

YOUTH4CLIMATE

MANIFESTO



1. YOUTH DRIVING AMBITION

The Youth4Climate participants,

Acknowledging that youth are the generation most threatened by climate change and further noting that efforts to raise awareness on the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable countries including but not limited to small island states, are still insufficient,

Emphasizing the important role that young people play worldwide in raising awareness and providing innovative solutions about how to address climate change and its challenges, as well as the importance of true youth engagement in decision-making processes,

Recognizing the importance of ensuring continuous engagement of youth over time, by focusing on concrete implementation through domestic, regional and/or international initiatives to develop solutions that can accelerate climate action, and the need to enhance, support and raise the profile of youth-led initiatives, build more accountability and reciprocal relationships,

Reminding that youth continue to be underrepresented in consultation and implementation processes and that young people need to be further engaged to support national mitigation and adaptation efforts, programs to avert or minimize loss and damage, and the development and implementation of, among other processes, NDCs by ensuring that they have access to information, capacity building and are systematically included as stakeholders in consultation and decision-making processes,

Emphasizing the importance of removing barriers such as lack of internet access, language, financial and cultural barriers, faced by youth especially from developing countries, and noting that countries have been able to maximise the value of their youth to differing extents and that some require support in implementing youth programmes and increasing participation in domestic and multilateral processes through increased representation and the creation of recognized spaces,

Underlining the importance of adequately recognizing the lived experiences, traditional knowledge and expertise of youth, local and Indigenous communities, including people with disabilities, at the international, national and local level, accelerating the creation of meaningful paid jobs for youth and young professionals, as well as allowing youth to express themselves freely,

Taking into account the need to promote inclusiveness and interculturality and to foster outreach to engage youth from under-resourced backgrounds and marginalised communities, by granting equal opportunities to youth from the Global South and to, inter alia, Indigenous youth, youth belonging to visible minorities, immigrant youth LGBTIQ youth, young women, youth with disabilities, low-income youth, recognizing them as the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change with particular challenges for those youth from SIDs and LDCs,

Recognizing that the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and programs at all levels must be respectful of human rights, including the right to a clean, healthy environment as declared by the UN Human Rights Council, uphold climate and social justice, and account for the well-being of the marginalized and most vulnerable groups, including the youth,

Recalling intergenerational equity as a key principle embodied in the Paris Agreement, and noting that intergenerational exchange is an effective way of solving challenges, as well as Recalling the "Kwon-Gesh Climate Pledge", which commits signatory countries to involving youth in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its goals, and the "Intergovernmental Declaration on Children Youth and Climate Action", which requires signatories to uphold priorities for climate action identified by children and youth around the world,

Emphasizing the need to foster global climate ambition to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and ensuring sustainability for present and future generations, as well as the need for fostering capabilities, as communities, local or national authorities, to anticipate future challenges as well as work to create solutions,

Recognizing the importance of leveraging sustainability and resilience frameworks to help transition to more sustainable and resilient, while keeping up with new, emerging challenges and issues that occur at the local level,

Emphasizing the need to establish a dialogue between the Youth4Climate, ministers and high-level senior officials attending Pre-COP26 in Milan, and more broadly to promote youth engagement across all major international forums, while ensuring that this is done meaningfully and by avoiding tokenism and ensuring youth freedom of speech,

Taking into account the meaningful experiences of the "UN Youth Climate Summit", the Conference of Youth (COY) and other relevant youth forums dealing with climate change matters,

Identify the proposals and recommendations illustrated in the sections below to ensure the demands set in the key highlights are met.

1.1. MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Multilateral

1.1.1 Establish a Youth Delegate Programme for the UNFCCC, where participants are included and supported to participate in their respective national delegation. The process for nomination should:

a) Enable nominations for 1 or 2 young people from every Party to the UNFCCC;

b) Be an open call;

c) Delegates to be selected through an open, transparent and independent voting system open to young people internationally. Ideally, delegates are someone who has the ability to engage in different levels (e.g. local, sub-national, national) to be as representative as possible.

1.1.2 Establish a body within the UNFCCC to enhance youth participation and provide a permanent setting for young people to engage in formal, periodical discussions with UNFCCC Party representatives and among themselves, including through the exchange of views, experiences and proposals aimed at fostering youth participation and engagement, youth awareness and empowerment and raising global climate ambition.

1.1.3 Enhance opportunities for youth interventions during sessions, including by ensuring youth interventions are presented at the beginning or middle of the plenaries, rather than at the end.

1.1.4 Establish a Youth COP Model for youth to immerse themselves in the climate agenda of UNFCCC sessions.

1.1.5 Encourage all UN agencies, institutions and/or conventions and relevant international and intergovernmental organisations to create structured platforms/programmes to support youth engagement in decision-making processes, including more open processes for selections into existing UN youth climate bodies.

1.1.6 Increasing opportunities of engagement via UNFCCC's Regional Collaboration Centres (RCC), as a platform for regional coordination among youth, including by organizing periodic youth meetings or conferences at the sub-regional level.

1.1.7 Encourage member states to pursue an Economic and Social Council Resolution seeking youth participation in decision-making processes at the local, national, regional and international levels.

National

1.1.8 National governments and other policy-making institutions ensure systematic meaningful youth engagement in the climate decision-making process through both planning and implementation, as measured by:

a) The creation and adoption of Youth Advisory Councils on climate change, in consultation with youth, advising relevant national institutions adopted by national legislation, composed by but not limited to multidisciplinary youth leaders who represent the youth communities including stigmatized, marginalized, vulnerable groups and taking into account gender representation, diversity, equity and inclusion;

b) The inclusion of the youth, either through a Youth Advisory Council and/or other relevant youth-led organizations in all the national policies with implications on climate change, including NDCs, planning processes, consultations, implementation, validation and reviewing procedures.

1.1.9 Foster means for youth to monitor the progress of climate change plans/policies, including those part of countries' NDCs, that result from the UNFCCC and other processes.

1.1.10 Include youth in the development, implementation, and updating processes of NDCs, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, among other policies.

Local

1.1.10 Youth Propose to increase inclusion and accountability of local communities' members, particularly youth, on developing resilient and sustainable urban and rural action plans and inclusive decision-making processes, including by introducing "Youth Municipal Councils" and periodic "Youth open doors days" or "Open Parliament" initiatives, while incentivizing connection among communities and raising awareness on the importance of their actions.

1.1.11 There is a need to develop and fully implement detailed climate action plans, including meaningful youth participation on the local level.

1.1.12 Youth inclusion must be institutionalized in the creation of local policy, either by local youth councils, youth delegates, or a quota for youth within local parliaments.

1.1.13 In addition, it is crucial to ensure a transparent selection process of the participating youth and to ensure available resources (funding, information, language inclusivity and cultural sensitivity, time).

1.2 CAPACITY-BUILDING

Multilateral

1.2.1 Establish the ACE Youth Forum as an annual event within the UNFCCC process as a means of strengthening capacity-building for youth by providing opportunities for peer-learning, networking and enabling exchange between youth, experts, and government officials (e.g. national ACE Focal Points).

1.2.2 Further improving the UNFCCC children and youth constituency (YOUNGO), to make it more structured and accessible to more young people all over the world, by providing dedicated funding to its activities without undermining the independence of the constituency, promoting awareness about YOUNGO among youth and Parties, as well as increasing support financially, logistically and institutionally to the Conferences of Youth (COY) and their regional, national and local editions.

1.2.3 Creating more opportunities such as training and mentorship programmes, research opportunities, and education courses and scholarships to enable young people to realize their potential.

1.2.4 Fostering outreach and communication about Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) activities, especially across developing countries, and creating opportunities for youth to share experiences from their own work and/or provide inputs.

1.2.5 Encouraging countries to appoint more non-governmental stakeholders as national ACE focal points, to strengthen linkages between government institutions and civil society.

National

1.2.6 Request that all national governments support and implement youth capacity building programmes and initiatives, and ensure that the selection process be open, transparent and merit-based so that young people involved in national climate decision making and activism can contribute to multilateral processes.

1.2.7 Urge the inclusion of young people from stigmatized, marginalized and vulnerable communities in the abovementioned programmes and initiatives.

1.2.8 Ensure a meaningful participation of the youth in the abovementioned programmes and initiatives through nationally relevant incentives and by ensuring that all national dialects and languages are represented.

1.2.9 Ensure the implementation of capacity building and transformative education through a multidisciplinary approach by integrating a climate education program in national curricula from an early age, supported by all relevant ministries and institutions.

Local

1.2.10 Propose to strengthen public and transparent consultation processes of marginalized/less involved communities/groups at the local level, involving, among others, representative groups of educational institutions, civil society actors, Indigenous peoples, climate activists, women, migrants and refugees, and, above all, young members of local communities, helping increase awareness, networking and building expertise for the future.

1.2.11 Localize the narrative of climate change, ensuring language inclusivity that addresses intersectional aspects, and raising awareness.

1.3 FUNDING

Multilateral

1.3.1 Encourage all UN agencies, institutions and/or conventions and relevant international and intergovernmental organisations to shape their priorities and governance decisions; and establish structured platforms/programmes with significant budgets and resources to support young people's research initiatives and climate-smart and sustainable innovations and businesses, and foster youth engagement in their decision-making processes, with prioritization allotted to youth from SIDS and LDCs.

1.3.2 Request developed countries to support the mobilization of resources for youth-led initiatives in the global south, particularly SIDS and LDCs.

1.3.3 Request developed countries, public and private financial institutions, and relevant UN organisations to urgently dedicate and make readily accessible funding and support to address loss and damage, particularly in LDCs, SIDS and communities and groups most vulnerable to climate impacts, including young peoples.

National

1.3.4 Request that all national governments design and implement a national funding scheme to support, but not limited to, youth-led businesses, young entrepreneurs, youth-led registered and unregistered programmes, organizations and initiatives that support climate action and the implementation of the SDGs agenda, UNFCCC and other relevant multilateral policies and targets.

1.3.5 Encourage the national governments to actively seek and implement cross-sectorial funding, in partnership with other national governments, to genuinely support the progress on climate action of the youth coming from developing countries.

1.3.6 Call for national governments to establish an equitable, transparent forum for information sharing, guidance and support in regard to the national funding scheme.

Local

1.3.7 Propose to create and/or increase public funds for urban ecological sustainability, supporting small and medium local entrepreneurs with a fair distribution of resources aiming at, among others:

a) Developing programmes to support and implement green commitment, ideas and solutions in local communities to tackle climate change, taking into account not only environmental issues but also those related to economics, education and health;

b) Work on recycling business, creating public campaigns and advertising showing how to save fundamental resources such as energy and water, and sustainable practices for waste management and treatment, at the local level.

1.4 CROSS-CUTTING PROPOSALS

1.4.1. Grant opportunities for youth to manage green funds through microgrants and other meaningful spaces for contribution.

1.4.2. Hold periodical fairs, sponsoring research and holding competitions and other events dedicated to youth on ways to confront climate change and promote environmental protection.

