which can be a fertile ground for the youth to execute several youths led projects. The realization of African Renewable Energy Institute



and African Adaptation Initiative, which are the fruits of COP21, is a huge opportunity for the youth to contribute on the effort to combat climate change.

Ms.Pomi Ayalewu argued that the youth in Africa today have not been demanding enough for their participation. She emphasized her point as ' If the doors are not open, you have to make a hole in the wall.' The need for collaborative and well-focused movement from youth can bring solution to the growth of the continent- Pomi added. She also referred that by 2017 G.C 50 percent of African population is expected to be the youth which can make a significant contribution if the youth can unite to get strength and manipulate the already built channels to bring impact.

Key Messages of Panel discussion

- **Youth participation** - The important part of the discussion highlighted the need for youth to be bold in demanding for their right of participation. Malabo Declaration of CAHOSCC declared that youth engagement in climate change decision making. Thus, The youth should approach their government, NGOs/CSOs and private sector for means of participation to climate change solutions. As the COP22 Marakesh will focus on the means of implementation of Paris agreement, the youth of Africa should be active and sincere on every category of negotiation to understand on how the youth can effectively be engaged in the implementation of Paris agreement.

It has been noted that the youth led project in Africa are in need of finance to support their project activities. Continuing the effort to secure adequate financing the youth projects currently should look for voluntary based and cost efficient programs that can be executed to contribute the Paris agreement implementation. Article 12 of Paris agreement, which is stated as 'Parties shall cooperate in taking measures, as appropriate, to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information, recognizing the importance of these steps with respect to enhancing actions under this Agreement.'

- **Stakeholder participation**
Agencies shall work with youth groups to make sure the youth engagement on various sectors of climate action. Identified stakeholders are UN organizations, AU offices and Ministry of Youth and Ministry of Environment of particular government.
- **The need to engage technology in building capacity** - technology has eased human activity to be simpler, faster and transparent. And the youth are affiliated with technology heavily. Hence capacity building for youth should integrate technological means, especially software and application based activities. A good example for this is, C-Roads software that the Climate Interactive uses to train climate negotiation throughout the world.
- **Entrepreneurship and innovation are a key solution to climate change** -It is known that currently there is higher percentage of unemployment in Africa as well as in the rest of the world.



Climate Change stands both as a challenge and an opportunity to the current generation. Doors are open for green businesses and climate innovation offering an opportunity for unemployed young people. This has to be harnessed with awareness creation on climate solutions. Yet most young people are not aware of this opportunity fully.

2. Negotiation training

The afternoon session was fully dedicated for the climate simulation session which was facilitated by Ethiopian climate interactive facilitator Pomi Ayalew. The session began with introducing what climate change negotiation is. She has also briefed how the prior negotiation summits look like and what the outputs of the negotiations were. A brief description about the simulation software C-ROAD was given. C-ROAD is a computer simulator that helps people understand the long-term climate impacts of actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Participants were given countries to represent on Negotiation in UNFCCC and divided into three categories namely: developed nations, developing nations A and developing nations B that each of them came up with a page of position and view of their representing country. The negotiation was done in two rounds where the first was confined to countries' respective national grouping followed by presenting their positions and lobbying between countries to come up with the binding document. The simulation software was used to see the global temperature rise by 2100 and test strategies for tackling climate change. During the second round countries revised their positions and ended up with a binding agreement to control the global temperature rise below 2 degree centigrade by 2100 from the pre industrial period.

The simulation software helped to understand the complexities of climate change negotiations. As they negotiate, participants learned about the interconnectedness of carbon emission trends, global power dynamics, and what it takes to prevent catastrophic climate change. The simulation software also helped to see how each pledge changes significant amount on the world climate and the temperature increase and participants were able to live witness that the pledges they make can make a difference. It also showed each and every country is responsible in creating conducive environment for better implementation of the Paris Agreement.

3. Presentation on how the youth can be involved on the international Environmental Negotiations and Intergovernmental processes –

Satishkumar Bellethathan(Dr.)- Ass.Prof , Environmental Science Department , Addis Ababa University

The presentation addressed issues like how the youth can participate in process of policy making, program and activity design and implementation. Participants also tried to share what they have gained from their prior international conferences. Engaging on the policy making process and the privilege of networking were points mentioned boldly. The presentation continued on briefing participants on how high level negotiations operate and how to take part in such stages including the importance of understanding accreditation procedures and feasibility of policies and position



papers. Conditions needed for a coalition between country delegates were also highlighted. The process of setting agendas at an international and national levels were also topics covered.

