

THE ZAMBIAN YOUTH POSITION PAPER ENROUTE TO COP 27



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This Youth Position paper was coordinated by the Zambia Local Conference of Youth (Zambian LCOY) organizing team and drafted by the Zambian LCOY technical working group composed of the youths from different organizations in Zambia such as;

1. The United Nations Youth Association of Zambia
2. Agents of Change Foundation
3. Young Emerging Farmers Initiative
4. Rethink Youth Platform
5. ActionAid Global Platform Zambia
6. Centre for Climate Change Action and Advocacy
7. People's Process on Housing
8. Fourth line Limited
9. Youth Projects Development Platform Zambia
10. COP - Youth Task Force - Zambia

Partners



ZAMBIA' LCOY YOUTH POSITION

INTRODUCTION

We the Zambian Youths that convened during the local conference of youth (LCOY) in Lusaka on the 20th of October 2022 at Golden Peacock, developed this position paper as a way of having our voices for climate justice heard during the upcoming COP 27 that will be held in Sharm El-Sheikh - Egypt, hosted by the Egypt Government. This position identifies the key issues of concern that the youth of Zambia want to be addressed as well as the offered recommendations to be considered by the Zambian Government delegation as well as the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) led by Zambia as they present both the national and continental priorities in the negotiations.

Zambia is a youthful country with more than 80% of the country's population below the age of 35 years with more than 36.7% being between the age of 15 to 35 years old making Zambia to be amongst the youngest countries in the region and globally. This shows the potential which Zambia has, to inspire new innovative ideas, new technology, new skills and new perspectives towards a Green and Just Society as Zambia transitions to a Green Economy.

However, despite us the youth, being the majority, we have continued to face different cross cutting issues which have hindered our progress towards driving sustainable development for a green and just future. We have continued to face direct impacts of climate change and yet continue to face barriers in having access to resources meant to collectively take climate action, bring our innovation to feed into green innovative solutions as well as being in an environment that sets a pace for the youth to engage and contribute to climate justice. Due to knowledge gaps and inadequate resources, vulnerability stands to remain at its peak, which urgently calls for quick action so as to reduce these vulnerabilities, inspire collective action as well as provide easy access to resources necessary for climate action and justice.

Therefore, we call on the government and stakeholders at the COP27 to ensure the following.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Acknowledging the much-needed education, awareness, advocacy, training, and coordination for a more knowledgeably sound generation that can pass on indigenous knowledge.

We take this moment to stress the need for meaningful engagement of the most affected by climate change impacts in the development and implementation of environmentally friendly activities for effective transition into more sustainable solutions to climate change

Underlining the need for governments to boost activities surrounding conservation and restoration of nature that will see a just transition towards a more sustainable future. Emphasizing the great need for extensive stakeholder consultation to aggregate knowledge and ideas from all relevant stakeholder (i.e., traditional leaders, women, youth, children, people with special needs, people that are differently abled etc.) this will see to the design and implementation of robust ecosystem-based adaptation plans and solutions.

- ✓ We call for investment and prioritization of locally led adaptation and mitigation solutions that address the needs and priorities of the grassroots.
- ✓ We are demanding for inclusive climate action. Adaptation and resilience projects must recognize local diversity, gendered inequalities, and the vulnerabilities that youth, people with disabilities and other minorities face. Local initiatives need to promote youth's empowerment and include disadvantaged minority groups.
- ✓ There is a need to build resilient foundations with rapid and inclusive development that reduces the vulnerabilities of the rural and urban poor to climate impacts.
- ✓ We call for the incorporation of nature-based solutions into other developmental plans such as disaster risk reduction strategies and also in addressing other environmental challenges in urban areas.
- ✓ We are demanding for the implementation of inclusive city-wide sanitation systems that reduce pollution of the underground water sources that provide about 60% of the drinking water for the populations of major cities such as Lusaka.
- ✓ We are demanding that informal settlements should be upgraded and prevented while investing in green infrastructure as well as resilient gray infrastructure that reduces climate impacts.

MITIGATION

Recognizing the urgency and importance for increased resource mobilization in upscaling climate mitigation in a manner that is accessible, equitable and that ensures results-based transparent accountability of investments for climate change mitigation actions.