1.4.3. Ensure a non-discriminatory global low GHG and resilient development transition by officially enshrining the principle of non-application of sanctions to climate projects among all Country Parties to the UNFCCC.

1.4.4. Recognize and adhere to the principle of technological neutrality which secures an equal international policy approach to all technologies that help achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement in a sustainable manner.

1.4.5. Discuss alternative metrics to GDP that consider environmental issues.

1.4.6. Invite the COP 26 Presidency to facilitate the establishment of a road map concluding in COP 27 to agree on a new set of principles for adjusting the multilateral system to support the Paris Agreement and the pandemic recovery.

2. SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

The Youth for Climate participants,

Recalling Agenda 2030's roadmap to achieve sustainable growth and development without leaving anyone behind and in particular SDG7 which requires Parties to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all,

Acknowledging that a fair and just transition to clean energy will require a multi-stakeholder and intergenerational approach involving governments, the private sector, youth, ethnic minorities and indigenous groups, and vulnerable communities, as well as ensuring that both developing and developed nations have access to reliable and accessible energy,

Recognizing that the green energy transition will require Parties to implement regulatory and financial mechanisms to support infrastructure and technology development, as well as workforce capacity building,

Acknowledging that COVID-19 recovery plans present an unprecedented opportunity to implement a Green Recovery, through initiatives such as the Green New Deal, which involves allocating recovery funds in a way that is compatible with climate targets set out in the Paris Agreement,

Emphasizing that a return to business-as-usual will prevent Parties from reaching the "well below 2°C" target set out in the Paris Agreement and further noting that continued investment in fossil fuels, including gas, is incompatible with climate targets and green recovery goals,

Noting that the energy transition will have adverse side-effects on fossil fuel industry jobs whilst also noting that these losses can be balanced with equivalent green industry jobs, leading to a positive labour market transition which can help break the false dichotomy of environmentalism versus prosperity,

Underlining the need for multi-sector and multi-stakeholder engagement, by setting a people-centred perspective in order to substantially map cross-linkages across sectors and address climate induced inequities and inequalities,

Emphasising that the priority for policy and development is to ensure health, and food and water security within the science-set planetary boundaries, through infrastructures fit for these targets,

Recognising that resilience is context-dependent and that it therefore needs to be approached from the local level,

Stressing that financial flows steer the direction of societal dynamics and climate change adaptation and resilience progress,

Acknowledging that funding for adaptation, resilience, and loss and damage needs to be made reliable and locally-owned to be deliver the SDGs,

Demanding that stronger mechanisms for vertical and horizontal accountability need to come along promises for action,

Highlighting the importance of taking special measures to prevent losses and damage and repair the social, economic and environmental balance,

Further emphasising that adaptation and resilience need to be approached with consideration to the climate refugees who will be displaced as the conditions change, and recognising the term ‘climate refugee’ under international law,

Underlining that different subjectivities and regions are affected differently by the climate crisis, and should as such be differentiated in policy-making for resilience, adaptation and losses and damages,

Emphasizing the need to "change the narrative" by promoting the concept of nature as an intrinsic value for society, through the application of a "green approach" applicable to each decision related to the economic and social environment,

Stressing the importance of increasing awareness at the local and national levels on nature-based solutions (NBS) and their full potential to preserve biodiversity through mitigation and adaptation to climate change,

Recognizing that youth can integrate an intersectional and inclusive approach to the implementation of NBS, consequently broadening the long and short-term impact that NBS brings to regions and areas threatened by climate change,

Underlining that the inclusive participation of youth and vulnerable communities, who are among the most threatened by climate change, is critical to the effective design and implementation of any NBS through innovative ideas and different perspectives,

Acknowledging the importance of ensuring youth education, training, capacity building, and coordination that promotes the implementation of NBS and climate action,

Underlining the need for governments to intervene and encourage conservation and restoration of nature towards fast and just transition to a more sustainable planet,

Recognising that NBS can be 30% of the solution to climate change, and that they could allow to tackle both the climate and the biodiversity crises,

Urging governments to adopt a definition of nature-based solutions that would be common to the UNFCCC and the UNCBD, and include safeguards to avoid nature-based solutions that disrespect ecosystems and local communities,

Highlighting the need for safeguards in the implementation of NBS, which should be:

a) avoiding the use of NBS for carbon offsetting programmes or to justify business as usual approaches;

b) avoiding land grabbing by ensuring that NBS follow transparent, inclusive and empowering governance processes;

c) ensuring that NBS are being implemented with an ecosystem-based approach, ensuring that they are truly enhancing biodiversity (by using indigenous species etc.).

Emphasizing that developed countries shall continue to provide and increase financial resources to assist developing countries, particularly SIDS and LDCs, with respect to mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage-related actions,

Recognizing the importance and urgency of mobilizing increased resources for scaling up climate action from a variety of sources ranging from international donors, governments and non-government actors, including the private sector, financial sectors and communities, in a manner that is accessible, equitable and that ensures results-based transparent accountability of investments for climate change mitigation and adaptation actions,

Considering the key role of youth and young communities, organizations and movements in advocating for mobilization of resources for more systemic climate change mitigation and adaptation actions that are effective, fair, immediate and transparent,

Emphasizing the strategic relevance of actively supporting youth engagement in resource mobilization and management across all institutional levels at the national and international scales such as, inter alia, research and academia, political institutions, government agencies and international organizations involved in climate,

Considering the various climate initiatives promoted by youth organizations at all levels, including but not limited to local and regional communities, non-governmental organizations, United Nations and other recognized youth programmes, and the opportunity to strengthen and expand these initiatives as an effective means to facilitate the mobilization of resources for climate actions,

Recognizing that inclusive participatory processes must respect the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity,

Acknowledging that the tourism sector makes a significant contribution to global GDP (approx. 10.4%, 2018) whilst also contributing to roughly 8% of carbon emissions, which are disproportionately produced by tourists coming from high-income countries,

Further acknowledging that climate change presents a short- and long-term challenge for the tourism sector due to the impacts of factors such as sea-level rise, extreme weather events and loss of natural habitats and wildlife,

Recognizing that the tourism sector has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic whilst also acknowledging that this represents an opportunity to leverage National Recovery and Resilience Plans for a green and blue recovery,

Acknowledging that lower income countries and the economies of SIDS are often dependent on tourism whilst also less resilient and well adapted to climate change,

Emphasizing that locally determined tourist carrying capacity (maximum number of people that may visit a tourist destination at a given time), international tourism flows, with the promotion of local/proximity tourism and implementation of sustainability principles at destinations, can significantly decrease the carbon footprint of the sector whilst still ensuring benefits for tourism providers and tourists.

2.1. ENERGY TRANSITION AND GREEN JOBS

2.1.1. Call on central and local governments to adopt ambitious domestic green new deals, that:

a) Center the rights of local communities, in particular, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, peoples with disabilities and other marginalized groups;

b) Phase out fossil fuel subsidies and reinvest them in clean energy and energy efficiency;

c) Invest in training and upskilling for youth and workers transitioning out of the fossil fuel sector.

2.1.2. Call on leaders to guarantee the rights of the local communities, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable people by promoting their energy sovereignty and the development of climate solutions, in all aspects of the energy transition:

a) Prioritizing access to land and waters, and sovereignty rights in the developing of climate policies, and decision-making on projects that will impact those communities;

b) Adopting and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the rights of the local communities, particularly the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent to all new energy development, including but not limited to fossil fuel projects, green energy projects, mining, and other extractive industries;

c) Investing directly in local communities, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples to lead clean energy projects and other climate solutions, including increasing access to funding and resources for indigenous youth to develop climate solutions;

d) Working with local communities, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples and local communities to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and ancestral wisdom into land management, disaster management, energy development and climate solutions, while respecting cultural sovereignty and intellectual property.

2.1.3. Urge all countries to rapidly transition towards renewable energy to reach net zero emissions by 2030, including by:

a) Implementing significant and innovative financial, technical and regulatory policies to facilitate renewable energy development such as, but not limited to, incentives, subsidies and feed-in tariffs;

b) Financing research and development in innovation to make processes more efficient and competitive and commercialize new technologies;

c) Drawing guidelines and recommendations for the clean energy transition that include all members of society, from institutions and businesses to individuals and local communities ensuring access to information, participation and justice;

d) Identifying national resources through detailed and independent investigations that take all stakeholders into account and investing in transformative renewable energy practices that are sustainable, eco-friendly, just and equitable across supply chains and suited to the regional characteristics in which they are deployed;

e) Collaborating with the private sector to explore and fund innovative mechanisms to transform and upscale clean and renewable energy production;

f) Implementing a multidimensional and multisectoral approach to clean energy development that includes among others, food security and farming practices, equity and justice, access to clean water, and investment in conservation programs;

g) Divesting from exploration and extraction of fossil fuels by companies while maintaining the energy resilience of their countries.

2.1.4. Encourage countries to enact and implement binding legislation and set strict timelines with precise guidelines for the transition away from fossil fuel use for energy production, including natural gas, which involves:

a) Phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and putting a stop to the financing of all new fossil fuel exploration and development starting with a rapid phase out of coal for energy production and putting a stop to international financing of coal plants;

b) Ensuring that developed countries assist developing countries with the energy transition;

c) Utilizing carbon pricing and taxation on fossil fuel derived for the entire energy sector such as power generation, industry, transportation with values that are higher than current values and are within the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition's proposal of a carbon price that will meet the Paris Agreement, which is at least US$40–80/tCO2 by 2020 and US$50–100/tCO2 by 2030, provided a supportive policy environment is in place;

d) Ensuring the revenue of such measures is used to promote sustainable alternative solutions with vulnerable and local communities to reduce and compensate for emissions, whilst guaranteeing their rights to participation, access to information and justice.

2.1.5. Call on all countries to invest in energy demand reduction by establishing strong fiscal and regulatory strategies for the promotion of energy efficiency and conservation:

a) Ensuring that financial investments are policies prioritize demand-side measures like energy efficiency and conservation and adoption of clean energy to replace fossil fuel energy supply first, before investing in and planning to use emissions offsets, which should only be used as a last resort;

b) Requiring and providing incentives for energy conservation and efficiency in energy planning and industrialization plans as well as at a household level;

c) Banning the installation of new fossil fuel combined heat and power;

d) Promoting the use of net metering and integrated electricity plans, and promote a society based on energy-sobriety guided by the necessity to bring energy consumption levels to acceptable, within-earth-capacity, levels;

e) Ensuring that low-income families are also able to update their homes and transport choices towards more energy efficient alternatives.

2.1.6. Suggest that countries monitor the expanding resource demand of the transport sector and implement laws, policies and infrastructure programmes to overhaul transportation systems, including by:

a) Incentivising low emission options such as bikes and public transport, as well as providing financial disincentives for air travel;

b) Providing infrastructural support and financial incentives for a quicker transition to vehicles powered by clean energy as well as mandating the retrofitting of cargo ships, cruise ships, and planes;

2.1.7. Further urge all countries to ensure that at least 50% of all economic recovery packages are linked to climate change mitigation or adaptations by prioritizing low-carbon and carbon-neutral energy sector players and providing subsidies for green infrastructure and green job development.