4. Breakout sessions

The breakout session is conducted lastly, to capture and compose the youth statement in four major issues.

1. Negotiation and policies
2. Youth and community activities
3. Green business and entrepreneurship
4. Climate science and research

The reason to focus on this four major issues is because o

The compiled outcome of the breakout sessions is detailed as follows.

Negotiation and Polices

- Introductory Courses on Climate Change should be given at the University Workshops, High Schools and School Clubs located in areas from Urban to Rural areas
 - a. Engage Students, Teachers, individuals at various Soft Skill Improvement Platforms already operating at National and International levels towards Climate Change Issues and Facts. These Platforms include:
 - i. Leadership and Development Platforms;
 - ii. Public Speaking and Motivational Platforms;
 - iii. Youth Engagement and Employment Platforms;
- Enhance Youth Skills on Negotiation ability through formalized Trainings.]
 - a. Assess Natural Negotiation Skills and direct the attention of Trainings towards essential Climate change/environmental issues;
 - b. Organize platforms for Practice Sessions and first-hand experience sharing;
 - c. Disseminate Materials (videos; audio recordings; documents; policies and past agreements) that show/teach the overall procedures;
- Create online platforms to enhance public awareness and present current situations to public eye.
- Formalize the current international practice in Youth associations and climate change initiatives across the platforms. The Overall Procedure is Outlines Thusly:]



- a. Tailor mechanism of approach on how to attain National Accreditation
 - b. Approach organizers for recognition as Major Group Stake holders
 - c. Attend the sessions of Major Groups and Motivate Representation
 - d. Engage Regional Representatives and present the Agendas
 - e. Present collaborating research and documentation
- Coordinate the participation of the Youth Representatives at High level conferences towards common and fruitful outcome.]
 - a. Preparation of documentation ahead of time
 - b. Following the procedures to set agendas and submit statements.
 - c. Organizing pre-sessions on which targets groups to approach during dialogues.
 - d. Selection of apt speakers and negotiators to present the Positions.
 - e. Pushing Agendas and Engaging in Policy Making Discussions within a united front.
 - f. Post conference deliberate on outcomes and reevaluate procedures for future sessions.
 - Prepare strong Documentation that represents the interest of various youth stakeholders and reflects the majority's best interest. The means of doing so being:]
 - a. Getting youth from various Universities interested in fields related to climate change & policy making to draft documents related to their interest.
 - b. Involve Schools and Universities to address their views in the Department Level with direct engagement from the Youth.

Entrepreneurship and green Business

- Innovation and entrepreneurship is a key climate change solution.
 - a. Capacity building training on green entrepreneurship program for African youth to develop awareness
 - b. Skill enhancing document to be developed for green entrepreneurship that African youth initiatives will use as instrument to educate their respective members
 - c. Especial attention to be given for software developers and mobile application developers to be innovative in 'digital greening'.
 - d. As the market competition is high currently, Marketing and Management training should be given for pilot youth green business
 - e. Financial support for incubation center of higher learning institutions to serve as means of green business startups
- Graduation thesis on climate change
 - a. Platform should be launched which encourages final year thesis papers in higher institution to be linked to sustainable development and climate change
 - b. Launch of continent wide award for best thesis on climate change solution
- Conduct campaign and platform for digital innovation on climate change.



- Improve institutional setups in order to support youth with innovational ideas. Numerous youth face challenge in changing ideas into proposals. There is a need to create independent office to support the youth to develop proposal.

Outreach and community activity

- African is the youngest continent. The youth of Africa shall be engaged as instruments for advocacy and campaign. Climate change information is currently at very basic level of understanding in most youth and their communities around.
- Youth led projects should be encourage to reach to community in ways that best interests youth. Example of this outreach – cross country/city walks, photography, tree planting and etc...
- Media campaign on climate will engage various youth in various places together. This should be encouraged and be supported to have influence on the community driven by youth.

Climate science and Research

- The current knowledge of climate change among the youth and even youth groups working on climate change is limited to be negotiation outcomes, major climate news and basic climate information. This should be improved to a level that youth groups gather in depth climate science courses.
- Climate research calls should be available for undergraduate and graduate level students. In most cases, calls for research is released for post-graduate and post-doctoral students.



