

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:



Useful Terms

AAU	Assigned amount unit	IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
AC	Adaptation Committee	JCG	Joint Contact Group
ADP	Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action	LDC	Least developed country
AF	Adaptation Fund	LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States	LULUCF	Land use, land-use change and forestry
BAU	Business-as-usual	MRV	Measurement, reporting and verification
CBDR+RC	Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities	NAMA	Nationally appropriate mitigation action
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism	NAP	National adaptation plan
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon	NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
CO₂	Carbon dioxide	NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
CO₂e	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Emissions	NWP	Nairobi Work Programme
COP	Conference of the Parties	ODA	Official Development Assistance
COY	The Conference of Youth	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network	QELRC	Quantified Emission Limitation or Reduction Commitment
DAC	Development Assistance Committee	QELRO	Quantified Emission Limitation or Reduction Objective
ERF	Equity Reference Framework	RE & EE	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
FPR	First Periodical Review	RL/REL	Reference Level and Reference Emission Level
GCF	Green Climate Fund	SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
GHG	Greenhouse gas	SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
GWP	Global Warming Potential	SCF	Strategic Climate Fund
HCFC	Hydrochlorofluorocarbon	SOY	The Statement of Youth
HFC	Hydrofluorocarbon	TEC	Technology Executive Committee
IAR	Independent Assessment Report	TM	Technology Mechanism
ICA	International consultation and analysis	TTE	Technical Team of Experts
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
ICI	International Climate Initiative	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IMO	International Maritime Organization	UNSG	United Nations Secretary General
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution	WG	Working Group
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change		