2.1.8. Urge all countries to stop funding fossil fuel infrastructure and technology in low-income countries, whilst providing investment and technical support for their energy transition, leveraging development agencies with projects that incorporate climate resilience considerations, including (re)training for those who would be impacted by such activities and ensuring access to affordable energy for development goals.

2.1.9. Stress the need to develop capacity building programs across a variety of disciplines which can be used to retrench the fossil fuel industry workforce and create new job opportunities for workers and communities that may be affected by the energy transition, also by:

a) Performing pre- and post-vulnerability assessments to identify communities that will be most affected by the transition and ensuring that such a transition will result in economic and social benefits for affected workers;

b) Working with communities and workers in carbon intensive industries that are likely to be affected by the transition to design and develop a shared vision and transition plan that outlines transferable skills and identifies cases for re-skilling;

c) Implementing government-funded programs that reskill workers in high carbon jobs and transition them into greener occupations as well as providing financial support for workers and their families that have been affected by the energy transition;

d) Collaborating with industry associations and providing financial incentives and recognition to energy companies that invest in reskilling programs.

2.1.10. Urge all countries to offer training and capacity-building opportunities in green jobs to tackle unemployment, create new work opportunities and develop a workforce that is able to bring about a rapid energy transition whilst achieving SDG8, including by:

a) Promoting equal access to education in schools, universities and vocational schools as well as bridging the education-career gap by providing skill-building programs, access to mentorship and peer networks, and using a systems approach to building the clean energy workforce;

b) Equipping the structurally unemployed with new skills through subsidized or free training programs run in conjunction with training centres from across the world;

c) Creating work opportunities across the entire energy value chain, from research and development, to maintenance, distribution and generation;

d) Investing in youth, particularly youth within vulnerable communities, ethnic minorities and indigenous communities and women, by providing training to access green jobs, supporting youth-led organizations and initiatives, creating the social, economic and political environment that will enable youth entrepreneurship in renewable energy;

e) Governments should create skill training and wage employment schemes to help train and finance individuals in the transition process to develop skills for renewable and eco-friendly sectors. This will allow the workers to receive training and wages during that time period followed by guaranteed jobs by the government;

2.1.11. Encourage countries to require any projects, organisations and companies receiving tax-payer funded financial aid to have carbon mitigation goals that align with its Nationally Determined Contribution. Any new businesses, buildings, or projects should also meet these standards to gain approval whilst leveraging public private partnerships on green projects, also by:

a) Establishing regional power markets and co-ownership of municipal energy infrastructure among the private sector;

b) Imposing climate reporting so as to provide a level-playing field for businesses;

c) Providing subsidies and financial aid to "green companies" and allocate tax benefits to enterprises and companies that promote green jobs;

d) Adopting a green tax system in favour of green businesses and reducing customs fees and taxes for products related to green jobs;

e) Charge more tax on products that are single used or not environmentally friendly.

2.2. ADAPTATION, RESILIENCE AND LOSS AND DAMAGE

2.2.1 We demand countries for diverse means of implementation to be made immediately available for locally-owned adaptation, resilience, and loss and damage measures to ensure proper and continuous solutions reach the most vulnerable groups and regions.

2.2.2 We demand countries to urgently implement locally owned adaptation, resilience, and recovery measures from COVID-19 and Climate Change - prioritizing, health, food, and water systems-, framed by the SDGs to STOP further loss and damage, through a holistic and integrated approach, backed by grants to cover adaptation measures and resilience planning and implementation.

2.2.3 Adaptation and resilience have to be inclusive at all levels; international, regional and societal, with a specific emphasis on indigenous communities and women - considering particular situations faced by countries with high climate vulnerabilities, especially for Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs).

2.2.4 In that same spirit, nations must recognize climate migrants, climate refugees and address loss and damage in order to preserve social, economic, and environmental balance as well as public health while securing fair access to funding for vulnerable countries in the frontline of climate change and accountability from those countries contributing the most to climate change.

2.2.5 Adaptation and resilience measures have to be implemented in a timely manner to ensure health, food and water security. That means health, and food and water security have to be established as supra-national strategic goals, with measures going in that direction, including by:

a) Encouraging authorities at various levels to implement preventive disease outbreak policies, local health emergency responses and rapid economic rescue measures under the nexus related to climate change and biodiversity, to better respond to public health threats and avoid the occurrence of additional damages in the near future;

b) Directing subsidies, incentives and financial support to adopt natural-based farming practices, climate-smart agriculture, focusing on the local production of more plant-based food for people and halt the support for intensive production practices especially in developing countries;

c) Supporting new sustainable land-use approaches, such as agroforestry. This includes sufficient transfer and dissemination of knowledge about climate-friendly land-use approaches among people, who would be implementing measures at the end;

d) Ensuring that Integrated Water Resources Management is at the core of National Adaptation Plans and at the centre of climate adaptation investments;

e) Supporting research and knowledge transfer about surface and transboundary water management to avoid water-related conflicts.

2.2.6 Promote Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) through education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation under adaptation and resilience, which involves:

a) Funding replicable adaptation and resilience initiatives tackling loss and damage;

b) Prioritizing democratization of science and encourage creating replicable adaptation and resilience measures focusing on translating the science behind the measures in the local languages that are understandable for everybody;

c) Promoting training the trainers', environmental and societal education initiatives focused on climate adaptation and resilience;

d) Supporting locally/community-based media to inform and promote the need to focus on adaptation and resilience among locals and also on the possible ways to do it;

e) Implementing climate education as a part of the school curriculum from an early age and promote technical training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, for capacity building on adaptation and resilience.

2.2.7 Propose integrated and participative governance, the involvement of all sectors as well as of civil society, in consultation and accountability processes recognizing the value of their experiences, perspectives, and encouraging socio-environmental paradigm shift while preparing the urban and rural areas for effective risk response:

a) Enhancing and strengthening democratic participation and community development by promoting involvement in the processes of policy drafting, passing, and implementing as well in participatory budgeting (tools and methods) for adaptation and resilience projects;

b) Implementing institutional overlap and secure engagement of local governments in the national adaptation plans and disaster response;

c) Ensuring environmental impact assessment for all levels - with special attention to the private sector - taking into consideration adaptation measures;

d) Supporting more inclusivity for the opinion of SIDS and vulnerable countries at the international level and promote international solidarity;

e) Incorporating practitioners' expertise, - such as researchers and scientists- in sustainable recovery, into legislative aspects, guaranteeing the implementation of the necessary actions for the collection and storage of data for future useful analyses on adaptation and resilience in the community, district, and national levels;

f) Strengthening the relevant capabilities in governmental institutions and empowering vulnerable groups to ensure that governance matters are tackled in an adequate and just manner.

2.2.8 Additionally, we call upon countries and the United Nations to recognize climate migrants and climates refugee under international law and implement an international binding framework of their protection and resettlement:

a) Ensuring direct humanitarian aid reaches areas identified as highly vulnerable due to the effects of climate change (based on the Global Climate Risk Index);

b) Prioritizing capacity building in urban and rural cities/towns' preparedness to relocate and accommodate internally and externally displaced communities.

2.2.9 Support resilient infrastructure development that ensures no individual, no community and no country is left behind, that could be reached by:

a) Prioritizing knowledge and technology transferability among different stakeholders from the drafting stage of the measures and projects;

b) Ensuring that national norms and codes include adaptation and resilience-related measures, that are context-sensitive;

2.2.10 Call on countries to make the recovery more resilient, supporting environmental, social, and economic goals, including the following:

a) Moving away from GDP as a measure of success and prioritizing alternative indicators that focus on well-being of people while respecting planetary boundaries;

b) Ensuring that disaster risk finance is given as grants and that recipient entities are given specific training on finance monitoring and management. All countries –especially low- and middle-income countries- have to have secured access to these funds;

c) Ensuring that adaptation and resilience measures are affordable, easily replicable and that they are taking into account specifics of local contexts;

d) IFI financing to SIDS should include municipal/local infrastructure redevelopment and rebuilding.

2.2.11 Ensure that Loss and Damage remain a priority issue and that it is sufficiently addressed at national and international levels, that includes:

a) Requesting countries to take immediate actions to stop the temperature rising to 1.5ºC, in order to avoid subsequent climate events that may disrupt social, economic and environmental balance;

b) Urging to strengthen national and local capacities of the countries, especially those facing high climate vulnerabilities such as Small Islands Developing States, Least Developed States, Landlocked Developed Countries, taking special considerations for African countries, to implement comprehensive risk management approaches, including but not limited to climate risk assessments, risk reduction, and risk transfer to foster implementation of measures to address loss and damage;

c) Requesting countries, specially developed countries, to secure and facilitate access for loss and damage-specialized funds and financial mechanisms as non-refundable grants in order to offer

an appropriate response due to extreme weather events and slow onset events (especially for those countries with high climate vulnerabilities);

d) Strongly encourage that existing gaps to conduct risk assessments for a proper risk prevention and reduction due to loss and damage-related events are sufficiently addressed;

e) Ensuring that strategic planning for supporting vulnerable developing countries in the implementation of measures to address extreme weather events and slow onset events, through finance, technology transfer and capacity building is adequately executed;

f) Facilitating access and implement risk management mechanisms to address climate change related risks in national prioritized sectors, including but not limited to risk transfer and risk management;

g) Implementing holistic approaches to foster recovery, rehabilitation and addressing permanent loss;

h) Acknowledging and taking pertinent actions for the loss of the intangible cultural heritage caused by extreme weather events and slow onset events;

i) Ensuring that further efforts to take into consideration measurements, costs and policies to strengthen loss and damage transparency mechanisms, are taken;

j) Ensuring the safety of vulnerable groups due to climate events, such as indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations;

k) Reduce loss and damage-related risks by taking immediate actions, such as:

i. Nature based solutions (mangroves restoration and conservation, coral reefs belts, wetlands protections);

ii. Risk sensitive land use planning;

iii. Early warning systems and evacuations, as well as rapid response actions;

iv. Regional, national and local insurance solutions;

v. Hazard-proof housing and infrastructure.

2.3. NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

2.3.1. Note that when scaling up NBS, the following actions should be prioritized at global level in tackling climate change challenges:

a) Recognition, inclusion and safeguards for local indigenous and frontline communities, ensuring free, prior and informed consent including with proposed NBS, and significant provisions for losses and damages;

b) Protection of crucial ecosystems, habitats and biodiversity;

c) Sustainable production and consumption campaigns;

d) Sustainable agriculture and aquaculture;

e) Increased financial investments in NBS;

f) Sustainable afforestation and reforestation actions.

