

The 16th UN Climate Change Conference of Youth

# Youth Statement Toolkit



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## Introduction

The 16th UN Climate Conference of Youth (COY16) is the annual gathering of YOUNGO members, the official Youth Constituency to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). COY16 is officially endorsed by the UN Secretary General Envoy on Youth and the official youth precursor event to the UN Climate Change Conference, also known as Conference of Parties (COP26), which will be hosted by the United Kingdom. COY16 will take place October 28th - 31st in Glasgow, Scotland immediately before the COP from November 1-12, 2021. At COY16, a global youth statement or a youth policy document will be submitted to the COP Presidency and national governments for their consideration as they go into the COP meetings.

This statement will comprise input from youth all across the globe, with young people of all nationalities and backgrounds, as well as indigenous and non-country affiliated groups all welcome to contribute. It will feature global youth demands and recommendations, as well as country specific proposals from as many countries as are willing to contribute.

These national statements and proposals will be put together by youth from within each country. We encourage all youth environmental groups or educational institutions to create their own statement and set of proposals. These can then be submitted to be incorporated into their country's national statement.

This toolkit is prepared to assist the local institutions and organizations in crafting their official statement, demands and position relevant to the climate crisis we are facing.



## Guidance on Building Your Statement

COP26 will be the most important climate event in years, with all countries attending called upon to increase the ambition of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) towards combating climate change for the first time since the 2015 Paris Agreement. These youth statements will be young people's best chance to influence these crucial decisions.

So, we recommend that your statement is carefully considered and formally presented. You should hold consultations among your group, organisation, or institution, as well as youths from different regions, backgrounds and make sure it's science-based or evidence-based; and together craft a statement that lays out specific and succinct proposals and demands.

We recommend that statements include the following content:

### Preamble/Introduction

- Why your organization or institution is making this statement.
- Why your organization or institution deserves a voice on these issues (you should be sure to identify what that voice is/what perspective you are coming from e.g. indigenous youth, university educated, frontline community etc.).

### Background/Rationale

- Include a summary of environmental conditions and impacts of climate change in your community, region and country as a whole.
- Identify the specific issues, gaps and challenges in national/regional governance and/or in efforts to address environmental impacts in your community.
- Reference to the wider global movement/community (e.g. YOUNGO) you are part of (to add credibility/weight).

### Commitment

- Make clear what you want to see happen to address these issues.
- Include the time within which this should be accomplished and the consequences of not reaching the goal within that frame.
- You can add what personal commitments your organisation / youth in your community are making.

## Demands

Next, the most important part of your statement will be laying out your set of climate action demands

Based on the issues, gaps and challenges identified, what are your demands from the local, national and global decision-makers.

- These demands should be sufficiently ambitious to address negative environmental impacts in your community, but should also be written in a manner that is SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound)

What are your demands, specifically from the UN climate negotiations (COP) and diplomatic efforts in advance of the summit.

- Again, you should make effort for any demands to be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound)

Demands can be written thematically, for example they could be aligned with the currently identified target themes of COY:

- Clean Energy
- Clean Transport
- Nature-based Solutions: Actions that protect, manage and restore ecosystems to address societal challenges (e.g. climate change) while enhancing human wellbeing.
- Adaptation and Resilience: Improving the ability of natural and human systems to respond to climate change impacts (e.g. extreme weather events) before or after they have occurred (adaptation), or improving their inherent ability to absorb and withstand after an adverse event (resilience).
- Climate Finance: Investment in all of the above, as well as disinvestment (divestment) from high-carbon industries.
- Disaster Risk and Reduction
- Any other themes you deem necessary and relevant to your local context can be included as well, for example you may wish to address
 

-Climate Justice and Rights	-Food and Agriculture
-Gender	-Action for Climate Empowerment and Education
-Finance	-Technology Transfer
-Loss and Damage	-Eliminating Pollution of Land, Air and Water
-Sustainable Consumption and Production	-Sustainable Cities
-Culture and Heritage	-Any other topic relevant to your community

Institutions and organisations can freely add other thematic areas especially when it fits to the context in the community or country level.

