



CONCEPT NOTE

THE 2023 AFRICAN YOUTH POST COP27 MEETING

DATE: MARCH 29, 2023, 2-5 pm, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

THEME: *Youth-Led Climate Action: Charting a Sustainable Future for Africa Towards a Climate Resilient Planet: Harnessing the Power of African Youth*

Background/Introduction

Climate change remains one of the most pressing global issues of our time, with its far-reaching impacts affecting the most vulnerable populations, particularly in Africa. African Youth, who constitute the majority of the continent's population, are faced with a challenging future as they are disproportionately affected by climate change. In this regard, it is essential to empower African Youth to participate meaningfully in climate change policy formulation and implementation processes to secure their future.

Recognizing the importance of youth engagement in Climate action, the African Union Commission (AUC) has prioritized their involvement in the implementation of the African Union's Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan. As part of its efforts to support this agenda, the AUC has proposed convening a youth-led forum under the auspices of the continental strategy which seeks to empower African Youth to domesticate climate action in their communities and beyond. It will also serve as a platform for African Youth to share their experiences, ideas, and priorities in climate action and chart a path for their meaningful involvement in climate policy formulation and implementation processes leading to the Africa Climate Summit and COP28. It is hoped that the outcomes of the summit will catalyze action towards a more sustainable and resilient future for Africa.

Context (Africa)

Africa has a vibrant, youthful population. However, the potential among this demographic has not yet been realized across the continent. The African Youth Charter obliges state parties to, among other things, facilitate the creation or strengthening of platforms for youth participation in decision-making at local, national, regional and continental levels of governance. Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063, The Africa We Want, emphasizes an Africa whose development is people-driven, especially its women and youth.





The African Union has, through various structures and instruments, been working to amplify young people's voices and provide concrete plans of action for more youth inclusion in public service and governance. Now more than ever, youth leadership is expedient as countries seek to rebuild their momentum in the wake of recovery from COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting will be essential in meaningfully supporting youth efforts to implement climate resilience on a policy level and to network with the African Union as well as other development partners. This will provide valuable opportunities to showcase youth initiatives and share best practices that can be replicated around the continent.

Overall objective

The forum aims to strengthen African youths' engagement in climate actions take stock of COP27, define priorities for COP 28 and the Africa Climate Action Summit to be held 4 - 6 September 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Specific objective(s)

1. To provide a platform for African Youth to share their experiences, ideas, and priorities in different regions of the African continent on climate action.
2. To strengthen the participation of African Youth in climate policy formulation and implementation processes.
3. To raise awareness on the impacts of climate change on the continent and highlight the solutions.
4. To promote collaboration and partnerships between African Youth, governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to advance climate action in Africa.
5. To draw and strengthen the roadmap of African youth towards COP28 through the Africa Climate Summit and the Africa Climate Week.

Expected outcomes

1. A better understanding of the challenges and opportunities for African Youth in climate action.
2. Identification of priority areas for African youth involvement in climate policy formulation and implementation processes.





3. A set of concrete recommendations for the African Union and other stakeholders on how to better engage and empower African Youth in climate action towards the Africa Climate Summit and the COP28.
4. Mobilization of resources and partnerships to support meaningful African youth engagement towards Africa Climate Summit and the COP28.

Thematic Areas

The event will start with keynote speeches, presentations on outcomes of COP27, and the roadmap to the Africa Climate Summit and COP28. This will be followed by three breakout sessions that will handle specific thematic:

- Climate and Security- Including climate induced conflicts (climate as a risk multiplier)- migration/displacement-terrorism-youth nexus.
- Climate finance and green recovery- including Loss and Damage Fund, Adaptation fund, accessibility of international climate finances, ICF-architecture reforms, public-private-partnerships, green jobs and cleaner economic recovery.
- Adaptation for Food Security- building resilience in agriculture, repurposing public policies on food systems, community-based adaptation mechanisms, rural youth, women, etc.

Methodology

The meeting will take place on the **29th of March at the AU headquarters in person**. It will be an interactive meeting, featuring keynote speeches, brainstorming presentations, and breakout groups. There will be opportunities for participants to network and share their experiences and best practices.

Target group

African environmental/climate youth leaders and change makers under the age of 35 years.

Partners

The Resilient 40 in partnership with the UNEP Youth constituency with support from The African Union Commission, US and UK Missions to the African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.





AGENDA

Session	Agenda	Time	Responsible persons
Welcome and Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce the purpose and goals of the meeting Introduce the facilitators and attendees Review the meeting agenda 	2.00pm - 2.20pm	Yared / Sarah Njenga
Keynote Speeches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invited guests will give keynote speeches on various topics related to climate change in Africa 	2.20pm - 2.40pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director - SEBE Director - WGY US Mission to AU UK Mission to AU
Presentations on Key Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations will be made on key items such as COP27, plans for the Africa Climate Summit, and the roadmap to COP28. Presentations will include focus on youth engagement. 	2.40pm - 3.20pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From COP27 to COP28 (Dr.Oumnia Omrani) Priorities for African youth towards COP28 (Chido Mpenba) Plans for a YA ahead of Africa Climate summit (Alphonse)
Breakout Discussions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees will be divided into groups for focused discussions on specific topics within the pretext of roadmap to COP28 via Africa Climate Summit/Week Facilitators will be available to guide and steer the discussions 		3.20pm - 4.00pm	Climate and Security - Sarah Climate finance and green recovery - Yared





<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each group will report back to the main session to share their recommendations 		Adaptation for Food Security - Michael Kakande
Recommendations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees will share their key recommendations from group discussions on how youth can engage meaningfully in climate action around the specific themes. Attendees will also discuss how youth can contribute towards the success of the Africa Climate Summit. 	4.00pm - 4.30pm	Group rapporteurs
Closing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize the key points and recommendations from the meeting. High level Closing comments 	4.30pm - 5.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Kakande Director - SEBE Director - WGY