2.3.2. Call on all countries to achieve higher climate ambition through specific policy actions that implement NBS at scale, including through the following actions:

a) Incorporating NBS, at all levels of governance and in a synergized manner across the Rio Conventions, into strategies, action plans and NDCs, while identifying specific NBS and ecosystem protection targets to ensure that adaptation and mitigation projects include NBS that address climate change and biodiversity loss;

b) Increasing high-level participation, empowerment and self-determination of civil societies and communities including indigenous peoples, youth, women and relevant stakeholders in the entire NBS process;

c) Improving actions for land, ocean, forest and water restoration, biodiversity conservation and integrated management of natural resources, creating an open-source platform to share models, tools and best practices, including by enforcing the implementation of laws to avoid the destruction and damage of nature, deforestation and forest degradation, protect endangered species, manage waste and promote clean energy sources, in order to protect, manage, and restore ecosystems;

d) Developing and maintaining cities with nature-based planning for sustainable urban construction with emphasis on green infrastructure and green adaptation facilities;

e) Increasing research and innovation to support nature conservation and NBS, noting that these areas are severely underfunded;

f) Encouraging the integration of youth in green jobs that are most relevant to the communities (e.g. mapping climate risks, identification of priorities, identification of suitable NBS with the associated co-benefits) and promoting innovative youth projects related to the restoration of ecosystems;

g) Creating permanent regional and national offices/representative positions for youth and Indigenous peoples for developing and deploying climate technologies, gathering local data for NBS and Monitoring & Evaluation systems;

h) Promoting NBS throughout economies in order to ensure sustainable production, including by requiring companies to incorporate NBS in their corporate mitigation and adaptation plans and requiring transparent nature-related financial disclosures;

i) Prioritizing States with high vulnerability to climate change, wherein there is high potential return on investment for NBS measures, including biodiversity hotspots such as SIDS.

2.3.3. Also call on all countries to improve green financial actions through the following measures:

a) Increasing funding for NBS, largely through the taxation of heavy polluters (both countries and corporations through the polluter pays principle) and mobilizing private and public investments towards NBS, with defined targets and timelines;

b) Ensuring accountability for funding to be equitably distributed among countries and areas of greatest needs to empower the most marginalized, local and indigenous communities and provides for community ownership to foster diverse youth-led, NBS-focused initiatives;

c) Directing NBS funding of sustainable climate action projects to those managing and living in the landscapes and seascapes in question;

d) Combining scaled-up financial support for NBS with strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure environmental and social equality, including by funding in-depth

research, technology, training and capacity building as well as economic and regulatory measures to avoid greenwashing.

2.3.4. Further call on governments to implement the following measures to ensure the education of all generations and local communities on environmental issues on matters related to climate change and NBS:

a) Promoting education and awareness programs - including experiential and online learning - on NBS in school curricula, social media, and other platforms in order to feed innovative green ideas among all generations, by involving national education institutions, media organizations, and other stakeholders;

b) Providing direct resources to upskill the representatives of local authorities and other stakeholders to strengthen their capacity to implement NBS and advance local planning policies.

2.3.5. Call on international bodies and national governments to recognize that the knowledge and contributions of youth and indigenous peoples could benefit local NBS initiatives and measures by promoting a paradigm shift through the following actions:

a) Incorporating indigenous leadership in NBS strategies;

b) Fully recognizing the knowledge, ancestral stewardship, and cultural subsistence needs of indigenous peoples, acknowledging that such communities have been applying NBS for millennia and their vision of nature and related management practices should be included when planning climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

2.4. FINANCIAL FLOWS

2.4.1. Note the need to ensure and enhance the contribution of youth to the promotion of scaled-up financial resources for systematic climate action and to facilitate the efforts to make financial flows consistent with a pathway towards climate neutrality and climate resilient development.

2.4.2. Propose that national and local authorities identify solutions and instruments to enhance transparency in monetary flows and the effects of investments on the climate, particularly by increasing the accessibility and availability of information on distribution of funds to monitor their equitable alignment with climate and environmental goals and increase accountability, with a view to better ensure the contribution of young people in funding allocation decisions. Specific recommendations to improve accountability including but not limited to:

a) A national climate finance strategy including budget targeting;

b) Encouraging businesses and investors to report their carbon emissions against an internationally recognised standards, such as the Task Force for Climate-related Financial Disclosures recommendations, in developed and developing countries by 2025 and 2030 respectively;

c) Improving the accessibility to climate finance for youth climate projects:

i. through de-risking and deregulating, including blended finance and crowding in impact investments;

ii. through creating a separate channel for youth-led climate initiatives/organizations to access finance directly, and not solely through formal government channels;

d) Implementing financial systems literacy into climate education curriculums.

2.4.3. Further recommend to improve monitoring of financial systems, including but not limited to:

a) Implementation of a green taxonomy for the standardisation of financial reporting on carbon emissions;

b) Implementation of mandatory audits on allocated climate finance, including allocation to adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage and youth climate project.

2.4.4. Acknowledge that youth can contribute to effective, immediate action by governments and non-governmental actors to mobilize finance, especially in developed countries and major greenhouse gas emitters, in favour of developing countries and particularly the most vulnerable that will be most affected by climate change.

2.4.5. Recommend a number of actions that governments and civil society can pursue to best encourage domestic and international finance that supports low emission and climate resilient development pathways, including but not limited to:

a) Developing and enhancing disincentives for actions that are harmful to the climate; and developing and scaling up incentives to encourage climate-positive actions;

b) Implementing or adopting fair and just carbon pricing that is effective and contextual to a country's economic profile and sectoral activities;

c) Reviewing government budgets, in all sectors and at all levels, and ensuring all publicly procured infrastructure projects are consistent with a low-emissions and climate-resilient development and compatible with the 1.5 degree climate target in accordance with the Paris Agreement;

d) Identifying and incorporating climate impacts and risks into the strategies and operations of the finance sector with a view to avoiding or minimizing the climate impact of investment decisions;

e) Identifying and incorporating climate impacts and risks into business models, with a view to avoiding or minimizing the climate impact of economic activities;

f) Identifying and incorporating climate impacts and risks into strategies and operations of international development finance actors with a view to avoiding or minimizing net harm caused by development finance;

g) Ensuring that World Trade Organisation facilitates cross-border climate action, including carbon border adjustment considerations;

h) Enhancing transparency models to indicate how, where and why the budget was spent in a specific climate related activity to deliver on the ETF under the Paris Agreement;

i) In addition to considering climate risk, ensuring all new investments are required to consider whether activities are aligned with the 1.5-degree pathway, providing such skills development and support in such analysis for SMEs, youth organisations and developing countries.

2.4.6. Require that all actors involved in climate finance, including governments, international organizations, development finance institutions, and financial and banking sectors, ensure active and meaningful engagement of young people regarding climate finance solutions, such solutions include green bonds, voluntary carbon markets, crowdfunding for climate actions, and encourage the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC, Adaptation Fund and Climate Investment Fund to facilitate exchanges and involvement of youth and their organizations at all levels.

2.5. TOURISM

2.5.1. Note that the most promising option for the tourism sector to recover from the pandemic, while pursuing sustainability, is:

a) A full capacity-based recovery in the flows of international tourism, with the inclusion of young people, women, indigenous groups and other marginalized communities, while drastically decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and the environmental impact, and increasing science-based carbon offsetting initiatives and implementing sustainability at destinations (e.g. for accommodation, services, experiences, etc.);

b) Promotion and incentivization of local and proximity tourism for countries.

2.5.2. Propose to develop a sustainable tourism mechanism that evaluates the tourism sector's local and global ecological footprint, carbon emissions and its financial flows.

2.5.3. Strongly encourage the development of resources and mechanisms that help reduce the tourism industry’s annual carbon footprint by:

a) Implementing multi-stakeholder carbon accounting, short and long-term strategies and an annual GHG emissions index for the tourism sector;

b) Investing in structural and system changes to be enacted by both private companies and the government so as to accelerate the decarbonization of tourism operations and promote green, blue and circular innovation throughout the tourism sector, including but not limited to the promotion of low-carbon transport, activities, and accommodation;

c) Leveraging and implementing fiscal policy and legislative mechanisms including incentives, tax rebates, the implementation of emissions trading schemes, and taxation to help build adaptive capacity, replace fossil fuel dependency throughout the industry, and offset emissions;

d) Ensuring that costs associated with tourism services account for negative social, economic and environmental externalities by adopting government-approved ecological footprint categories that are used in the industry.

2.5.4. Request that Parties to the Paris Agreement include emissions arising from international aviation and maritime transportation in carbon emission inventories.

2.5.5. Further request that Parties develop and implement a global monitoring and evaluation mechanism (e.g. Tourism Sustainability Satellite Account) with internationally accepted indices to measure environmental (i.e. including but not limited to GHG emissions), societal and economic contributions and impacts. Request that Parties to the Paris Agreement reduce carbon emissions

related to transportation by increasing efficiency, promoting technological innovation and investing in zero- or low-carbon technologies tailored to local capacity.

2.5.6. Call on all countries to put increased emphasis on ecotourism and sustainable travel by:

a) Protecting local biospheres which are an important source of tourism, and which experience an accelerated deterioration due to factors such as deforestation, water and soil pollution, poaching activities, and mass tourism;

b) Safeguarding the cultural heritage and economies of indigenous and local peoples by, among other things, measuring and moderating the flow of tourists in areas with low carrying capacities;

c) Encouraging cultural, artistic, and historical experiences as well as accessible tourism options for less advantaged people, minorities and people with disabilities.

2.5.7. Urge countries to implement public policy measures that improve the adaptation and resilience of the tourism sector to the impacts of floods, droughts, storm surges and sea level rise, epidemics and pandemics, and where possible encourages the use of NBS to stop coastal erosion, land loss and deterioration of tourism infrastructure.

2.5.8. Further urge countries to provide financing for the regions highly dependent on tourism, especially in the Global South to update their tourism infrastructure using green solutions, as well as compensate for losses arising from decreases in tourism due to climate change.

2.5.9. Request that National Recovery and Resilience Plans for a green recovery include specific measures to help the tourism sector sustainably recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. NON-STATE ACTORS' ENGAGEMENT

The Youth4Climate Participants,

Recognizing the importance of a human and nature rights-based approach, involving gender, climate, economic and social justice, in all non-state actors' transformations, including food, entrepreneurship, sports, fashion and arts industries, academia, and in the process of abolishing fossil fuels,

Recalling that SDG 12 works to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Acknowledging the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land (2019), Chapter 5- Food Security -stating that extreme climatic events are projected to lead to more agrometeorological disasters with associated economic and social losses.

Acknowledging that the current food system is not sustainable and that support for intensive agriculture should be replaced with more organic and regenerative agricultural practices,

Taking into account that an estimated of 70% of the world gets food from the peasant food web, which works with only 25% of the resources, and that the resting 30% comes from intensive industrial agricultural practices that harm the planetary boundaries,

Taking into account that an estimated one third of all food produced ends up as food waste, while people are still largely impacted by poverty and struggling with access to food and clean water,

Emphasizing that food production is often a source of GHG emissions and a cause of deforestation, whilst at the same time largely affected by climate change,

Recognizing that transboundary climate impacts can create food shortages in low-income countries and that poverty, accessibility and affordability has negative impacts on the food security of those countries,

Acknowledging the huge gap in consumption between developed and developing countries,

Acknowledging that developed countries should contribute more towards knowledge transfer, capacity-building, investment and financial support in the developing countries,

Recognizing that food is intertwined with people's cultural identity,

Acknowledging the right to food as a human right linked to the right to an adequate standard of living, recognized by international human rights law, such as The Universal Declaration of Human Rights; The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, part of the International Bill of Human Rights, and other international conventions protecting specific groups and other regional instruments.