## Diversity of Participation

We recommend that all statements incorporate as diverse a range of contributors as possible to make sure that all voices are represented. Depending on the nature and scope of your organisation, you may want to consider whether your statement has included the contributions of the groups listed below:

Areas	Criteria	Included
Gender	Diversity and balance of genders including LGBTQIA+ community	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigenous Communities (if applicable)	Any indigenous communities, particularly those impacted by climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minority Communities	Any minority or underrepresented groups in your country/community	<input type="checkbox"/>
NEET Youth (youth not in education, employment or training)	Whether you are part of an educational, professional or community group, consider how to include any youth not in education, employment or training	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vulnerable Communities	Any other particular community (whether an ethnic, economic or social group) that is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEND Youth (youth with special educational needs and disabilities)	Any youth with special needs and disabilities that may face difficulty in contributing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sectoral Representation	Youth from various sectors e.g. the Arts, Culture, Humanities, Sciences, Hospitality, Activism, Religious youth groups	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young Professionals	Youth already in employment	<input type="checkbox"/>

Once your full statement is completed and you have ensured it features diverse participation, it should be ready to submit. See the next page for an overview of the statement submission process and summary of where statements will go from there.

## Process Summary

This chart summarises the process in creating and submitting your Youth Statement:

Step  
01

Gather data, research and analyse environmental issues in your area. You can also gather the sentiments and voices of the individual youth towards the climate crisis

From your research and data analyses, identify your chosen focus themes and your demands for action

Step  
02

Step  
03

Draft your demands into a formal statement representing your community/organisation/institution

Ensure your statement is finalised, validated and approved by all the youth in your organization/institution

Step  
04

Step  
05

Submit your statement to your Country Coordinators or COY16 Team

Your Country Delegation to COY16 will work with youth organisations and government representatives to compile all submitted local youth statements into one national youth statement

Step  
06

Step  
07

The COY team and Regional Coordinators will bring all the national youth statements together into one global youth statement, which will feature all the national statements as well as additional global demands

The global youth statement will be officially endorsed by youth at COY and then submitted to the COP Presidency through YOUNGO and national governments through the COY Delegates

Step  
08

## Useful Terms

<b>AAU</b>	Assigned amount unit	<b>IRENA</b>	International Renewable Energy Agency
<b>AC</b>	Adaptation Committee	<b>JCG</b>	Joint Contact Group
<b>ADP</b>	Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action	<b>LDC</b>	Least developed country
<b>AF</b>	Adaptation Fund	<b>LDCF</b>	Least Developed Countries Fund
<b>AOSIS</b>	Alliance of Small Island States	<b>LULUCF</b>	Land use, land-use change and forestry
<b>BAU</b>	Business-as-usual	<b>MRV</b>	Measurement, reporting and verification
<b>CBDR+RC</b>	Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities	<b>NAMA</b>	Nationally appropriate mitigation action
<b>CDM</b>	Clean Development Mechanism	<b>NAP</b>	National adaptation plan
<b>CFC</b>	Chlorofluorocarbon	<b>NAPA</b>	National Adaptation Programme of Action
<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b>	Carbon dioxide	<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Emissions	<b>NWP</b>	Nairobi Work Programme
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties	<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>COY</b>	The Conference of Youth	<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>CTCN</b>	Climate Technology Centre and Network	<b>QELRC</b>	Quantified Emission Limitation or Reduction Commitment
<b>DAC</b>	Development Assistance Committee	<b>QELRO</b>	Quantified Emission Limitation or Reduction Objective
<b>ERF</b>	Equity Reference Framework	<b>RE &amp; EE</b>	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization	<b>REDD</b>	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
<b>FPR</b>	First Periodical Review	<b>RL/REL</b>	Reference Level and Reference Emission Level
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund	<b>SBI</b>	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse gas	<b>SBSTA</b>	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
<b>GWP</b>	Global Warming Potential	<b>SCF</b>	Strategic Climate Fund
<b>HCFC</b>	Hydrochlorofluorocarbon	<b>SOY</b>	The Statement of Youth
<b>HFC</b>	Hydrofluorocarbon	<b>TEC</b>	Technology Executive Committee
<b>IAR</b>	Independent Assessment Report	<b>TM</b>	Technology Mechanism
<b>ICA</b>	International consultation and analysis	<b>TTE</b>	Technical Team of Experts
<b>ICAO</b>	International Civil Aviation Organization	<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>ICI</b>	International Climate Initiative	<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>IMO</b>	International Maritime Organization	<b>UNSG</b>	United Nations Secretary General
<b>INDC</b>	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution	<b>WG</b>	Working Group
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change		