

Youth Inclusion



Manifesto!

Conference of Youth

#COY11 - PARIS 2015

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Youth Inclusion 1/2

Position :

The resounding position of youth from across the globe is that any decisions that affect the current reality and the future of the youth must be made in consultation with youth. The youth will inherit the Earth from the older generations and we are therefore more motivated to make decisions that are better for our future. We have the right to participate in shaping our future. Youth must be at the heart of all decision making and have a seat at every table. The youth have unique perspectives and motives and, as they make up 1,2 billion of the world population, must be seen for what they are - an essential asset to any country.

We see youth inclusion as the active participation of the younger generations (aged 30 and below) in climate change decision making processes, climate actions and in development for a sustainable future. This includes youth from all backgrounds, ethnicities, religious groups, cultures, minority groups, indigenous populations and genders.

Recommendations :

Youth from organisations, businesses and individuals alike, must be recognised as key stakeholders and included in all major decision making processes, planning, implementation at all levels, both locally and internationally, through concrete, permanent positions with equal voting rights.

Each country should elect/appoint two Youth Ambassadors - as per the UN definition of youth, one male one female - for the climate that represent the interests of the youth in all major decision making processes internationally.

Youth should be encouraged to become active citizens and start/get involved withstart advocacy groups within their communities to increase youth participation at a local level and become drivers of community action.

Women and girls must be empowered and included in climate actions, negotiations and development mechanisms and the discrimination against women in international negotiations must be addressed.

Information about current opportunities for youth inclusion and participation in climate change related matters needs to be disseminated across all communication channels including social media, government, traditional media, non electronic media sources, etc.

Youth Inclusion 2/2

There must be increased participation from youth in SIDS (Small Islands Developing States), LDC's (Least developed country), minority groups and indigenous communities in international decision making processes.

Youth-led initiatives working within the climate change sphere must be recognised and supported by decision makers.

Actions :

Pressure must be placed on the UN and UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) to reform their processes in order to be more inclusive of youth in decision making.

There must be critical engagement with governments and lobbying of governments for youth inclusion in both local and international decision making processes. These actions can be done at both a local and international level.

Each national delegation to all events relating to the international climate change negotiations must include members of the Youth. This can include members of the youth that offer to assist their national delegation at the negotiations by forming the link between the youth and the delegates.

The capacity building and skills development of youth with regards to climate change negotiation and policy making should become a major concern for international organisations and governments alike.

Youth are a major stakeholder in all issues relating to climate change and a framework for effective dialogue between youth and other major stakeholders must be established.

Dissemination of information and communication about climate change related issues need to become priorities and all major communication channels need to be utilised in this regard.

Youth must be educated on climate change related issues and threats and actions must be started at a school and local level to promote a culture of good environmental practices.