Recognizing that entrepreneurship is the creation of value in a formal or informal setting in any of its three interconnected dimensions, economic, social, and environmental,

Recognizing the key role that entrepreneurs, and especially young entrepreneurs, play in developing new models for clean energy generation, sustainability education, efficient and effective food production and new financing methods to find novel solutions and support projects aimed at tackling climate change and contribute to the zero emissions vision and road to resilience,

Taking into account that entrepreneurs should be the bridge between environmental organizations and communities in providing services and products that contribute to the global fight against climate change,

Emphasizing that policy makers need to help entrepreneurs speed up implementation of new technology and therefore enhance enabling environments, including policy and regulatory measures for technology development and transfer,

Underlining the importance of making sustainable practices part of our culture,

Acknowledging that there are supportive affirmations that a consensus on climate change and its human cause exists as there have been several ground-breaking research and back up of academia with publishing of peer-reviewed scientific journals that draw research credibility indicating that indeed human activities have been “the primary cause of the observed climate-warming trend over the past century”.

Also acknowledging that 97 percent or more of actively publishing climate scientists agree: Climate-warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities”. These statements rely that academia and research are primary builders of understanding climate change and propagating climate action through various mechanisms at National, Regional and International levels.

Recognizing that sports have a unique power to inspire societal change, and particularly contribute to climate change awareness while avoiding GHG emissions,

Recalling that athletes are often sources of inspiration and admiration, particularly to young people, with the power to influence people's views and opinions to live more sustainably and lower their carbon footprint,

Taking into account the need to convey the urgency of global climate action and drive climate awareness and action among global citizens, especially youth,

Recalling that the fashion industry is responsible for a relevant share of global carbon emissions,

Recognizing that fashion reaches everyone regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic status, and that this vast and diverse reach can raise climate change awareness on an unprecedented global scale,

Acknowledging the World Bank's Fashion4Climate initiative, the UNFCCC's research, and other existing initiatives to inform people about the environmental side effects of fashion,

Considering that art can help shed new light on and/or show hidden aspects of the impacts of climate change and that artists can help raise awareness and spread a message of responsibility, meaningful change and community actions,

Recognizing the power of storytelling and artistic expression for raising awareness of climate change,

Acknowledging that mass media and film production are a crucial stepping stone to increasing awareness as artists have the power to translate scientific data into art language that is accessible to all,

Taking into account that for a 50% chance of staying below 1.5 degrees of warming, 90% of coal, 60% of oil and 60% of gas reserves must be left in the ground, which is directly at odds with the stated goal of the fossil fuel industry to continue, or even to expand fossil fuel extraction,

Recognizing that the fossil fuel industry must immediately begin to be phased out in its entirety, this is essential in order to solve the climate crisis,

Acknowledging that fossil fuel companies are not only responsible for the overwhelming majority of global emissions, but are also responsible for the physical destruction of the environment (such as through oil spills), and public health threats due to fracking and the destruction of Indigenous lands, as well as the orchestration of murders of environmental defenders by the industry itself,

Recognizing that the presence of fossil fuel lobbyists at climate negotiations, and the receival of funding from fossil fuel investors and organizations by the UNFCCC and its associated processes such as the COP, skews the results in favour of continuing to emit toxic levels of greenhouse gases, derailing action and greenwashing,

Recalling that fossil fuel companies have exercised huge power, influence and wealth, in order to intentionally spread lies, doubt and disinformation about the climate crisis for decades. This has led to widespread climate denial and "scepticism" in media and society as a whole, for the sole purpose of safeguarding the profits of their industry,

Recognizing that the fossil fuel industry has its roots in colonialism and slavery, which alongside firewood, provided the work that now is provided by the oil industry. Fossil fuel and other resource extractive practices by developed countries is an extension of neo-colonialism, imperialism and white supremacy in the developing countries, and is an inherently violent practice which is a direct cause of ecocide, war, the expansion of empire, poverty and famine,

Taking into account the different global civil society initiatives to make a just energetic, social and ecological transition such as the Non-Proliferation Fossil Fuel Treaty, The Rights of Nature or the initiative to recognize ecocide as a crime against humanity.

3.1. FOOD

3.1.1 Encourage countries to undertake measures to reduce the loss of food, whilst recognizing that the problems of food loss are different between geographies.

3.1.2 Invite developing country Parties to:

a) Subsidize and support the production and transfer of knowledge, as well as the provision of funding for enhanced harvesting, packaging, supply chain and storage techniques, whilst facilitating the establishment of cooperatives and farmer groups;

b) Build essential sustainable infrastructure for supply chain, such as roads, railways, bridges, and mobile networks, whilst respecting nature and local communities in order to facilitate access to and operation of food markets;

c) Recognize and respect the role of the common, local, traditional, and indigenous knowledge in food production, and support food sovereignty within communities;

d) Finance and support programs at the national and local levels to establish a culture of sustainable food consumption and avoid wasteful patterns observed in developed countries.

3.1.3 Also invite developed country Parties to:

a) Acknowledge their historical contribution towards the climate crisis, the inequalities in the food consumption, and change their consumption patterns;

b) Update and expand infrastructure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

c) Explore the possibility of revising present legislation and standards to facilitate the human consumption of unsold food products;

d) Adapt phytosanitary standards to expand the use of food waste for livestock feed;

e) Promote platforms for the redistribution of food surplus;

f) Introducing and/or strengthening taxation of wasteful practices in all areas of the supply chain.

3.1.4 Urge both developed countries and developing countries to:

a) Design and implement policies that guarantee progressive reduction of monoculture practices which aid in the transition to models that better preserve biodiversity as a central point of food strategy;

b) Provide farmers, especially in rural areas, with financial support, capacity building and training in organic, regenerative, and climate-resilient techniques, given that “the extent and condition of natural ecosystems have declined on average by around 50 per cent relative to their earliest estimated states.” (IPBES 2019), and that over the past 50 years, the biggest driver of habitat loss has been the conversion of natural ecosystems for crop production or pasture” (IPBES 2019);

c) Invest in and promote sustainable packaging technology, which minimizes the use of plastic and other polluting materials as much as possible, and standardize packaging so that it can be reused and recycled efficiently on the basis of, but not limited to, carbon intensity, water consumption, packaging and food origin for large supply chain actors;

d) Promote a human rights-based and agro-ecological transformation of food systems towards food sovereignty, gender justice, climate justice, economic and social justice, biodiversity, people’s and planetary health, including the advancement of awareness and respect of seed sovereignty.

3.1.5 Encourage countries and corporations to undertake concrete actions which support farming and production practices in line with climate, sustainability, the right to food and human health criteria, including:

a) Recognizing the value of food as more than a commodity, but as a key sector which impacts the health of people and the planet;

b) Ensuring that food production is focused on creating local, nutritious, accessible, and sustainable food, via financial incentives and mechanisms, and economic reforms along the supply chain;

c) Promoting practices that increase soil carbon and fertility, the sustainable use of land and water resources and the restoration of ecosystems in agricultural environments by scaling up agro-ecological initiatives, whilst simultaneously adopting methods and techniques which limit the use of inputs;

d) Promoting the collaboration of key stakeholders in the supply chain to make food systems more resilient and transparent;

e) Encouraging the use and accessibility of precision agriculture to enhance energy efficiency, decrease the use of pesticides and conserve water;

f) Facilitating farmers' access to finance and credit, specifically direct funds or subsidies, for sustainable agricultural equipment and other tools to transition towards more sustainable food systems;

g) Financially supporting ecological and sustainable farming through funding or subsidies; support must be specific to prioritize the smallholder farmers particularly in the developing countries;

h) Establish, support, introduce innovative options and practices, financial mechanisms and tools related to risk management which transfer options for all levels of food production systems;

i) Recognizing, preserving, and giving importance to the roles of local and indigenous knowledge on food production, and protecting them from extractive practices like biopiracy;

j) Promote economic and crop diversification as a means to tackle seasonal unemployment;

k) Promoting a gender balance in the dynamics of food production recognizing that women hold most of food systems but do not have access to the property of the land. Also, there is the need to involve more women in decision-making and production patterns by promoting education and available resources.

3.1.6 Propose that countries undertake measures aimed at fostering technological development and transfer, to enhance the engagement of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including:

a) Enhancing investment in research on the following, particularly considering small island nations:

i. agro-ecology and sustainable farming practices,

ii. more efficient and carbon-lite transportation of food across the global food supply chain,

iii. agricultural technologies and policies that account for water scarcity in particular regions;

iv. seed sovereignty and the preservation and cultivation of local and heirloom crop varieties best suited to the locality's ecosystems;

b) Providing support and a follow-up process with local actors to implement the undertaken research with data gathering and management, technological needs, risk assessment support and innovation for resilience building;

c) Promoting agricultural cleantech, nature-based and climate resilient approaches and investments in science that decrease food loss and improve food storage without the need for additives, always respecting the precaution principles;

d) Encouraging companies and retailers to prioritize sustainable farming, local and organic production;

e) Urging companies to engage in value chain due diligence and to support their suppliers in the transition to sustainable production through public-private partnerships, investing in technology to develop accessible and affordable low carbon footprint food options for all.

3.1.7 Call on countries, particularly developed countries, to scale-up initiatives to promote the production and consumption of food which is sustainable, nutritious and healthy, including by:

a) Facilitating the creation of a global unified standard for food produce labelling through the definition and clear communication of key terms, such as: locally produced, organic, net-zero, sustainably produced, fair trade, regenerative, to facilitate consumer choices;

b) Shifting consumers' behaviour, whilst protecting nutritional and cultural requirements and financially protecting low-income households;

c) Supporting local, small-holder and agro-ecological farmers, facilitating their incorporation into food supply chains;

d) Promote food-related educational activities through mass-media, social media and institutional campaigns from international to local scales, which will raise social awareness about sustainable production and consumption, and the impacts of food production and consumption, and well as how to grow produces at home.

3.1.8 Also call on countries to put in place regulations, policies and measures leading to a positive impact on food system stability, sustainable food production, and harvested ecosystems, including by:

a) Drastically reducing subsidies for meat and dairy products in countries where meat and dairy are not key elements of food security, providing instead financial incentives such as tax deductions for environmentally friendly products;

b) Regulate the system of patents to protect indigenous and peasants' local knowledge from biopiracy;

c) Introducing and/or strengthening taxation schemes to target and mitigate pollution-related externalities resulting from unsustainable food production systems;

d) Promoting and subsidizing sustainable water management and avoiding the over extraction of groundwater in inefficient irrigation practices to advance food and water security;

e) Strengthening legislation to protect areas affected by deforestation for the sake of food production;

f) Ensuring the focus on oceans and marine resources and coastal and marine ecosystems conservation in food production, nature-based applications for sustainable food production without harming ecosystems like mangroves, coral reefs, etc.;

g) Encouraging equitable redistribution of benefits throughout the supply chain to protect and increase the livelihoods of farmers;

h) Introducing local accreditation bodies to interpret international standards for food-related impacts in order to support local organic producers.