Annex 1- Youth Position statement for COP22

The Youth Negotiations on Climate Change Conventions (YNCC) Position on the twenty second session of Conference of Parties (COP22)

Preamble

[Recalling decisions made on Draft decision -/CP.21 Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (decision 1/CP.17) Adoption of a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties]

[Recognizing that youth still remain one of the most vulnerable groups to disasters, climate Change, fragility and conflict; and aware of the large cohort of youth impacted by unemployment, underemployment, poverty, sporadic crises, recurrent displacement, poor infrastructure and inadequate basic social services and public utilities;]

[Understanding the vast potential in African States as majority of the population is in the youth demographic and having a youth demographic that is working towards climate actions;]

[Welcoming the engagement of the youth within regional and global frameworks on climate change, including the recent decision by the IPCC to engage young climate scientists in its areas of work;]

[Recognizing that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet and thus requires the widest possible cooperation by all countries, and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions,]

[Noting the decision of the Committee of African Heads of States on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) on the elaboration of youth engagement within the climate change negotiations;]

[Appreciating the implementation of the CAHOSCC decision by the African Climate Policy Center; in particular, through the creation of a ClimDev-Africa Youth Platform to facilitate synergy, information sharing, linkages and knowledge management;]

[Welcoming the adoption of United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in particular its goal 13, and the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the third International



Conference on Financing for Development and the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction,]

[Agreeing that the youth can and will play a vital role in the implementation of the Conference of Parties - 22 Agreement in strategic application of the adaptation and mitigation plans within the continent of Africa,]

[Urging that Nations, Civil Societies and Different Stakeholders of the Conference of Parties recognize the need for shift in focus towards youth incorporation in decision making and work unconstrained by differences in implementing of the draft CP/21 decisions;

ADAPTATION, MITIGATION, INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (INDCs) AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- [Enhancement of capacity building through environmental education and learning from early childhood in formal educational institutions and public awareness campaigns under Article 11 of the Draft CP/21 Agreement.]
- [Investment on the training of a cadre of young climate scientists to mainstream youth priorities, with a particular focus on the disaggregation of data by age, gender and location within the IPCC and other climate processes.]
- [Strengthening the technical and institutional capacity of (a) academic and technical entities that work on Environmental and Climate Negotiation Training at Nation Based level to enhance youth representation at national level (b) Youth Frameworks within the United Nations to promote youth advocacy and action while expanding the networks amongst existing Climate Action Groups.]
- [Further focus on the training of environmental youth groups to scale up their capacity to influence national and regional processes, resulting in bottom-up input to climate governance.]
- [Engaging youth climate action groups and capacity building frameworks in overall Capacity Building schemes to increase synergy through cooperation and avoid duplication of work.]
- [Emphasis on efficient social protection mechanisms to build resilience of marginalized and disenfranchised rural youth against adverse climate change; cushion the risk and vulnerabilities of engaging in agriculture for small holder farmers.]



- [Dissemination of crucial information regarding decisions on Adaptation and Mitigation at National and International Platforms to encourage youth awareness and participation in Strategies.]
- [Further Emphasis that (a) Mitigation Measures on the lowering of Greenhouse gases and fostering the sustainable development goals should be instituted by Developed Nations (b) Subsequent Agreements on Mitigation include outline the internationally transferred mitigation outcomes as per the report of the UNFCCC.]
- [Inclusion in the three-year work plan of Adaption, a Section that promotes youth engagement and outlines key areas of participation.]
- [Allocation of resources to create an “African Agricultural Innovation Hub” to engender a critical mass of agro-entrepreneurs able to leverage opportunities in agricultural value chains, for example, through product development, use of green technologies, agro-mechanization and agro-processing.]
- [Provision of Youth Panel within the working group of the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, to develop Methodologies on Mitigation Measures and review of the Strategies currently under implementation in terms of Applicability towards the Developing Nation’s Youth Demographic.]
- [Requests the Green Climate Fund to expedite access to Youth working Groups and support for the Youth demographic of least developed countries and other developing country Parties for the formulation of national adaptation plans that consider the majority of the population.]

CLIMATE FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

- [The Green Climate Fund facilitates access to finance for certain priority areas such as gender based projects. In order to further support young entrepreneurs, implementation the GCF should add a youth component to its priorities areas. In addition, the capacity of the youth to access funds through the GCF should be enhanced. For example, through the accreditation of local financial institutions that currently serves as intermediaries between local youth groups and the GCF.]
- [Enhance the Financial support of actions prompted by Youth in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, enhancement of forest carbon stocks; as well as alternative policy to