- ✓ We are calling for an increased investment in bio-digesters to allow for greener alternative sources of energy to be utilized.
- ✓ We demand for adherence to updated National Communications to determine the country's emissions for purposes of ensuring accuracy and realistic response and mitigation as opposed to sticking to old national communications that were based on the methodologies produced by the IPCC guidelines
- ✓ There is need to allocate more resources to climate smart agriculture

- ✓ We need to adopt the use of indigenous knowledge for the indigenous problems that are being faced by the people
- ✓ There is a need to make climate change education part of the curriculum so that climate action will begin with the young.
- ✓ We are calling for early disaster warning systems and mechanisms to be put in place to allow for the affected areas to prepare/mitigate for the coming disaster.
- ✓ We are calling for deliberate policies and resources meant to promote vertical and mixed-use development to avoid urban sprawl that will disadvantage the youths and future generation in accessing land, which is an important factor of production.
- ✓ Directing subsidies, incentives, and financial support to adopt natural-based farming practices, climate-smart agriculture, focusing on the local production of more plant-based food for people

TECHNOLOGY

Youth play a critical role in climate technology as students, researchers, entrepreneurs and must be included in all processes especially as our generations will live with the consequences of the decisions taken and technologies implemented today. We demand that open science be expanded in an inclusive manner to achieve a just technological transition and access to technological capacity development and knowledge for all

- ✓ We demand that more governmental support is given to IoT-enabled monitoring, remote sensing and early warning systems which contribute to disaster risk reduction, as well as to AI and IoT technologies which are enabling smart energy systems and can be used to increase energy efficiency.
- ✓ To enable more companies to effectively calculate their emissions, a global free and accessible database with emission factors should be developed
- ✓ The CTCN, the operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism, must strive to stimulate technology adoption and appropriation by local people. Specifically, it must ensure the rights of those most affected by climate change - indigenous people, rural communities, women and youth, are protected and strengthened. Only then can countries' efforts and investments be efficient and sustainable
- ✓ There is need to have better accessibility to more climate resilient technology and materials in infrastructure development
- ✓ There is need to invest in reliable and climate resilient technology and implementation of technology transfer in the context of international cooperation in addition to technical and financial assistance which will set an environment for Youth innovation

and sustain their engagement in climate resilient technology which is localized with global cooperation.

- ✓ We oppose unsustainable innovation which is not climate smart and not environmentally friendly but call on investment in green innovation to motivate more green innovation

FINANCE

Increasing Climate finances at the grassroots, enhances the adaptive capacities of the marginalized groups such as the youth and women. Notwithstanding the fact that climate financing is not meeting the current needs and priorities of the affected communities, about 90% of the finances provided are not reaching the lowest level possible that needs them the most. The finances enable communities to scale up the co-created, locally shaped climate solutions aimed at increasing their adaptive capacities. In this regard, we the Zambian youths have the following demands;

- ✓ Call on the Local and national Government to establish national and local climate finance strategy including an increase in the national budget from increasing the national budget allocation to climate financing and protection of ecosystems, biodiversity, e.t.c from the current level of 0.4% to at least 20% of the total national budget as well as establishing a local budget responding to local climate impacts.
- ✓ We call for improved accessibility to climate finance for youth climate projects, including the introduction of green grants to support the scaling of locally developed nature-based solutions and SMEs addressing climate change.
- ✓ We are demanding for the de-bureaucratization of the climate finances meant to be accessed by the youth. Processes set higher than a common youth can access, hinders the level of their innovation
- ✓ We want the government to invest in infrastructure and basic services that are key in building communities and cities' resilience.
- ✓ Breaking down barriers such as (bureaucratic barriers and processes) that restrict access to funding
- ✓ We demand the largest emitters to ambitiously commit to financing decarbonization and adaptation measures in the all the developing countries and compensate the LDCs for loss and damage and scale up local environmentally sustainable solutions
- ✓ As Zambia takes a green and just transition, we demand for a clean transportation technology transfer fund which will strengthened and inspire innovation in transportation towards clean and renewable public transport and electric vehicles making them more accessible and affordable for all.

- ✓ There is need to invest in climate localized agendas/projects at the grass root level to ensure localization and sustainability
- ✓ As the youth are engaging in Green Innovation, the government should facilitate for incentivizing these projects to facilitate their growth which will in turn create more jobs for the Youths engaged in Climate Action and inspire more innovation

CAPACITY

Acknowledging the impacts of climate change on Zambia and the existing knowledge gaps, makes the country to have limited capacity to respond effectively and efficiently to the effects of climate change. This calls for building both individual and institutional capacity so as to shape our country's response towards the effects of climate change.