3.1.9 Encourage countries to limit their ecological and climate footprint by promoting the attitudes of the farm to fork initiative globally.

3.1.10 Demand that the future climate negotiations COP26 set "agroecology, food and food waste related issues" as one of the priority themes for COP26 by facilitating high level talks, discussions and negotiations about the aforementioned topics.

3.2 ENTREPRENEURSHIP

3.2.1 Call on countries to:

a) Facilitate access to funding in the form of non-binding grants as well as institutional capital and involvement in public-private partnerships of young entrepreneurs and under-represented groups, including but not limited to women, indigenous people and persons with disabilities;

b) Build entrepreneurial capacity of young people at local and national level by:

i. Creating and supporting opportunities for climate-focused and entrepreneurship training and education, through strengthening existing entrepreneurial accelerators, incubators and networks;

ii. Building and maintaining critical infrastructure to support entrepreneurship, such as internet and telecommunications;

iii. Providing equitable access to enabling infrastructure (e.g. office space), legal advice and entrepreneurial mentorships;

c) Strengthen existing institutional and legal frameworks at the international and local levels for entrepreneurship through the creation and implementation of laws, policies and regulations that promote transparency, ethical behavior, enhanced global protection for global intellectual property, and ensure protection from predatory business practices whilst promoting more sustainable and climate conscious operations;

d) Simplify existing institutional and legal frameworks related to the incorporation of companies, as well as ownership and transfer of equity within companies promoting sustainable and climate conscious operations. Emphasizing this simplification in nations and states most affected by the climate crisis.

3.2.2 Demand non-party stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to align current and future operations and their supply chain with net zero emissions. The transition needs to start immediately. We call on countries to:

a) Introduce clear reporting of plans and achievement of milestones, on at least an annual basis;

b) Introduce climate disclosure practices for entrepreneurs and provide practical platforms that would enable them to easily report, share data and progress;

c) Enhance environmental transparency and accountability of non-state actors by requesting robust and annual climate disclosures that include underlying source data;

d) Ensure these disclosures and data sets are consolidated by a relevant entity.

3.2.3 Promote and simplify the processes for equitable global technology transfer, between research institutions as well as private industry. Enabled through grants, open-source technology that anyone can use anywhere at any time.

3.2.4 Create financial incentive frameworks that provide a sliding scale of subsidies to tax exemption for emerging to developed companies, proactively contributing to a just transition to a sustainable future.

3.2.5 Empower sustainable rural development by supporting, financially and otherwise, local businesses implementing sustainable practices positively impacting, among others, loss and damage, biodiversity and biomass, as well as those businesses enabling progress in these areas.

3.3 ACADEMIA

3.3.1 Demand any and all research directly related to climate change and its solutions and conducted by individuals connected to an academic institution (universities, colleges, publicly funded research institutes, etc.) to be made publicly available and accessible.

3.3.2 Require that all:

a) papers about the aforementioned research, whether published in pay-walled journals or not, freely accessible;

b) underlying source data, code and other necessary methodological information ("the research components") to reconstruct the scientific basis and data published from the aforementioned research be made publicly available and accessible, to the extent permissible to protect and maintain proprietary ownership;

c) information about how to access the research components needs to be clearly detailed within the published paper; Require that the digital location of the research components must be digitally archived, to ensure access in perpetuity to the extent possible;

d) failures of all unsuccessful or otherwise unpublished research projects, including those due to lack of scientific merit, are detailed to the extent possible and published by or linked to by the affiliated funding entity.

3.3.3 Encourage strengthening transparency disclosures of funding sources, as well as actual and potential conflicts of interest, especially those intersecting with fossil fuel and extractive industries.

3.3.4 Invite to strengthen our understanding of climate change and its solutions in underrepresented and understudied areas of the world, by:

a) Increasing funding and calls for proposals for the study and research of climate change and its solutions in underrepresented areas of the world;

b) Encouraging cross-tier inter-institutional research partnerships, student exchanges and knowledge transfer;

c) Emphasising partnerships containing top-tier research institutions with benefactors in developing countries and most affected people and areas.

3.4 SPORTS

3.4.1 Note that the greatest potential to improve and unlock greater climate action from sports and the industry it creates lies primarily in:

a) Governing bodies to implement educational programs through sports to empower global supporters with knowledge on climate action, and use sporting events, commercials, and other public oriented platforms to encourage climate action;

b) Organisations to carry out due diligence to ensure socially ethical and sustainable production of sports clothing, equipment and facilities, throughout the entire lifecycle;

c) Ensuring that sport organizations are transparent about and held accountable to climate impacts of events they are hosting and organizing, and consider the environmental and legacy implications of new site constructions for future events.

3.4.2 Invite and call on athletes, coaches, and organizations to help promote societal change and inspire people to participate in the change, including but not limited to:

a) Inviting athletes and sports events to create and drive action around climate change and publicize climate narratives in traditional media and social media. (For example: spreading climate change messages on ecologically produced sportswear);

b) Promoting local-level action for climate engagement through sporting events, such as eco-jogging and reforestation activities involving influential athletes.

3.4.3 Encourage sports organizations and event organizers to incentivize environmentally friendly transportation for supporters by promoting the use of bicycles, local public modes of transportation, and other low-carbon transportation modes.

3.4.4 Encourage sports organizations to create strategies to support transition to low carbon transport by organizing campaigns, use credible carbon offsets to compensate for supporter travel, or introduce carbon pricing in sports tickets for international travel.

3.4.5 Propose the appointment of UNFCCC sports ambassadors who would be activated at key climate events (e.g. COP) and moments, which will engage the public at large.

3.4.6 Propose to measure, reduce, and disclose the waste and carbon footprints of each sporting event.

3.4.7 Encourage investments in the use of new carbon-free and plastic-neutral materials that can be substituted to the highest possible extent for sports clothing and paraphernalia, as well as the elimination of plastic at sports events in line with Paris Agreement objectives.

3.4.8 Request that sports organizations change the way their products are made and embrace a circular approach, by:

a) Encouraging sports teams, athletes, championship-organizer parties and related federations to drop sponsorships from fossil fuel and mass-polluter companies;

b) Developing a short circuit of agroecological and organic food during events to minimize the risk of food waste and reduce carbon footprints, and recycling organic waste;

c) Using sports to encourage suppliers and consumers to expand work with companies that are committed to aligning their business with the 1.5 degree Celsius target;

d) Developing clear plans of action on how they intend to maintain, use, develop, or disassemble sporting event locations after major sporting events (perhaps by signing the UNFCC's letter of commitment for sports actors).

3.5 FASHION

3.5.1 Demand the fashion industry to prioritize the environmental and climate impacts through:

a) Implementation of materials with a low-climate impact through the supply. The climate impact of the materials should decrease by at least 5% annually, within sustainable suppliers without disregarding other sustainability aspects;

b) Development and implementation of a decarbonization strategy, certified reporting processes and identification of the necessary tools to achieve GHG emission reduction targets;

c) Transition to low-carbon transport by using vehicles powered by alternative fuels;

d) Including protection of workers' rights and social protection, especially for vulnerable groups such as migrant workers, informal workers, and poor or marginalized communities; this commitment to ensure a just transition should be there for the countries and the companies;

e) Ensuring transparency in regards to product sourcing and worker condition statuses pertaining to all supplying parties, transporters and producers;

f) Expanding the efficient use and reuse of resources and including aspects of a circular economy and closed-loop production.

3.5.2 Urge fashion and textile brands to reduce their environmental and climate impact and transition to a circular economy model, including by:

a) Implementing responsible policies and legislation by applying the principle of "polluter pays";

b) Limiting waste by:

i. Reducing water consumption and wastewater;

ii. Recycling;

iii. Donating or transparently gathering surplus materials for sustainable practices;

iv. Reforming the concept of seasonal trends and using circular materials;

v. Adopting sustainable and non-exploitative use of resources during the production cycle;

vi. Striving to increase the lifetime of fashion products;

vii. Implementing universal standards for measuring, evaluating and labelling sustainable material use and production;

viii. Disclosing carbon footprint and compensation mechanisms adopted;

ix. Committing to responsible sourcing practices of sustainable raw materials;

x. Including ethical practices, inclusive and participatory processes for the actors involved along the supply-chain.

3.5.3 Ask that the fashion industry is more involved in policy design and in creation of financial incentives that facilitate fashion actors to transition to sustainable fashion, including by:

a) Establishing further partnerships with academia to research on sustainable, less impactful, less wasteful materials and by-products;

b) Establishing further partnerships with farmers' organizations producing organic materials using sustainable consumption practices;

c) Using locally sourced materials in ethical manners throughout the supply chain;

d) Strengthening policies and legislations against animal cruelty within the fashion industry.

3.5.4 Call on countries to foster sustainability within the fashion industry, promote education on circular economy, support new business models that ensure environmental sustainability and showcase the best practices within the industry, while including the following actions and initiatives:

a) Investing in educational projects about sustainable fashion for youth, such as but not limited to educational programmes and documentaries;

b) Facilitating regulatory frameworks that favour a sustainable trade of goods and a shift from large to smaller brands with localized production;

c) Incorporating and promoting a system of taxation that encourages consumers to purchase sustainable fashion items while the surplus is re-invested in nature conservation and social programs;

d) Promoting a binding policy at the international and national levels to ensure that companies and their subcontractors respect human rights, as well as a commission of inquiry to investigate working conditions in the fashion world particularly in emerging economies;

e) Working towards a goal of 60% GHG emission cut by 2030 in the fashion industry while publicly disclosing climate data and progress;

f) Including the sectors in Nationally Determined Contributions and climate commitments - linking with the MRV processes to help understand the global fashion and textile industry, etc;

g) Including guidelines to elaborate different aspects such as ethical, sustainable, and climate-friendly aspects based on the areas of the UNFCCC Fashion Charter.

3.6 ARTS

3.6.1 Invite to build synergies between governments and arts to enhance ecological transition and action by:

a) Encouraging governments and relevant academic institutions to incorporate art education with a special emphasis on climate change in school curricula;

b) Supporting existing art institutions to increase public exposure and awareness on climate change;

c) Creating cultural hubs and dedicated spaces that empower the community by bringing together artists and creatives with different backgrounds to raise awareness on the climate crisis;

d) Ensuring artists' freedom of expression by preventing censorship of environmental issues in the art sector; and stopping the unjustified criminalization of artists who speak out about the climate emergency;

e) Proposing the inclusion of climate change awareness and education in the arts by opening arts and communication departments in respective climate and environment ministries;

f) Promoting the establishment of international art competitions and exhibitions on environmental themes to increase awareness and create a global climate-conscious society.

