

Background and context

Young people today comprise of over 40 percent of the global population, and future generations will be most impacted by the challenges we face today - especially the triple planetary crisis of nature, pollution and climate. Young people from the Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) are already in the frontlines and bearing impacts of the environmental degradation. It is therefore pertinent to ensure that perspectives of these youth are reflected in the highest levels of decision-making and that the collaboration with them reflects youth co-leadership, acting in the spirit of With and For Young People.

Furthermore, youth engagement has become a high priority in the multilateral system in recent years, with strong references to youth and future generations made in the Secretary General's Our Common Agenda report released in September 2021. Utilising and building upon this momentum, while delivering concrete impacts for young people from the global south will be key toward the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and targets set out under various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

The Resilient40 network

We are very pleased to present this proposal toward support of the Resilient-40 for the preparation of The Resilient40 reconvening to happen in October in South Africa. This will mark the successful 4 years of our existence, also act as a Resilient40 Pre-COP in the lead up to COP27. This provides an opportunity to both reflect on highlights, successes and lessons learnt in the last 4 years and also signify the urgency of progress and action needed to combat the planetary crisis facing the world today.

This application for funding entails policy advocacy activities enhancing the youth perspectives reflected in decision-making processes as well as ambitious environmental protection ensures a healthy and stable basis of life for future generations. The network youth delegates will engage in capacity building and policy preparation in the lead-up to COP27, which will ensure that their participation is effective, rather than tokenistic.

The following may be viewed as the holistic impacts of in-person participation.

1. Make an impact at COP27 and get involved with other leaders as youth delegates will come from countries with their own experiences from local and regional networks, they will bring certain very new perspectives and stories. They will feed their experiences in the sessions, raise awareness, and push for the urgency of more ambitious environmental outcomes at COP27 and the associated Youth Event. At the same time, it will serve as an induction and training for the youth to be engaged within the youth network's different working groups.
2. Empowerment: Taking into account their intended activities at COP27, and their background, the youth will undergo a dedicated capacity building session and policy meetings, and also engage with experts at the meeting. They will also consider how to share this experience once they return home. Thus, the

activity will empower the R40 members not only for COP27 but also in the long-term so that they will function as multipliers in their communities and regional environmental networks.

Overview of Key activities planned

Building upon the activities the R40 members participated in recent months, this project is being submitted for activities to be conducted from mid-March 2022 to the end of 2022 to further support engagement and participation of youth.

The R40 members' attendance at the reconvening will be an activity we believe will add value to our members by giving them a solid understanding of the UN meeting processes, as well as the planned youth engagements and possible ways to influence decision-making.

Noting the time span, this application aims to complement the activities that are already taking place through the following budgeted activities elaborated below. In development of these activities, focus has been laid on achieving holistic and cross-cutting impact across the environmental and development arena, ensuring long-term and sustainable outcomes wherever possible:

1. Support R40 members to participate on-ground at the networks meeting in South Africa, COP27, as well as Pre-COP
2. Attend Capacity Building / Dialogue Sessions on Meaningful Youth Engagement and Intergenerational
3. To forge partnerships within and amongst fellow environmentalists from around Africa and the world in attendance.

Expected Impact/Outcomes

The following may be viewed as expected impact /outcome of this particular activity:

- Youth and decision-making audience at the highest level converge on the topic of meaningful youth engagement
- Feeding to the youth policy positions for COP27
- A comprehensive report on meaningful youth engagement made available after the event.

The activity considers development perspectives in the following ways:

Poor peoples' perspective on development:

The central reason for this application is to ensure individuals from the global south have their voices represented at a global scale, offer opportunities and raise access for such young people. The young people under The Resilient40 will benefit from this activity as well engage in international and UN related processes fact being that Africa is severely impacted

most by the planetary crisis of today. Empowering these young people to make a meaningful, systemic and long-term impact is a key aspect and expected outcome of this activity.

- **The rights perspective (human rights- based approach):**

Many of those in the main target group and participants in the activities proposed in this application are those whose human rights are particularly challenged due to their work around climate change or environmental protection. Young people living in low- and middle-income countries are already and will during their lives face the consequences of climate change while having less opportunities to influence decision-making and processes that are causing those same changes. The activities proposed are therefore to improve their chances to claim their human rights and to demand decision-makers to respect, protect and fulfill these rights, within the scope of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR). Furthermore, the activity aims to build on the fact that young people are not just stakeholders, but rights-holders in the decision-making processes; with the spirit of “Nothing About Us, Without Us”, realizing the rights of the young and future generations, especially when looking at the follow-up of the Our Common Agenda will be a component of this activity.

The environment and climate perspective:

The main focus of this activity is youth involvement in sustainable development processes to counter the triple planetary crisis of climate, nature and pollution and decisions that endanger the future living conditions on this planet. The critical aspects of this activity are built on an environmental and climate change perspective, and ensuring intergenerational equity.

The gender equality perspective:

Environmental issues and changes lead to unequal distribution of political, economic and social costs and benefits that reinforce or reduce pre-existing inequalities. In addition to this, these influences have different impacts based on gender and social identity. This activity aims to enable youths to influence decisions affecting their lives and rights, and challenge unequal power relations and gender inequalities. The activity will contribute to gender mainstreaming by ensuring that there are equal or enhanced opportunities for women, girls and non-binary people to participate, contribute to, and benefit from, the activity outcomes.

Specifically, the activity implementation will ensure women are well represented, and youth in at-risk communities.

