

The Sixth Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Unleashing synergies towards an equitable, climate-resilient and sustainable future

CONCEPT NOTE

(Draft as of 24 May 2025)

Synergy Voices: Youth Dialogue

in collaboration with



Date: Wednesday, 28 May 2025

Time: 9:00 – 10:00

Location: UN City, Auditorium

Context

2025 presents a crucial window for advancing synergistic action on climate and sustainable development. With the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) due ahead of COP30, alongside key global milestones such as the UN Ocean Conference, Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), 11th World Conference on Ecological Restoration, RAMSAR COP15, IUCN World Conservation Congress, 2nd World Social Summit, and the UN@80 process, this year offers a vital opportunity to better align national and global commitments for a more equitable, climate-resilient, and sustainable future.

As part of the Synergy Voices series, this youth-led session will highlight the perspectives, priorities, and policy contributions of young people from across the world. Building on the discussions from Day 1 of the Conference, the session will reflect on the importance of youth-inclusive and youth-responsive policy, practice, and participation. It will provide an open and dynamic space for the exchange of ideas and recommendations, reinforcing the role of youth as key partners in shaping integrated climate and development policies on the road to COP30 and beyond. This session also draws from the outcomes of the [ECOSOC Youth Forum 2025](#) and ongoing contributions from youth constituencies across the environmental landscape—including but not limited to—the [Global Youth Statement for COPs/UNFCCC](#) by YOUNGO, [UNCCD Youth Forum](#), [UNFF MGCY engagement](#), [Chemicals and Waste Youth Forum before BRS COPs](#), [Biodiversity Youth Summit by GYBN](#), [Global Youth Consultation on SCP](#) series launched by the SCP Youth Platform, and other avenues.



Recognizing that youth engagement must go beyond symbolic inclusion, the session will also emphasize the need for structural, long-term mechanisms that empower young people as meaningful contributors and decision-makers in climate governance. Importantly, youth are not a homogenous group; young people face diverse challenges and experience the impacts of climate change in varied ways across regions. In particular, youth in the Global South and in communities with heightened vulnerability often face greater exposure to climate-related risks. This underscores the need for localized solutions and meaningful empowerment that acknowledge regional realities and support youth as active agents of change in their own communities.

Guiding Questions

- How can technologies and inclusive space design be used to accelerate both climate action and the SDGs? What barriers need addressing to provide and scale these solutions equitably, while respecting to environmental sustainability and biodiversity?
- The natural world is experienced differently across cultures, and climate impacts are not felt equally. How can policies at the COP30-NDC nexus better incorporate the perspectives and needs of historically underrepresented groups, especially women, disabled communities, and Indigenous peoples, to ensure no one is left behind in shaping environmental outcomes?
- As we review NDCs 3.0 ahead of COP30, how can youth support stronger accountability for synergistic climate-SDG commitments, and what specific roles should young people play in tracking implementation?
- Youth-led climate initiatives often face funding constraints. What innovative financing models or NGO-civil society partnerships could bridge this gap while aligning with global climate/SDG frameworks?
- How can youth from rural, Indigenous, and traditional communities—who are often on the frontlines of climate change and resource pressures—be meaningfully included in shaping global climate and SDG policies?
- From an intergenerational perspective, how do the current discussions around finance in the upcoming multilateral negotiations affect future generations, and how are youth today being involved in these processes to ensure a more just and equitable future?

Agenda

9:00 – 9:05	Day 2 Opening <i>welcome back, logistics, and announcements</i>	TBD
9:05 – 9:10	Panel Opening and Scene-Setting by the moderator	Ms. Hailey Campbell , Director, Care About Climate
9:10 – 9:30	Reflections on Day 1 Discussions <i>3-4 min per speaker</i>	<p>Ms. Riham Helmy, Founder, EnviroX, Egypt; Youth Policy Board Member, World Food Forum</p> <p>Mr. Francis Boafo Asamoah, Member of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA); Member of United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Youth Task Force; Member of the UNCCD Youth Caucus; MGCY Representative (<i>live virtual</i>)</p> <p>Ms. Helena de Castro Dias, Human Rights lawyer; Researcher on Sustainability Governance and Global Supply Chains, Leuphana University, Germany; MGCY Representative</p> <p>Ms. Mette Lundgaard, Denmark Youth Delegate to the United Nations for Climate and Environment</p> <p>Genaro Matías Godoy, Finance Expert; Contact Point for the Finance & Markets Working Group of YOUNGO; Youth Climate Finance negotiator at COP29; Global Focal Point for the MGCY Financing for Development Youth Constituency</p>
9:30 – 9:40	Interactive Audience Engagement	Open to all participants
9:40 – 9:55	The Way Forward <i>2-3 min per speaker</i>	<p>Ms. Riham Helmy</p> <p>Mr. Francis Boafo Asamoah</p> <p>Ms. Helena de Castro Dias</p> <p>Ms. Mette Lundgaard</p> <p>Genaro Matías Godoy (<i>live virtual</i>)</p>
9:55- 10:00	Closing	Ms. Hailey Campbell



Supplementary Information

- **Youth Voices for Climate Justice – Green Africa Youth Organization (2024):** This report highlights the experiences of young people from the Global South, particularly those from communities affected by climate change and extractive industries, and offers recommendations for more inclusive climate policies. [Link](#)
- **Youth Climate Movement in the Global South: Reaching the Critical Mass We Need – Heinrich Böll Foundation (2022):** Focuses on overcoming resource and political barriers to strengthen youth-led climate action in the Global South. [Link](#)
- **Youth Report from ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 2025,** highlighting current needs of young people in Europe, North America, and Other States' Region, in context of the year's SDGs under review. [Link](#). Also following up on youth demands from the ECOSOC Youth Forum's ECE Regional Session. [Link](#)
- **Manifesto for Territories of Life – ICCA Consortium (2022):** Emphasizes the rights and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in environmental governance. [Link](#)
- **Consolidating the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Global Climate Governance – IWGIA (2023):** Highlights progress and challenges in integrating Indigenous Peoples' rights and knowledge systems within the UNFCCC through the LCIPP, advocating for stronger and more equitable participation. [Link](#)
- **Youth Stocktake Report – UNFCCC/YOUNGO (2024):** Provides the first comprehensive overview of youth participation in UNFCCC processes, offering recommendations to institutionalize and strengthen youth engagement in global climate governance. [Link](#)
- **UNCCD Youth Engagement Strategy:** Outlines the role of youth as a key stakeholder in shaping policies around Desertification/Land Degradation and Drought. The strategy is the first to outline how young people can engage in the UNCCD process and underscores the necessity of advancing youth-focused policies, fostering meaningful participation, providing support and opportunities, and building capacity. [Link](#).
- **[Chemicals and Waste Youth Forum](#):** In the Youth Forum organized by the Chemicals and Waste Youth Platform at the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions COPs 2025, dozens of young people from around the world delivered a clear message: youth are shaping the present, as well as laying the groundwork for a toxic-free and healthier future.
- **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF):** [engaging young people in the design](#), implementation, monitoring, and review of sustainable development policies, particularly within the forestry sector



Learn more about the Conference
<https://www.un.org/en/climate-sdgs-conference-2025>

For further information, please contact:
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