3.6.2 Encourage all relevant non-state actors, private and public, to foster the involvement of young artists in climate actions and initiatives by:

a) Providing youth-directed research grants, funding and incentives programs for artistic initiatives focused on climate change awareness, including, but not limited to, independent public artist commissions, residencies, and educational programs, art exhibitions, art competitions and other kind of artistic events;

b) Promoting the art, ideas and voices of indigenous peoples and the disenfranchised/under-represented to ensure that the creative industry will not be reflecting present institutional conventions;

c) Creating projects that trigger youth reflection on the world around them as well as their own actions, including by making use of the most advance technologies such as Virtual and Augmented Reality.

3.6.3 Invite artists to act as agents of change, sparking debate through their work and embodying the spirit, vision and ambitions of the people regarding the climate crisis, including by:

a) Targeting climate issues directly in their art-work and informing the public about the urgent threats of climate change; taking advantage of artistic expressions diversity as an inclusion mechanism, in which the content of art works can be accessed by people who only speak native languages and people with disabilities;

b) Creating an open and universal pledge signed by artists and celebrities, which commits them to support sustainability by collaborating with organizations that ensure their shows, exhibitions, or events meet strict environmental criteria;

c) Collaborating with other international celebrities to raise funds for climate refugees and the communities most vulnerable to climate change and to use their social media platforms to amplify the voices of climate activists, researchers, and scientists;

d) Preventing the arts from becoming a tool for social legitimacy for fossil fuel companies, by ending partnerships with enterprises whose interest depletes the environment and making those partnerships fully transparent.

3.7 FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY

3.7.1 Demand the fossil fuel industry to be abolished by 2030, with work towards its abolition beginning immediately, along with the facilitation of a just transition from non-sustainable and non-renewable resources to sustainable and renewable energy for all those who rely economically on these poisonous industries both directly and indirectly. The just transition must:

a) Have a complete and systemic phase-out initiated by developed countries, with the provision of support to developing countries to allow for an aspect of equity in the context of a sustainable transition;

b) Be designed for and with workers, local and indigenous communities, and those most affected by climate change impacts and land displacement especially in developing countries with a focus on governance, equity, inclusion and justice;

c) Recognize the role of cooperatives and the public sector to achieve a decentralized renewable energy system in both developed and developing countries;

d) Be accompanied by international collaboration and support in regards to the financial resourcing of a just transition by developed countries to developing countries through reparations and incentives, not loans;

e) Be accompanied by a change in the developed (and some developing) countries unsustainable economy, based on intensive in carbon and extractive consumption and production patterns that overpass planetary boundaries and rights of nature, and violate human rights of many people in Global South (developing countries). Developed countries must change their extractive practices in developing countries and make their economies more local, regenerative and redistributive. Besides, the developing countries must transition towards post-extractive societies and economies based on social, environmental and ecological justice. Also, countries should not try to find new fossil fuel resources, like in the Arctic, but focus on the transition.

3.7.2 Demand that the fossil fuel industry keep full account of their emissions in every aspect of the company and its products including emissions caused by the burning of fossil fuels extracted (2nd degree emissions).

3.7.3 Call on Parties to immediately remove from the UNFCCC and COP negotiations process fossil fuel industry, its lobbyists, its sponsorship in all manifestations, and all other spheres of its influence.

3.7.4 Demand, with reference to the Energy Charter Treaty of 1994:

a) Parties to sign the Non-Proliferation Fossil Fuel Treaty;

b) Global leaders to initiate drafting a new energy charter treaty based on renewables, which would replace the currently existing ECT;

c) The involvement and consultation of academics, researchers, pro-transition economists and pro-environmental lawyers in the drafting and implementation of the new Treaty;

d) Transparency in the annual monitoring and reporting of GHG emission and fossil fuel consumption rates during and after the transitional period.

4. CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS SOCIETY

The Youth4Climate Participants,

Recognizing that climate change impacts exacerbate existing inequalities, poverty, conflicts, and migrations, with a disproportionate effect on low-income countries, local communities, indigenous people, marginalized and vulnerable groups,

Noting that the greatest impacts of climate change, such as sea-level rise, increased extreme weather events, loss of biodiversity, water scarcity and food insecurity, are felt by youth in their communities, as they produce social, humanitarian and economic implications,

Noting with concern that many countries are still not taking adequate measures to address climate impacts due to various reasons, including lack of awareness, skills and willingness, which causes weak regulatory frameworks and difficulties in the implementation of climate plans,

Acknowledging that some countries are showing actions and responses that enable equity, include indigenous peoples, women, vulnerable or marginalized people, through training, dedicated funds, and community-based dialogues for empowerment,

Recognizing that the main objective of climate change education is to empower learners of all ages with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to address the interconnected global challenges we are facing, including poverty and biodiversity loss,

Also recognizing that education should have a holistic approach and promote changes in lifestyles, attitudes and behaviour needed for a climate-neutral and climate-resilient development,

Recalling that SDG 4 aims to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong education as a key enabler to increase socioeconomic mobility and escape poverty whilst also contributing to reducing inequalities and reaching gender equality,

Also recalling that Article 12 of the Paris Agreement calls on Parties to 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 action under the Agreement,

Noting that the ministers of environment and education are invited to COP26 for a joint climate change education summit and are encouraged to set out a new and ambitious commitment for climate change education in a pledge,

Recognizing that the achievement of a more climate-conscious society requires greater efforts by all countries, institutions and stakeholders on climate education, as also recalled by the UNFCCC and its processes,

Also recognizing that education is a critical agent in addressing climate change and in empowering and motivating people to take action, especially young people, who should be granted the right and equal

opportunities to participate fully in the formulation, planning, management and implementation of government programs for the conservation of their lands, territories and resources,

Considering the importance of an effective and open dialogue among all public and scientific actors and stakeholders in climate communication, helping people raising awareness on the consequences of climate change,

Further recognizing the importance of the media providing fair, objective and accessible information, regardless of the subject matter and going beyond framing climate change just as numbers and statistics,

Underlining that media and information providers must help to raise awareness and consciousness on climate change impacts and implications, emphasizing that climate change affects a wide range of fields not only environmental, including human rights, climate justice, health, economy, society, employment, food and water security, and must cease ´balanced reporting´ with regards to the existence and scientific facts around climate change,

Recalling the need to raise awareness on climate change themes acknowledging the gaps between northern and southern countries, through the recognition of geographical diversity and the promotion of international cooperation to establish the basis for green, resilient and inclusive development,

Recognizing that youth have significant communication and networking skills through social media platforms that allow for knowledge spread and the development of nature-based solutions initiatives, reaching wider audiences and mobilizing more people.

4.1. SHOWCASING IMPACTS AND SOLUTIONS

4.1.1. Call on all countries to raise the profile of the most underestimated types of implications and dimensions of climate change affecting the global community, recognizing that the areas requiring priority actions are:

a) Impacts on human rights, disproportionate impacts on the most vulnerable. Specific actions include:

i. Fully implementing the law on the rights of vulnerable and indigenous peoples to participate in policies related to climate change;

ii. Supporting organizations of vulnerable peoples at all levels and uniting a global network of indigenous peoples to increase their capacity to defend the rights of their communities and promote the emergence of leadership and expertise on climate issues;

iii. Creating and strengthening partnerships on climate change and environmental issues, which include vulnerable or under-represented groups;

b) The interconnected implications for the environment and nature as a whole, with a specific focus on biodiversity, including impacts arising from climate tools such as nature-based solutions. Specific actions include:

i. Integrating and recognizing indigenous knowledge and traditional ways of life in the full policy of intelligent management of natural resources of governments and environmental management companies;

c) Economic implications, specifically climate change hindering and/or backtracking progress especially in the Global South, towards a sustainable, prosperous and equitable society. Specific actions include:

i. Promoting and respecting equity, diversity, and inclusion of vulnerable peoples in the process of green economic growth and environmental conservation;

ii. Creating a mechanism for granting and facilitating credit to indigenous people to help them diversify their economic activities and further contribute to sustainable economic growth;

4.1.2. Call on all countries and stakeholders to amplify diverse voices in their climate actions and initiatives, including by:

a) Listening to the stories of people – youth, indigenous peoples, local communities and marginalized people – from different backgrounds and supporting community efforts to maintain traditional and cultural values and practices, and including them in decision-making processes;

b) Providing youth with inclusive education through campaigns and programs, highlighting role models that can empower young people to take leadership positions;

c) Supporting marginalized and mostly affected peoples through funding and giving them access to information resources, and putting them the lead in climate change research;

d) Making information on climate change accessible to the general public, considering contextualization of the impacts and causes as well as language barriers, especially with native languages in some countries, and using simple terms that are understandable by different public and private sectors in society;

e) Giving a platform for youth and marginalized sectors to be heard in local, national decision-making and international climate negotiations, including COPs.

4.1.3. Propose to establish a binding, equitable and cross-cutting system of participation in decision-making processes, including by:

a) Making inclusive and participatory aspects a mandatory component of all climates-related decision-making processes in local, national and international contexts through legal and policy tools;

b) Implementing meaningful and institutional participation quota for youth, indigenous people and marginalized groups in consultation and implementation phases of national and international policy making.

4.1.4. Propose all countries to set up multi-stakeholder platforms for regular sharing of information, knowledge, including local stories, making the inclusive and participatory aspect a mandatory component of all climate processes through legal and policy tools, including by:

a) Showcasing specific solutions that have been implemented elsewhere for similar challenges along with a detailed description of concepts and instructions for easier replication;

b) Showcasing the impacts of climate change, including the challenges and disasters, through updated statistics of losses and damages and numbers of victims in addition to the stories of how their lives were affected;

c) Requiring gender equality and equal representation to enable all people to raise their voices and communicate how they are affected by climate issues.

4.1.5. Reaffirm the need to train and educate young people on social and environmental issues, sustainable income generation and food security actions, as well as raising awareness on the need for better social and natural system management through climate-smart agriculture and multiplier actions on ecosystem conservation, sustainability programmes and advocacy campaigns.

4.1.6. Urge policymakers to implement systems for climate emergency and climate change management plans that involve youth in the policy decision, design and implementation phase and include measures for safeguarding human rights, a just transition, gender equality, climate justice and climate governance.

4.2. EDUCATION

4.2.1. Call for adequate and equitable funding from national governments, international organizations including climate funding bodies, and philanthropies to allocate specific funding for climate change education, including but not limited to the purpose of:

a) Implementing nationally determined contributions and monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building and technical assistance needs;

b) Research and development, scholarships, internships, apprenticeships and fellowship programmes for climate change in universities;

c) Financing and subsidizing youth and civil society organizations that provide both formal and non-formal education on environmental and climate change, along with establishing effective accountability measures to ensure transparency in the use of such funding.

4.2.2. Request governments to integrate policies on climate change and education, including by:

a) Integrating climate education into nationally determined contributions, long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies and national adaptation plans as a key component of country's response to climate crisis;

b) Integrating climate change education into national educational frameworks;

c) Improving cross-sectoral coordination between ministries of education and environment and implementation at the local level by establishing a high-level coalition between environment and education ministers, and calling on the ministers to jointly make an ambitious pledge on climate change education at COP26;

d) Reviewing key international commitments and local climate change education policies for greater cohesion aiming to meet new capacity needs, in accordance with the relevant international timelines.