- [Proper strategies on the delivery of the USD 100 billion a year commitment to the GCF, with a sections focused on financing projects relating to youth.]
- [Urges the implementation of Article 2 of the COP21 Agreement towards supporting Youth climate actions on inducing pathways of low Greenhouse gas development in regional and national capacity;]
- [Full implementation of the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage to fully account for the dire consequences of climate change and addition of a section to the Article 8 on means for acquiring compensation for damages on detrimentally affected states and liability for countries that fail to meet minimum set Green House Gas Emission goals.]
- [New research on the potentials of incorporating technology transfer within existing mechanism of carbon trading.]
- [Engendering young lawyers to serve as experts on climate finance planning to increase Africa's access to the GCF.]
- [Promote the incorporation of youth focused National determined Contributions in Mitigation Strategies and implementation plans.]
- [Prompting the training of Youth in newly acquired technologies outlined in Article 10 of the CP/21 Draft Decision, and receive training on best practices, proven mitigation and adaptation techniques shared through Article 10.]

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

- [Finance the participation of youth within climate change negotiation processes including the UNFCCC, IPCC, INDC's, UNCCD, UNCBD, and other MEA's related to climate change policies.]
- [Creation of an African Youth Group of Negotiators (AYGN) that represent their governments in national delegations. The AYGN should be supported by existing African frameworks such as the African Group of Negotiators, African Youth Initiative on Climate Change and the ClimDev-Africa Youth Platform.]
- [Incentivise youth Negotiators through participation in development of National Strategies and International Agreements while incorporation of youth outputs in overall decisions.]



- [Fast-track (a) procedures of acquiring credentials for youth negotiators that present valid findings in areas of interest and;(b) provide institutional training on procedures of climate change negotiation processes used by international entities including the UNFCCC, IPCC, INDC's, UNCCD, UNCBD, and other MEA

Annex 2- Proposed project of media campaign

Media Campaign

A grassroots environmental movement

Started by young people in Addis Ababa University concerned about the environment. It is set up in a way that it can be easily adopted by other universities and youth organizations.

The campaign addresses:

- Deforestation
- Afforestation
- Renewable energy
- Littering
- Smart agriculture

The campaign runs through school environmental clubs by giving them a cause to run with.

Target audience:

Young people and mainly students in urban areas

Why? Feasibility, needs to be sensitized on such issues, and existence of diverse population

Stakeholders:

Media news agencies

Relevant NGO's working in agriculture and climate issues

Government institutions

Academic institutes

FBO's

Big industries (appeal to CSO)

Renewable energy source suppliers and distributors



Outcome of the campaign:

- An urban youth population aware about climate issues
- A certain percentage of forest coverage recovered in the country
- Decreased littering in urban spaces
- Networks of young passionate advocates of positive climate change
- A movement of climate activist youth actively engaged in reaching out to rural areas
- Strong voice of young people that could influence at both policy and grassroots level

Launch the campaign at a colorful youth event that all stakeholders are present at. Have different celebrities and official figures carry this green campaign.

What the campaign entails:

Phase 1:

Awareness raising through digital means (mass and social media) and trainings at local high schools and universities.

- Videos and photographs that show how 'cool' and 'trendy' alternative energy sources can be.
- Showcasing the story of a farmer whose life has been deeply affected by climate change
- Relating increase in beggars and vulnerable children with climate change and its effects

By utilizing already existing environmental clubs in high schools and university set ups, the campaign will reach out in creating platforms for discussion.

By using social media, the media campaign will break down big phrases and terms to youth-friendly words. Making relevant climate issues to everyday lives.

Phase 2:

Competitions

Launching an eco-friendly competition utilizing academic institution's networks. Perhaps a long term tree planting and maintaining competition taken up by schools. This can take the form of organizing field trips for tree planting, cleaning the environment or carrying out trainings. The campaign, backed by big organizations will be able to finance some of these activities.

The competition will be publicized to gain mass audience which will further raise awareness on the issue while also bearing fruit of afforestation and decreased littering. It could take on hashtags such as #SelfieWithMyTree or others to share the initiatives that the young people engage in.

Phase 3:



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Empower networks of young people working on environmental issues to travel to rural areas giving trainings and raising awareness about climate change and ways of coping to it's effects. By creating spaces, publicity and necessary backing for these networks, the campaign will create and utilize partnerships of young people to bring about positive mentality and exercise change.



Annex 3- list of Participants

Guests list

Name	Email	Organization
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Annex 4 – Pictures of youth workshop

(Find all event pictures on <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B7WqPXmH5aBRRHl0azdWNTFGSHc?usp=sharing>)



Pic1. Group picture of Youth participants with Panelists



Pic2. Climate Negotiation Simulation on progress





Pic3. Participants interacting on Panel session



Pic4. Participants on group discussion





Pic. 5 Panelists on stage

