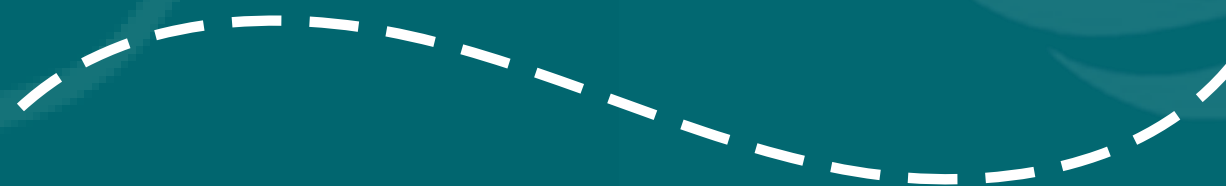


SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH PERSPECTIVES FOR COP29

COP29 Unified Youth Statement



YOUTH REFLECTIONS ON COP28 AND CONTEXT FOR COP29

We saw the largest South African Youth Delegation and welcomed the UAE Consensus which introduced a phase-down of fossil fuels but not without much contention. Reflecting, the UAE Consensus provided a roadmap for international climate action towards COP29 and COP30.

Despite some successes and challenges, the interconnectedness of nations in tackling environmental issues was evident, emphasising the shared responsibility we all bear in safeguarding our planet. To propel this momentum forward, it is essential to build upon the lessons learned at COP28.

Recommending a focus on research, policy development, and grassroots activism, we can bridge the gap between intention and implementation. The conference catalyses change, reminding us that our actions today shape the world we leave for tomorrow. It is therefore critical to approach the challenges of climate change with optimism and a sense of collective responsibility.

THEMES AND FOCUSES

1. Just Transition
2. NDCS 3.0
3. Climate Finance and NCQG
4. Adaptation, Resilience, and L&D
5. ACE, Youth, and Gender

JUST TRANSITION

- On decision 1/CMA.4, negotiators are urged to ensure that the Work Programme actively engages a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including workers, indigenous peoples, women, youth, local communities, and marginalised groups.
- In support of global solidarity, parties should promote global partnerships involving the state, the countries involved in the International Partner Group (IPG), civil society with an emphasis on youth, and the private sector to mobilise resources, finance, and technical capacity for just transition efforts.
- From article 2.1C, we call for adequate investment flows towards realising the commitments of financing the Just Transition by making provision for larger portions and provisions of concessional loans to alleviate the financial burdens carried out by developing countries in an effort to ensure that future generations are not subsequently indebted.

JUST TRANSITION

- Guided by Decision 1/CMA.4, Parties are encouraged to develop and implement social safety nets, including unemployment benefits, retraining programs, and access to essential services, to support workers and communities affected by the transition.
- Acknowledging Decision 18/CMA.1, negotiators are encouraged to develop robust monitoring systems to track progress on just transition pathways. This should include indicators on social equity, job creation, and protection of vulnerable groups.
- Parties are further encouraged to include detailed reports on the implementation of just transition measures within their biennial transparency reports under the Paris Agreement, to ensure accountability and facilitate global tracking of progress.

NDCS

- Strengthening Emission Reduction Targets: To effectively align with the 1.5°C limit and achieve net zero emissions by 2050, South Africa must adopt more ambitious and stringent emission reduction goals
- Ensuring A Clear Synergy Between the NDC and the IRP: The interdependence between the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) underscores the necessity for a cohesive and coordinated implementation strategy. Effective climate action requires both the NDC and the draft IRP to function in harmony.
- Enhancing Gender Mainstreaming and Stakeholder Consultation: The NDC must develop context-specific gender-climate mainstreaming strategies that cater to the needs of women in both urban and rural settings with intentional and meaningful consultations.

CLIMATE FINANCE AND THE NCQG

- Quality Finance: It should be emphasised that the quality of that financing is equally important. Negotiations around the NCQG should ensure that it meets the needs of those in the global south, both socially and ecologically.
- Grant-Based: Based on historical emissions and differentiated responsibility should be prioritised. These negotiations around the format of the financing should take into account the role and mandate of public finance institutions.
- Equitable Relationship: Deals should not enable top down relationships between the donor and the recipient, and should ensure that recipient countries maintain their sovereignty.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Along with negotiating for the quantity and quality of the NCQG, it is also important to negotiate for transparent and accessible monitoring and evaluation processes. This will enable us to better understand the impact of the deals, as well as address any failures.

ADAPTATION, RESILIENCE, AND L&D

- South Africa should advocate for a clear, measurable, achievable global goal on adaptation with sector-specific targets. The push for a Global Goal needs to be accompanied by a call for equitable adaptation finance for developing countries.
- We encourage the parties to develop action plans on how to better manage emergency response financing and relief aid for efficient and equitable distribution.
- The L&D Fund should be guided by party-responsive needs to complement existing structures while avoiding additional burdens on developing countries in terms of reporting and other obligations.
- And further guided by the best available science and as appropriate, traditional, and Indigenous knowledge, and follow a gender-mainstreaming approach.

ACE, YOUTH, AND GENDER

- ACE and Gender negotiations should see prioritised financial and technical support for implementation including:
 - Institutionalizing Climate Education
 - Renewing the Lima Gender Action Plan and ensuring gender as a cross-cutting theme
 - Youth-and-Women-Led Capacity Building
 - Facilitate peer-to-peer learning exchanges between youth from developed and developing countries.
 - Inclusive Decision-Making and Governance
 - Embed youth and women participation in national and international climate governance structures and to the design and implementation of NDCs, adaptation plans, and climate finance strategies.
 - Accessible Climate Information and Advocacy Tools
 - Funding and Support for Youth-Led Initiatives
 - Promoting Intergenerational Collaboration

GOING INTO BAKU

- We recognise and applaud DFFE for its continued support of young people to international climate negotiations. As we look towards growing our capacity and setting an example, young people are ready to lead.
- We are eager for the actions taken from the Climate Change Act of 2024 to be further mainstreamed in South Africa's international climate change policy and how it situates itself as a regional influence
- We recognise South Africa's role in the international community, especially with its stance on the Pact for the Future and Declaration of Future Generations adopted this past September

AFTER BAKU

- South Africa and South African youth will be ready to take the COP29 Decision and its foreign policy initiatives into its stride ahead of G20 and Y20
- Post-COP, young South Africans are eager to integrate the decisions into their grass-root activities and youth-led organisations and seek further partnerships with government and relevant stakeholders to mainstream these activities
- Young people welcome and call for a consultation process towards our NDCs 3.0 and the operationalisation of the Climate Change Act: It is crucial to ensure that the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) explicitly reference and align with the objectives of the Climate Change Act, signed in 2024.

SOUTH AFRICAN YOUTH ARE LEADING



YCC Model Parliament

Summit of the Future



COP28

RCOY Africa

LCOY South Africa