4.2.3. Recommend governments to educate learners about the global climate crisis, including by:

a) Making climate change education and climate literacy available for everyone, regardless of their ethnicity, age, sex and social status;

b) Implementing outdoor, project-based, hands-on and field learning rather than ex cathedra learning in order to reconnect students to nature, as well as to provide students with the opportunity to interact with key-actors for the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss;

c) Reshaping the values behind the education system in order to promote collaborative approaches over competitiveness, and to value empathy and all types of intelligence rather than only academic intelligence, to allow students to tackle environmental issues as a community;

d) Enable critical thinking about climate change policies and projects by teaching about the direct and indirect drivers of these crises, especially capitalism, colonialism, racism, and patriarchy.

4.2.4. Recognize the strong links between climate change, biodiversity loss and social inequities and make sure that they are being taught together with an intersectional approach, including by:

a) Integrating climate change elements into existing subjects (e.g., science, geography, history, civic education) to enhance skills, expertise and cultivate positive habits towards climate sustainability by including education about the Most Affected People and Areas (MAPA), causes and history of climate change, solutions for climate change, our generation's role, the role of our country and individual responsibility, in accordance with the relevant international timelines;

b) Introducing a specialized climate change subject only in higher education that is tailored to equip students for a meaningful contribution in mitigation and adaptation, in accordance with the relevant international timelines;

c) Promoting climate change extra-curricular activities in a more compulsory and systematic way (e.g., through after-school seminars, laboratories, field-experiences, etc.).

4.2.5. Call upon governments to reform the education system to support environmental capacity-building programmes in a transformative way, for educators/teachers, leaders, youth, private entities and institutions. The capacity-building programmes, such as symposiums, conferences and training, should be structured in a way which covers both local and global knowledge.

4.2.6. Call upon governments to further strengthen access to education, in particular for people of all empowering genders and indigenous people, and capacity-building on environmental and climate issues by supporting organizations and initiatives outside of the formal education system, including by:

a) Financing and subsidizing youth organizations that provide education and capacity-building on environmental and climate issues;

b) Leveraging the expertise of non-governmental organizations and informal sectors and creating policy incentives for outreach and engagement in climate change education;

c) Increase youth education and capacity-building in public policy advocacy focused on environmental and climate issues at the local level;

d) Raising awareness on climate change, including on professional opportunities arising from the need and urgency to move towards a net-zero future;

e) Recognising the knowledge and expertise of youth groups and designing reciprocal learning paths between different generations.

4.2.7. Recognize that most current business models need to adequately tackle the environmental crisis and support youth in developing alternative business models, such as cooperative businesses, social businesses and support non-profit organizations to fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.

4.2.8. Urge governments and decision-makers at all levels to provide a roadmap for supporting informal climate change education initiatives for people of all ages.

4.2.9. Invite governments to promote alternative ways of informal climate change education, through means of storytelling, interactive tools and hands-on experience that foster lifelong learning experiences for people of all ages, and to establish repositories with open-access climate data and information provided by the public sector.

4.2.10. Urge educational institutions to adhere to innovative sustainability practices, with all existing educational institutions to achieve net zero, in accordance with the relevant international timelines, and ensure all newly built educational institutions to be emissions-free.

4.2.11. Invite global stakeholders, including but not limited to the private sector, governments, non-governmental organizations and civil society, with the support of the United Nations, to establish a task force to work specifically on climate change education, in collaboration with relevant international organizations, whose responsibilities include working to raise awareness on climate change, expand access to teaching materials and improve teachers' ability to convey information about climate change in addition to organizing online and pre-recorded courses, webinars and workshops in collaboration with UNESCO and UNFCCC.

4.3. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND MOBILIZATION

4.3.1. Call on public and research sectors, especially climate scientists, to devote more space to the dissemination and explanation of scientific results, climate policies, climate programs and projects, ensuring that information is fact-based, engaging and accessible to all, including by:

a) Adopting comprehensive, rigorous and standardized manners of communication that are accessible to all and facilitate understanding and awareness of climate change matters, using different methods tailored to the needs of society, including a variety of outlets (e.g., media), effectively communicating scientific outputs including establishing a unit responsible for this;

b) Combining efforts in organizing initiatives of capacity-building and dissemination opportunities by actively involving non-governmental organizations, universities and youth groups in spreading scientific knowledge, concurrently enabling open access to climate change research by removing fees and subscription costs for scientific journals;

c) Linking climate change evidence to social-economic challenges of everyday lives.

4.3.2. Invite governments and civil society organizations to create awareness and capacity-building programmes for decision makers, civil servants and other stakeholders on climate change.

4.3.3. Request governments and non-governmental organizations to communicate climate negotiations and national progress on climate action plans to society, including by demonstrating how ongoing actions are/aren't compatible with climate pledges and best available climate science whilst using language that is comprehensible to all, providing translation to official as well as non-official languages, and using communication mechanisms that are accessible for people with disabilities.

4.3.4. Call on governments to prevent, through the development of policies and a universal method of evaluating environmental claims, greenwashing campaigns and misleading commercial practices, and regulate advertisement of high-emitting industries.

4.3.5. Call on media, political classes, and international institutions to show a greater commitment to raising climate change awareness, by facilitating access and dissemination of truthful and

scientifically demonstrated information, while creating opportunities for young people to be part of such efforts.

4.3.6. Reaffirm that increasing focus on solutions can help improve participation and action, including by:

a) Promoting behaviour change campaigns that explain how individuals contribute to climate change and its solutions;

b) Ensuring that the focus remains on a reduction in overall emissions and systemic change along with a focus on the actions of individuals.

4.3.7. Express the need to demonstrate a sense of responsibility about the consequences of the global climate change tailored to respective communities, especially the vulnerable ones, so that each individual is aware on how climate change affects their place of living.

4.3.8. Call for enhancing communicator capacity-building and providing accessible, relevant and transparent science-based climate change information, facts and data that are connected to the specific needs and concerns of people.

4.3.9. Urge governments to create an enabling environment for youth to engage in climate action through environmental organizations, community programs and climate negotiations, by:

a) Providing adequate and inclusive capacity-building and mentorship from a young age while engaging with decision-makers and scientific experts;

b) Removing barriers to youth active participation by institutionalizing the role of youth in the climate-decision-making processes;

c) Delivering a specific legal status, parallel to the existent refugee status, to enable participation of climate-induced refugees;

d) Enhancing the effectiveness of incubation models for supporting climate entrepreneurship.

4.3.10. Recommend supporting local and national youth networks to raise awareness on climate change issues among the public, through participation and sustainable climate action by:

a) Developing and financing online and in-person platforms, including social media, where youth-led and indigenous action can share their discoveries;

b) Developing capacity-building programs to ensure that youth have the skills and ability to engage in climate activism and advocacy effectively; and consequently, incorporating the suggestions of youth in policy making processes;

c) Involving citizens, including youth, in decision-making processes at a local, regional and national level.

4.3.11. Call on all countries to advertise laws and sanctions aimed at protecting and safeguarding the environment as well as reducing climate change impacts and implications, including by:

a) Ensuring the rights of activists and indigenous peoples to protest and peaceful civil disobedience, including at global events, and protecting them from persecution, when participating in policy making processes;

b) Providing resources for activists that are struggling financially or require technical support, and allowing them and indigenous people free access to climate law firms' services especially in the regions where human rights are under threat.

4.3.12. Strongly invite celebrities, members of the artistic, sports and entertainment communities to draw attention to the climate crisis and raise awareness on the threatening consequences of climate change and the opportunities of climate action across their audiences, by exerting a positive influence on the global debate.

4.4. MEDIA

4.4.1. Note that, to fully convey the urgency and implications of this challenge, the dimensions and impacts of climate change that should be emphasized the most in communication around these matters are, among others:

a) Economic livelihood, financial, and social impacts;

b) Human rights, intra- and intergenerational equity, equality, justice;

c) Peace and security implications and humanitarian actions.

4.4.2. Call upon the media to take the role to:

a) Inform and educate communities about climate change in a didactic, inclusive and accessible way, bringing science closer to people by simplifying technical language and facilitating the understanding of information related to policies, impacts, documents, and solutions, also promoting and spreading educational projects, environmental achievements and best practices across the planet, specifically those that are localized and concerning the most impacted people and areas;

b) Avoid informing from a fear-based narrative on climate change issues since it only serves to propagate the feeling of helplessness and ecoanxiety, and commit to a narrative that promotes multisectoral systemic, collective, and individual solutions that are adapted to local, national and regional realities;

c) Commit to honest and transparent communication of climate issues, publishing and promoting stories based on scientific consensus, indigenous and traditional perspectives surrounding climate change, to avoid misinformation and the exploitation of the lived experiences of local communities.

4.4.3. Encourage the media to focus on highlighting the inequalities of climate change and the diverse nature of its impacts and implications, making efforts to emphasize that climate change is also a social, economic, and cultural issue and not just an environmental matter.

4.4.4. Also encourage the media to commits itself to reporting the disproportionate effects of climate change on marginalised, vulnerable and underserved communities in the Global North and the Global South, and how systemic change to the behaviour of those in positions of power and privilege is necessary to give those that are already economically and socially disadvantaged a fighting chance to adapt to the most severe impacts of an increasingly hostile climate.

4.4.5. Support a quick transition towards a different approach in the analysis and narrative of climate change implications and impacts by media, to be dealt with and described not as single events but as a series of interrelated, permanent and threatening situations, which should become part of the ordinary debate rather than being addressed only when emergencies and catastrophic events occur.

4.4.6. Call on the media to fulfil its role as guardians of democracy and open debate and dedicate more coverage to presenting socio-political alternatives to anthropocentric technology-centred, market-

based, or finance-dependent climate solutions, different world views and promoting the development of a sense of the collective.

4.4.7. Strongly encourage the media to continue to speak objectively to put pressure on political representatives at the local, national and supranational level, to treat climate change as a matter of fundamental human rights and intra-, as well as, intergenerational justice issue, as already foreseen in many national constitutions and legislation, and to give climate change implications and impacts a growing space in political agendas.

4.4.8. Request, in order to achieve a larger and wider audience, the scientific and research information providers to invest more time and resources in traditional media, including radio, television, newspapers, community exchange as well as in social media, as most people, youth in particular, use social media to be informed and increase knowledge, thus being the fastest and most efficient way to reach them.

4.4.9. Request the media outlets to scale-up investments for the development and use of modern technologies and tools, with the aim of creating social platforms, websites and contents available worldwide, in different languages, which may facilitate the understanding of climate change and its implications and impacts.

4.4.10. Request social media giants to introduce fact-checking algorithms and information support centres to regulate false information and fake news on climate change to stop misinformation efforts (e.g., climate change denial) similar to the case with COVID-19 related posts.

4.4.11. Call upon cooperative efforts between governments, educators and others to create and improve an inclusive, open access literacy training on climate change for the media, including on national climate change policies and strategies.