- ✓ We call for localization of the climate information which is de-mystified with integration of indigenous knowledge in the quest to inspire local solutions local innovation and local response towards the effects of climate change.
- ✓ Integrating climate change education in the school curricular by implementing the climate change learning strategies which already exists in countries like Zambia and desist from making strategies without implementation.
- ✓ Develop updated local responsive climate change educational materials and curricular
- ✓ Promoting potential groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education to ensure accessibility to the green technology labor market.
- ✓ Merging efforts across industries encouraged through policies and budgetary allotment for incentivizing environmental conservation.
- ✓ Investing in indigenous Intergenerational knowledge exchange platforms to facilitate for international transfer of indigenous knowledge with mainstreamed technology so as to bridge the intergenerational knowledge gaps that exists on climate change
- ✓ Investment in research on climate change in Zambia as well as mapping enumeration so as to localize the agenda
- ✓ Invest in Youth led local green innovation and strengthen capacities of young green innovators with abridged and demystified processes of accessing green funds available.
- ✓ We call for an urgent, holistic, diversified and inclusive energy transition by 2030 that prioritizes energy efficiency and sustainable energy, keeping the 1.5° goal within reach. We also call for financing for capacity building, research and technology

sharing to ensure a transition with decent jobs, providing adequate support for affected and vulnerable youths in communities.

- ✓ We demand for youths involvement and capacity building in waste management, Carbon Trading and resource recovery by allocating a percentage of the licenses to youths involved in waste management and carbon markets
- ✓ We call for the governments to support youth research and innovations around alternative clean energy sources such as wind, solar and biogas.

LOSS AND DAMAGE

It is a non-disputable fact that the impacts of the global climate crisis are different felt across all the regions. As developing countries who contribute less to the global emission, have unfortunately the worst experience of these realities.

Zambia unfortunately has not been spared from the realities of climate change. Climate Change in Zambia has been noted to have been responsible for numerous environmental hazards stemming from more frequent and intense seasonal droughts, increased valley temperatures, prolonged dry spells and flash flooding inclusive of the rainfall anomalies which have affected almost all the sectors in Zambia more especially the agricultural sector which has the majority of the population depending on rain fed agricultural practices.

This sector supports roughly 85% of the country's population, employing 52% of the country's population of the country's working age population the majority of which are women and youth. The Zambian government has made projections of a \$5 billion GDP deficit over a 10 to 20 year period due to the impacts of climate change on agricultural productivity, poverty, energy production, healthcare costs and loss of natural environments.

In a quest to reduce these vulnerabilities, as well as increase the capacity of the most vulnerable in society who are the women and youth, we as the Zambian youths press in our demands as follows;

- ✓ We demand for the establishment of loss and damage financial facility which will help strengthen response not only to adapt but also reduce vulnerability through disaster and mitigation response that will directly benefit the victims and completely prevent such disasters with priority towards preventive measures.
- ✓ We call for the reduction of loss and damage related risks by investing in immediate actions, such nature-based solutions and strengthening the early warning systems

- ✓ We demand for investment in locally owned adaptation, resilience and loss & damage measures to ensure proper and sustainable solutions reach the most vulnerable groups and communities.
- ✓ Supporting new sustainable land-use approaches, such as agroforestry and investment in climate smart agricultural practices that will help strengthen our food systems. We also call for sufficient transfer and dissemination of knowledge about climate-friendly land-use and smart agricultural approaches among young people, who would be implementing measures at the end.
- ✓ We call for the complete ban of exportation of chemical fertilizers to developing countries but rather a full investment in locally produced organic fertilizers as well as other climate smart and environmentally agricultural products to support farming and increase food security in Zambia.
- ✓ We call for a full decolonization and depoliticization of the climate agenda with full investment in indigenous solutions, local led responses which will respond to loss and damage.
- ✓ We call for a complete ban of plastics and push plastic polluting companies and organizations to pay for loss and damaging through their social cooperate responsibility to directly compensate affected communities experiencing the climate induced disasters

ACTION FOR CLIMATE EMPOWERMENT

Promote Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) through education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation under adaptation and resilience, which involves:

- ✓ Funding replicable adaptation and resilience initiatives tackling loss and damage;
- ✓ Prioritizing democratization of science and encouraging creating replicable adaptation and resilience measures focusing on translating the science behind the measures in the local languages that are understandable for everybody.
- ✓ Promoting training the trainers', environmental and societal education initiatives focused on climate adaptation and resilience.
- ✓ Supporting locally/community-based media to inform and promote the need to focus on adaptation and resilience among locals and also on the possible ways to do it.
- ✓ We should be able to provide sustainable alternative sources for livelihood. Having solutions to other more sustainable sources of livelihood as people are being told to abandon their current sources of livelihood.